

June 2014

JICA Long-Term TRAINING

2014-2015

General Information
on
Master's Degree and Internship Program
of
Arifrica Business Education Initiative for Youth
(ABE Initiative) 2nd Batch

国別研修

「アフリカの若者のための産業人材育成イニシアティブ（ABE イニシアティブ）修士課程およびインターンシップ」プログラム第2バッチ

This information pertains to one of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s Long-Term Training Programs. This program will be implemented as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan based on bilateral agreement between both governments.

1. Background

Africa's economy has been steadily growing since 2000, due to factors such as its abundant natural resources and expansion of trade and investments. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that growth rates in Africa will remain as high as 5.4% up to 2016. While each African nation sets a target for sustainable economic development, political implementation, aimed at turning commodity-based economies into multifaceted industrialized economies through developing primary and secondary industries, is an urgent matter. On the other hand, the International Labor Organization (ILO) points out that the number of youth unemployment in Africa has reached nearly 75 million, almost one third of the youth population (200 million) in the whole region. Given these circumstances, it is expected that the yield of value-added industries and the realization of high productivity of industries in Africa will resolve the issue as they generate job opportunities and bring about more stabilized economies. Moreover, Japanese enterprises are showing strong recognition of and interest in a prosperous Africa.

At the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held in Yokohama in 2013, the Japanese Government stated its policy of strengthening support for the ongoing dynamic growth of Africa with stronger public-private partnerships. Japanese Prime Minister Abe announced the "African Business Education Initiative for Youth" (hereafter referred to as the "ABE Initiative"), a strategic five-year plan providing 1,000 youths in Africa with opportunities to study at Japanese universities as well as do internships at Japanese enterprises. The ABE Initiative was launched based on a joint recommendation by Japanese industries, including the Federation of Economic Organizations (KEIDANREN) and the Japanese government at "Public-Private Council for the Promotion of TICADV". These bodies pointed out that there is a need for human resource development in both private and public sectors of Africa in order to cultivate a strong human network between Japan and Africa. The recommendation also mentioned the significance of increasing the number of African people visiting Japan, as well as increasing awareness among Africans regarding the efficiency of Japanese technologies and systems of enterprises.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been appointed to implement a master's degree and internship program within the ABE initiative framework developed for countries whose official requests have been approved by the Government of Japan.

2. Objectives

The objective of the ABE Initiative master's degree and internship program is to support young personnel who have the potential to contribute to the development of industries in Africa. This program offers opportunities for young African personnel (hereafter referred to as "participants") to study at master's courses in Japanese universities as international students and experience internships at Japanese enterprises. This program intends to foster excellent personnel who can recognize and understand the contexts of Japanese society and systems of Japanese enterprises so as to contribute Africa's development in collaboration with Japanese private sector. The expected outcome of the program is a network of potential contributors to the development of African industries who will also lead Japanese private sector to engage further in economic activities in/towards Africa.

3. Program Outline

(1) Program Title

Master's Degree Program and Internship Program of African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)

(2) Language of the Program: **English**

4. Duration

(1) Overall Program	<p><u>November, 2013 –October, 2021 (total 8 Years)</u></p> <p>Participants will be dispatched to Japan in 4 groups over the course of 4 years. Participants will be dispatched in September each year from 2014 to 2017. A single participant is allowed to stay in Japan up to 3 years including as a research student and internship period.</p>
(2) 2 nd Batch participant group's stay in Japan	<p>Standard Timetable</p> <p><u>September, 2015– September, 2018</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 Months as a Research Student if necessary (See page 7) - 1 or 2 years as a master's student - From 2 weeks up to 6 Months as an internship trainee

5. Target Countries

(1) Second Year (2 nd Batch: 2015)	All 54 African countries
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6. Target Participants

(1) Persons from the Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Young individuals who are or will be involved in economic activities in the local private sector maintaining and developing strong ties with Japanese companies. ➤ Those who are working at Japanese companies such as; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those who are to be employed at Japanese companies - Those who are working at local companies which have close business relations with Japanese companies - Those companies or individuals who are willing to have closer relation with Japanese companies
(2) Government Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Young government officials/civil servants who take part in formulation and/or implementation of industrial policies
(3) Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Young instructors/educators in Higher Education and TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) institutions

*It is preferable that candidates are nominated/recommended by the Japanese organizations such as Japanese companies, the Embassy of Japan, and the JICA Office in light of the program' objectives. Particular allocation will be later designed with respect to each country's situation.

7. Number of Participants

JICA will accept 900 participants. Following are the allocated numbers of participants per batch. This number is subject to change due to budgetary conditions.

Batch	Number of Participants
1st Batch	150 Participants
2nd Batch	350 Participants in total for all 54 countries

8. Field of Study at Japanese Universities

In this program, participants will be accepted in any fields of study for master's courses at Japanese universities while engineering, agriculture and economics /business administration are specified as key fields. Proposed research topics must be relevant to the program objectives to form network of potential contributors to the development of African industries, who have strong ties with Japan.

9. Observation Tour and Internship at Japanese Private Companies

All participants are expected to participate in observation tours and to do internships respectively at Japanese companies during summer vacation and/or after graduation of master's courses. Internship programs are carried out in English. In principle, no reward or compensation should be paid to the companies/the participants. Details of the internships will be fixed according to the hosting companies' schedule. The participants of the "private sector" category who are nominated / recommended by private companies at the time of application are all supposed to do their internships at those companies after graduation.

10. Qualifications and Required Documents for Application

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

(1) Nationality	- Citizens among 54 African countries
(2) Age	- Between 22 and 39 years of age (as of April 1 st , 2015 for the 2 nd Batch participants)
(3) Education	- Bachelor's degree
(4) Working Experience /Status	Applicants for the category of "Government officials" and "Educators" (shown in the Section 6) are required; - to have more than 6 month working experience at their current organizations, and - to obtain permission for application and securing reinstatement (as much as possible) from their current organizations
(5) English - language Proficiency	- Adequate English skills both in written and oral communication to complete the master's course. - Japanese language is not necessary

(6) Understanding of the Program	- Applicants are required to have clear understanding of the objectives of the ABE initiative Master's Degree and Internship Program, and to have a strong will to contribute to the industrial development of their home countries as well as to strengthen the linkage between their countries and Japan after returning home
(7) Others	Applicants must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - both physically and mentally fit for the program, - not applying or receiving another scholarship offered by other foreign organizations, and - not serving in the military, weapon and nucleus handling.

11. Procedures and Required Documents for Application

- ◆ Procedures: see “**Important Notice for ABE Initiative in South Africa**”.
- ◆ Please visit the website to download the Application Form and related documents <http://www.jica.go.jp/southafrica/english/office/others/abe.html>

Application Documents	<p>(1) Application Form (Annex 1) which consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Declaration of desired university placement: 1st and 2nd choice (Complete Section 1. of the form with reference to Annex 3) * Personal Information * Research plan <p>(2) A letter of consent for joining this program from current employer / organization (only mandatory for government officials and lectures)</p> <p>(3) Undergraduate degree graduation certificate*</p> <p>(4) Academic transcript*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Must contain all the grades earned in the university. * Notarized copies of the original * Written in English or accompanied with official translation <p>(5) A letter of recommendation from home country's government, Embassy of Japan, JETRO or Japanese companies, except applying through the open-recruitment (See Annex 2)</p> <p>(6) A copy of Passport / ID with photo (for checking nationality). Passport is the most preferable. Certified English translation must be attached if ID is not written in English)</p> <p>(7) 8 same Photos (4cm x 3cm)</p> <p>(8) Check List (Annex 4)</p> <p>*Below documents are not required to submit by the deadline. JICA will inform submission timetable accordingly.</p> <p>(9) 8 same Photos (4 cm×3cm) to be submitted after the 3rd Selection</p> <p>(10) Health certificate to be submitted after the 4th Selection</p> <p>(11) A2A3 form (JICA Training program's form) to be submitted after official approval of participant by the Steering Committee /home country's government.</p>
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12. Application Period (2nd Batch)

All the application forms specified in “11. Procedures and Required Documents for Application” should be submitted to appointed organization (See “Important Notice of ABE Initiative in South Africa”)

Closing date for application submission in South Africa: October 15th 2014

*please consult with DPSA or DHET for internal submission deadline for SA government officials and for Lectures

13. Selection Procedures (2nd Batch)

- ◆ Any costs incurred during the selection procedures including travel expenses to selection venues will NOT BE COVERED by JICA.
- ◆ The reasons for disqualification on each selection procedure will NOT BE DISCLOSED.
- ◆ Submitted application documents are to be screened to check requirements of each applicant before 1st Selection.

(1) 1st Selection

Period	November 2014 -December 2014 (to be confirmed)
Contents	Written examinations for English and mathematics
Objectives	To assess applicant's basic knowledge
Venue	To be determined
Results	The results will be provided to the Japanese universities as a reference for their decisions in the 3 rd Selection process (see below). Low scores may result in disqualification at the 1 st selection.

(2) 2nd Selection

Period	November 2014 - December 2014 (to be confirmed)
Contents	Interviews by the members of the Steering Committee (see Section 14.)
Objectives	To check an applicant's understanding of the program objectives and to make a prioritization list of applicants.
Venue	To be determined
Results	The Steering Committee will generate a prioritized list of applicants for the 3 rd Selection. Applicants who are judged not to have a clear understanding of the objectives of the program may be disqualified at the 2 nd selection.

(3) 3rd Selection

Period	January 2015 - May 2015 (to be confirmed)
Contents	Document screening by Japanese universities (mainly “Research plan” of the Application documents and the results of the written examinations for English and mathematics at the 1 st Selection.
Objectives	To match applicants with university supervisors

Selection and Result	JICA /Support organization (see Section 14) will send application documents with the results of the English and mathematics examinations to the applicants' first-choice Japanese universities, in principle. Universities will then examine the documents to match applicants with the courses /supervisors, and may select candidates two to three times the number of allocated spots for the 4 th Selection).
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(4) 4th Selection

Period	January 2015 - May 2015 (to be confirmed)
Contents	Interviews by Japanese universities (via video conference system)
Objectives	To select the final candidates (to be proceeded to official approval)
Venue	JICA Office video conference)
Selection and Result	Each applicant will be interviewed by video conference by faculty members of the Japanese university.

(5) Approval of the Successful Candidates

Successful candidates who pass the 4th Selection must be officially approved as participants of the program by the Steering Committee. Participants from the countries without the Steering Committees are supposed to be approved by the respective government and JICA. Each approved participant's status as "officially dispatched student" should be endorsed by their home countries' governments. At this stage, every participant is requested to fill out and submit A2A3 form to JICA office for formal procedures.

(6) Research Student

Research students are part-time students who utilize their time to prepare for the entrance examination for master's courses. Research students are able to join lectures, receive instruction from professors and make use of university facilities. The period for being a research student is limited to 6 months. Participants as research students are requested to study and take examinations for the master's course within six (6) months. If failed, he/she has to return to their home country.

14. Implementation Framework

(1) Steering Committee

Steering Committees will be established in some countries whose economic relationships are comparatively close with Japan. A Steering Committee will be formed by every batch and take necessary procedures for selections of participants. The committee consists of the Embassy of Japan, JETRO, representatives of the Japanese business community (such as the Japanese Chamber of Commerce), the country's government, and JICA. The Steering Committee will be chaired by the JICA representative and make decisions on selection policies and schedule in detail. The government representative is in a position to endorse the successful candidates as the participants of the program.

(2) Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee consists of the representatives from related ministries and organizations in Japan, namely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the Federation of Economic Organizations (KEIDANREN), and JICA. The committee meeting will be held annually in Tokyo in order to monitor the progress of the entire program.

(3) Japanese Universities

Japanese universities which offer the master's courses in this program will take roles in document screening, conducting final interviews, education and guidance to the participants.

(4) JICA and Support Organization

As a support organization to JICA for facilitating the operation of this program, the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) will make necessary arrangements for running the Steering Committee, recruiting local applicants, selection procedures, implementing familiarization program upon participants' arrival in Japan, daily life support during the participants' stay in Japan, implementing company tours and internship matching, and following up of the graduates. For other than the arrangements stated above during the participants' stays in Japan, JICA domestic centers (at 12 locations in Japan) will be in charge.

15. Expenses to be Covered

JICA will provide the following expenses for participant of the program which are equivalent to similar JICA schemes.

- Tuition at Japanese university master's degree programs
- Allowances for living expenses, outfit, shipping etc. See the box below for more details.
- A round-trip airfare
- Expenses for support programs during the study in Japan, including the costs of observation tours

Other costs should be covered by the participants' organizations or other individuals.

*Revised in April 2012

Allowance Item	Amount of payment	Frequency
Tuition	actual cost	Each semester
Living allowance	¥144,000~¥147,000	Every month
Air fee	actual cost	2 times (arrival and return)
Outfit allowance (general outfit and shipping)	¥106,000	1 time (month of first arrival)
Preparation allowance	¥54,000	1time
Moving allowance (lump-sum payment for rental contract)	¥190,000 (maximum) (West Japan ¥210,000)	1time
Books	¥30,000	1 time/ year
Interior research	¥50,000	1 time/ year

16. Contact Lists

JICA HQ Technical and Higher Education Division	Nibancho Center Building 5-25, Niban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN, 102-8012 email: hmtth@jica.go.jp Tel. +81-03-5226-8337, 8377, 8335
JICA Egypt Office	World Trade Center 8 th Floor, 1191 Corniche EL Nile St, Boulak, CAIRO, EGYPT email: eg-abe-mip@jica.go.jp Tel.+20-2-257-48240
JICA Ethiopia Office	Kirkos sub-city, Kebele 02, House No.676/05, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA (MINA Building, 6-7F) email: et-abe-mip@jica.go.jp Tel.+251-11- 5504755
JICA Kenya Office	The Rahimtulla Tower 10th and 11th Floor, Upper Hill Road, P.O.Box 50572-00200, Nairobi, KENYA email:ky-abe-mip@jica.go.jp Tel.+254-20-2775000
JICA Morocco Office	N° 9, Impasse Al Melia, LotissementFalah, Lot 9, AgadalRaid, Rabat, Moroc email:mo-abe-mip@jica.go.jp Tel.+212-0-537-276595
JICA Mozambique Office	Av. 24 de Julho No 7, 11 andar Escritorio A, Maputo, Moçambique email:ms-abe-mip@jica.go.jp Tel.+258-21-486357
JICA Nigeria Office	Av. 24 de Julho No 7, 11 andar Escritorio A, Maputo, Moçambique email:ms-abe-mip@jica.go.jp Tel.+258-21-486357
JICA Senegal Office	3e Etage, Atryum Center, Route de Ouakam, Dakar, B.P.3323 email: sn-abe-mip@jica.go.jp Tel.+221-33859-7272
JICA South Africa Office	Lord Charles, Building -B, 1st Floor, Cnr. Charles and Brooklyn Streets, Brooklyn, Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA email: so-abe-mip@jica.go.jp Tel.+27-12-346-4493
JICA Tanzania Office	3rd Floor, Barclay's House 1008/1 Ohio Street, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA email: tz-abe-mip@jica.go.jp Tel.+255-22-2113727