



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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I. ABEST21 General Information

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1. ABEST21 International Office Report

April

- 3rd : Meeting with JICA

May

- 20th : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2024 for SCR-AAAS
- 21st : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2024 for SCR-APAS
- 22nd : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2024 for PAA-QIS
- 23rd : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2024 for KAIZEN Report

June

- 14th : Meeting with MQA
- 19th : Conducting the ABEST21 International Tsukuba Study Tour, Ibaraki, Japan
- 29th : Reporting on the Accreditation Results 2023 to MEXT

July

- 23rd : Holding the ABEST21 International PRT Training Seminar 2024
- 30th : Holding the ABEST21 International Accreditation Individual Seminar with Universiti Malaysia Kelantan

August

- 7th : ABEST21 International PRT Leader's Training Seminar 2024
- 28th-29th : Peer Review Visit to Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia

September

- 4th : Online Interview with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia
- 12th-13th : Peer Review Visit to Naresuan University, Thailand
- 17th : Online Interview with Universitas Telkom, Indonesia
- 18th-19th : Peer Review Visit to Waseda University, Japan
- 24th : Online Interview with Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, Malaysia
- 30th : Online Interview with Kyoto University, Japan

October

- 2nd-3rd : Peer Review Visit to Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia
- 7th-8th : Peer Review Visit to Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia
- 8th : Online Interview with PPM School of Management, Indonesia
- 9th : Online Interview with FBF, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (MBA-CM), Malaysia
- 10th : Online Interview with FAM, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (MBA) and (MBA-CG), Malaysia
- 15th-16th : Individual Accreditation Seminar with Labuan-Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia
- 21-22th : Peer Review Visit to FBFA-Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia
- 21st : Online Interview with IPB University, Indonesia
- 23rd : Online Interview with Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, Indonesia
- 28th-29th : Conducting Online Interview with Khon Kaen University, Thailand

November

- 26th : ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar 2024 in Malaysia
- 27th-28th : Holding the ABEST21 International 1st Peer Review Committee 2024

December

- 10th : Meeting with JICA

2. Dr. Idqan Fahmi, M.Ec, passed away on the 18th of May, 2024

We announce with deep sadness that Dr. Ir. Idqan Fahmi, M.Ec, School of Business, IPB University, Indonesia passed away on the 18th of May, 2024. He was a vital force within the ABEST21 International community, and his passing has left many bereft of a cherished friend. We always relished our vibrant communication with him. He executed numerous projects alongside us with a profound sense of responsibility and unwavering integrity. His contributions will remain indelibly.

In Remembrance of Dr. Ir Idqan Fahmi:

A Tribute by Dean Professor Dr. Ir. Noer Azam Achsani, MS"

Biography of Dr. Ir. Idqan Fahmi, M.Ec

Dr. Ir. Idqan Fahmi, M.Ec was born in Perbaungan, Serdang Bedagai, North Sumatra, Indonesia on November 11th, 1963. He completed his undergraduate studies (Ir) in Agribusiness at the Socioeconomics of Agriculture



program, IPB University, in 1987. He further pursued a Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Economics (Dip.Ag.Ec) in 1990 and a Master of Economics (M.Ec) in 1991 at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Business Management, University of New England, Armidale, Australia. In 2012, he obtained his Doctorate in Agricultural Economics from the Graduate School of IPB University. Dr. Fahmi began his career as a lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Socioeconomics at IPB University (1987–2003) before joining the Department of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Management (FEM), IPB University, in 2003. Since 1991, he also served as a lecturer in the Master of Agribusiness Management (MMA) Program at the IPB Business School. His functional academic title was Associate Professor in the field of Competitiveness and Business Ecosystems at the IPB Business School. In the last three years, Dr. Fahmi supervised 24 undergraduate students, 80 master's students, and 14 doctoral candidates to completion.

Leadership Roles.

Throughout his career, Dr. Fahmi held numerous structural positions, including:

1. Head of the Agribusiness Information Center, MMA IPB (1991–1992)
2. Academic Manager, MMA IPB (1995–1997)
3. Manager of Academic and Student Affairs Division, MMA IPB (2001–2005)
4. Secretary of the Academic Directorate, MB IPB (2005–2012)
5. Coordinator of Cooperation and Quality Assurance Program, MB IPB (2013–2014)
6. Assistant Director for Resources, Cooperation, and Development (SKP), MB IPB (2014–2017)
7. Acting Vice Dean for SKP, IPB Business School (2017)
8. Vice Dean for SKP, IPB Business School (2017–2018)
9. Vice Dean for Academic and Student Affairs (2018–2023)
10. Acting Dean, IPB Business School (2022–2023)
11. Deputy Head of the Leadership and Executive Education Institute for Talent Development (2023–present)

Contributions to Professional Associations

Dr. Fahmi was actively involved in professional organizations and served as Chair of the Indonesian Society of Agricultural Economics (PERHEPI / ISAE) Bogor Raya Chapter. He is also a member of the ABEST21 Peer Review Committee.

Editorial Roles

Dr. Fahmi significantly contributed to academic journal development at the IPB Business School, serving as:

1. Chief Editor of Jurnal Manajemen & Agribisnis (JMA) (2005–2021)
2. Chief Editor of Indonesian Journal of Business & Entrepreneurship (IJBE) (2015–2021)
3. Chief Editor of Business Review and Case Studies (2020–present)
4. Managing Editor of Jurnal Manajemen dan Agribisnis and IJBE (2021–present)

Dr. Idqan Fahmi leaves behind his wife, Agusnizar Saleh, and a daughter, Nisrina Nur Zhalika.

May the enduring legacy of his contributions to education, research, and service provide solace to his loved ones during this difficult time.

With deepest sympathy, we extend our heartfelt condolences.

3. New Deans

Dean Professor Meg Smith

The School of Business, Western Sydney University, Australia

Professor Meg Smith is the Interim Dean for the School of Business at Western Sydney University.

Meg has an extensive research record in the area of gender equity, a key prerequisite to sustainable employment outcomes. Her expertise in pay equity investigations and institutional explanations for the undervaluation of feminised work has been the basis of international and domestic journal articles, research consultancy, expert opinion and submissions to parliamentary inquiries. Meg's scholarship has focused in contrasting and complementary approaches to gender equity evaluation and regulation. These include equal rights discourses in industrial and discrimination-based legislation, and also gender equity auditing and reporting. Meg's recent work has included a major research report on equal remuneration claims for the Fair Work Commission, along with Andrew Stewart (University of Adelaide) and Robyn Layton QC (University of South Australia).



Dean Professor Dr. IKEGAMI JJ Jusuke

Graduate School of Business and Finance, Waseda University, Japan

Dear ABEST21 Members,

I am Dr. Jusuke JJ Ikegami, newly appointed Dean of the Graduate School of Business and Finance (Waseda Business School, WBS), as of September 21st, 2024. It is my pleasure to introduce WBS and share its mission and vision.

At WBS, our mission is *to create a dynamic learning community for all stakeholders as a catalyst for developing insightful and responsible global leaders with actionable management knowledge*. This reflects Waseda University's broader mission of fostering diverse learning and cultural exchange to educate professionals who contribute independently to global society.

WBS offers two flagship programs: the MBA, which emphasizes practical expertise and decision-making skills for business leadership, and the MSc in Finance, which provides advanced financial knowledge based on international standards. Both programs integrate the latest research findings and uphold rigorous evaluation standards. Our curriculum is designed to balance foundational knowledge, specialization, and real-world application. Firstly, students build a solid base through core courses across key disciplines. Then, students customize their learning through a wide range of electives, including those focused on global challenges, SDGs/ESG, and collaborative projects with industry leaders. This structure ensures a transformative learning experience culminating in actionable outcomes.

Located in the heart of Tokyo, WBS leverages its vibrant urban environment and extensive global network to offer unparalleled opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and international exchange. Our programs are further enriched by partnerships with academic institutions and corporations



worldwide, providing students with diverse learning experiences and exposure to cutting-edge practices.

WBS's dedication to research and education on SDGs and ESG initiatives underscores our commitment to addressing global challenges and creating sustainable solutions. As an ABEST21-accredited institution, we continue to strive for excellence in business education.

I would like to work with you all to open up new possibilities for Business School.

Warm regards,

Dr. Jusuke JJ Ikegami, Dean, Graduate School of Business and Finance, Waseda University

Dean Professor Dr. Norzanah Mat Nor.

Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia

Dear ABEST21 members,

I am Professor Dr. Norzanah Mat Nor, Dean of Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School (AAGBS), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), as of 1st September 2024. It is a privilege to represent this esteemed institution and introduce our school to the ABEST21 community. Established with a steadfast commitment to excellence, AAGBS is dedicated to advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and shaping responsible leaders for both business and society. Guided by our vision to be a globally recognized graduate business school, we take pride in our mission to connect with the industry, engage with the community, and advance knowledge to create tangible value for our stakeholders.



Our vision is to be a globally recognized graduate business school known for shaping responsible leaders for business and society. At AAGBS, this vision guides every initiative we undertake, driving our focus on producing graduates equipped with the knowledge, skills, and ethical grounding necessary to navigate today's complex and interconnected world. Our mission further reinforces this, emphasizing the importance of connecting with the industry, engaging with the community, and advancing knowledge to create value that extends beyond academic boundaries.

The school's core values of *Agility, Collaboration, Innovation, and Responsibility* are at the heart of our operations. These principles ensure we remain adaptable to global trends, foster partnerships across industries and academia, and lead the way in innovative teaching and research practices. They also remind us of our duty to act responsibly in addressing societal challenges, promoting inclusivity, and driving sustainable development. Our motto, *Connect, Engage, Advance*, succinctly encapsulates these ideals and underscores our commitment to bridging academic excellence with real-world relevance.

It is my aim to enhance AAGBS's global presence by fostering collaborations with like-minded institutions, integrating cutting-edge methodologies into our teaching and research, and strengthening our ties with industry leaders and communities. AAGBS is not just a school but a dynamic ecosystem where academia, industry, and society intersect to create transformative outcomes. As a member of ABEST21, I look forward to contributing actively to this network of distinguished institutions, sharing insights, and learning from our esteemed peers. Together, we can advance the goals of sustainable education, foster impactful research, and inspire the next generation of global leaders.

II. "Assessing Today for Tomorrow"

1. Holding the ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar 2024

The Accreditation Seminars for Accreditation 2024 were conducted online. These seminars were designed to assist applicant schools and faculties in their report preparation. The primary focus was to provide clarity on the objectives of each stage (PAA,QIS,SCR,KZR) within the ABEST21 International Accreditation process. Additionally, participants gained a deeper understanding of the critical elements required for furnishing each report.

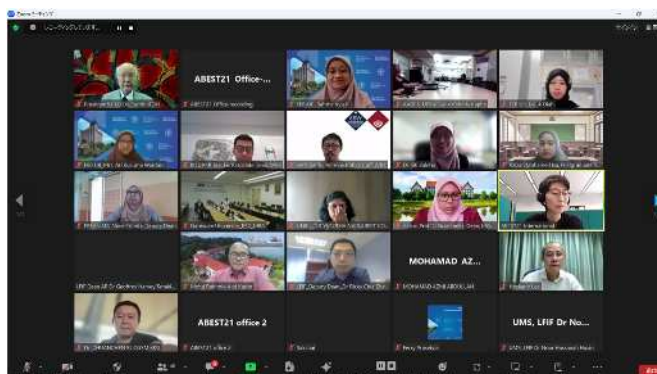
1) The Online Accreditation Seminar for SCR(AAAS)2024 (May 20th)

On Monday, May 20th, the Online Accreditation Seminar I for SCR (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 Ming-Yu Cheng, Ph.D., Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia, presented the introductory explanations of the PRV 2024 for SCR and matters to be noted before submitting the report. Lastly, the process and the schedule of Peer Review Visit 2024 was informed by ABEST21 International office. The guidance of "ABEST21 Post", which shall be used for report submission, was also given.



2) The Online Accreditation Seminar for SCR(APAS)2024 (May 21st)

On Tuesday, May 21st, the Online Accreditation Seminar I for SCR (APAS) was held with about fifty participants from the Schools. Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International, opened the seminar by introducing the ABEST21 Accreditation Process. Then, Associate Professor Dr. Siti Zaleha Sahak, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia, presented the introductory explanations of the PRV 2024 for SCR and matters to be noted before submitting the report. Lastly, the process and the schedule of Peer Review Visit 2024 was informed by ABEST21 International office. The guidance of "ABEST21 Post", which shall be used for report submission, was also given.



3) The Online Accreditation Seminar for PAA&QIS 2024 (May 22nd)

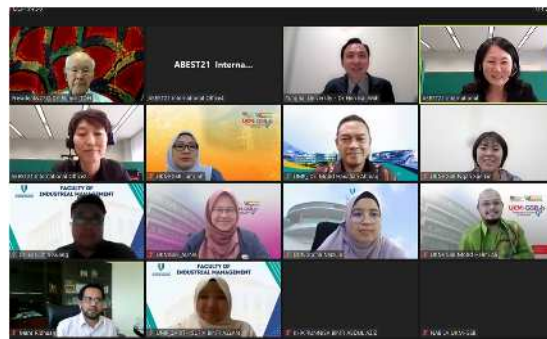
The Accreditation Seminar for PAA-QIS under ABEST21 program based Accreditation System were held on May 22nd. After the opening message from Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International, Professor Dr. Ming Yu Cheng, University Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia explained the concept of about ABEST21 International Accreditation System and Scope of Accreditation. Then explained about ABEST21 Accreditation System, Scope of Accreditation, Pre-Accreditation Reports, and matters to be noted



on Desk Review and Online Interviews. Then, 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.

4) The Online Accreditation Seminar for KZR (May 23rd)

On Thursday, May 23rd, the Online Accreditation Seminar for KZR was held. It opened with the message from Professor Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International, introducing the ABEST21 International Accreditation Process. Then Dr. Hen Kai Wah, International College, Tunghai University, Taiwan presented the introductory explanation of Quality Improvement after Accreditation (KAIZEN Report). Then, 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.



5) ABEST21 International Accreditation Individual Seminar with Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (July 30th)

The ABEST21 International Accreditation Individual Seminar with Universiti Malaysia Kelantan was held on July 30th. We discussed issues specific to this school. In this way, we not only offer seminars to the whole, but also provide extensive support to individual schools.



2. <Upcoming> ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar 2025

For Accreditation 2025, ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar 2025 is going to be held online in January, 2025 as follows:

Topic	Schedule (Tokyo time)
Accreditation Seminar for 2025 (KAIZEN Report)	15 th January, 14:00-16:30
Accreditation Seminar for 2025 (QIS)	21 st January, 14:00-16:30
Accreditation Seminar for 2025 (SCR-AAAS)	23 rd January, 14:00-16:30
Accreditation Seminar for 2025 (SCR-APAS)	29 th January, 14:00-16:30

For further details, please visit to ABEST21 bulletin board or contact ABEST21 International Accreditation Unit.

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ABEST21 International Accreditation Unit

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3. Holding the ABEST21 International PRT Training Seminar 2024

ABEST21 International conducts training seminars for Peer Review Team (PRT) members and leaders. These sessions cover the objectives and perspectives of ABEST21 accreditation, provide detailed updates on the peer review process, and facilitate the sharing of experiences and opinions among PRT members.

1) ABEST21 International PRT Training Seminar 2024 (July 23rd)

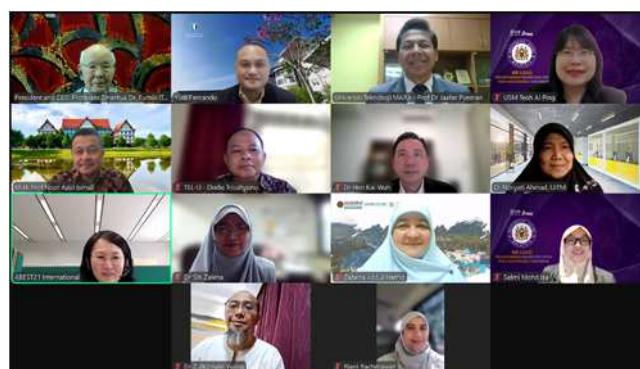
The ABEST21 International PRT Training Seminar 2024 took place on July 23rd, 2024. Professor Ming-Yu Cheng, Ph.D.,



Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia, presented the ABEST21 International Accreditation Process and the ABEST21 Peer Review Process for 2024. Then, the schedule and the documentation details of Peer Review Visit 2024 were informed by ABEST21 International office.

2) ABEST21 International PRT Leader's Training Seminar 2024 (August 7th)

On Tuesday, August 7th, the ABEST21 International PRT Leader's Training Seminar 2024 was held. This seminar was specially intended for PRT Leaders. It opened with the message from Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International. Then, Professor Yudi Fernando, Ph.D., Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, Malaysia, presented the ABEST21 International Accreditation System 2024. Lastly, detailed information about the Peer Review Process and the Schedule, as well as some cautions for 2024 were informed by ABEST21 International Academic Unit.



4. Holding ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar 2024 in Malaysia

“The Role of ABEST21 International Accreditation in Advancing Globalization of Management Education”



On November 26th, 2024, the ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar titled “The Role of ABEST21 International Accreditation in Advancing the Globalization of Management Education” was held in Malaysia. The seminar saw the participation of over 30 delegates from member schools in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, fostering positive and productive discussions. The agenda is as follows:

Date: Tuesday, November 26th, 2024 at 12:00-16:00

Venue: AAGBS Teleconference Room

Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam Campus, Malaysia



Welcome Message:

**Dean Professor Dr. Norzanah Mat Nor
Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School
Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia**

The accreditation seminar was graciously hosted by the Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in the AAGSB Teleconference Room. Dean Professor Dr. Norzanah Mat Nor. delivered her welcome message.



**Opening Speech:
“Economic Development and Human Resources”
Professor Emeritus Dr. ITOH Fumio
President and CEO, ABEST21 International**

Professor Emeritus Dr. Itoh Fumio, President and CEO of ABEST21 International, expressed deep appreciation to Dean Professor Dr. Norzanah Mat Nor and her team for hosting the seminar. President ITOH Fumio proposed the development of the Asia-Pacific Network for Higher Education and the president’s presentation highlights the essential balance between physical and human capital for economic and social development. Human resources, enhanced through education and training, are pivotal for technological advancement. Intellectual productivity and entrepreneurial spirit are crucial for innovation, requiring education systems that nurture creativity.

Asia's unique economic development involves a technology transfer chain-reaction among countries at different stages of development, emphasizing the need for highly skilled specialists. Elitist education systems risk exacerbating social imbalances and brain drain, necessitating solutions to these issues. Sustainable development prioritizes human development, focusing on enhancing individual capacity and maintaining environmental balance for future generations. The concept of a "global classroom" is introduced to promote universal knowledge and cultural diversity, positioning universities as inherently international institutions. The global classroom supports economic and social development through cooperation, addressing the diverse challenges in Asia.



**Session 1:
“The Aims of ABEST21 International
Accreditation”
Dean Associate Professor Abdul Ghofar, DBA
Faculty of Economics and Business
Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia**

Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Brawijaya is the first school in Indonesia to receive ABEST21 International Accreditation, with experience in both ABEST21 Program-based Accreditation System and ABEST21 International Academic Unit-based Accreditation System. Dean Associate Professor Abdul Ghodar, DBA talked about the Aims of obtaining ABEST21 International Accreditation: International accreditation improves quality through recognized standards, boosting recognition and reputation, and serving as a change management tool. Expected benefits include enhanced international recognition, simplified cooperation, and attraction of foreign students. It also improves global reputation, increases student enrollment, positively impacts internal processes and quality culture, and boosts income. However, there are challenges such as potential misalignment with faculty conditions, time consumption, high costs, limited authority to change financial and employment regulations, necessary shifts in mindset and culture, and required changes in infrastructure and governance. The 3-in-1 classes involve faculty, foreign lecturers, and practitioners. The curriculum is adapted to industry needs,

fostering better relationships with industry and enhancing internationalization. Obtaining ABEST21 International Accreditation has led to a 50% increase in practitioner-led classes, over 70% increase in industrial collaboration, and significant improvements in graduate employability, achieving an 87% target in 2023, up from 75% in 2022, 65% in 2021, and 52% in 2020.



**Session 2:
“The Role and Impact of ABEST21 International Accreditation”
Associate Professor Siti Zaleha Sahak, Ph.D.
Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School
Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia**

AAGBS-UiTM received Initial Accreditation in 2015. Associate Professor Siti Zaleha Sahak, Ph.D. shared her experience as experienced representative of applicant schools and a seasoned ABEST21 International Peer Review

Team and talked about the role and impact of ABEST21 International Accreditation: ABEST21 International Accreditation system is necessary to address this as an organization not as individuals. ABEST21 International requires applicant schools to submit two reports: the Quality Improvement Strategies (QIS) and the Self-Check/Self-Evaluation Report (SCR). The QIS serves as a preparatory framework for the SCR, guiding schools towards accreditation by enhancing educational quality. The extensive SCR involves a detailed self-evaluation against 22 Standards and 85 Criteria, identifying areas for improvement in management education.

Accredited schools must submit a KAIZEN Report (KZR), demonstrating progress on Action Plans to address KAIZEN issues from the SCR analysis. This ensures continuous quality improvement and accountability to stakeholders.

The roles and impact of ABEST21 on management education include integrating the PDCA cycle, strategic planning, fostering mission-driven initiatives, nurturing human talent, and promoting teamwork, trust, and empowerment.



**Session 3:
“Globalization in Management Education from the perspective of ABEST21 International Accreditation”
Professor Yudi Fernando, Ph.D.
Faculty of Industrial Management,
Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah,
Malaysia**

Professor Yudi Fernando, Ph.D. has served as a PRT Leader and Member with extensive experience and explain about “Globalization in Management Education from the Perspective ABEST21 International Accreditation”.

ABEST21 International Accreditation Standards has the standard emphasizing the globalization of the curriculum, promoting values of Ethics, Responsibility, and Sustainability (ERS). It addresses the VUCA environment—Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity—by aligning with ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) standards and the

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the 2030 Agenda. Management Schools play a crucial role in generating and sharing knowledge, equipping students for global careers, and valuing international exposure. They facilitate global innovation through local market knowledge, alumni networks, and cross-border teamwork. Accreditation bodies stress internationalization.

My observation is typically, universities consider the ranking of an institution, whether it is lower or higher, when initiating collaborations. While collaboration may seem challenging in terms of academic curriculum, it can be facilitated through joint research and publications.



Session 4:

“Global collaborative initiatives in management education and research”

Professor Popy Rufaidah, Ph.D.

Faculty of Economics and Business

Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia

**Former Attaché of Education and Culture,
in the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia,
Washington DC, USA**

I served as the Education and Culture Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Washington, D.C., from December 2018 to September 2022. During my tenure, I founded the Washington, D.C. Educational and Cultural Attaché Group (WECAA) and currently serve as its president and one of its three co-founders. Collaboration can be initiated on a small scale. Today, with four delegations of ABEST21 International Accreditation Members present, we have a valuable opportunity to foster collaboration among them. For instance, starting by opening a single program to a few students from other member schools would be a commendable beginning for collaboration within ABEST21 International members. Additionally, it would be beneficial if the ABEST21 website could support the introduction of classes that accept a few students from other member institutions.



Session 5: “Q&A Session”

Moderator: Professor Yudi Fernando, Ph.D.

Faculty of Industrial Management Universiti

Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, Malaysia

Following the presentations, participants had the opportunity to engage directly with our esteemed speakers, facilitated by Professor Yudi Fernando, Ph.D. Participants seeking ABEST21 International Accreditation pointed out difficulties for staying updated with the ABEST21 International Accreditation processes. Accredited schools emphasized the importance of keeping abreast of updates and adhering to guidelines to achieve and maintain accreditation. The discussion also covered addressing challenges posed by time zone differences in global online education. Participants collectively agreed that ensuring students' readiness and focus is essential for the success of collaborative classes. This session provided valuable insights and practical advice for navigating the accreditation process and enhancing the quality of management education.

5. Holding ABEST21 International the 1st Peer Review Committee 2024



On November 27th and 28th, 2024, the ABEST21 International the 1st Peer Review Committee 2024 convened at the AAGBS Teleconference Room, Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Shah Alam, Malaysia. The seminar, facilitated with the wholehearted cooperation of the Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School, UiTM, commenced with a welcoming address by Dean Professor Dr. Norzanah Mat Nor., AAGBS UiTM. Professor Emeritus Dr. Itoh Fumio, President and CEO of

ABEST21 International, provided an overview of the ABEST21 International Accreditation Process and then handed over the following session to the Peer Review Committee (PRC) Chair, Professor Dr. Zulkornain bin Yusop, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies at UCSI University, Bangladesh campus, and Former President and CEO of Putra Business School, Malaysia. Professor Dr. Zulkornain is also an ABEST21 International Advisor of Accreditation. Agenda of the PRC is as follows:



AGENDA

I. Information

1. On ABEST21 International Accreditation Process 2024

II. Discussion

1. On approving the Quality Improvement Strategies
2. On approving the ABEST21 International Accreditation 2025
3. On confirming the KAIZEN Reports
4. On discussion on improving ABEST21 International Systems
5. Miscellaneous

The Peer Review Committee meticulously reviewed all agenda items according to due process. Initially, all PRC members had examined the review materials before the committee, and the Peer Review Team Leader presented on their PRT Review Reports. Subsequent discussions led to the committee's recommendations, which will be voted on in each. President Itoh then proposed the introduction of a Mentor System for applicant schools seeking initial accreditation. After thorough discussion, this proposal was accepted. The recommendations from the PRC, determined by voting and further deliberation, will be presented to the Accreditation Committee on January 14th, 2025.

Message from Host Schools



"Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School (AAGBS) was honored to host two significant ABEST21 events in November 2024, marking a milestone in fostering international collaboration and academic excellence.

The first event, the ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar, held on November 26th, 2024, brought together participants from diverse institutions. The seminar provided a dynamic platform for sharing best practices in accreditation and enhancing global educational standards. The discussions were insightful,

and the participants expressed their appreciation for the seamless organization and productive outcomes.

The second event, the Peer Review Committee (PRC) Meeting, took place on November 27th and 28th, 2024. Renowned experts reviewed accreditation progress and emphasized quality assurance. The meeting proceeded smoothly, with engaging deliberations in a secure and welcoming environment.

AAGBS takes great pride in the positive feedback received, reflecting the success of the events. The school's hospitality, meticulous planning, and commitment to excellence ensured an enriching and safe experience for all attendees."

III. "Assuring Quality for Tomorrow"

1. MQA CEO Visited ABEST21 International in Tokyo. Japan

On Friday, June 14th, 2024, Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio Itoh, President and CEO of ABEST21 International, welcomed CEO Dato' Prof. Dr. Mohammad Shatar bin Sabran and Mr. Muhammad Hasfarizal bin Kamaludin from the Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) to the ABEST21 International Office in Tokyo. Building upon the Memorandum of Understanding signed on August 3rd, 2023, they engaged in discussions regarding the creation of new value for education and research within accredited schools through their accreditation efforts. Additionally, both institutions affirmed their commitment to enhancing management education in alignment with the diverse cultural context of Asia.



2. Meeting with Malaysian Qualification Agency in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

On August 30th, 2024, President and CEO of ABEST21 International, Professor Emeritus Dr. ITOH Fumio, met with CEO Dato' Prof. Dr. Mohammad Shatar bin Sabran, Deputy CEO Professor TS. Dr. M QBAL bin Saripan, and other executives from the Malaysian Qualification Agency at the Sama-Sama Hotel in Selangor, Malaysia. The meeting was also attended by ABEST21 International Vice President Professor Dr. Ali Khatibi, Senior Vice President of Malaysia Science



University, and ABEST21 International Accreditation Advisor, Professor Dr. Zulkornain bin Yusop. The discussions focused on enhancing quality assurance in Asia, emphasizing the importance of understanding the history, culture, and educational systems of applicant schools in a rapidly changing environment. This meeting, building on the Memorandum of Understanding signed on August 3rd, 2023, aimed to create new value for education and research within accredited schools through their accreditation efforts.

IV. Global Knowledge Network

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1. Upcoming) Holding the ABEST21 International Annual Meeting 2025 and the ABEST21 International the 20th Anniversary Symposium

We are glad to inform you that ABEST21 International Annual Meeting 2025 and ABEST21 International the 20th Anniversary Symposium will be held on 27th and 28th of May, 2025 in Tokyo and Yamanashi, Japan as follows:

ABEST International Annual Meeting 2025

ABEST21 International 20th Anniversary Symposium "Cultivating Human Capital and Advancing Educational Programs in the Global South and Japan (planned)"

Date:

From Monday, 26th to Tuesday, 27th May, 2025

Venue:

Day1) United Nations University, Tokyo
Day2) The Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko, Yamanashi

Program:

- Day 1)
- ABEST21 International Annual Meeting 2025
 - ABEST21 International the 20th Anniversary Symposium
- Move to The Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko, Yamanashi-



Day 2)

- Certificate and Award granting ceremony
 - Certificates of Recognition
 - Certificate of Accreditation
 - KAIZEN Award
- Reception at The Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko
- Back to Shinagawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo-

Recommended Hotels

Tokyo) The Prince Hotel Shinagawa Annex Tower
10-30 Takanawa 4-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 108-8611 Japan
¥26,200 per one night per one person with breakfast (20.4 m²)

Yamanashi) The Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko
144 Motohakone, Hakone-machi, Ashigara-shimo-gun, Kanagawa, 250-0592 Japan
More details will be shared through website.

Contacts

Global Knowledge Network Unit, ABEST21 International
5-4-29 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 107-0062, Japan
email) abest21pr2024@abest21.org / Tel) +81-33498-6220

The exclusive webpage for these meetings will be opened in ABEST21 International website.

<Information from ABEST21 International Office>

We are excited to announce a special project in celebration of ABEST21 International 20th anniversary. As part of this milestone, we are designing an original badge. To bring our vision to life, we have partnered with Senshudo, a renowned Wajima-nuri manufacturer, known for their exquisite craftsmanship. In collaborating with Senshudo, we are not only celebrating our past but also embracing the opportunity to learn from their exceptional craftsmanship. Each badge crafted by Senshudo is a testament to the rich history and artistry of Wajima-nuri, and we believe that their commitment to quality will inspire us as we strive for continuous improvement in our own practices. We have looked forward to meeting with all of you in Tokyo and Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan in May.

V. ABEST21 History vol. 3

Looking back at the past 19 years, the growth of ABEST21 International (formerly ABEST21) can be attributed to its institutional approach towards international accreditation. Throughout this period, ABEST21 has embraced the principles of “broad-mindedness” and “living in harmony” recognizing and embracing the diversity of Asian values. ABEST21 is dedicated to developing a distinctive sustainable development of Asia. In this series of articles, we will take a retrospective look at the history of ABEST21.

Vol.3

March 2009-Japan

The First ABEST21 Accreditation

In March 2009, ABEST21 accreditation for the first time was given to the following four Japanese business schools:

- Graduate School of International Management, Aoyama Gakuin University
- Graduate School International Corporate Strategy, Hitotsubashi University
- Graduate School of Business Administration, Kobe University
- MBA Program in International Business, Graduate School of Business Sciences, University of Tsukuba

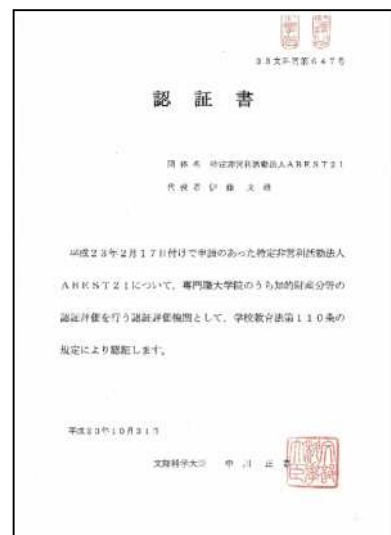


October 31st, 2011

Approved as accreditation agency for the field of Intellectual Property by MEXT

On October 31st, 2011, ABEST21 was certified as an accrediting agency for Professional Graduate School of Intellectual Property by the Minister of MEXT of Japan.

Now that we cover the field of intellectual property, we have focused on the broader concept of “Improving the Quality of Management Education” and strive to establish a system to guarantee management education quality to nurture management professionals in Asian business schools, with Japan as a hub.



VI. 2024 Retrospect (January to December 2024)

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Time flies. Its speed seems to prove the growth of ABEST21 International. In the year 2024 the ABEST21 International activities for quality assurance of management education disseminated in the Asian countries and gained further recognition. Here is a brief review of 2024:

January

- 11th : Conducting the online Accreditation Seminar I on "SCR(AAAS)"
- 16th : Holding the Accreditation Committee 2024
- 18th : Conducting the online Accreditation Seminar I on "SCR(APAS)"
- 23rd : Conducting the online Accreditation Seminar I on "KZR(APAS)"

February

- 7th : Holding the ABEST21 International Audit Meeting 2024
- 21st : Holding the ABEST21 International Board of Trustees 2024

March

- 18th : Holding ABEST21 International Annual Meeting, Tokyo, Japan



International Conference Room, Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, Japan

- 19th : Conducting the ABEST21 International Tsukuba Study Tour, Ibaraki, Japan



Tsukuba Center of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

- 29th : Reporting on the Accreditation Results 2023 to MEXT

April

- 3rd : Meeting with JICA

May

- 20th : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2024 for SCR-AAAS
- 21st : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2024 for SCR-APAS
- 22nd : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2024 for PAA-QIS
- 23rd : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2024 for KAIZEN Report

June

- 14th : Meeting with MQA
- 19th : Conducting the ABEST21 International Tsukuba Study Tour, Ibaraki, Japan
- 29th : Reporting on the Accreditation Results 2023 to MEXT

July

- 23rd : Holding the ABEST21 International PRT Training Seminar 2024
- 30th : Holding the ABEST21 International Accreditation Individual Seminar with Universiti Malaysia Kelantan

August

- 7th : ABEST21 International PRT Leader's Training Seminar 2024
- 28th-29th : Peer Review Visit to Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia

September

- 4th : Online Interview with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia
- 12th-13th : Peer Review Visit to Naresuan University, Thailand
- 17th : Online Interview with Universitas Telkom, Indonesia
- 18th-19th : Peer Review Visit to Waseda University, Japan
- 24th : Online Interview with Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, Malaysia
- 30th : Online Interview with Kyoto University, Japan

October

- 2nd-3rd : Peer Review Visit to Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia
- 7th-8th : Peer Review Visit to Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia
- 8th : Online Interview with PPM School of Management, Indonesia
- 9th : Online Interview with FBF, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (MBA-CM), Malaysia
- 10th : Online Interview with FAM, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (MBA), Malaysia
Online Interview with FAM, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (MBA-CG), Malaysia
- 15th-16th : Individual Accreditation Seminar with Labuan-Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia
- 21st-22nd : Peer Review Visit to FBEA-Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia
- 21st : Online Interview with IPB University, Indonesia
- 23rd : Online Interview with Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, Indonesia
- 28th-29th : Conducting Online Peer Review Visit to Khon Kaen University, Thailand

November

- 26th : ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar 2024 in Malaysia



Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School, UiTM

- 27th-28th : Holding the ABEST21 International 1st Peer Review Committee 2024

December

- 10th : Meeting with JICA