



ABEST21 e-News

No.128, January - March 2025

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 International Office Report

December

- 10th : Meeting with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- 25th : Meeting with Deputy Assistant Minister and Director, International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology of Japan (MEXT)
- 26th : Meeting with Director, University Education and Entrance Examinations Div. Higher Education Bureau, MEXT of Japan

January

- 8th : Holding the Online Accreditation Committee Preliminary Meeting
- 14th : Holding the Online Accreditation Committee 2025
- 15th : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2025 for KAIZEN Report
- 21st : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2025 for QIS
- 23rd : Meeting with Rector Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, United Nations University
- 29th : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2025 for SCR-AAAS
- 29th : Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar 2025 for SCR-APAS

February

- 5th : Holding the Audit Meeting 2025
- 26th : ABEST21 International Board of Trustees 2025

March

- 12th : Meeting with UNU
- 19th : Report to MEXT on Accreditation Results, March 2025
- 25th : Meeting with Director, International Affairs Div. Higher Education Bureau, MEXT of Japan
- 27th : Press release on the ABEST21 International Accreditation, March 2025

2. News from ABEST21 International Colleague

We are glad to share honorable information that Dean Associate Professor Teguh Dartanto, Ph.D., has been honored by the Japanese Ambassador to Indonesia for his significant contributions to strengthening Japan-Indonesia relations. Below is a summary of the news from the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia.

On April 7th, 2025 Japanese Ambassador to Indonesia, Yasushi Masaki, announced the recipients of the FY2025 Spring Consul-General Awards. Among the honorees was Dean Associate Professor Teguh Dartanto, Ph.D., ABEST21 International Vice President, and Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia



Dean Teguh Dartanto, Ph.D. has played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration between Japan and Indonesia, particularly in the fields of economics and development. As a recipient of Japan's government scholarship, he earned his Master's degree in Economics from Hitotsubashi University and his Doctorate in Development Economics from Nagoya University, establishing a profound connection with Japanese academia. Leveraging this background, he has spearheaded numerous joint research initiatives with Japanese universities, JICA, ADB, and ERIA. His research has focused on critical areas such as Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC) and social infrastructure, identifying key developmental needs in Indonesia and informing effective policy strategies for Japanese development assistance.

In addition to his academic and professional achievements, Dean Teguh Dartanto, Ph.D.'s leadership at Universitas Indonesia, a prominent institution recognized for producing influential figures across politics, business, and academia, has further strengthened Japan-Indonesia relations. His contributions exemplify the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation that the Consul-General Awards seek to honor.

Embassy of Japan in Indonesia website: [Embassy of Japan in Indonesia](#) (Bahasa Indonesia)

3. Holding the ABEST 21 International Audit Meeting 2025

On Wednesday, February 5th, 2025, ABEST21 International Financial Audit Meeting 2025 was held in person and online. Firstly, the materials including “the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure 2024” and “the Balance Sheet 2025” for the period from January 1st, 2024 to December 31st, 2024 were confirmed by ABEST21 office. After that, as a result of the audit held, the Online ABEST21 Audit Meeting 2025 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 Hua Xu, Ph.D. (University of Tsukuba, Japan)
- Professor Gagaring Pagalung, Ph.D. (Universitas Hasanuddin, Indonesia)
- Partner KOMIYAMA Keiko, CPA (KOMIYAMA & Co., Japan)

4. Holding the ABEST21 International Board of Trustees 2025

On Wednesday, February 26th, 2025, the ABEST21 International Board of Trustees 2025 was held online. 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 FY2024, the ABESY21 International Budget for FY2025, and other materials were discussed. The members were also informed about the ABEST21 International Business Accomplishment 2024, the ABEST21 International Accreditation March 2025, and the ABEST21 KAIZEN Awards 2025. All items were accepted. Agenda of the meeting was as follows:

I. Information

1. On the ABEST21 International Business Accomplishment 2024
2. On the ABEST21 International Accreditation March 2025
3. On the ABEST21 International KAIZEN Award 2025
4. Others

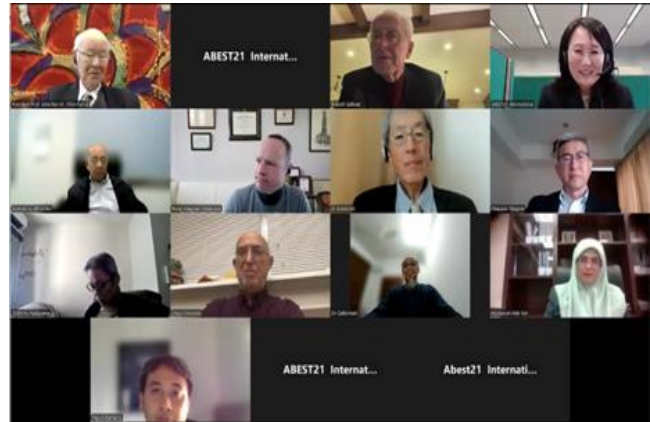
II. Discussion

1. On approving the ABEST21 International Financial Statement FY 2024
2. On approving the ABEST21 International Budget for FY2025
3. On electing the ABEST21 International President term
4. On appointing the ABEST21 International Vice Presidents
5. Others

II. "Assessing Today for Tomorrow"

1. Holding the ABEST21 International Accreditation Committee 2025

Following the recommendation from the Peer Review Committee held last November on the accreditation results, the Online Accreditation Committee (AC) 2025 was held on January 14th, 2025. Based on the materials provided in advance, the AC discussed the Accreditation Results Recommendation 2025, and nomination in details. All the results accepted by the AC were recommended to the Online ABEST21 International Board of Trustees held on February 26th, 2025.



2. Schools Accredited in March 2025

The ABEST21 International Accredited Schools March 2025 are listed below.
(Accreditation Commences from April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2030)

A. Professional Graduate School of Business in Japan

"Master of Business Administration Program"

- Graduate School of Business and Finance, Waseda University, Tokyo

"Master of Science in Finance Program"

- Graduate School of Business and Finance, Waseda University, Tokyo

B. ABEST21 Program-based Accreditation System

"Master Program in Economics"

- Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia

"Master in Business Administration Program"

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

"Master of Business Administration Program"

- Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
- College of Graduate Study in Management, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand
- Faculty of Business, Economics and Communications, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok, Thailand

C. ABEST21 Academic Unit-based Accreditation System

- Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Padjadjaran, Bandung, Indonesia

3. Holding the ABEST21 International Online Accreditation Seminar for 2025

In January, the Accreditation Seminars for Accreditation 2025 were conducted online. These seminars were designed to assist applicant schools and faculties in their report preparation. The primary focus was to provide clarify on the objectives of each stage (QIS, SCR, KZR) within the ABEST21 International Accreditation process. Additionally, the participants gained a deeper understanding of the critical elements required for furnishing each report.

1) The Online Accreditation Seminar for KZR 2025

On January 15th, 2025, ABEST21 International held the Online Accreditation Seminar dedicated to the KAIZEN Report, featuring esteemed guest lecturer Professor Dr. Ming-Yu Cheng from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia. The seminar commenced with an insightful address by ABEST21 International President and CEO, Professor Emeritus Dr. ITOH Fumio, who emphasized the significance of the KAIZEN Report in fostering



academic excellence and institutional development. Professor Dr. Cheng delivered a compelling lecture underpinned by ABEST21 International's philosophy: "Accreditation is not a destination; it is a journey of continuous improvement and quality assurance." Her presentation underscored the transformative role accreditation plays in enhancing academic standards through systematic progress.

Following the lecture, the ABEST21 office provided participants with detailed practical guidance on preparing the KAIZEN Report effectively. The seminar concluded with an engaging Q&A session, allowing attendees to seek clarification and insights on the submission process.

2) The Online Accreditation Seminar for QIS 2025

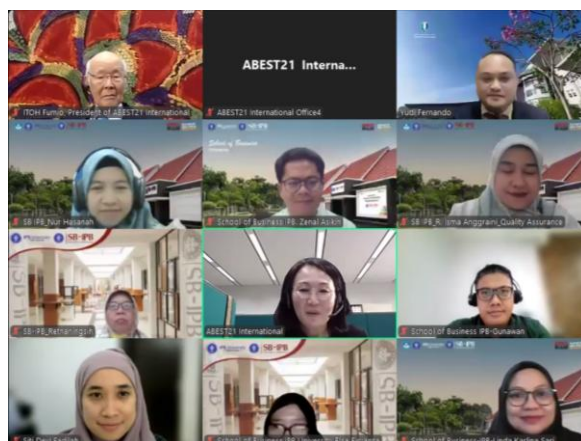
On Tuesday, January 21st, the Online Accreditation Seminar for Quality Improvements Strategies (QIS) was held. It opened with the message from Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International. Then, Assistant Professor Dr. Hen Kai Wah, Tunghai University, Taiwan talked about the objective of QIS, contents of QIS and Accreditation Systems & Process. After that, the ABEST21 Accreditation Office, informed the participants about the points



be checked before submitting the report, how to submit the report using "ABEST 21 Post" and the schedule including Online Interview, and the schedule of the Re-Accreditation (QIS)

3) The Online Accreditation Seminar for SCR-AAAS 2025

On January 23rd, 2025, ABEST21 hosted the Online Accreditation Seminar for the Self-Check Self-Evaluation Report (SCR) under its pioneering Academic Unit-based Accreditation System (AAAS). The seminar commenced with a comprehensive overview presented by ABEST21 President, Professor Emeritus Dr. ITOH Fumio. This set the stage for an engaging lecture by Professor Dr. Yudi Farnad, Ph.D., whose extensive experience with the ABEST21 Peer Review Team enriched his discussion on the benefits of AAAS.



Dr. Farnad highlighted the analytical and review methodologies embedded in AAAS, illustrating its role in driving continuous improvement, quality assurance, and academic excellence. Building on this foundation, the seminar introduced a newly dedicated system designed to enhance support for applicant schools. The ABEST21 Office provided practical insights and guidance on preparing the Self-Check Self-Evaluation Report, equipping participants with tools for effective implementation. The session concluded with a dynamic Q&A exchange, fostering valuable interaction and clarifying inquiries.

4) The Online Accreditation Seminar for SCR-APAS 2025

The Accreditation Seminar I for SCR under ABST21 Program-based Accreditation System was held on January 29th (APAS). After introduction on the ABEST21 Accreditation Process by Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International, Professor Yudi Fernando, Ph.D. explained the objective of Self Check/Self-Evaluation Report, how the report was reviewed by the Peer Review Team with Desk Review and Online Peer Review Visit,



and issues to be noted on preparation of the report. After that, Peer Review Schedule, clerical matters to be noted on submitting SCR such as format and check list were presented by the ABEST21 International Accreditation Unit. The presentations were followed by the Q&A session.

4. Upcoming Accreditation Seminar

ABEST21 International will host an Online Accreditation Seminar for applicant schools. The seminar will focus on key review points from the reviewers' perspective and provide a detailed explanation of subsequent procedures following the submission of accreditation reports. The seminar schedule and additional information have been made available on the bulletin board within the exclusive website, "Schools Pursuing ABEST21 International Accreditation."

April

- 28th : Accreditation Seminar for 2025 (SCR)

May

- 8th : Accreditation Seminar for 2025 (KAIZEN Report)
- 13th : Accreditation Seminar for 2025 (QIS)

5. Accreditation Results Presented by ABEST21 International to MEXT

On March 19th, 2025, ABEST21 International formally presented the Accreditation Results, ratified earlier that month, to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan. The report was led by Professor Emeritus Dr. ITOH Fumio, President of ABEST21 International. During the session, President ITOH provided a comprehensive overview of the accreditation review results for eight accredited schools ratified in March, 2025. The presentation included an in-depth analysis of each institution, highlighting their distinctive characteristics and areas of excellence. Furthermore, any notable concerns or recommendations for improvement were explicitly addressed. The presentation concluded with a Q&A session, during which attendees had the opportunity to seek clarification and engage in discussions on the accreditation outcomes. Following this interactive session, the meeting was officially ended. Subsequently, on March 27th, 2025, the Accreditation Results were made publicly available through the MEXT Press Club.



III. Global Knowledge Network

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1. Upcoming)

Holding the ABEST21 International Annual Meeting 2025 and the ABEST21 International the 20th Anniversary Symposium

1) Date

May 26th (Monday) - 27th (Tuesday), 2025

2) Program (Time: Tokyo time)

Day 1: May 26th (Monday)

9:00-9:30 • Registration

9:30-17:00 • Annual Report 2025

• Accreditation-granting Ceremony 2025

• KAIZEN Award-granting Ceremony 2025

• ABEST21 International 20th Anniversary Symposium

17:00 • Depart from United University to The Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko, Kanagawa Prefecture by the chartered Bus

Day 2: May 27th (Tuesday)

-18:00 • Walk along Ashinoko lakeside

• Enjoy Mt. Fuji views at Otome pass

• Lunch at Gotemba Premium Outlets

• Return to Shinagawa Prince Hotel

3) Venue

Day 1:

Elizabeth Rose International Conference Hall, United Nations University

Address: 5-53-70 Jinguumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 150-8925 Japan

Day 2:

Hakone, Kanagawa Prefecture (Stay at the Prince Hakone Lake Ashinoko)

Address: 144 Motohakone, Hakone-machi, Ashigara-shimo-gun, Kanagawa, 250-0592 Japan

4) The 20th Anniversary Symposium

"Nurturing Human Resources and Developing Competitive Education Programs in the Global South"

In collaboration with the United Nations University, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, and Japan International Corporate Agency, ABEST21 International will host an international symposium. This symposium will explore strategies for nurturing human resources and developing competitive education programs in the Global South, ensuring future generations benefit from sustainable development initiatives. The symposium will also provide a platform for in-depth discussions on enhancing educational programs and fostering diverse, meaningful exchanges to shape a more inclusive and prosperous future. The program details are as follows;

Date and time

(Monday) 26th May, 2025 at 12:30-17:00

Venue

Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall, United Nations University
5-53-70 Jingumae Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925, Japan

Organized by

ABEST21 International

Supported by

- United Nations University
- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
- Japan International Cooperation Agency

Schedule as of April 10th, 2025

Moderator:

Professor Dr. Cheng Ming Yu
Faculty of Accountancy and Management, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia

12:30-12:40: Opening Remark:

Professor Emeritus Dr. ITOH Fumio, President and CEO, ABEST21 International
Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan

12:40-13:00: Keynote Speech

Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, Ph.D.
Rector, the United Nations University; Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

13:00-13:10: Coffee break

13:10-13:40: Special Speech

Mr. YOSHIMOTO Hiroshi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Ghana Embassy of Japan in
Ghana

13:40-14:30: Thematic Talks

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports Sciences and Technology of Japan

Mr. UEDA Daisuke
Human Development Department, Japan International Corporate Agency, Japan

14:30-15:20: Case Studies

Professor Dr. UCHIDA Tatsuya (planned)
Vice President, Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan

Professor Rémy Magnier-Watanabe, Ph.D.
Program Chair, MBA Program in International Business, Graduate School of Business Sciences,
Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan

15:20-15:30: Coffee break

15:30-16:10: Special Dialogue

Business sector representative in Japan (planned)
Dean/Rector from universities in Ghana and South Africa (planned)

16:10-16:50: Panel Discussion

Coordinator:

Associate Professor Teguh Dartanto, Ph.D.
Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia

Panelists:

Associate Professor Abdul Ghofar, DBA
Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia

Professor Dr. Hj. Nunuy Nur Afian
Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia

Associate Professor HIROSE Yuta, Ph.D.
Graduate School of International Management, Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan

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

Professor Dr. Zafir Khan bin Mohamed Makhbul
Dean, Graduate School of Business, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia

16:50-17:00: Closing Remarks

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

2. Hakone Study Tour

On the second day of the ABEST21 International Annual Conference 2025, participants will embark on an inspiring journey to Hakone, the birthplace of ABEST21 International. This renowned destination offers not only a glimpse into the origins of our organization but also the chance to immerse oneself in the serene beauty of its lakeside views and Mt. Fuji. We look forward to sharing some of Hakone's most remarkable viewpoints with you!

(1) Ashinoko ("Lake Ashi")

Ashinoko ("Lake Ashi"), the highlight of Hakone tourism, is a caldera lake of the Hakone volcano that has been a favorite of many cultural figures since the Edo period. Fuji reflected on the lake surface, the red torii gate of Hakone Shrine steeped in history and romance, and the refreshing breeze from a Hakone sightseeing boat or Hakone pleasure



boat are invigorating. Among them, the Hakone Pirate Boat, which operates on Lake Ashi in Hakone, is a popular cruise ship among tourists. Three types of luxuriously decorated pirate boats operate, making passengers feel as if they are on a medieval pirate ship. They connect the three ports of Togendai, Moto-Hakone, and Hakone-cho, and offer a panoramic view of Mount Fuji and Hakone's natural beauty from the lake. Fuji from the cedar trees along the southern shore is also famous as one of the most spectacular views in Hakone. How about experiencing something extraordinary in the Lake Ashinoko area?

Here are some of the famous things in Hakone. We hope this will be an opportunity for you to deepen your knowledge of Hakone!

(2) Hakone Yosegizaiku

"Hakone Yosegizaiku" (Hakone parquet) is a craft that creates a geometric pattern by combining many colors of wood and grain of wood. Hakone Yosegizaiku has various crafts such as boxes, coasters and vases. The production of Hakone Yosegizaiku began at the end of the Edo period, and the technology has been passed down to the present. Today, Hakone and the Odawara region are the only production areas in Japan.

Click here for more information!

[What is Hakone Yosegizaiku](#)



(3) Kuro-tamago (black eggs)

"Kuro-tamago" should be the first thing to tick off your Hakone food bucket list. These black eggs are cooked in water from the hot springs of Owakudani, the geothermal valley at the top of Hakone. The eggs are hard-boiled in natural 80-degree Celsius sulfur water and turn black in reaction to the minerals that the water contains.

According to legend, each egg is said to extend your life by an extra seven years. Get cracking and eat black eggs in Hakone for that extra-long life! Plus, you can also buy black egg-themed omiyage souvenirs from the Owakudani area to enjoy at home or give to family and friends.

Click here for more information!

[Owakudani Kuro-tamago](#)



Hakone Guide Website:

[Hakone Travel Guide - What to do in Hakone](#)

[HAKONE JAPAN | Visit to Experience the Beauty of Japan](#)

[HAKONE | Your Guide to All Things Hakone](#)