



# ABEST21 e-News

## No.123, July-September 2023

**ABEST21 International**

**THE ALLIANCE ON BUSINESS EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP FOR TOMORROW,  
a 21<sup>st</sup> century organization**

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### eNews No.123: Contents

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I. ABEST21 General Information	1
II. "Assuring Quality for Tomorrow"	11
III. ABEST21 Global Knowledge Network	12

### I. ABEST21 General Information

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#### 1. ABEST21 Office Report

##### July

- 03<sup>rd</sup> : Holding online meeting with Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA), Malaysia
- 10<sup>th</sup> : Holding the 43<sup>rd</sup> online meeting of ABEST21 Council for Human Resource Development
- 19<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online ABEST21 International PRT members' Training Seminar 2023

##### August

- 03<sup>rd</sup> : Attending to Signing Ceremony of the MoU between MQA and ABEST21 International
- 09<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online ABEST21 International PRT Leaders' Training Seminar 2023
- 24<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Interview with Universitas Telkom, Indonesia
- 28<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Interview with Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia
- 29<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Interview with PPM School of Management, Indonesia
- 30<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Interview with Universitas Islam Sultan, Indonesia

##### September

- 01<sup>st</sup> : Conducting Online Interview with Naresuan University, Thailand
- 06<sup>th</sup>-07<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Peer Review Visit with University of Tsukuba, Japan
- 11<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Interview with Universitas Udayana, Indonesia
- 12<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Interview with Waseda University, Japan
- 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Peer Review Visit with Hitotsubashi University, Japan
- 19<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Interview with Univesitas Jenderal Soedirman, Indonesia
- 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> : Conducting Online Peer Review Visit with Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan

- 15<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Interview with Management & Science University, Malaysia
- 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Peer Review Visit with Perbanas Institute, Indonesia
- 29<sup>th</sup> : Conducting Online Interview with Khon Kaen University, Thailand

## 2. Signing Ceremony between MQA and ABEST21 International



Le Meridien Hotel, PutraLe Mejaya, Malaysia

On August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023, ABEST21 International signed the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) represented by CEO Dato' Professor Dr. Mohammad Shatar bin Sabran at Le Meridien Hotel, Putrajaya, Malaysia in the presence of Deputy Minister Dato' Haji Mohamad Yusof bin Apdal of Higher Education of Malaysia and First Secretary, Education and Science Attaché Mr. Yuki Yoshi SAITO of Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, and Director General Professor Dr. Azlinda binti Azman of Department of Higher Education of Malaysia. ABEST21 International Vice President Professor Dr. Ali Khatibi, Senior Vice President, Management & Science University attended to the ceremony on behalf of our President and CEO Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH. The main area of co-operation covered by the memorandum are a) exchange of operation 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) collaborative accreditation programs, h) sharing Good Practice data base, etc. Some representative from ABEST21 International School members in Malaysia attended to the ceremony also. Agenda of the ceremony was as follows;

## Welcoming Remarks

Professor Ir. Dr. Khairul Salleh bin Mohamed Shahari, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Quality Assurance) of MQA delivered welcoming remarks and explained about main objective of the MoU, aiming to develop more cooperation in facilitating recognition of qualifications in the field of quality assurance.



## Introductory Speech

ABEST21 International Vice President Professor Ali Khatibi, Senior Vice President, Management & Science University, Malaysia delivered introductory speech and shared his experience of ABEST21 International Accreditation from viewpoints of its applicant school and its peer reviewer.



## Sharing Session

Chair)

Professor Dr. Zulkornain bin Yusop

ABEST21 International Accreditation Advisor

Former President and CEO Putra Business School, Malaysia  
(Panelists)

- Professor Dr. Ali Khatibi  
ABEST21 International Vice President  
Senior Vice President, Management & Science University  
Malaysia
- Professor Dr. Syed Jamal Abdul Nasir Syed Mohamad  
Dean, Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School,  
Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia
- Ms. Norasikin Binti Yahya  
Director, MQA Training Centre, Malaysia



At this session, they explained characteristic of ABEST21 International Accreditation system as well as MQA quality Assurance system. Chair Prof. Zulkornain bin Yusop featured concept of ABEST21 International "KAIZEN Report" that help accredited school's sustainable development aiming in quality enhancement of education and research activities based on SDG through "KAIZEN Report" review process. Following with that, Dean Professor Dr. Syed Jamal Abdul Nasir Syed Mohamad





introduced the KAIZEN Report system and purpose of the KAIZEN Report that aim is to confirm whether the KAIZEN issues found in the analysis of the Self-Check/Self-Evaluation Report are solved according to the Action Plans. Then, Professor Dr. Ali Khatibi explained that ABEST21 International is responsible for assuring the society that the quality of education at accredited schools is enhanced through PDCA cycles. After then, Ms. Norasikin Binti Yahya introduced their training system for their applicant school and so on. At the end of this session, ABEST21 International Vice President Associate Professor Teguh Dartanto, Ph.D., Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia presented a commemorative item to these speakers.



## Signing Ceremony of the MoU

### Introductory Speeches

**CEO Dato' Professor Dr. Mohammad Shatar bin Sabran, MQA** delivered introductory speech and explained about MQA quality assurance system and its characteristic. With the vision to be a global authority on quality assurance of higher education and the mission to put in place a system of quality assurance that is recognized internationally, he said that the MQA is set to chart new boundaries in higher education quality assurance.



**First Secretary, Education and Science Attaché Mr. Yuki Yoshi SAITO of Embassy of Japan in Malaysia** delivered his congratulatory speech. This year is the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and cooperation. Since 1973, ASEAN and Japan have built a cooperative relationship for peace and development in the region. In particular, people-to-people exchanges have been the foundation for the strong partnership based on "heart-to-heart understanding." He ended his speech by hoping that this MoU will further develop the ABEST21 International Accreditation as well as the collaboration between Japan and Malaysia in higher education.



**Deputy Minister Dato' Haji Mohamad Yusof bin Apdal of Higher Education of Malaysia** delivered congratulatory speech. He is delighted to know that MoU will be signed between the MQA and ABEST21 in order to facilitate recognition of qualifications in the field of quality assurance. He sincerely hopes that this MoU will further develop the MQA and ABEST21 Quality Assurance as well as the collaboration between Malaysia and Japan in higher education to create a new chapter of bilateral ties between the two countries.



### Signing Ceremony of the MoU

After then, the Signing Ceremony of the MoU between MQA represented by MQA CEO Dato' Professor Dr. Mohammad Shatar bin Sabran and ABEST21 International represented by ABEST21 Vice President Professor Dr. Ali Khatibi, Management & Science University, Malaysia in the presence of Deputy Minister Dato' Haji Mohamad Yusof bin Apdal of Higher Education of Malaysia and First Secretary, Education and Science Attaché Mr. Yuki Yoshi SAITO of Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, and Director General Professor Dr. Azlinda binti Azman of Department of Higher Education of Malaysia.





At the end of the ceremony, Assistant to Mr. Shigemi OKAYASU presented memorable gift to them. These participants have a get-together to communicate and to know each other well. Details about the ceremony was reported to ABEST21 International President and CEO Professor Emeritus Fumio ITOH that had given up to attend there because of the Covid attack on him after recovery.

We sincerely appreciate CEO Dato' Professor Dr. Mohammad Shatar bin Sabran and all MQA colleagues' time and efforts for holding such a memorable ceremony. We really hope we will work together for enhancing management education in Malaysia and Japan.



**<Appendix>**

The signing ceremony was covered in the BULLETING TV3:

[MQA, ABEST21 perkukuh kerjasama pendidikan tinggi Malaysia-Jepun | BULETIN TV3 Malaysia](#)

### **3. New Deans**

#### **Dean Prof. Dr. Naziruddin Abdullah**

#### **Universiti Kuala Lumpur Business School, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

UniKL Business School was established in 2008 under the name of the University Kuala Lumpur School of Entrepreneurship or UniKL ISE. The new name was officially institutionalized in 2011. UniKL Business School has developed programs of study that are unique and focus on the needs of the industry and national development. The mission statement for all programs offered by the University Kuala Lumpur supports the larger mission of the university in relation to the community, society, and the environment. This is essential for the university to nurture all-encompassed graduates who are socially conscious and intellectually prepared to serve the nation.



In designing the syllabus and program structure, great care has been taken to ensure that the course contents are geared towards developing people with skills based on ethics and values that will empower the community, society, and the environment. To this end, most of the assignments given by the lecturers are in the form of group assignments where students are taught and inspired to work in a team, which will result in creating leadership, ethics, and communication skills.

Apart from that, students and staff are encouraged to join various CSR programs conducted by the Student Development and Campus Lifestyle (SDCL) Division. Some examples of the activities conducted were feeding the homeless, donation drives for orphans and children of the poor, help repair and renovate dilapidated houses for the poor etc. In addition, the UniKL Care is formed to promote university activity in community engagement. Emphasis is given on activities that have high impact elements; an example of which is helping out flood victims in north Malaysia as Malaysia is prone to monsoon season at the end of the year.

Equally important, the university also provides a platform for students to get themselves exposed to international learning environment through the International Exchange Program (ISEM). This will enable them to go to the designated foreign universities and learned not only academic's subjects but also foreign language, ethics, and cultures. The exchange program also provides us with the opportunity to host foreign students in our campuses, namely the QM City Campus and Gurney Campus. They, the foreign students, are able to mingle with the local students through group assignments and other academic and extra-curricular activities.

In order to facilitate students to learn, work, and engage in community service, the university offers several elective subjects of which Community Service is one of them. In these subjects, students are taught, among others, how to conduct social-related activities such as feeding the homeless, donation drives for orphans and children of the poor, and helping the single-parent.

With the above-mentioned initiatives and programs, UniKL provides a holistic and conducive environment for the local and international students to churn out their potential to the maximum, which in turn contributes to the nation building. Indeed, this, in one way or the other, serves the ultimate objective of the existence of UniKL and UniKL Business School, respectively.

**Dean Arcadius Conrad Mahendra Kristyastoko Datu, Ph.D.  
PPM School of Management, Indonesia**

A startups enthusiast, Mahendra enjoys working in the fields of Business Development and Innovation. Mahendra's professional work began as an apprentice at the Sooke-Jordan River Chamber of Commerce, BC, Canada in early 1990s for the Youth Needs Assessment sponsored by Montreal-based Jeunesse Canada Monde. Between 1994-1995 Mahendra undertook multi-courses on global media and communication in Chicago, Sweden, Finland, The Netherland, and Leningrad-Russia. In 1998 Mahendra represented NUS Singapore at the Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations, and in 1999 Mahendra once again represented Singapore at the World Business Dialogue Forum (OFW) in Cologne, Germany. With The Asian Banker Journal, Mahendra published the Country Report: Indonesian Banking - Reconstructing the Road to Recovery in Singapore in 1999.



March 2010 Mahendra was a panel member at the Public Governance System (PGS) Forum organized by the Institute of Solidarity in Asia in Manila, the Philippines, and a delegate at the Palladium Asia Pacific Summit and Public PGS Forum also in Manila months later. In March 2015 Mahendra undertook the Advanced Leadership Training at the Mid Pacific Center in Hawaii. June 2016, a delegate at the Young Leaders International organized by FSF in The Hague, the Netherlands. By November 2016 Mahendra undertook the Professional Development Program at Harvard University, held in Cambridge, MA, on Strategy and Innovation, followed by a similar program at Stanford University - CS in held in its Palo Alto campus, CA, on April 2018. In Jan-Feb 2023 Mahendra join Stanford CS again at its Palo Alto campus for IMPROV Training.

Mahendra obtained his graduate degrees from the National University of Singapore (NUS). Mahendra as a former oversee new businesses development, and an advisor to several public-listed companies. He is also regular columnist at major newspapers, and works on few startups. In July 2023, Mahendra has been obtained as Dean of PPM School of Management Indonesia.

"Continuous improvement is for every organization, including the higher education institution. That's - in sofat - is our response to fast changing technology advancement that affects all organization. To stay relevant is the important key, and to go there can only be done by continuously making improvement day by day to make sure this improvement undertaking will answer every challenge the world gives to the organization. The ABEST21 program helps us walking the pathway ahead of us, and to make us staying both relevant and competitive. " (AC Mahendra K Datu, Dean - PPM School of Management, Jakarta, Indonesia).



## 4. New School Members

### **Banking and Finance Academy of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan Acting Deputy Rector Dr. Sherzod Khannaev**

Established in 1996 by a presidential decree, the Academy of Banking and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan has emerged as a distinguished institution in a relatively short span. With the unwavering support of the government, it has transformed into a modern hub for higher education and cutting-edge research.



Over the years, the Academy has nurtured more than 6,000 master's level students and over 12,000 students through its Faculty of Professional Development. Currently, it boasts a student body of 1,383 individuals, guided by a dedicated faculty of 47 members. The institution's leadership is orchestrated by a Rector, supported by three deputy rectors overseeing Academic Affairs, Research and International Cooperation, as well as Financial and Economic Affairs. Furthermore, the Academy comprises three Deans, seven academic Departments, along with vital units including the Quality Assurance Department, Compliance Department, Industry Relations and Internships Department, International Relations Department, Research Department, Academic Department, and Accounting Department.

The Academy's commitment to excellence in education is evident through its continuous enhancements in pedagogical methods, adoption of cutting-edge educational technologies, and the integration of interactive teaching approaches. This is complemented by international exposure through internships in foreign countries. These initiatives have propelled the Academy to the forefront of the financial education landscape in Uzbekistan.

In addition to its master's programs, the Academy also offers bachelor's degree programs catering to students interested in the banking and finance sector. These programs include Bachelor of Banking and Auditing, Bachelor of Finance and Financial Technologies, Bachelor of Accounting and Auditing, and Bachelor of Economics. Typically spanning four years, these bachelor's programs are available in both full-time and part-time formats, with instruction in Uzbek and Russian.

Expanding its academic horizons, the Academy provides a diverse array of undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Master's degree offerings encompass Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Science (MSc) programs across specialized fields such as Capital Market and Stock Exchange, Public Financial Control and Audit, Monetary Regulation of the Economy, Bank Accounting, Audit, and Control, Management of Insurance Companies, Pension Fund Management, Tax and Taxation, Project Management, and Islamic Finance and Banking. MBA programs generally span two years, while MSc programs require 14 months. Both full-time and part-time formats are available, with instruction offered in Uzbek and English.

In accordance with the Uzbek educational system, postgraduate studies are divided into two categories: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Doctor of Science (DSc). These programs, available in part-time and full-time modes, span up to three years. Specializations include "Finance, Money Circulation, and Credit," "Accounting, Economic Analysis, and Audit," and "Digital Economy and

International Digital Integration."

Beyond traditional academic programs, the Academy plays a pivotal role in the retraining and skill development of managerial personnel within Uzbekistan's banking and financial institutions.

Dedicated to delivering high-quality education and professional development opportunities, the Academy is actively pursuing international recognition through accreditation from esteemed organizations like ABEST21, AACSB, and BGA. This commitment further underscores the institution's dedication to global educational standards and excellence.

## 5. Holding the ABEST21 International Annual Meeting 2024

The ABEST21 International Annual Meeting 2024 is going to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024 at International Conference Hall at Aoyama Gakuin University (planned) in Tokyo, Japan.



### 1) ABEST21 International Annual Meeting 2024

**(1) Date:**

March 18th (Monday) – 19th (Tuesday)

**(2) Time:**

10:00 – 18:00 (Tokyo Time)

**(3) Venue:**

International Conference Hall, Aoyama Gakuin University, 4-4-25 Shibuya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN, 150-8366

**(4) Program:**

- ABEST21 International Accreditation Certificate-granting Ceremony 2024
- ABEST21 International KAIZEN Award-granting Ceremony 2024
- Refreshment

### 2) Optional Tour

TBA

Further details will be updated to our web-site below soon.

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

We look forward to seeing you in Tokyo next March.

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## II. "Assuring Quality for Tomorrow"

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### 1. The online PRT members' Training Seminar 2023 (July 19)

ABEST21 International Online PRT Training Seminar 2023 was held on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

First of all, our ABEST21 International President and CEO Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH talked about ABEST21 International Accreditation System and responsibilities of Peer Review Team (PRT). Then, for this year, we invited 3 speakers to explain the Peer Review Process of each different category of PAA & QIS, SCR and KZR. Associate Professor Yudi Fernando, Ph.D., Universitas Malaysia Pahang, Malaysia talked about PAA & QIS, Assistant Professor Dr. Hen Kai Wah, Tunghai University, Taiwan talked about SCR and Associate Professor Danaipong Chetchosak, Ph.D., Khon Kaen university, Thailand talked about KZR. They explained required role of PRT based on their prosperous experiences as members of ABEST21 PRT. In addition, ABEST21 International Office explained the Peer Review Schedule and informed that the important information on reviewing the reports is shared on the exclusive Website for Peer Review Team 2023. Last of all, Q & A session was held.



### 2. The online PRT Leader's Training Seminar 2023 (August 9)

ABEST21 International Online PRT Leaders' Training Seminar 2023 was held on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Firstly, our ABEST21 International President and CEO Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH spoke on the ABEST21 International Accreditation system and Peer Review Process. Secondly, Assistant Professor Dr. Hen Kai Wah explained the responsibilities of the PRT Leaders including about compilation of the PRT Comments, Chair of the Online PRV/Online Interview, presenting the PRT Review Result in the Peer Review Committee and Accreditation Committee and so on. Then ABEST21 International Office informed the Peer Review Schedule of PRT Leaders and noticed about the designated format of the Reports to be submitted. Lastly, the Q & A session was conducted.



### 3. Online ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar for Accreditation 2024

Online Accreditation Seminar for Accreditation 2024 is scheduled as follows:

(Tokyo time)

- 1) The PAA Seminar : Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 14:00-15:30
- 2) The QIS Seminar : Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 14:00-15:30
- 3) The SCR Seminar : Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 14:00-15:30
- 4) The KZR Seminar : Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 14:00-15:30

Detailed information about the seminar can be confirmed on the bulletin board of the ABEST21



International website ([www.abest21.org](http://www.abest21.org)).

### III. ABEST21 Global Knowledge Network

#### 1. The Council for Nurturing Global Management Professionals

The 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Japan Council for Nurturing Global Management Professionals was held online on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. Mr. Takuya MIYAGAWA, Assistant Director of the Office for Professional Graduate School, Technical Education Division, Higher Education Bureau, MEXT, talked about the recent topics at the Subcommittee of the Central Council for Education such as Innovative strategies for higher education in Japan. At the Q&A session after his presentation, participants actively discussed the development of joint-degree program with overseas business schools, introduction of data science program, and so on.

