

II. 2003 PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES

A. Scholarship Budget

6. In 2003, the Government of Japan contributed \$7.377 million to the ADB-JSP, a little over its \$7.374 million contribution in 2002. A total of 300 scholarships were programmed, the same number of slots as in 2002. Of available scholarships, 50% were allotted for studying in Japan. The audited financial statements of the ADB-JSP as of 31 December 2003 are given in Appendix 6.

B. Scholarships

7. In 2003, 145 scholarships were awarded to scholars from 23 DMCs. The scholars were from Viet Nam (28); Nepal (14); Cambodia and Indonesia (10 each); Bangladesh, Philippines, and Sri Lanka (9 each); Pakistan (7); Mongolia and Myanmar (6 each); Bhutan, PRC, and Kyrgyz Republic (5 each); India and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) (4 each); Thailand and Uzbekistan (3 each); Maldives and Tajikistan (2 each); and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea (1 each).

8. The combined Japanese designated institutions received the most new scholars: 69 or 48%; designated institutions from DMCs received 40 or 27%, and designated institutions from developed countries i.e., Australia; Hong Kong, China; Singapore, and the United States of America 36 or 25%. AIM, IUJ, and the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS) of Japan received the largest number of new scholars, with 19 each; followed by UOT with 17; AIT with 14; Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of Saitama University and the Graduate School of International Development of Nagoya University (GSID) with 7 each; EWC, National Centre for Development Studies, University of Auckland, and University of Sydney with 6 each; University of Melbourne with 5; National University of Singapore with 4; University of Hong Kong with 3; International Rice Research Institute, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD), and Thammasat University, with 2 each; and Lahore University of Management Sciences, with 1 new scholar.

9. Of the 145 scholars, 60 were women. The proportion of scholarships awarded to women was maintained at 31% of the yearly awardees from 1995 to 2002 and was increased to 41% in 2003. Of the total number, 139 or 96% pursued master's degrees and the other 6 or 4% were

awarded PhDs in science and technology and public policy. This distribution maintains the main thrust of the ADB-JSP initiative, which is to support master's-degree-level programs that can be completed in 1–2 years. By major, 66 scholars were enrolled in science and technology, 52 in economics, and 27 in business and management. Since the start of the ADB-JSP, the most popular fields of study, were science and technology, business and management, and economics, on that order; but in the last 3 years, interest has been growing in the areas of development studies, public policy, public health, and environmental management. The scholarships awarded and completed in 2003 by institution, gender, program, and field of study are summarized in Appendix 7.

10. In 2003, 159 scholarships were completed: 156 master's degree and 3 PhD programs. Twenty scholars each graduated from AIM and UOT; 19 from GRIPS; 18 from IUJ, 15 from AIT; 10 from EWC, 9 from University of Hong Kong; 8 from Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Saitama University; 7 from University of Sydney; 6 from National Centre for Development Studies; 5 each from GSID and National University of Singapore; 4 from University of Auckland; 3 each from International Rice Research Institute and Lahore University of Management Sciences; 2 each from Thammasat University and University of Melbourne; and 1 from IITD. Of the graduates, 69 completed courses in science and technology, 55 in economics, 35 in business and management. Fifty-four women graduated, comprising 34% of the graduates during the year.

C. New Developments and Program Improvements

11. **New Implementing Guidelines.** The JSP has been running for several years and the policies and procedures governing its administration need adjusting. The implementing guidelines were revised in October 2003 to make them more relevant to the current directions of the JSP. The new guidelines were circulated to the 18 designated institutions in November 2003. Some of the major revisions are as follows:

- (i) the maximum duration of scholarship award for masters and PhD degrees is 2 years;
- (ii) scholarships may not be extended beyond the 2 year period;
- (iii) scholars who have dropped out from the JSP will not be replaced;
- (iv) applicants should not be more than 35 years old at the time of application; and
- (v) designated institutions are encouraged to provide tuition fee discounts to outstanding scholars, as agreed with ADB.

12. **Selection of New Institution.** In the light of the recommendation by a consultant and as agreed by the Government of Japan, the ratio of scholars studying in Japan should be increased, and additional Japanese universities should be included rather than increasing the number of scholars to the existing designated institutions. This will also provide increased opportunities to qualified candidates from ADB's DMCs. The Office of Cofinancing Operations sent invitations to 12 possible candidate institutions where development-related courses in English are available; 7 institutions signified interest in participating under the JSP. The JSP will evaluate and review the potential institutions with the Ministry of Finance and will finalize selection in 2004.

13. **Mission to Designated Institutions.** The JSP continued close interaction with the institutions and scholars to exchange views and improve the understanding of the objectives of the ADB-JSP. Other matters such as implementing guidelines, selection criteria, distribution of scholarships by nationality, and scholarship coverage were examined. During 2003, ADB staff visited two Japanese designated institutions—IUJ in Niigata on 5 November 2003 and GSID in Nagoya in 6 November 2003—and the IITD in India on 18 November 2003.



14. The visits to IUJ and GSID were scheduled in conjunction with a gathering of students from GRIPS, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Saitama University, and UOT on 7 November 2003 in Tokyo. The meetings proved useful for developing and improving common understandings of the JSP among the designated institutions, students, and JSP coordinators. The ADB-JSP and the Monbukagakusho, a Japanese government-sponsored scholarship program are the most important sources of financial aid to graduate students at designated institutions. The following are findings and recommendations of the visits.

- (i) The ADB-JSP at IUJ and GSID is functioning smoothly but continued efforts should be made to diversify the nationality distribution of the scholarship recipients. ADB-JSP and designated institutions agreed that priority countries

in general are the Mekong Region countries such as, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

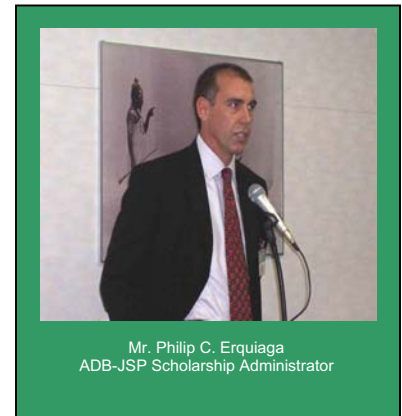
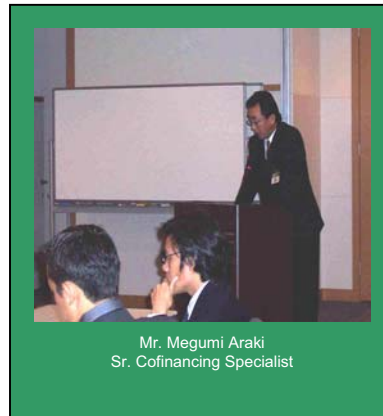
- (ii) The selection of candidates for ADB-JSP was explained very well and there is adequate screening within the departments/faculties concerned in each designated institution. JSP staff consulted other designated institutions concerning their assessment of bachelor and master degrees of candidates from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan and were advised to indicate in the shortlist of candidates whether these candidates are assessed to have completed a masters or just a bachelor of science.
- (iii) The designated institutions reiterated their requests for additional scholarship slots to enable them to provide more scholarships to deserving students. The Mission reminded them that the total number of scholarship awards is reviewed and set yearly by ADB in close consultation with the Government of Japan. At the moment, ADB-JSP cannot increase the number of scholarships available at the designated institutions given the current the fiscal situation in Japan.
- (iv) The level of financial aid of ADB-JSP is reasonable and acceptable as costs of scholarships at the Japanese designated institutions are based on levels of support provided by Monbukagakusho scholarships. The current level of allowances is based on the JSP coordinators' review in December 2001 and the level should be adjusted automatically when Monbukagakusho scholarship stipends are revised. The designated institutions strongly support the organization of the Japan-ADB Scholarship Alumni Association. They agreed to help complete personal information of ADB-JSP graduates and will provide ADB with updated contact addresses of alumni using the university alumni files.
- (v) The designated institutions and scholars indicated the advantages of similar meetings and the gatherings of students for the continued smooth implementation of the ADB-JSP. They suggested that similar missions and gatherings should be organized regularly.

15. The Mission to IITD was timely, as the last visit was in 1996, and fruitful for exchanging views with the faculty members, meeting the scholars, and viewing the campus. The mission was convinced that IITD is one of Asia's top graduate schools. One of the scholars from Nepal remarked that he chose IITD instead of universities in developed countries like Japan as he believed he could directly apply his advanced learning from India to his country.

16. **ADB-JSP Gathering of Students in Tokyo, Japan.** Approximately 100 ADB-JSP students and officers from GRIPS, Saitama University and UOT (Department of Civil Engineering, School of International Health, and Institute of Environmental Studies) participated in the gathering, which took place at ADB Institute in Tokyo, Japan, on 7 November 2003.



17. The gathering was hosted by the ADB-JSP scholarship administrator, Philip Erquiaga, and started with welcome speeches delivered by Jungsoo Lee, resident director of the Japanese Representative Office; Peter McCawley, dean of ADB Institute; and Naoko Ishii, development division director of the International Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Finance. Megumi Araki, senior cofinancing specialist and JSP coordinator was the master of ceremonies.





Prof. Koji Tsunokawa
Professor & Head of Foreign Student Office
Saitama University



Prof. Kiyoshi Kita
Director, School of International Health
University Of Tokyo



Prof. Fumio Nishino
Professor & Director of Admissions
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies

18. All participants, particularly the key officers of Japanese designated institutions—Fumio Nishino, admissions director of GRIPS, Koji Tsunokawa, foreign student office head of Saitama University; Shinji Sato, foreign student office head of UOT, Kiyoshi Kita, director of the School of International Health, UOT; and Masahiko Kunishima, foreign student officer, Institute of Environmental Studies of UOT— extended their deepest gratitude to the Government of Japan and ADB for giving them full support and for providing the opportunity for the scholars to pursue higher studies in well-equipped institutions. ADB-JSP will be of great help to the students in improving their nations' qualities of living and solving physical, social, environmental, and health problems and other complexities.



Prof. Shinji Sato
Professor & Head of Foreign Student Office
University of Tokyo



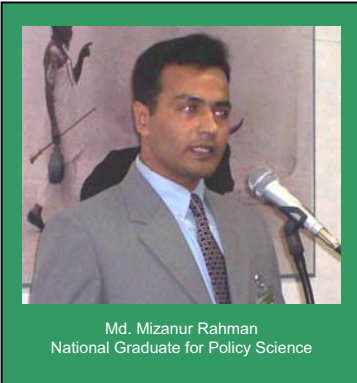
Prof. Masahiko Kunishima
Professor & Foreign Student Officer
Institute of Environmental Studies
University of Tokyo

19. These students also gained appreciation of other cultures, broadened their professional and educational networks, and made new friends. Current students hope that the JSP will continue and will extend the grants to more people.



ADB-JSP scholars had the opportunity to meet other students from other Japanese designated institutions during the dinner reception.

20. Selected scholars were given a chance to speak about their experience and thoughts about ADB-JSP.



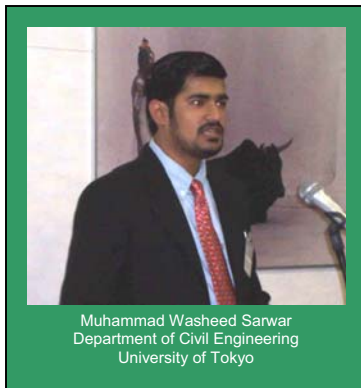
Md. Mizanur Rahman
National Graduate for Policy Science

21. For Md. Mizanur Rahman, PhD student at GRIPS noted that the ADB-JSP provides a good opportunity for the scholars to explore modern science, economics, business, and governance and then to apply it for the benefit of people of their own nations as well as people around the globe.

22. Krishna Poudel, a PhD student at UOT's School of International Health, considers ADB-JSP scholars can provide information regarding some major international health problems such as HIV/AIDS, severe acute respiratory syndrome, malaria, polio, and tuberculosis, which he believes is effective in enhancing human life and development.



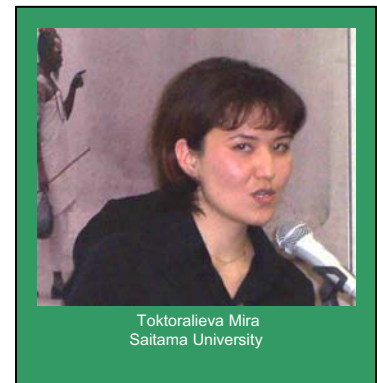
Krishna Poudel
School of International Health
University of Tokyo



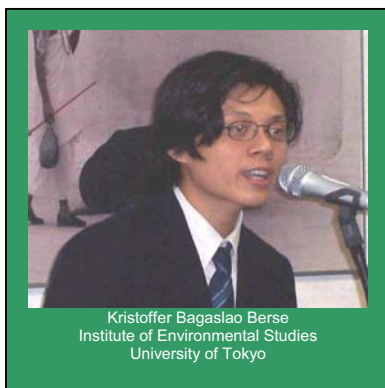
Muhammad Washeed Sarwar
Department of Civil Engineering
University of Tokyo

23. To Muhammad Waheed Sarwar at UOT, the most significant impact of scholarships is the opportunity they give to students of developing countries to pursue higher studies at participating academic institutions. And, because of ADB-JSP, he was able to meet his educational goals and dreams.

24. A Kyrgyz scholar, Mira Toktoralieva at Saitama University, noted the ADB-JSP would help her respond to the problems in her nation's construction industry. She said that the only way to solve the crisis in the construction industry was by learning new and advanced civil engineering technologies.



Toktoralieva Mira
Saitama University



25. Kristoffer Berse, Filipino scholar at the Institute of Environmental Studies, UOT, stated, “There is something more important than getting to travel around, visiting new places and learning about other cultures. More important than what we are doing for ourselves right now is what we will do for other people later after completing our scholarships.” He eagerly believes that the program may possibly alleviate the plight of their nation’s poor people.

26. **Other Developments.** The ADB-JSP web site was regularly updated to incorporate recent changes in contact information, links to designated institutions, and new scholars. The web site is linked to the 18 designated institutions, providing easy access for potential candidates. The ADB-JSP web site has been popular: it has consistently ranked among the top 10 most visited sites in ADB during 2003. The information sheet needed to apply for the ADB-JSP is downloaded from the Internet. The ADB-JSP received an average of about 30 e-mail inquiries weekly. The visits to the Japanese designated institutions and gatherings of students at the ADB Institute are featured on the ADB-JSP Bulletin Board. A complete list of ADB-JSP alumni is also presented on the web site.

27. The designated institutions advertise the ADB-JSP as part of their overall scholarship programs. To help the designated institutions to diversify the geographical distribution of their scholars, ADB has publicized the ADB-JSP in selected newspapers, particularly in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Central Asian republics, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The ADB-JSP brochure was distributed widely throughout the designated institutions and ADB’s regional and resident missions.

28. ADB continues to receive many visitors involved with or interested in the JSP. Most of them requested for an increased number of scholarships and fields of study. Officers from other institutions and universities have signified their interest in participating in the JSP.