

July 2016

**JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program  
(Long-Term)  
2016-2017**

**General Information for All Applicants  
on  
Master's Degree and Internship Program  
of  
African Business Education Initiative for Youth  
(ABE Initiative) 4<sup>th</sup> 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4バッチ

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

Each country may have its own schedule and/or qualifications for the program. The additional information are listed on the separated paper.

## 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, policy 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 TICAD V". 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 Master's Degree and Internship Program of the ABE Initiative 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 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 and Internship Program of African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)**

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

### 4. Duration

<p><b>(1) Overall Program</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>(2) 4<sup>th</sup> Batch participant group's stay in Japan</b></p>	<p>Standard Timetable</p> <p><u>September, 2017 – September, 2020</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6 months as a research student if necessary (See page 8)</li> <li>- 1 or 2 years as a master's student</li> <li>- About 2 weeks internship in summer break for all participants and up to 6 months internship after graduation if needed</li> </ul>

### 5. 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.

Year	Batch	Number of Participants
2014	1st Batch	150 Participants
2015	2nd Batch	350 Participants
2016	3rd Batch	300 Participants
2017	4th Batch	100 Participants

### 6. Target Countries

<p><b>Fourth Year (4<sup>th</sup> Batch: 2017)</b></p>	<p>All 54 African countries</p>
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### 7. Target Participants

This program targets on the participant who will take a role as a pioneer for developing African industries through the collaboration with Japanese private sector. Target participants are selected from the following three categories.

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

※For the country except Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania, it is preferable that candidates are nominated/recommended by a Japanese company

## 8. Fields 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 Japanese companies.

## 9. Internship at Japanese Private Companies

All participants are expected to do internships at Japanese companies during summer break. The participants from "private sector" category (and those who wish to participate from other categories) are also expected to do internship up to 6 months 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 and 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.

## 10. Qualifications and Requirements

Applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

<p><b>(1) Nationality</b></p>	<p>- Citizens of one of the 54 African countries</p>
<p><b>(2) Age</b></p>	<p>- Between 22 and 39 years of age (as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Batch participants)</p>
<p><b>(3) Education</b></p>	<p>- Bachelor's degree (equivalent to at least 16 years of academic background)</p>
<p><b>(4) Working</b></p>	<p>Applicants for the category of "Government officials" and</p>

<b>Experience /Status</b>	<p>“Educators” (shown in the Section 7.) are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to have more than 6 months working experience at their current organizations, and</li> <li>- to obtain permission for application and securing reinstatement from their current organizations.</li> </ul>
<b>(5) English - language Proficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adequate English skills both in written and oral communication to complete the master’s course.</li> </ul>
<b>(6) Understanding of the Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<b>(7) Others</b>	<p>Applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- both physically and mentally fit for the program,</li> <li>- not receiving or planning to receive a scholarship offered by other foreign organizations,</li> <li>- attend the activities on the weekends in unavoidable circumstances(ex. official exam)</li> </ul> <p>※Pregnant applicants are not recommended to apply due to the potential risk of health and life issues of mother and fetus.</p>

## 11. Procedures and Required Documents for Application

In the nine (9) countries (i.e. Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania), where a large number of applicants and Japanese companies doing business in those countries are expected, applicants may contact JICA offices to obtain necessary information and application forms. In other countries, in principle, application procedures will start by JICA overseas offices’ contact with the respective countries’ governments to provide detailed information of the program.

Each applicant is required to submit the following documents by the deadline set by JICA office in the applicants’ country except for (8) and (9) which are to be submitted after 4<sup>th</sup> selection or official approval.

<b>Application Documents</b>	<p>(1) Application Form (Annex 2) consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Declaration of desired university placement: from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> choice (Complete Section 1. of the form with reference to Annex 4)</li> <li>▪ Personal Information</li> <li>▪ Education Background</li> <li>▪ Work Experiences</li> <li>▪ Details of Current and Previous Employment</li> <li>▪ Career Plan after Graduation</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research plan</li> <li>▪ Consent for joining this program from current employer/organization</li> </ul> <p>(2) Undergraduate degree graduation certificate which officially certified.          * Officially certified copies of the original          *Written in English or accompanied with official translation</p> <p>(3) Academic transcript          * Must contain all the grades earned in the university.          * Officially certified copies of the original          *Written in English or accompanied with official translation</p> <p>(4) A letter of recommendation from home country's government, Japanese company, university, your organization, Embassy of Japan, JETRO, or JICA overseas office.          * (For applicant who has no current employer) A letter of recommendation from related organization which you belonged to in the past, graduated school and any other relevant person/organization are available.          *Additional recommendation letter may be required through selection procedure.</p> <p>(5) A copy of Passport with photo (for checking nationality, name, sex, and date of birth). National ID and birth certificate are acceptable if you do not have Passport. Certified English translation must be attached if ID is not written in English)</p> <p>(6) 2 ID Photos (4 cm × 3 cm ) pasted on application form (Original and copy) and another 6 same photos.</p> <p>(7) Check List (Annex 5)</p> <p>(8) Health certificate to be submitted after the 4<sup>th</sup> Selection</p> <p>(9) Application form for all JICA Knowledge Co-Creation program to be submitted after official approval of participant by the Steering Committee/home country's government.</p>
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Please visit the website below to download the "Application Form", simplified version of "University Index", and "University Information" of respective courses to apply.

[http://education-japan.org/africa/ap\\_form.html](http://education-japan.org/africa/ap_form.html)

Annex 1. Guidelines for Application Form

Annex 2. Application Form

Annex 3. Form of Recommendation Letter (English/Japanese)

Annex 4. University Index for ABE Initiative Recommended Courses  
 (List of Japanese Graduate Schools)

Annex 5. Check List (List of Application Documents to be submitted)

Annex 6. Contact List

Annex 7. List of Categories, Area, Disciplines and Research Fields

## 12. Application Period (4<sup>th</sup> Batch)

August 2016 to October 2016 (Details are to be confirmed.)

## 13. Selection Procedures (4<sup>th</sup> Batch)<sup>1</sup>

\*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.

### (1) Screening of Submitted Application Documents

Submitted application documents are to be screened to check requirements of each applicant.

### (2) 1<sup>st</sup> Selection

Period	November 2016 -December 2016 (to be confirmed)
Contents	Written examinations for English (TOEFL ITP) and mathematics*1
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 4 <sup>th</sup> Selection process (see below). Low scores may result in disqualification at the 1 <sup>st</sup> Selection.

\*1: Please refer to the example of Math exams at the site below.

<http://www.education-japan.org/africa/news/index.php#h270601>

### (3) 2<sup>nd</sup> Selection

Period	November 2016 - December 2016 (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 <sup>rd</sup> Selection. Applicants who are judged not to have a clear understanding of the objectives of the program may be disqualified at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Selection.

### (4) 3<sup>rd</sup> Selection

Period	January 2017 - March 2017 (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 <sup>st</sup> Selection.

<sup>1</sup> The schedule for later batches to be determined

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 mathematic 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 <sup>th</sup> Selection).

#### **(5) 4<sup>th</sup> Selection (Final Selection)**

Period	March 2017- May 2017 (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.

Note: JICA may adjust the number of candidates after the 4<sup>th</sup> Selection based on the budget limitation and a balance of the number of candidates from each country.

#### **(6) Approval of the Successful Candidates**

Successful candidates who pass the 4<sup>th</sup> Selection (and JICA adjustment if necessary) 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 Application form to JICA office for formal procedures.

#### **(7) Research Student**

Research students are part-time students who utilize their time to prepare for the entrance examination for a 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.

#### **(8) Training Program for Human Resources Development in the Mining Sector (KIZUNA program)**

Participants who wish to study in the area of Mining, Geology, etc. may be classified as applicants of a different program 'Human Resources Development in the Mining Sector (KIZUNA program)', which is also organized by JICA, and will be screened according to the selection procedures of the KIZUNA program from 3<sup>rd</sup> Selection of ABE Initiative. JICA will inform you when you are classified as an applicant of the KIZUNA program.



## 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 offices (at 13 locations in Japan) will be in charge.

## 15. Expenses To Be Borne By JICA

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

- Tuition at Japanese university master's degree programs (and research student)
- 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 and internship

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

\*Participants are not allowed to work while their stay in Japan.

\*To invite family to Japan (spouse and children only), Participants should be responsible for all expenses, necessary procedure by themselves. JICA does not provide any support or additional financial assistance except issuing necessary documents for the process. JICA strongly recommends inviting family AFTER 6 MONTHS upon arrival in Japan.

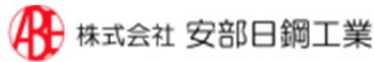
\*Revised in April 2012

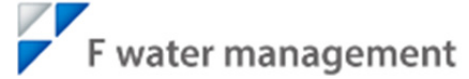
Allowance Item	Amount of payment	Frequency
Tuition	Actual cost	Each semester
Living allowance	¥2,317~¥5,052 yen/day	Every 2 months
Air fee	Actual cost	2 times (arrival and return)
Outfit allowance (general outfit and shipping)	¥106,000	1 time (month of first arrival)
Mobilization allowance	¥54,000	1 time
Moving allowance (lump-sum payment for rental contract)	¥190,000 (maximum) (West Japan ¥210,000)	1 time
Books	¥30,000/year	Every 2 months( by dividing the amount to the daily basis)
Interior research	¥50,000/year	Every 2 months( by dividing the amount to the daily basis)

## 16. Partnership with Japanese Companies

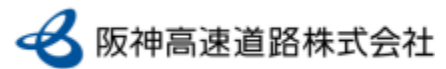
\*Alphabetical order

\*Companies listed below are some registered as a partner of ABE Initiative





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