ABEST21 e-News
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ABEST21 International
THE ALLIANCE ON BUSINESS EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP FOR TOMORROW,
a 21st century organization
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ABEST21 Office Report
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2019
March
- 05th: Financial audit by the auditors
- 06th: The 1st Peer Review Committee for 2019
- 07th: The Accreditation Committee 2019
- 07th: The 1st Board Meeting 2019
- 07th: The General Assembly 2019
- 08th: Visit to Gotemba Plant, Toshiba Machine, Co., Ltd.
I. Quality Improvement and Peer Review System – No. 38

Two-sidedness of “Accreditation”

At the Accreditation Committee held on March 7, 2019, ABEST21 has assessed “the conformity” of accreditation for total 10 schools, 3 of which are professional graduate schools (business schools) in Japan and 7 are business schools outside Japan. On March 25, the result of accreditation was reported to MEXT which authorized ABEST21 as an accrediting institution. The result of accreditation was then announced at the MEXT Press Club. Finally, the result was formally announced to respective applicant schools.

In general, “accreditation” is regarded as a proof of excellent education and research activities that meet the standards set by the accrediting institution. Accredited schools tend to be satisfied by the result and utilize it as a tool to differentiate their education from other schools. Accreditation also satisfies the stakeholders. However, stakeholders expect one more thing. They expect not only the conformance to the accreditation standards of the “present” education and research activities, but also assurance for “quality enhancement of education” in the “future” in the context of the changing environment.

Thus there are two sides of accreditation. One is quantitative assessment of the “present” education and research activities based on the accreditation standards, and the other is qualitative assessment of the improvement system to realize the quality enhancement of education in the “future” in the context of the changing environment. Therefore in order to meet the expectations of the stakeholders, accreditation needs to examine the “Futurity” of the school, in addition to the quantitative “conformity” accreditation based on the accreditation standards.

The key to assess the “Futurity” is realizability of the kaizen issues analyzed in the “Self-Check/Evaluation”. This involves review of the system to solve the kaizen issues through PDCA cycle and to enhance the quality of education. In specific, we need to review whether the kaizen issues are spotted appropriately through self-check/evaluation, whether action plans are developed to solve the issues, and review whether it is possible to realize the strategic goal.

There are two stages in this review. The first step is to review the system. We need to check if there is a system to realize the “ideal figure” of the school through quality enhancement of education. The second step is to review whether the goal has been achieved by implementing the action plan. The system must be developed to review whether the action plans to solve the kaizen issues were
implemented as planned, and the goal was achieved as expected. Without such system the review is not possible. In this sense, this accreditation is set with conditions, because without a review, “quality enhancement of education” cannot be confirmed.

Needless to say, an accredited school is a Going Concern to accomplish its “Mission Statement”. Thus review on its feasibility to realize the future ideal figure is a must. However, in reality this aspect of accreditation is rarely attended to by the schools, but only the “conformity” accreditation side is developed. The review on what kind of kaizen issues exist, how they are solved, and how educational quality is enhanced remains unaddressed.

To meet the expectations of the stakeholders, the accredited schools need to show to the public their issues for “quality enhancement of education”, the qualitative aspect of accreditation.

(Fumio Itoh, President)

II. General Information

1. 2019 Annual Meeting

On March 6 to 8, 2019 at Shinagawa Season Terrace, the Annual Meeting for Fiscal 2018 was held. The following items were ratified.
1) Settlement of accounts for Fiscal 2018
2) Draft financial budget for Fiscal 2019
3) Set up of Council for Nurturing Global Management Professionals
4) Appointment of new officers following the expiry of terms

The balance for the Fiscal 2018 finished in the black, following the previous year. As a result, the budget to re-start the international joint research project in fiscal 2019 was ratified for Joint Research Project No.8 “Humanizing the school's Management Education for Sustainable Economic Development in Asia-Pacific”. Also, based on the “Bandung Statement” from the Rectors and Deans Forum in November 2018, it was ratified to set up the Council for Nurturing Global Management Professionals respectively in Tokyo, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Bandung. Concerning the appointment for new officers as a result of expiry of terms, Appointment Committee Chair Dean Qinhai Ma reported the recommendation for the current President Itoh, which was ratified at the Board Meeting and the General Assembly. President Itoh who was reappointed recommended the following members for the new executive officers.

ABEST21 Executive Committee
President and Representative Board of Trustees: Fumio Itoh
Vice President: Deputy Dean Emeritus Prof. Dr. Ilker Baybars (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)
Vice President: Dean Prof. Dr. Oleg Vikhanskiy (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia)
Vice President: Dean Prof. Dr. Robert Sullivan (University of California San Diego, USA)
Vice President: Dean Prof. Dr. Sudarso Kaderi Wiryono (Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia)
Vice President: Dean Prof. Dr. Ali Khatibi (Management & Science University, Malaysia)
Board of Trustees Member: Kazuo Tanigawa (Director, Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc.)
Board of Trustees Member: Prof. Dr. Yoshihiro Tokuga (Vice President, Kyoto University, Japan)
Board of Trustees Member: Prof. Takeshi Hibiya (Sophia University, Japan and former Advisor to Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.)
Auditor: Prof. Dr. Gagaring Pagalung (Universitas Hasanuddin, Indonesia)
Auditor: Prof. Dr. Xu Hua (University of Tsukuba, Japan)
Auditor: Prof. Dr. Nor’Azam Mastuki (Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia)
Chair of Advisory Council: Prof. Dr. Candra Fajri Ananda (Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia)
Advisor (Legal): Prof. Dr. Masayuki Tanamura (Lawyer, Waseda University, Japan)
Advisor (Indonesia): Dr. Yasmine Nasution (Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia)
Advisor (Financial): Sadayuki Horie (Licensed tax accountant, Director of Horie Certified Tax Accountant Office)

**President and Vice Presidents**

![Fumio Itho](image1)
![Ilker Baybars](image2)
![Oleg Vikhanskiy](image3)
![Robert Sullivan](image4)

![Sudarso Kaderi Wiryono](image5)
![Ali Khatibi](image6)

**Board of Trustees Members**

![Kazuo Tanigawa](image7)
![Yoshihiro Tokuga](image8)
![Takeshi Hibiya](image9)
2. Granting of Membership Certificate to UII

At the General Assembly, a membership certificate was granted to the Vice Dean Dr. Arief Rahman of Faculty of Economics, Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII), Yogyakarta, Indonesia, which joined ABEST21 in 2018. UII was established in July 1945 at Yogyakarta located in central Java. It is a private university providing education based on Islam. The number of students is approximately 23,000. The new ABEST21 member Faculty of Economics was founded in March 1948, and its number of students is about 5,000.
III. Global Knowledge Network Information

1. Special Seminar
On March 7, 2019, following the General Assembly, “Special Seminar” was held as part of the international academic exchange promotion project based on the November 2018 Bandung Statement.
Mr. Kazuhiko Hayashi, Director for International Analysis, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, gave a speech on “Internationalization and the System of Japanese Higher Education” including the measures by the MEXT to prepare education and research environment responding to globalization of the higher education in Japan.
Then, individual cases at Kyoto University were introduced by Dean Yoshinori Hara of Graduate School of Management, Kyoto University, who gave a speech on “International Collaborative Degree Opportunity Program”.

2. Tour to Gotemba Plant, Toshiba Machine Co., Ltd.
On March 8, 2019, a clear sunny day, two tour buses departed from Tokyo to Gotemba on Tomei Express Motorway to visit the Gotemba Plant of Toshiba Machine Co., Ltd. The Company specializes in development, manufacturing and sales of machines including injection machines, die-cast machines, extruders, microscopic transcriptional machinery, precision machinery, machine tools, electronic control devices, and industrial robots, as well as retrofit after-sales services. Since the Gotemba Plant manufactures machine tools, we saw the process of making a table-type horizontal boring machine. After the plant tour, explanation was provided in a separate room by Mr. Hideo Takatsu, Deputy General Manager of the Gotemba Plant, followed by Q&A session.
3. Promoting Mutual Friendship

Following the General Assembly, a friendship meeting was held at the same hall chaired by Dean Rapeeporn Srijunpa (Burapha University, Thailand). Faculty members of Universitas Hasanuddin and students from Aoyama Gakuin University sang songs, and Thai dance guidance were given by the faculty members of Burapha University.
4. Startup of Joint Research Project No.8
-“Humanizing Management Education for Sustainable Economic Development in Asia-Pacific”

At the Board of Trustees meeting on March 7, budget for Joint Research Project No. 8 was ratified. The Research Division organized the following executive committee for this project.

Advisory members: President Dr. Fumio Itoh, Prof. Dr. Oleg Vikhanskiy and Prof. Arfah Salleh
Coordinator (Deputy Director-Research Division): Prof. Dr. Ming Yu Cheng (UTAR, Malaysia)
Japan: Prof. Dr. Naoki Wakabayashi (Kyoto University)
Indonesia: Dr. Riani Rachmawati (Universitas Indonesia)
Thailand: Dr. Rapeeeporn Srijumpa (Burapha University)

1) Background

“Humanizing the School’s Research and Education” is one of the important criteria of ABEST21’s accreditation system for quality improvement. Following the intensifying globalization process and advancement of technological innovation where robotics, machine learning, artificial intelligence and digitization are changing the ways we do business, human factors are playing more critical role in today’s management process for sustainable development. What does humanizing management mean to businesses? To what extent are the business schools incorporating the humanizing aspect into their management education? These are some of the issues to address in this research project.

2) Objectives of the study

(1) To examine the level of understanding/awareness of the concept of humanizing management education among ABEST21 members
(2) To document and analyze the practices initiated at business schools in humanizing business management education
(3) To identify challenges in the implementation of humanizing efforts
(4) To investigate key stakeholders’ viewpoints on the importance of humanizing management education.

3) Methodology

This project will be carried out in two phases. The first phase of the study aims to analyze the humanizing practices among ABEST21 members, to gauge the level of understanding of humanizing as well as the challenges encountered in the implementation of humanizing activities. For this purpose, surveys will be conducted at ABEST21 member schools located in Japan, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. In addition to collecting inputs from ABEST21 members via survey and discussion, content analysis will be carried out to analyze ABEST21 member schools’ humanizing
initiatives as reported in the Self-Check Report submitted by members for accreditation purpose. The preliminary findings will be shared and discussed at the International Symposium 2020 scheduled in March 2020.

The second phase of the study involves discussions and interviews with key stakeholders, particularly companies, government agencies and other related organizations on the importance and the relevance of humanizing management for sustainable development.

5. International Symposium

ABEST21 plans to hold an international symposium on March 12, 2020, at the International Conference Hall on the 12th floor of Soken Building, Aoyama Gakuin University. The symposium commemorates the 15th anniversary of ABEST21 under the theme of “Humanizing Higher Education for Sustainable Economic Development in Asia-Pacific”. The meeting will be supported by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study in Sustainability. Details will be announced later.

6. Annual Meeting in March 2020

The Annual Meeting for 2020 is scheduled on March 12, 2020 at the International Conference Hall on the 12th floor of Soken Building, Aoyama Gakuin University, a school member of ABEST21. The afternoon session on March 12 will include an international symposium on “Humanizing Management Education for Sustainable Economic Development in Asia-Pacific” organized by the Research Division.


The Council in Tokyo was held on May 16, 2019, at Ivy Hall in Aoyama, Tokyo, based on the Bandung Statement at the November 2018 Rectors and Deans Forum held in Bandung.
III. Quality Assurance Network Information
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1. Peer Review Committee/Accreditation Committee

Peer Review Committee (PRC) was held on March 6, 2019 at Shinagawa Season Terrace, Tokyo. Review recommendation prepared by the Peer Review Team (PRT) was examined and the results were submitted to the Accreditation Committee. The Accreditation Committee reviewed the results and decided that the following 10 schools are to be accredited.

1. Professional Graduate School of Business in Japan
   1) Graduate School of International Management, Aoyama Gakuin University
   2) The School of International Corporate Strategy, Hitotsubashi University Business School, Hitotsubashi University
   3) MBA Program in International Business, Graduate School of Business Sciences, University of Tsukuba

2. International Accreditation
   1) School of Business Administration, Northeastern University, China
   2) Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Hasanuddin, Indonesia
   3) Faculty of Economics, Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia
   4) Graduate School of Management, International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia
   5) Graduate School of Business, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia
   6) Universiti Kuala Lumpur Business School, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
   7) Graduate School of Commerce, Burapha University, Thailand
2. Track Record of ABEST21 Accreditation

As of March 2019, ABEST21 has conducted a total of 21 accreditations for professional graduate schools since October 2007 when ABEST21 was certified as a field-specific accrediting institution by MEXT, Japan.

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PGSB=Professional Graduate School of Business in Japan

As for international accreditation, since 2011 ABEST21 has conferred a total of 43 accreditations as follows. These account for approximately 67% of total accreditations by ABEST21.

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CH: China, ID: Indonesia, MY: Malaysia, RU: Russia, SP: Singapore, TH: Thailand

Number of accredited schools by country

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Number of accredited schools by years

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CH: China, ID: Indonesia, MY: Malaysia, RU: Russia, SP: Singapore, TH: Thailand
3. Reporting of March 2019 Accreditation Results

On March 25, 2019, accreditation results were reported to the Higher Education Policy Planning Division, Higher Education Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. The results included accreditation for 3 professional graduate schools in Japan and 7 non-Japanese business schools from China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The 3-volume report of 1,300 pages in total was submitted in English under the title “March 2019 Accreditation Results Summary - Aiming to enhance the Quality of Management Education in a Globalized Society”.

4. ABEST21 Accreditation Seminar II

Accreditation Seminar II targeting the administration staff at applicant schools was held in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia as follows.

1) ABEST21 Accreditation Seminar II - Khon Kaen
Date: April 22, 2019: 10:00-12:00
Venue: Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand
- Session One: The ABEST21 Accreditation System
  Speaker: Prof. Dr. Fumio Itoh (ABEST21)
- Session Two: “QIS”
  Speaker: Dr. Fumio Itoh (ABEST21)
- Session Three: “SCR”
  Speaker: Dr. Danaipong Chetchotsak (KKU)

2) ABEST21 Accreditation Seminar II - Kuala Lumpur
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2019: 12:30-15:45
Venue: Management and Science University, Shah Alam
- Session One: The ABEST21 Accreditation System
  Speaker: Dr. Siti Zaleha Sahak (UITM)
- Session Two: “QIS”
  Speaker: Prof. Dr. Fumio Itoh (ABEST21)
- Session Three: “SCR”
  Speaker: Dean Prof. Dr. Azlan Amran (USM)
3) ABEST21 Accreditation Seminar II - Bandung

Date: April 26, 2019: 13:00-16:00
Venue: Institut Teknologi Bandung, Bandung

- Session One: The ABEST21 Accreditation System
  Speaker: Dean Prof. Dr. Sudarso Kaderi Wiryono
- Session Two: “QIS”
  Speaker: Prof. Dr. Fumio Itoh (ABEST21)
- Session Three: “SCR”
  Speaker: Prof. Dr. Utomo Sarjono Putro (ITB)
- Session Four: “KR”
  Speaker: Dr. Yasmine Nasution (UI)

Bandung Report:
By Dr. Yasmine Nasution (Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia)
Following The Accreditation Seminar I on January 21, 2019, ABEST21 conducted Quality Improvement Seminar II on 26 April 2019 which was held at the School of Business and Management, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia. In this seminar, the participants were Administrative Staff from several schools that are preparing to submit the Quality Improvement Strategy (QIS) and Self-Check/Self-Evaluation Report (SCR). There were also some schools that are in the process of becoming ABEST21 members. The objective of this seminar was to provide knowledge about ABEST21 Accreditation Processes and guidance on how to prepare the accreditation reports. It is important to provide knowledge to administrative staff as they are part of the school and will be involved in the accreditation process.

There were four sessions: The ABEST21 Accreditation System, Quality Improvement Strategies (QIS), Self-Check/Self-Evaluation Report (SCR) and KAIZEN Report (KR). These topics were delivered by Prof. Dr. Sudarso Kaderi Wiryono, Dean of School of Business and Management, Institut Teknologi Bandung; Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio Itoh, President of the ABEST21; Prof. Dr. Utomo Sarjono Putro, Vice Dean of School of Business and Management, Institut Teknologi Bandung; and Dr. Yasmine Nasution from Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia.

In the seminar, participants learned about the 26 ABEST21 Standards and 142 criteria that have to be in line with the school’s mission. To achieve the mission, each school has to analyse its environment and develop its uniqueness compared to other schools. In the Seminar, the participants also learned other things that they need to prepare in advance. For example, collecting and maintaining an accurate data is one of important aspects in the accreditation process. Since the beginning of the process, when the school is developing its action plan, it should also think what supporting documents are necessary to show the performance of the action plan. Other thing that is also important is team work. Because accreditation process will involve not only the school’s management, but also the faculty members, students, alumni and administrative staff, there should be a good team work in order to improve the school’s quality.

5. Peer Review Committee 2019
ABEST21 Peer Review Committee 2019 is scheduled on November 18 and 19, 2019 at SP Jain School of Global Management, Singapore. Details will be announced later.
6. Public Relations of Accredited Schools

1) School of Business and Management, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia

In March 2018, ABEST21 International accredited the School of Business and Management, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia which became the first school to receive accreditation based on ABEST21 Academic Unit-based Accreditation System (AAAS). Under the AAAS, all programs at the School of Business and Management including the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral are within the scope of accreditation. By assuring the educational quality of the School as a whole, ABEST21 wishes to support the promotion of international academic exchange.

2) Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Hasanuddin, Indonesia

On March 7, 2019, the bachelor’s program for economics at the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Hasanuddin was accredited. Universitas Hasanuddin has a long tradition of research and education in economics. Since this was the first ABEST21 accreditation for bachelor’s program in economics, it had a great impact on the research and education activities in economics at other universities in Indonesia, according to the Newsletter-March 2019 issued by the Universitas Hasanuddin.

7. Accreditation Committee Chairs

Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2019 are as follows.

1) Accreditation Committee

Chair: Kazuo Tanigawa (Director, Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Japan)
Vice Chair: Deputy Dean Emeritus Prof. Dr. Ilker Baybars (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)
Vice Chair: Prof. Dr. Azlan Amran (Dean, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia)

2) Peer Review Committee

Chair: Prof. Dr. Azlan Amran (Dean, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia)
Vice Chair: Dr. Nurkholis (Dean, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia)
Vice Chair: Prof. Dr. Qinhai Ma (Dean, Northeastern University, China)
Vice Chair: Prof. Dr. Yoshinori Hara (Dean, Kyoto University, Japan)
8. Set up of Quality Assurance Review Network

To conduct smooth and practical accreditation for the increasing number of applicant schools, ABEST21 Quality Assurance Review Network (AQARN) will be set up under the Accreditation Division to discuss the following items.

1) Systemization of Accreditation Seminars
2) Organization of accreditation review members
3) Systemization of training for accreditation review members
4) Other items concerning accreditation.

AQARN Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Utomo Sarjono Putro (SBM-ITB, Indonesia)
Area Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Takao Shigeta (SBI Graduate School, Japan)
Area Coordinator: Dr. Siti Zaleha Sahak (UiTM, Malaysia)
Area Coordinator: Dr. Danaipong Chetchotsak (KKU, Thailand)

9. Peer Review Team Training Seminar

Peer Review Team Training Seminar for PRT members for 2019 is scheduled in early July in Tokyo, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.