



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA



**UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
Side Event on
Enhancing Research Capabilities in Developing Countries to Achieve SDGs:
UNCTAD-Okayama University Joint Research and Training Programme**

Wednesday 17th April 2024, 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Room XXII, Building E, Palais des Nations

Co-organizers: Okayama University, Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva, UNCTAD

Supported by: The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Japan

Background

It is widely recognized that strengthening the scientific research and technological capabilities of developing countries is paramount for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this context, UNCTAD and Okayama University of Japan joined forces in January 2020 to nurture scientific talent in developing countries, through the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). The partners came together to offer two joint research and training courses to scientists from developing countries:

- ***Young Female Scientist Programme (short-term)*** offers the opportunity for eligible female scientists from ASEAN and African countries to engage in cutting-edge research activities at Okayama University in Japan for 14 to 30 days.
- ***Doctoral Degree Programme (long-term)*** offers opportunities for doctoral studies to enhance scientific research capabilities in developing countries through building human capital.

The programs currently target CSTD member States in Africa and the ASEAN region, with the possibility of expanding to countries beyond the CSTD and to other regions. Beneficiaries are selected through an application process that Okayama University and UNCTAD manage in collaboration with countries' permanent missions in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as scientific institutions in target countries.

Objectives

To share experience with other CSTD member States in innovative international cooperation to enhance the scientific research and technological capabilities of developing countries.

Language

English

Format of the session

The session will begin with opening remarks by the President of Okayama University, followed by the introduction of the UNCTAD-Okayama University Joint Research and Training Programme and its progress. Then, two young female scientists from Africa and the ASEAN region who benefitted from the Young Female Scientist Programme will share their experiences. After this, the moderator will initiate an interactive panel discussion and will take questions and comments from the participants.

Light lunch and coffee will be provided for the participants, prior to the side event, outside Room XXII.