



ABEST21 e-News

No.132, January - March 2026

ABEST21 International

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

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I. ABEST21 International General Information

1. ABEST21 International Office Report

January

- 08th : Holding the Preliminary Accreditation Committee 2026
- 15th : Holding the Accreditation Committee 2026
- 20th : Holding the Accreditation Seminar for 2026 (KAIZEN)
- 28th : Holding the Accreditation Seminar for 2026 (SCR)

February

- 12th : Holding the Financial Audit Meeting 2026
- 19th : Meeting with Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-Japan (MEXT)

March

- 06th : Meeting with MEXT on introducing new Accreditation System in Japan
- 07th : Holding Extraordinary Board of Trustees 2026
- 19th : Reporting to MEXT on Accreditation Review Results of March 2026
- 27th : Holding the Board of Trustees 2026

April

- 03rd : Meeting with FAST RETAILING CO., LTD.
- 10th : Meeting with JICA

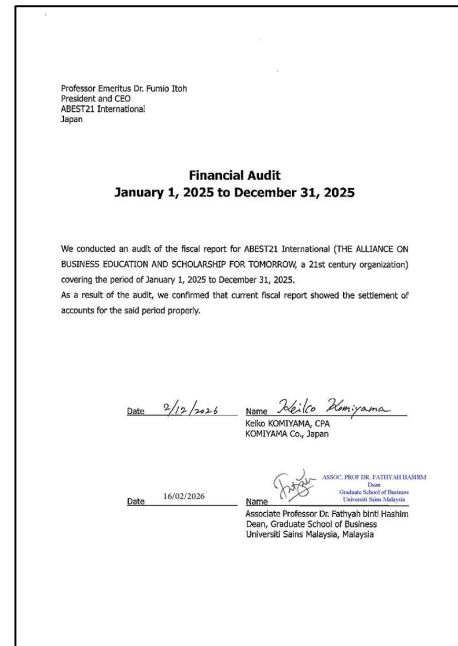
2. Holding the ABEST21 International Financial Audit Meeting 2026

On Thursday, February 12th, 2026, the ABEST21 International Financial Audit Meeting 2026 was held at the ABEST21 International Office in Tokyo, Japan. The financial auditors carefully reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expenditure 2025 and the Balance Sheet 2025, covering the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

Following the on-site review, the auditors convened the Online ABEST21 Audit Meeting 2026, where they confirmed that the fiscal report appropriately reflected the settlement of accounts for the stated period.

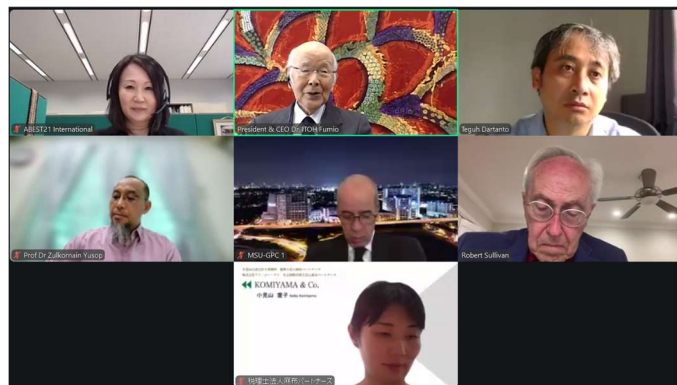
ABEST21 International Auditors

- Partner and CPA KOMIYAMA Keiko (KOMIYAMA & Co., Japan)
- Dean Associate Professor Dr. Fathyah Hashim (Graduate School of Business, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia)
- Professor Nor'Azam Mastuki, Ph.D. (Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia)



3. Holding the ABEST21 International Board of Trustees 2026

On Friday, March 27, 2026, the ABEST21 International Board of Trustees was held online chaired by ABEST21 International Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH. Based on the materials provided in advance, the following agendas of the meeting were approved:



I. Information

1. On the ABEST21 International Business Accomplishment 2025
2. On the ABEST21 International Accreditation March 2026
3. On the ABEST21 International KAIZEN Award 2026
4. Others

II. Discussion

1. On approving the ABEST21 International Financial Statement FY 2025
2. On approving the ABEST21 International Budget for FY2026
3. Others

4. Holding the ABEST21 International Annual Meeting 2026

We are delighted to announce that ABEST21 International Annual Meeting 2026 is going to take place in Kyoto, Japan. In the afternoon of May 19th, the International Symposium “Nurturing Human Resources and Developing Competitive Education Programs in the Global South” will be held as below.



1) Date

Tuesday, May 19th, 2026

2) Time

8:45-18:30

3) Venue

Room D, Kyoto International Conference Center

Address: 422 Iwakura Osagicho, Sakyo Ward, Kyoto, 606-0001, Japan

URL: [Getting Here & Parking | Kyoto International Conference Center](#)

4) Program

Session I: General Assembly (9:15-12:00)

- Annual Report 2026
- Accreditation-granting Ceremony 2026
- KAIZEN Award-granting Ceremony 2026
- New School Membership-granting Ceremony 2026

Session II: International ABEST21 International Symposium (13:00-17:00)

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

Session III: Refreshment at Banquet Hall Sakura (17:00-18:30)

For update information about the meeting, please visit to exclusive website below:

URL	ABEST21 International Annual Conference 2026
Password	The password has already been sent via email to the representatives of ABEST21 International member institutions. We would appreciate it if you could kindly check your email.

5) Contact Information

Global Knowledge Network Unit, ABEST21 International

5-4-29 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 107-0062, Japan

phone: +81-3-3498-6220 / fax: +81-3-3498-6221

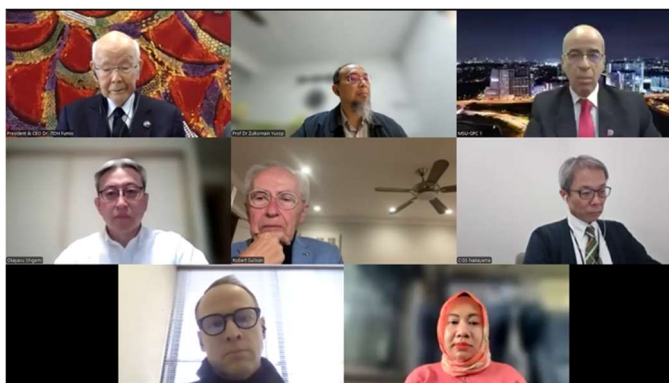
email: abest21pr2024@abest21.org / Tel) +81-33498-6220 website: www.abest21.org

We look forward to meeting you in Kyoto!

II. "Assessing Today for Tomorrow"

1. Holding the ABEST21 International Accreditation Committee 2026

On Thursday, January 15, 2026, the Accreditation Committee (AC) 2026 was held chaired by Professor Remy Magnier-Watanabe, Ph.D., Chair, MBA Program in International Business, Graduate School of Business Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan. The Committee reviewed the accreditation materials distributed in advance and received a detailed reporting on the PRC Accreditation



Results Recommendation 2026 from Professor Dr. Zulkornain bin Yusop, Chair of the Peer Review Committee (PRC) and Dean, School of Graduate Studies, UCSI University Bangladesh campus. Following the PRC Chair's explanation, the Committee engaged in a thorough discussion of the recommended accreditation results and related nominations. After careful deliberation, the AC accepted all recommendations. The approved results have been formally submitted to the ABEST21 International Board of Trustees 2026 for final confirmation.

2. Accredited Schools in March 2026

The ABEST21 International Accredited Schools March 2026 are listed below. (Accreditation Commences from April 1st, 2026 to March 31st, 2031)

Professional Graduate School of Business in Japan

- Department of Business Administration, Graduate School of Management, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

ABEST21 Academic Unit-based Accreditation System

- School of Business, IPB University, Bogor, Indonesia

ABEST21 Program-based Accreditation System

- Master of Management Program, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, Purwokerto, Indonesia
- Master of Management Program, PPM School of Management, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Master of Management Program, School of Economics and Business, Universitas Telkom, Bandung, Indonesia
- Master of Business Administration Program, Faculty of Accountancy and Management, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Selangor, Malaysia
- Master of Business Administration (Corporate Governance) Program, Faculty of Accountancy and Management, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Selangor, Malaysia
- Master of Business Administration (Corporate Management) Program, Teh Hong Piow Faculty of Business and Finance, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Kampar, Malaysia

- Bachelor of Islamic Finance with Honours Program,
Labuan Faculty of International Finance, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Labuan, Malaysia
- Master of Business Administration Program,
Malaysian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship and Business, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan,
Kelantan, Malaysia
- Doctor of Business Administration Program,
Malaysian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship and Business, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan,
Kelantan, Malaysia

For further details, please visit to our website below;

[Accreditation – ABEST21](#)

3. ABEST21 International Accreditation Results, March 2026 reported to MEXT

On Thursday, March 19, 2026, ABEST21 International formally reported the Accreditation Results ratified on March 7, 2026 to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology - Japan (MEXT). The report was presented by Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President and CEO of ABEST21 International. During the meeting, President ITOH provided a comprehensive overview of the accreditation review results for the eleven schools accredited in March 2026. His presentation highlighted each institution’s distinctive strengths, areas of excellence, and notable achievements. In addition, any concerns identified during the review process, along with recommendations for further improvement, were clearly addressed. The session concluded with a Q&A segment, allowing attendees to seek clarification and engage in discussion regarding the accreditation findings. After the exchange of questions and comments, the meeting was formally closed.

Following the presentation, the Accreditation Results were released to the public through the MEXT Press Club website on March 19, 2026.



4. ABEST21 International KAIZEN Awards, March 2026

Since one of the aims of ABEST21 International 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 International would recognize the school’s performance by giving it the “KAIZEN Award”. The Award is endowed based on the recommendation of the Accreditation Committee. The Board



of Trustees meeting held on March 27, 2026 ratified the accredited schools below to be granted “ABEST21 International KAIZEN Award”.

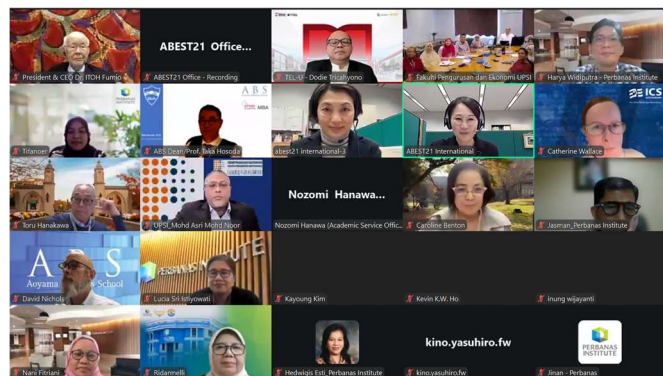
- Master of Management Program, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia Jakarta, Indonesia
- Master of Business Administration-Global Program, SP Jain School of Global Management, Singapore Campus, Singapore

5. The Accreditation Seminar for 2026 Accreditation cycle

ABEST21 International conducted accreditation seminars across each stage of the process to help applicant schools deepen their understanding of the ABEST21 International Accreditation standards, process and so on. The seminars clarified the objectives of each stage and has provided detailed guidance on the essential elements required for preparing each report. Participants gained a clearer grasp of both the process and the key viewpoints used in the accreditation review.

1) Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar I for KZR 2026

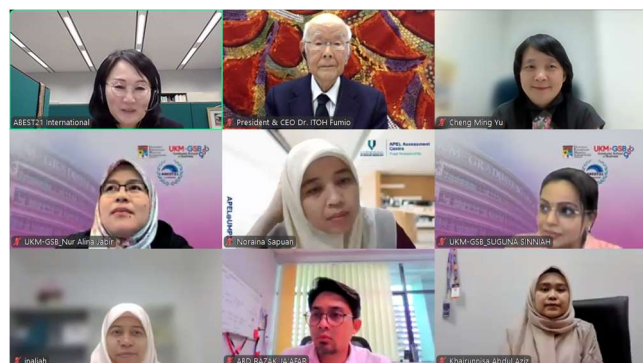
On Tuesday, January 20th, the Online Accreditation Seminar dedicated to the KAIZEN Report took place, featuring esteemed guest lecturer Associate Professor Dodie Tricahyono, Ph.D. from the School of Economics and Business, Universitas Telkom, Indonesia. The seminar commenced with an insightful address 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. Subsequently, Associate Professor Dodie Tricahyono, Ph.D., provided a detailed explanation of the KAIZEN Report. 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) Holding the Online Accreditation Seminar I for SCR 2026

On Wednesday, January 28th, 2026, ABEST21 International hosted the Online Accreditation Seminar for the Self-Check / Self-Evaluation Report (SCR). It opened with the message from Professor Emeritus Dr. Fumio ITOH, President of ABEST21 International. Then, Professor Ming-Yu Cheng, Ph.D., Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Malaysia, delivered a presentation covering the ABEST21 Accreditation System and the Self-Check / Self-Evaluation (SCR), including matters to be noted such as the Entry Desk Review, Desk Review, and Peer Review Visit (PRV). The presentation helped participants gain a deeper understanding of the SCR. After that, 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.



3) Upcoming) ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar II for 2026

Following Accreditation Seminar I for the 2026 accreditation cycle, the Accreditation Seminar II sessions will be held online. These seminars will be focusing on two key objectives: 1. Final confirmation before report submission, and 2. Preparation for the next review stage, including the Peer Review Visit and Online Interview. The online seminar schedule is as follows:

May

- 12th : Accreditation Seminar for 2026 (SCR)

June

- Accreditation Seminar for 2026 (QIS/PAA)
- Accreditation Seminar for 2026 (KAIZEN)

Further details regarding the seminar schedule and additional information are available on the bulletin board within the exclusive website, "Schools Pursuing ABEST21 International Accreditation".

III. ABEST21 Global Knowledge Network

1. ABEST21 International Symposium 2026

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

ABEST21 International will host an international symposium titled "Nurturing Human Resources and Developing Competitive Education Programs in the Global South" on May 19, 2026, at the Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto, Japan. This symposium builds upon the discussions held at the international symposium convened on 26 May 2025 with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the United Nations University, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In the current year, the symposium seeks to advance these discussions by incorporating the perspectives of business sectors that receive and employ management professionals. It will examine the concrete design of educational programs and collaborative frameworks that support the development of management personnel and undergraduate students in both the Global South and Japan. We are glad to inform you of inviting Mr. Lee Yaw Ann, Manager, Global Human Resources & Co-PMO of Global UMC Project, FAST RETAILING CO., LTD., Japan as the Keynote Speaker. For update information about the meeting, please visit to exclusive website below:



ABEST21 International will host an international symposium titled "Nurturing Human Resources and Developing Competitive Education Programs in the Global South" on May 19, 2026, at the Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto, Japan. This symposium builds upon the discussions held at the international symposium convened on 26 May 2025 with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the United Nations University, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In the current year, the symposium seeks to advance these discussions by incorporating the perspectives of business sectors that receive and employ management professionals. It will examine the concrete design of educational programs and collaborative frameworks that support the development of management personnel and undergraduate students in both the Global South and Japan. We are glad to inform you of inviting Mr. Lee Yaw Ann, Manager, Global Human Resources & Co-PMO of Global UMC Project, FAST RETAILING CO., LTD., Japan as the Keynote Speaker. For update information about the meeting, please visit to exclusive website below:

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2. ABEST21 International Seminar 2026 in Indonesia and Malaysia “The Role of ABEST21 International Accreditation in Advancing the Globalization of Management Education in Asia.”

ABEST21 International is pleased to announce that the ABEST21 International Accreditation Seminar 2026 will be held on-site in Indonesia and Malaysia in July 2026 under the theme “The Role of ABEST21 International Accreditation in Advancing the Globalization of Management Education in Asia.” The seminars are made possible through the strong cooperation of our esteemed member institutions—the Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Brawijaya (FEB-UB) in Indonesia and the Graduate School of Business, Universiti Sains Malaysia (GSB-USM) in Malaysia.

These seminars will convene faculty members, administrative staff, accreditation experts, and representatives from the business sector to examine strategies for cultivating globally competitive human resources and strengthening management education across Asia. Discussions will further explore how ABEST21 International Accreditation collaborates with accredited institutions to enhance educational quality, expand international engagement, and respond to the evolving expectations of global society. By reflecting on the achievements and future potential of participating faculties, the seminars aim to foster constructive dialogue toward more inclusive, innovative, and forward-looking management education systems in the region.

Updated information and confirmed program details will be provided on the ABEST21 International website as preparations progress.

3. Welcoming New Member

1) New Representative of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia

Professor Dr. Zuraidah Abd Manaf is an academic leader and nationally recognized expert in bibliometrics, scholarly communication, and strategic performance management in higher education. With over three decades of experience spanning academia, government, and research institutions, she has played a pivotal role in shaping Malaysia’s scholarly ecosystem and advancing institutional research visibility and impact. Currently serving at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) as Professor and Vice President of Research Development and Commercialization, she continues to drive data-informed decision-making, institutional performance analytics, and research development initiatives at both university and national levels. Her career reflects a strong trajectory of leadership and service. She previously served as Director of the Citation and Informetric Division at the Ministry of Higher Education, where she led national initiatives such as the Malaysia Citation Center, SETARA – a national university ratings, scholarly publishing strategies, and big data projects. Her contributions extended regionally through ASEAN Citation Index collaborations and various international committees, strengthening Malaysia’s research visibility and global academic standing.



A scholar in information and knowledge management, Prof Dr. Zuraidah's research interests include bibliometrics, digital repositories, cultural heritage digitization, and risk management of digital resources. She has authored and edited numerous publications, delivered keynote presentations across universities and policy platforms, and supervised postgraduate research that advances the field of information science. Her expertise is frequently sought for national policy advisory roles, journal evaluation panels, and institutional strategy development.