



ABEST21 e-News

No.122, January-June 2023

ABEST21 International

THE ALLIANCE ON BUSINESS EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP FOR TOMORROW,
a 21st century organization

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I. ABEST21 General Information

1. ABEST21 Office Report

January

- 17th : Holding the online Accreditation Committee
- 20th : Holding the 42nd online meeting of ABEST21 Council for Human Resource Development

February

- 06th : Holding the Financial Audit Meeting
- 06th : Holding the online Financial Audit meeting
- 15th : Holding the online ABEST21 Board of Trustees

March

- 09th-10th : Holding ABEST21 Annual Meeting, Kyoto, Japan
- 11th : Conducting the Kyoto Study Tour, Kyoto Japan
- 14th : Visit to the United Nations University (UNU)
- 15st : Conducting the online Accreditation Seminar II on "SCR"
- 16th : Conducting the online Accreditation Seminar II on "KZR"
- 17th : Visit to Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF)
- 20th : Visit to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- 22nd : Conducting the online Accreditation Seminar II on APAS-"QIS"
- 23rd : Conducting the online Accreditation Seminar II on APAS-"PAA"
- 24th : Reporting on the Accreditation Results to Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science

and Technology of Japan (MEXT)

- 27th : Publishing a press release on the Accreditation Results to the press club at MEXT
- 29th : Holding the online Accreditation Seminar II on the AAAS-"QIS"

April

- 11th : Conducting the online individual Accreditation Seminar II on APAS-"PAA"

May

- 17th : Visit to JICA
- 18th : Visit to UNU

June

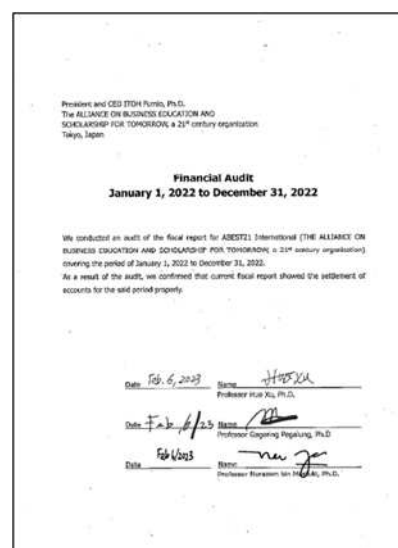
- 09th : Visit to JICA
- 12th : Meeting with Malaysian Qualification Agency in Japan
- 15th : Visit to UNU
- 15th : Conducting the online Seminar for FBA of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 21st : Visit to MAFF

2. Holding the ABEST21 Audit meeting 2023

On Monday, February 6, 2023, ABEST21 International Financial Audit Meeting 2023 was held in person and online. Firstly, the materials including "the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure 2022" and "the Balance Sheet 2022" for the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 were confirmed by ABEST21 Auditor Professor Dr. Hua Xu at the ABEST21 office. Then, as a result of the audit held, the online ABEST21 Audit meeting 2023 was held and the auditors confirmed that the current fiscal report showed the settlement of accounts for the said period properly. The ABEST21 Auditing Committee includes three auditors:



- Professor Dr. Hua Xu
MBA Program in International Business, Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan
- Professor Gagaring Pagalung, Ph.D.
Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Hasanuddin, Indonesia
- Former Dean Professor Nor'Azam Mastuki, Ph.D.
Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia



ABEST21 International Statement of Revenue and Expenditure (January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022) in the Annual Report 2023 is available to the public:
ABEST21 International Annual Report 2023 URL: <https://www.abest21.org/about/report/>

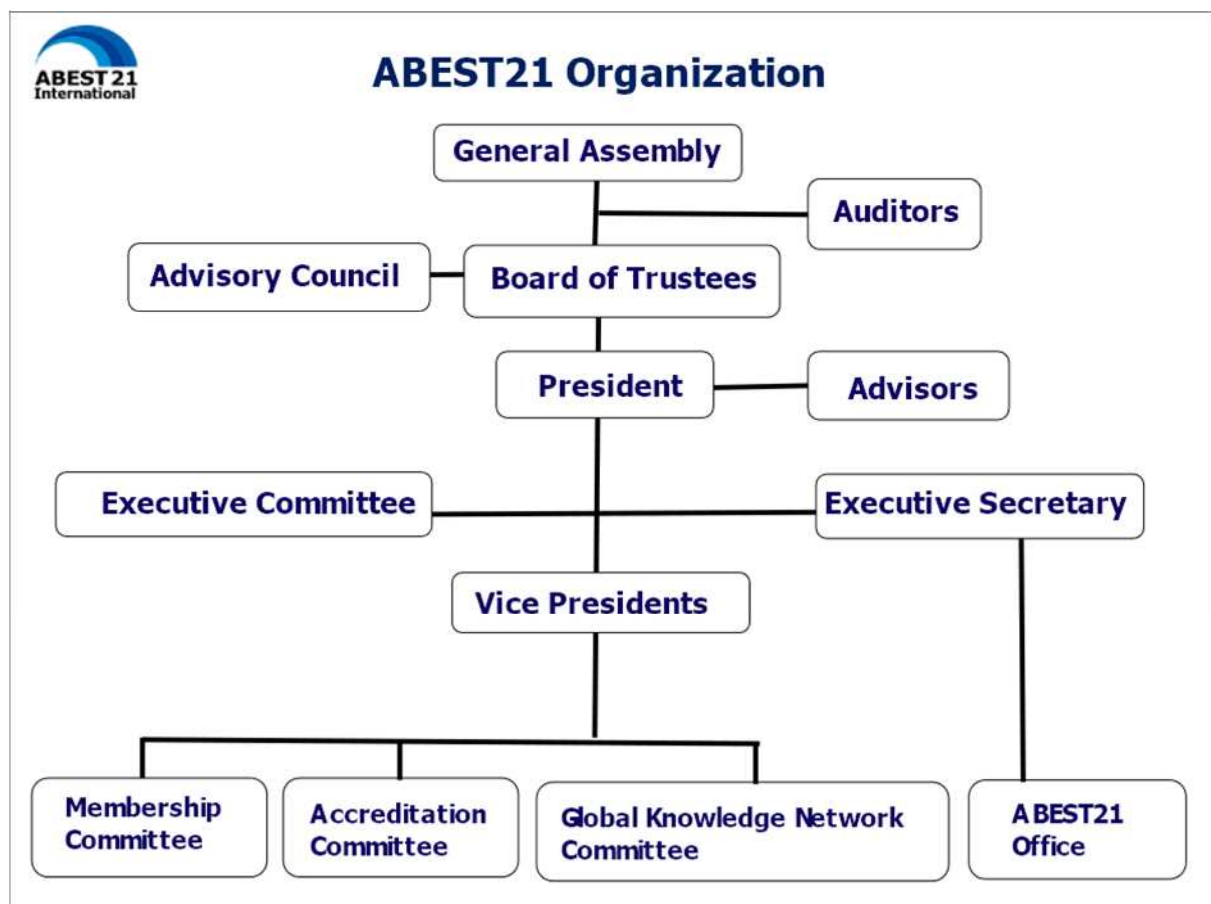
3. Holding the Board of Trustees 2023

On Wednesday, February 15, 2023, online ABEST21 International Board of Trustees Meeting 2023 was held. Based on the materials provided in advance, and following the detailed explanation by ABEST21 International President and the exchange of opinions, the ABEST21 International Financial Statement FY2022, the ABEST21 International Budget for FY2023, and other materials were discussed. The members were also informed about the ABEST21 International Business Accomplishment 2022, the ABEST21 International Accreditation March 2023, and the ABEST21 KAIZEN Awards 2023. All items were accepted.



4. Appointment of ABEST21 International President and Executive Committee due to termination of the term

Upon the termination of the term, executive members were elected following the ABEST21 Bylaw Article 21.



ABEST21 International Executive Committee Members

(Term: from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2025)

President and CEO

Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH

Former Dean of Graduate School of International Management,
Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan



Vice Presidents

Former Dean Professor Robert Sullivan, Ph.D.

Rady School of Management,
University of California San Diego, USA



Dean Prof. Dr. Oleg Vikhanskiy

Lomonosov Moscow State University Business School,
Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia



Vice President Dean Prof. Dr. Ali Khatibi

Graduate School of Management,
Management and Science University, Malaysia



Dean Teguh Dartanto, Ph.D.

Faculty of Economics and Business,
Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia



Assistant to the ABEST21 International President

Director and CEO Shigemi OKAYASU
STC SHIPPING PTE LTD, Singapore



Auditors

Prof. Dr. Xu Hua

MBA Program in International Business, Graduate School of Business
Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences,
University of Tsukuba, Japan



Prof. Gagaring Pagalung, Ph.D.
Faculty of Economics and Business,
Universitas Hasanuddin, Indonesia



Former Dean Prof. Nor'Azam Mastuki, Ph.D.
Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School,
Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia



Advisors

(Legal Relations)

Lawyer Prof. Dr. Masayuki TANAMURA
Graduate School of Law,
Waseda University, Japan



(Management)

Former Dean Visiting Professor Dr. Hirotaka KAWANO
Graduate School of Management,
Kyoto University, Japan



(Accreditation)

Former President and CEO Dr. Zulkornain Yusop
Putra Business School, Malaysia



(Accounting)

Former Dean Koichi SAITO
Faculty of Business Administration,
Nanzan University, Japan



(Taxation Business)

Licensed Tax Accountant Director Takanori SAISU
SAISU Certified Tax Accountant Office, Japan



ABEST21 International Office

Executive Manager Yuka NAKAGAWA, MBA
ABEST21 International



5. New Deans

Prof. Dr. Heru Sulisty, S.E., M.Si.

Faculty of Economics, Universitas Islam Sultan Agung, Indonesia

Prof. Dr. Heru Sulisty, S.E., M.Si. is a Professor of Strategic Management and a senior researcher at the Department of Management, Faculty of Economics, Universitas Islam Sultan Agung (UNISSULA) Semarang, Indonesia. He was born in Pontianak, Indonesia, in 1967, and graduated from the Faculty of Economics, Universitas Islam Sultan Agung (UNISSULA), Indonesia, in 1992. He received his Master of Science from Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia, and completed his Doctoral dissertation at Universitas Airlangga Surabaya, Indonesia, in 2010. Heru started his career as a lecturer in 1993 and then served in several administrative positions,



beginning in 2001 as the head of Department of Management, in 2013 as the Director of the Postgraduate Program, in 2016 as the head of research and community service at Universitas Islam Sultan Agung (UNISSULA), the head of Master of Management Program in 2021 and the Dean of the Faculty from 2022 to present. His articles and books have been published nationally and internationally in reputable outlets. He also became a speaker in various scientific forums globally. His teaching interest and research areas are Human Resource Management, Knowledge Management, Organizational Behavior, and Strategic Management.

Chair Prof. Dr. Rémy Magnier-Watanabe

MBA Program in International Business, Graduate School of Business Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan

The MBA Program in International Business (MBA-IB) has a new Chair. Dr. Rémy Magnier-Watanabe was elected for a 2-year term starting April 1, 2023. Dr. Hua Xu, his predecessor, will take an academic sabbatical leave to focus on research after several years of dedicated service to the program. Dr. Remy Magnier-Watanabe has been a member of the program since 2008, first as Assistant Professor, then as Associate Professor, and since 2022 as Professor of International Business. Previously, he also supported former Chair Dr. Hua Xu as vice-Chair of the program.



Dr. Magnier-Watanabe is originally from France, but has lived and studied in three countries: he graduated from Grenoble Ecole de Management in France (BS, MS), holds an MBA from the Georgia Institute of Technology in the United States, and received his PhD in Industrial Engineering and Management from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan. He also spent one year on academic sabbatical in the Program on US-Japan Relations at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, conducting research on Japanese FDI in the United States. Chair Prof. Dr. Magnier-Watanabe's research focuses on knowledge management, cross-cultural management, foreign direct investment, and subjective well-being at work. Prior to his academic career, he worked as Training Department Manager in the United States for a leading French manufacturer of packaging equipment and lines for beverages packaged in PET, where he developed a growing interest for applied management research.

The University of Tsukuba was established in October 1973, due to the relocation to the Tsukuba area of its predecessor, the Tokyo University of Education, itself founded in 1872. MBA-IB was

launched in April 2005 as a Professional Degree Program located on the University of Tsukuba's Tokyo campus for adults with working experience. Coursework for MBA-IB is typically completed over two years with classes held on weekday evenings and on Saturdays. The program's mission is "developing ambitious individuals into responsible global business leaders". To further this aim, all classes are taught in English and half of the faculty is made up by foreign professors and business leaders. The student body is also diverse with students from various countries and professional backgrounds. The program offers a wide range of courses and an opportunity to conduct an individualized Business Project aimed at assisting students' career plans. The academic degree presented to graduating students is a Master of International Business Administration.

6. New School Members

Dean Associate Prof. Dr. Mohd. Rahimie Bin Abd. Karim

Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy

Universiti Malaysia Sabah

Faculty of Business, Economics, and Accountancy (FBEA) of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) was founded in 1995 with the vision of becoming a reputable faculty through impactful innovation and engagement. The mission of the faculty is to produce graduates who can meet business and community needs in dealing with global changes. The faculty's strive for excellence is vested through scholarly endeavors for knowledge advancement and collaboration with various stakeholders by applying contemporary knowledge. The faculty is driven by its core values - professionalism, collaboration, inclusivity and innovativeness. All undergraduate and postgraduate programs offered by FBEA are



accredited by the Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) and relevant professional bodies. FBEA provides a range of programs from bachelor's degree to Doctor of Philosophy in the field of business, economics, accountancy as well as hospitality and tourism management. Over the years, FBEA successfully produced graduates who have become valuable assets in numerous sectors and industries worldwide. Spearheading research and publications particularly in Sabah-Malaysia, and the island of Borneo, FBEA has organized various seminars and conferences related to business, economics, accountancy and hospitality and tourism management. With the ambition of becoming a reputable business faculty, FBEA has received numerous international recognitions and awards, and maintains collaborations with various stakeholders including educational institutions, professional bodies, and industries.

FBEA is committed to working together with business schools/faculties around the globe for mutual benefits. FBEA believes that such engagement will provide significant value added to students and academics through sharing of experience, knowledge and best practices across different countries and cultures. FBEA welcomes any proposals for joint cooperation in research and publications, teaching and learning, and student affairs activities such as academics exchange, student mobility, joint research and organizing international conferences/seminars. We cordially invite our fellow business schools/faculties to visit our beautiful campus in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah-Malaysia and experience the warm UMS' hospitality.

7. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) on August 3, 2023

On Monday, June 12th, 2023, President Fumio ITOH had a meeting with CEO of Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohammad Shatar Bin Sabran and Deputy CEO of MQA Prof. Ir. Dr. Khairul Salleh Bin Mohamed Sahari at Grand Prince Hotel Takanawa, Tokyo, Japan. As a result, they came to an agreement to work on the renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MQA and ABEST21 International and agreed that the signing ceremony of the said MoU is going to be held on Thursday, August 3, 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The main areas of co-operation covered by the memorandum are 1) exchange of operational information, b) exchange of information on status of accreditation, c) mutual understanding of approaches to enhance the understanding of quality assurance in higher education, d) quality system to ensure the role of both agencies, e) promotion of developmental opportunities for the staff of both agencies, f) engaging reviewers from both parties, g) collaborate accreditation programs, h) sharing Good Practice Data base, etc. Detailed information about the signing ceremony is forthcoming.



8. Holding Online Seminar for an academic of the Republic of Uzbekistan

On Thursday, June 15th, 2023, the online seminar for an academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan that is looking to expand their horizons by seeking international recognition. In response to the institution's request, President Fumio ITOH introduced overview of ABEST21 International Accreditation and the Accreditation review process and Associate professor Dr. Yudi Fernando, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Malaysia explained ABEST21 Accreditation philosophy and shared his experience with ABEST21 International.



II. "Assessing Today for Tomorrow"

1. Holding the online ABEST21 Accreditation Committee 2023

Following the recommendation from the Peer Review Committee on accreditation results, the online Accreditation Committee (AC) 2023 was held on January 17, 2023. Based on the materials provided in advance, the AC discussed the Accreditation Results Recommendation 2023, and nomination for the KAIZEN Award and other matters in details. All the results accepted by the AC were recommended to the online ABEST21 International Board of Trustees held on February 15, 2023.



2. Schools accredited in March 2023

The online Board of Trustees meeting held on February 15, 2023 accepted the schools to be accredited as recommended by the Accreditation Committee. The accredited schools for March 2023 are listed below.

- **Master of Business Administration Program,
Department of Business Administration, SBI Graduate School, Tokyo, Japan**

The SBI graduate school has been founded on a lofty philosophy of creating an institution of learning that has been laid down by the school's founder and President Yoshitaka Kitao. His enunciated principle in education is: while developing expert human assets in the field of practical business management, the school's curriculum emphasizes edification of moral philosophy. The MBA program endeavors to foster human assets competent to create new business, while the school actively tries to apply the research and educational achievements to the actual scenes of business operations.

- **Master of Management Program, Faculty of Economics and Business
Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia**

Master of Management Study Program, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia (MM-FEBUI) is a tertiary education program under the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB UI) that offers education at the Master's level (or "S2" level in the Indonesian education system) and Professional Education program. MM-FEBUI was established based on the assignment of the Government through the Ministry of Education and Culture to the Universitas Indonesia. This school was officially established on October 8th, 1988. On October 7, 1988, MM-FEBUI was officially opened with an inaugural lecture for the first batch of students given by Prof. Dr. Ali Wardhana. At the time of its opening, the school offered two concentrations, namely International Management and Management Accounting. In the first years of program implementation, MM-FEBUI also received assistance from teaching staff from the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley.

- **Master of Management Program, Faculty of Business and Economics
Universitas Surabaya, Surabaya, Indonesia**

UBAYA is one of the private universities that received an "A" institutional accreditation score (the highest accreditation score possible) institutional accreditation score from NBAN-PT (*Badan Akreditasi Nasional-Perguruan Tinggi*). The University of Surabaya, Faculty of Business and

Economics (UBAYA FBE) was established in 1968, as one of three pioneering faculties in UBAYA. The Faculty has the largest number of students amongst seven current faculties, contributing one-third of the total student body in UBAYA. As the biggest faculty, its cash flow is the highest among others, and its financial contribution to the university is also the highest. The school has almost 5,000 alumni across Indonesia, and the students represent diverse areas of expertise, with 40% fresh graduates and 60% managers and entrepreneurs.

- **Master of Business Administration - Global Program**

- S P Jain School of Global Management, Singapore Campus, Singapore**

S P Jain School of Global Management (S P Jain) is a private, free-standing business school that was established in 2004 with global vision. In 2009, the School was registered as a Higher Education Provider (HEP) by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), Australia. With the aim of providing our students with a thorough understanding of the global context of business, the school set up four campuses in Sydney, Singapore, Dubai and Mumbai with just over 2000 students (headcount) studying across the four campuses. The school is governed centrally from Sydney under the direction and oversight of the common Board of Directors (Board), Academic Board (AB) and vision and mission statements.

For the accreditation result of these accredited schools, please visit our webpage below:

<https://www.abest21.org/accreditation/>

3. Holding the ABEST21 Online Accreditation Seminar II for 2023

The Online Accreditation Seminars II for Accreditation 2023 were held in March in order to support applicant schools/faculties in their preparation for accreditation. These seminars aim to provide clarification on the objectives of each stage (PAA, QIS, SCR, KZR) in ABEST21 International Accreditation process and understanding of the important matters necessary for preparing each report.

1) The online Accreditation Seminar II for SCR 2023

On Wednesday, March 15th, the online Accreditation Seminar II for SCR 2023 was held. After introduction on the ABEST21 Accreditation Process by Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International, Assistant Professor Dr. Hen Kai Wah, Tunghai University, explained the objective of Self-Check/Self-Evaluation Report, how the report is reviewed by the Peer Review Team with Desk Review and



online Peer Review Visit, and issues to be noted on preparation of the report. Then, ABEST21 President Fumio ITOH presented further details of the SCR analysis according to the criteria necessary to conduct SCR. After that, Peer Review Schedule, clerical matters to be noted on submitting SCR such as format and check list were presented by the ABEST21 Accreditation Office. The presentations were followed by the Q&A session.

2) The online Accreditation Seminar II for QIS (APAS) 2023

On Wednesday, March 22nd, the online Accreditation Seminar II for QIS (APAS) was held. It opened with the message from Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International, introducing the ABEST21 Accreditation Process. Then, Associate Professor Dr. Yudi Fernando, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Malaysia talked about the objective of QIS and PAA, contents of QIS and characteristics of good report.

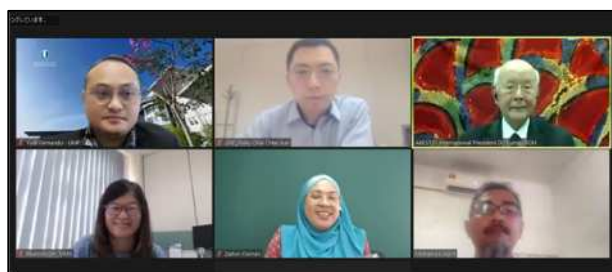


After that, President Fumio ITOH explained about the stages of "Initial Accreditation" and "Re-accreditation" related to the period of quality assurance, Peer Review Schedule and Outcome of the Accreditation. Then the ABEST21 Accreditation Office, informed the participants about the points be checked before submitting the report, how to submit the report using "ABEST21 Post" and the schedule including online Interview.

3) The online Accreditation Seminar II for PAA (APAS) 2023

On Thursday, March 23rd, the online Accreditation Seminar II for PAA (APAS) was held.

Firstly, Associate Professor Dr. Yudi Fernando, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Malaysia described about the objective of QIS and PAA, contents of PAA and important guideline for preparing the report. Then, Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International, explained ABEST21 International Accreditation System that consists of AAAS and APAS, terms of "Initial Accreditation" and "Re-accreditation" related to the effective period of quality assurance, Peer Review Process of Initial Accreditation and Outcome of the Accreditation. ABEST21 Accreditation Office informed the participants about the Schedule of Peer Review including the online Interview, how to submit the report using designated Format and Check List. Also, the information about "ABEST21 Post" to be used for submission and website page "Schools pursuing ABEST21 Accreditation only" was given. The presentations were followed by an active Q&A session.



ABEST21 Accreditation Office informed the participants about the Schedule of Peer Review including the online Interview, how to submit the report using designated Format and Check List. Also, the information about "ABEST21 Post" to be used for submission and website page "Schools pursuing ABEST21 Accreditation only" was given. The presentations were followed by an active Q&A session.

4) The online Accreditation Seminar II for QIS (AAAS) 2023

On Wednesday, March 29th, the online Accreditation Seminar II for QIS (AAAS) was held. It opened with the message from Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International, introducing the ABEST21 Accreditation Process. Then, Professor Dr. Ming-Yu Cheng, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia, explained the concept of AAAS, Re-Accreditation, contents of QIS and matters to be noted on writing QIS report. Furthermore, the Peer Review System and Schedule were described by President Fumio ITOH. After that, ABEST21 Accreditation Office, presented points to be checked before submitting the report, the procedure of submitting the report using "ABEST21 Post" and the schedule including online Interview.



ABEST21 International Accreditation Unit invites all applicant schools of ABEST21 International Accreditation in 2023 to visit exclusive website page "Schools pursuing ABEST21 International Accreditation only" and check the Bulletin Board from time to time to have the updated information. Individual Seminars for applicants and extraordinary ones could be arranged if requested. Please contact ABEST21 Accreditation Unit if there are any inquiries.

III. "Assuring Quality for Tomorrow"

1. ABEST21 KAIZEN Award in March, 2023

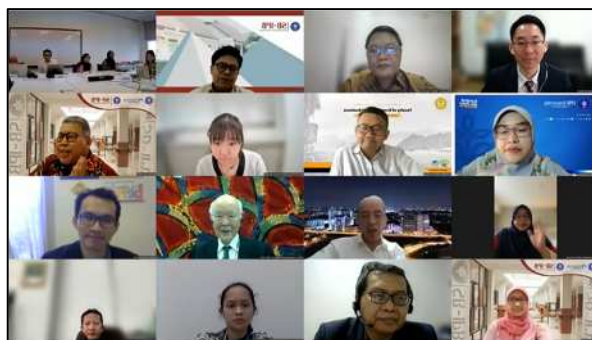
ABEST21 accredits schools in the full confidence that their Action Plans to improve the KAIZEN issues found in the analysis of the plans to improve the KAIZEN issues found in the analysis of the Self-Check/Self-Evaluation Report are promising. Since one of the aims of ABEST21 accreditation is to assure a substantial improvement of the educational quality to the stakeholders, we need to check the progress of the accredited schools on their Action Plans found in the analysis of the SCR, and provide a status report to the stakeholders. If the School performed all or most of the Action Plans and made an innovative improvement in the quality of the management education, ABEST21 would like to recognize the school's performance by giving it the "KAIZEN Award". The Award is endowed based on the recommendation of the Accreditation Committee. The online Board of Trustees meeting held on February 15, 2023 ratified the accredited schools to be granted "KAIZEN Award". Following this decision, ABEST21 KAIZEN Award plaque was granted to the three schools:

- Master of Business Administration Program and Master of Science in Finance Program
Graduate School of Business and Finance, Waseda University, Japan
- Master in Business Administration Program, Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School
Universiti Teknologi MARA, Selangor, Malaysia
- Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia

We congratulate the schools on their achievement in continuous improvement.

2. The online Accreditation Seminar II for KZR 2023

On Thursday, March 16th, the online Accreditation Seminar II for KZR was held. At first, Associate Professor Danaipong Chetchosak, Ph.D., Khon Kaen University, Thailand explained the contents of the KZR, matters to be noted when writing the report and how the Peer Review Team review is organized. Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International, described furthermore about the KZR which contains the performance of the Action Plans shown after SCR. Also, he explained about the Review Process of the KZR and Ranking done on approving the KZR. After that, Peer Review Schedule, clerical matters to be noted on submitting KZR, how to submit the report using "ABEST21 Post" were presented by the ABEST21 Accreditation Office. At last, the Q&A session was conducted.



For supporting to the accredited schools that are going to submit the KAIZEN Report in 2023, ABEST21 International Accreditation Unit holds individual online seminars if requested. Please contact ABEST21 Accreditation Unit if there are any inquiries.

IV. ABEST21 Global Knowledge Network

1. The Council for Nurturing Global Management Professionals

The online 42nd meeting of Japan Council for Nurturing Global Management Professionals was held on Friday, January 20, 2023. At first, Director General Shigeki FUKUDA, Japan International Cooperation Agency made a presentation with a title of "Integrated initiatives of human resource development in developing nations and nurturing "GLOCAL" human resource in Japan". Following his presentation, active Q&A session was conducted.



After that, a discussion about higher education of Japan was held, based on the materials prepared by the Subcommittee of the Central Council for Education that had been provided by the Office for Professional Graduate School, Technical Education Division, Higher Education Bureau, MEXT of Japan in advance.

2. Holding the ABEST21 International General Assembly 2023



Inamori hall, Shiran Kaikan, Kyoto University

ABEST21 International Annual Meeting 2023 was held for the three days from March 9, 2023 at "Inamori Hall", Shiran kaikan, Kyoto University, Kyoto Japan. The Annual meeting, which had been held online for three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, was now held in person, and forty representatives from ABEST21 International school members participated in the meeting. The program schedule of the conference was as follows.



Day 1: Thursday, March 9

Opening Remarks

Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH

President and CEO ABEST21 International

ABEST21 President delivered opening remarks and explained about the main objective of the Annual Meeting 2023.



Welcome Message

Associate Professor Keiji MURAKAMI, Ph.D. Graduate School of Management, Kyoto University, Japan

Associate Professor Keiji MURAKAMI delivered a welcome message to our members and made a brief introduction of both Kyoto University and Graduate School of Management. He pointed out that Kyoto University has produced 11 Nobel Prize winners and impacted character of the education and research of the Graduate School of Management.



Granting the New School Membership Certificate

Dean Associate Professor Dr. Geoffrey Harvey Tanakinjal, the Dean of Labuan Faculty of International Finance, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, which joined ABEST21 International last October, received the New School Membership Certificate in a certificate-granting ceremony.



Granting the ABEST21 International Accreditation Certificate March 2023



The Accreditation Certificate were presented by President Fumio ITOH to the representatives of the following schools that received ABEST21 International Accreditation in March, 2023:

- Department of Business Administration, SBI Graduate School, Japan
- Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia
- Faculty of Business and Economics, Universitas Surabaya, Indonesia
- SP Jain School of Global Management, Singapore



Dean Prof. Dr. KOBAYASHI Hideyuki



Dean Teguh Dartanto, Ph.D.



Dean Prof. Dr. A. Seetharaman

Granting the KAIZEN Award



The crystal trophies of KAIZEN Award were granted to the four schools that received the Award in 2022 and 2023 by President ITOH. The School received the Award in 2022 and 2023 as follows:

2022

- Faculty of Economics, Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia

2023

- Graduate School of Business and Finance, Waseda University, Japan
- Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia
- Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia

At the end of the first day, participants gave their congratulations to the accredited schools and the schools that won the KAIZEN Award.



Dean Dr. Idqan Fahmi,
SB IPB, Indonesia



Dean Prof. Zafir Khan Bin
Mohamad Makhbul
GSB UKM, Malaysia



Dean Prof. Dr. Hj. Nuny Nur Afiah
FEB UNPAD, Indonesia



Dean Dr. Vichayanon
Rattanawiboonsom
FBEC,NU, Thailand



Dr. Tifa Noer Amelia
Perbanas, Indonesia

Day 2: Friday, March 10

Memorial Session

ABEST21 Vice President Professor Ilker Baybars, Ph.D.

We announced with deep sadness that our Vice President and Deputy Dean Emeritus Professor Dr. Ilker Baybars, Carnegie Mellon University, had passed away on December 23, 2022. So, we held the memorial session in deep memory of Vice President Dr. Ilker Baybars.

At first, ABEST21 Vice President Professor Dr. Ali Khatibi expressed his condolences. Then, Professor Dr. Hiroshi TAKAMORI, LEC University, Japan shared his memories of the deceased. After that ABEST21 President Fumio ITOH related his memories of the deceased, sharing memorable photos. At the end of his speech, our President said that we will remember Dr. Ilker Baybars for his hard work and dedication during the founding of ABEST21, for his collegiality, for his forward-looking thinking, and his keen ability to engage with and collaborate with international members of ABEST21. Finally, Ms. Cigdem Baybars responded to them at the end of session. May he rest in peace.



Prof. Ali Khatibi



Prof. Hiroshi TAKAMORI



President Prof. Fumio ITOH

ABEST21 President Professor Emeritus Dr. ITOH published a special issue of ABEST21 e-News in deep memory of Vice President Ilker Baybars. The URL to read the article is as follows:

<https://www.abest21.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/enews121.pdf>

School Presentations

The accredited schools and KAIZEN Award winning schools made their presentations. They introduced their schools and shared knowledge obtained through ABEST21 Accreditation as well as their experiences through ABEST21 KAIZEN. The speakers and titles of their presentations were as follows:

Dean Dr. Mohd Asri Mohd Noor
Faculty of Management and Economics,
Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia
"Introduction of FME-UPSI"



Dean Dr. Geoffrey Harvey Tanakinjal
Labuan Faculty of International Finance,
Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia
"The role of International Finance in Sustainable Development and Building Industry-Academic Collaboration"



Dean Teguh Dartanto, Ph.D.
Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia
"FEB UI's ABEST21 Accreditation Journey: Challenge, Progress and Transformation"



Dean Professor Dr. Arumugam Seetharaman
SP Jain School of Global Management, Singapore
"Reimagining Business Education through Disruptive Innovation"



Dean Professor Hitoshi TAKEHARA, Ph.D.
 Graduate School of Business and Finance,
 Waseda University, Japan
 "Waseda Business School-the Past and the Future"



Vice Dean Ainur Rofiq, Ph.D.
 Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas
 Brawijaya, Indonesia
 "ABEST21 Accreditation-KAIZEN Universitas
 Brawijaya"



Closing Remarks

ABEST21 Vice President Professor Dr. Ali Khatibi
 Senior Vice President, Management & Science University, Malaysia

ABEST21 Vice President Teguh Dartanto, Ph.D.
 Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia

Day 3: Saturday, March 11 Kyoto Study Tour (Optional Tour)

It was a beautiful sunny day with a clear blue sky. A tour bus departed from the Prince Hotel Takaragaike to visit Kinkakuji "Golden Pavilion", Ryoan-ji "The Rock Garden" and Nijo-jo "Nijo Castle" on Saturday, March 11. About 30 participants from ABEST21 School Members joined the tour. Ms. Rara Ikeuchi, Ms. Akane Fujisaki and Ms. Kaoru Tobe explained about each destination with brief introduction in the bus. We hope all the participants enjoyed coming in to contact with traditional various Japanese culture.



3. SB-IPB Study Program in Japan

"International Exposure in Business and Management"

On May 17 and 18, 2023, a group of 32 doctoral students from the School of Business, IPB University (SB IPB Univ.), Indonesia visited Headquarters of Japan International Corporate Agency (JICA) in Kojimachi and UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) in Shibuya. This visit served as part of SB IPB University's study tour named "International Exposure in Business and Management" led by Vice Dean Dr. Nimmi Zubainarni, IPB University, Indonesia. The theme of the study tour was "Globalization and Cultural Diversity: Navigating Difference for Sustainable Success".



Visit to JICA

With the courtesy of JICA and Mr. Kotaro KIMURA, Deputy Director, Technology Policy Office, Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, the IPB Students visited the headquarters of JICA Headquarters on Wednesday and took lectures by MAFF, JICA and KEY COFFEE, INC.

The program of their visit on May 17 was as follows.

Moderator: Mr. Naoki MATSUDA

Economic Development Department, Agricultural and Rural Development Group 2, JICA



Opening Remarks

Mr. Masahiko TAKIZAWA, Deputy Director General for Planning and Training Affairs, Domestic Strategy and Partnership Department, JICA



Session I - MAFF Lecture:

"Development of Smart Agriculture"

Mr. Kotaro KIMURA, Deputy Director
Technology Policy Office, Policy Planning Division,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan

Mr. KIMURA introduced the cases of agriculture using advanced technologies such as robots, AI and IoT in Japan. After his presentation, the participants discussed more about Climate-Smart Agriculture.



Session II - JICA Lecture:

"JICA's Standpoint of the Cooperation
in Smart Agriculture and Smart Food Value Chain"

Mr. Daichi BAN, Economic Development Department,
Agricultural and Rural Development, Group 1, JICA
Mr. BAN introduced JICA activities for the development of Smart Food Chain in some countries using some examples of projects. After his presentation, the participants discussed how JICA has supported the development of the Smart Food Chain in Indonesia.



"What is JICA doing with international students"

Ms. Nonoka KAWAMURA, Economic Development Department,
Agricultural and Rural Development, Group 1, JICA

Ms. KAWAMURA introduced one of JICA's activities named Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS). The purpose of SATREPS is the development of human resources of public and private sectors and enhancement of a human network between developing countries and Japan.

After her presentation, the participants discussed the details of JICA's support in the area of funding issues and other matters.



Session III – KEY COFFEE Presentation

“Sustainable Coffee Production in Toraja, Indonesia”

Ms. Naoko ARINAGA, Future if Coffee Department,
KEY COFFEE, INC., Japan

Ms. ARINAGA presented the coffee production business in Indonesia and the current situation concerning the impact of the climate change on coffee production. Also, she shared the information about a JICA project in Traja. After her presentation, the participants discussed about more details about the current issue of continuing coffee production in Indonesia and other matters.



Closing Remarks:

Dr. Nimmi Zulbainarni, Vice Dean, School of Business
IPB University, Indonesia



Visit to UNU-IAS on Thursday, May 18

With earnest cooperation of Mr. Takashi ASAI, Managing Director, Secretary General, Japan Foundation for United Nations University, the IPB students visited UNU-IAS on Thursday, May 18.



The program was as follows:

Session I - Introductory Session "Introduction UNU-IAS"

Kensuke FUKUSHI, Ph.D., Academic Program
Advisor, UNU-IAS

He introduced about UNU's Mission, Uniqueness, the education program, and other interesting facts. He explained that the mission of the UNU-IAS is "to meet the pressing challenges for achieving sustainability that are of concern to the United Nations and its Member states."



Session II - Group Discussion with UNU Students and IPB University Students: "Globalization and Cultural Diversity: Navigating Difference for Sustainable Success"

Chaired by Mark McCarthy Akrofi, D3, UNU

UNU students joined this session to have a group discussion with IPB Students. The Group Discussion was led by Mark McCarthy Akrofi, a student of UNU. The IPB students shared their ideas and actively exchanged their opinions on "Globalization and Cultural Diversity: Navigating Difference of Sustainable Success" with some UNU students actively.





Following is comments from the IPB Students.

- Interesting discussion and sharing from each countries.
- Fruitful discussion with great facilitator
- Just want to thank you again for the informative and very enjoyable day you provided us with when we visited the MAFF /JICA / UNU. I feel that the knowledge we gained enables our people to be comfortable doing something more meaningful in the near future. Tell them how impressed us with the breadth of their knowledge. I couldn't have had a more delightful host, everything, in fact, was perfectly prepared.
- all the meetings and discussion arrangement were excellent. Thru the discussion we could understand better the role of JICA in Indonesia for all stakeholders. The visit to UN University really benefited me as I really admired the late Soedjatmoko, an Indonesian who became second rector of UN University. The discussion with UNU Graduate students reminded us how valuable this one world that we have
- Being able to visit and discuss JICA and UNU was a very valuable experience for us. Not only getting the opportunity to explore knowledge, but also getting interesting inspiration that can be implemented when we return. Best of luck to JICA and UNU.
- The lectures from JICA/MAFF and UNU gave us many new insightful perspectives.
- We hope all IPB students got some insights from these study programs in Japan.
- From MAFF we get detailed information about smart agriculture. From UNU we discussed a lot about the challenges we face in order to achieve the SDGs.
- We are very grateful for this opportunity and thank you for the support provided by ABEST21.
- Both sessions at JICA and UNU were eye opener for us as students to get exposed into international business landscape. Through JICA we learned how regional coffee value chain works. Whereas at UNU we learned what are the common sustainable development challenges from different countries while devising the possible actions to overcome the challenges.

- Thank you for the highly inspiring sessions at JICA and UNU. Not only were they well-arranged, but they also provided a wealth of valuable learning experiences. The session with JICA and MAFF taught us how Japan overcame various limitations and turned them into strengths and advantages, particularly in the field of agriculture. Meanwhile, the discussion session with UNU's graduate students broadened our insights into the complexities of sustainable development issues. I hope there will be more opportunities for students to exchange ideas and share experiences on platforms like this.
- Warm hospitality and support extended to our group throughout the visit were exemplary. The seamless organization of the program, the attention to detail, and the thoughtful arrangements made our experience truly memorable. We felt welcomed and valued as guests, and we are deeply grateful for the efforts put forth to ensure our visit was fruitful and enjoyable.
- Information sharing and discussion with JICA and UNU provided a lot of insights from other perspectives for the development of knowledge in the future.
- The discussions at JICA on smart agriculture have enriched our view on how we can equip farmers with advanced technology, increase productivity, improve crop quality, and maximize their profits. Our intensive discussions with UNU students have provided us tremendous insight with the latest issues and concerns on global development related to climate changes, cross-cultural changes, current trends in political complexity, economic inequality, and sustainable development. All of these concerns are essential for public policy planning and for developing smart and sustainable societies.
- I want to thank you for receiving us so well. The moment of sharing knowledge and experience through meaningful discussions at JICA and UNU is a precious moment that we will always remember. Hopefully we can meet again on another occasion in the future. I always hope for the best for all of us.
- It's an excellent lecture.

The IPB University website also provides information on these topics. Please visit following URL to read the article.

URL: [Visit Japan, SB IPB University Doctoral Students Explore the Key of Japan's Success in Facing Challenges and Winning Global Competition | IPB University](#)

We hope all IPB students got some insights from these study experiences in Japan.

From ABEST21 International office

On Friday, March 17, we visited the campus of Udayana University and had an exchange with students of Udayana University. Udayana University is a national university in Bali, Indonesia. At first, we had lunch at a restaurant near the university, where current students showed us around. There, we talked about the culture of each other's countries and had a good time interacting with each other. After that, we participated in Dr. Ica Rika Candraningrat's economics class and gave a presentation. We talked about student life in Japan and what we are studying at the university. Also, we sang Japanese songs. The students were very knowledgeable about Japanese culture, and we were happy to hear their good reactions when we talked about Japan. We learned a lot by talking about each other's



culture and lifestyle, and it expanded our perspectives. We would like to continue to actively learn about other cultures in the future. We would like to thank Dean Agoes Ganesha Rahyuda, Ph.D., Dr. Ica Rika Candraningrat, Ni Niyoman Ayu Diantini, Ph.D. and the students of Udayana University for their cooperation.

(Reported by Ms. Akane FUJISAKI and Ms. Rara IKEUCHI, ABEST21 International Staff,
Department of English, College, Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo Japan)