

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Asian Development Bank–Japan Scholarship Program (ADB–JSP) began in 1988 to encourage and strengthen human resource development in less developed countries. The main objective of the ADB–JSP is to give opportunities to qualified citizens of ADB's developing member countries (DMCs) to undertake postgraduate studies in economics, business and management, science and technology, and other development-related fields at selected educational institutions in the Asian and Pacific region. Upon completion of their studies, the scholars are expected to return to their home countries to apply and disseminate their newly acquired knowledge and skills to enhance socioeconomic development.

2. Since 1988, the Government of Japan has contributed about \$68 million to the ADB–JSP. The funds have covered tuition, subsistence, housing and book allowances, medical insurance, travel, and research subsidies, and have included the costs of administering the JSP at the 20 designated institutions in 10 countries in the Asian and Pacific region. Appendix 1 lists the 20 designated institutions and Appendix 2 lists the ADB–JSP coordinators.

3. About 94% of the scholars come from the 17 DMCs in Asia with the largest populations of poor people. Viet Nam, People's Republic of China (PRC), Nepal, Philippines, and Bangladesh are the top five participating DMCs, in that order. Appendix 3 shows a breakdown of scholarships awarded, with details on the 17 countries with the highest number of recipients. Of the scholarships that have been awarded, 93% were for master's degrees, 6% were for doctoral (PhD) degrees, and 1% were for diploma and/or certificate courses. A total of 548 scholarships, or 31% of the total awards, were awarded to women. Efforts to promote the program to women led to an increase from 18% in 1988 to 39% in 2004. Appendix 4 gives a profile of all scholars and graduates to date.

4. The number of scholarship awards has grown steadily over the years. During 1988–2004, ADB–JSP awarded 1,780 scholarships to students from 34 ADB member countries. Of these, 1,442 completed their courses. The completed courses were: 1,328 for master's degrees, 94 for PhD programs, and 20 for one-year courses. With regard to subject matter, 40% majored in science and technology, 31% in economics, and 29% in business and management. The table shows the annual data on scholarships awarded and completed.

Scholarships Awarded and Completed, 1988–2004

Status	1988–2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Awarded	1,166	170	143	144	157	1,780
Completed	869	121	152	158	142	1,442

Source: Asian Development Bank estimates.

5. The Asian Institute of Management (AIM) had the highest number of scholars, with 328 (18.4%); followed by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), 233 (13.1%); the International University of Japan (IUJ), 180 (10.1%); the University of Tokyo (UOT), 155 (8.7%); and the East-West Center (EWC), 100 (5.6%). Appendix 5 shows the scholarships awarded and completed at each designated institution from 1988 to 2004.