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JETRO and Coolwater Capital Launch Second Emerging VC Fund Accelerator to Strengthen Japan's Innovation Ecosystem

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TOKYO, June 16, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- Following the successful launch of its inaugural program, **JETRO** and **Coolwater Capital** are proud to announce **Cohort 2** of the Emerging Fund Manager Accelerator. This initiative aims to equip Japan's next generation of venture capitalists with the tools and global perspective needed to build institutional-grade, globally competitive funds.



COOLWATER CAPITAL

Following the launch of inaugural program, JETRO and Coolwater are proud to announce Cohort 2 of VC Fund Accelerator.

The first cohort saw 17 GPs selected from hundreds of applicants across Japan, collectively targeting over \$500M in fundraising. Highlights included in-depth training from leading U.S. VCs, a 125-person Japan Innovation Summit in San Francisco, and in-person visits to Tier 1 VC firms—marking a breakthrough in cross-border knowledge sharing.

"We saw real traction—new fund launches, global LP engagement, and deep peer connections," said **Winter Mead**, Founder & CEO of Coolwater Capital. "Cohort 2 is about scaling that impact and deepening the infrastructure for Japan's VC future."

JETRO echoed this sentiment:

"The results of Cohort 1 proved Japan's potential on the global VC stage," said **Tatsuhiko Shiono**, Director of JETRO Startup. "We're thrilled to deepen our collaboration with Coolwater and help more fund managers go global."

What's New in Cohort 2:

- Enhanced 1:1 fundraising and brand coaching
- Expanded shared services (LP strategy, IR, positioning)



- More localized support with hybrid delivery
- New podcast and content community for alumni

Key Dates:

- Applications open: June 11, 2025
- Deadline to apply: July 16, 2025
- Program launch: September 9–11 in Tokyo, followed by weekly virtual modules
- Capstone: Coolwater Investor Summit, November 17–19 in New York

The 3-month accelerator includes 8 modules plus networking events, office hours, and meetups. All programming is in English, with support for both in-person and online participation.

Who Should Apply:


Emerging VC managers, ex-founders, corporate spinouts, tech executives, and institutional investors with bold, Japan-focused investment theses.

About Coolwater Capital

Founded in San Francisco, Coolwater has supported over 300 emerging funds globally, helping raise \$5B+ and back more than 8,400 startups.

About JETRO

The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) is a government agency committed to promoting innovation and supporting global trade and investment.

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