

# Japan-IMF Scholarship Program for Asia

*Romuald Semblat, Senior Economist*

*Saika Kin, Programs Officer*

*International Monetary Fund*

*Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OAP)*

*Tokyo*

# Japan-IMF Scholarship Program (JISPA)—Basic Facts

- Established in 1993
- Funded by the Government of Japan
- Scholarships awarded annually
- Administered by the IMF's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Tokyo

# Main Objectives of the JISPA

- Build capacity in macroeconomic management in developing economies in Asia and the Pacific
- Targets qualified junior level officials from key government agencies and central banks
- Provides graduate-level training in macroeconomics and related subjects

# Main Qualifications for JISPA

- Junior government official in key economic agency or central bank (at least several years' experience)
- Prospects for career advancement
- Good English and math skills, with background in economics
- Committed to returning to home agency following studies

# Structure of the JISPA

## Partnership and open track scholarship

- Partnership track: 1-2 year master's degree programs at one of four partnership universities in Japan
- Open track: Graduate studies in economics (both master's and PhD level) at any reputable university in Japan

# Current intake (2008/09)

- Partnership track: 49 scholars from 12 countries (20 under a one-year program and the remainder under two-year programs)
- Open track: One PhD scholar (completed September 2007)

# Track Record: JISPA (1993-2008)

## A. Number of Accepted Scholars Under Partnership Track (1993-2008)

Country	TOTAL
Cambodia	37
China	73
Fiji	1
Indonesia	14
Kazakhstan	30
Kyrgyz Republic	34
Lao PDR	12
Mongolia	38
Myanmar	32
Philippines	11
Tajikistan	9
Thailand	8
Turkmenistan	2
Uzbekistan	52
Vietnam	68
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>421</b>

## B. Number of Graduates Under Partnership Track (1993-2007)

Country	TOTAL
Cambodia	30
China	64
Fiji	1
Indonesia	11
Kazakhstan	27
Kyrgyz Republic	31
Lao PDR	7
Mongolia	28
Myanmar	32
Philippines	8
Tajikistan	7
Thailand	6
Turkmenistan	2
Uzbekistan	44
Vietnam	63
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>361</b>

# Japan-IMF Scholars by Affiliation

Affiliation	Percentage
Central Bank	49%
Ministry of Finance	23%
Other Ministries (Economy, Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Industry, and Trade)	7%
Agency of Economic Affairs	7%
Statistics Agency	4%
Development and Planning Agency	3%
Others	7%
Grand Total	100%

# Partnership Track—2009/10 Intake

**Four partnership universities will accept applications for 2009/10.**

## ***One-year master's program***

- National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo (GRIPS)

## ***Two-year master's program***

- Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo
- International University of Japan, Niigata Prefecture
- Yokohama National University, Kanagawa

# National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)

One-year master's program

20 Japan-IMF scholars each  
year

Master's of Public Policy

Information available at:  
*<http://www.grips.ac.jp>*



# Hitotsubashi University (HIT)

Two-year master's program

Five Japan-IMF scholars  
accepted each year

Asian Public Policy Program

Master's of Public Policy

Information available at:  
[http://www.hit-  
u.ac.jp/IPP/APPP/](http://www.hit-u.ac.jp/IPP/APPP/)



# International University of Japan (IUJ)

Two-year master's program

Five Japan-IMF scholars  
accepted each year

Graduate School of International  
Relations

Master's of International  
Development

Information available at:  
<http://gsir.iuj.ac.jp>



# Yokohama National University (YNU)

Two-year master's program

10 Japan-IMF scholars  
accepted every other  
year

Master's of Business  
Administration

Information available at:  
[http://www.ynu.ac.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.ynu.ac.jp/index_e.html)



# Skill-Refreshing Courses (SRC)

**Objective:** Ensure entering scholars are better prepared to commence studies at partnership universities through intensive courses in math/computational skills and English.

**Length:** Two months (mid-July to mid-September)

**Place:** International University of Japan

**English for Economics:** Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills

**Math/Computational Skills for Economics:**  
Math for economics and statistical software (e.g. E-views)



# Selection Process for JISPA

- Submission of application by deadline (On-line application will be available in October)
- Pre-screening of applications by OAP
- Screening for interviews by selection committee of partnership universities
- In-country interview and math test by selection committee of partnership universities
- Selection by the partnership universities and notification by OAP

# Calendar—2009/10 Intake

- **Application deadline: December 10, 2008**
- **Candidate interviews and math test: March 2009**
- **Award notification: April 2009**
- **Skill refreshing courses in Japan (math and English):  
July-September 2009**
- **Commencement of studies at the partnership  
university: September/October 2009**

# Events Hosted by IMF

- Welcome Reception (fall)
- Campus Visits to each partnership university (winter)
- Japan-IMF Scholarship Seminar (spring)
- Presentation by the Japan-IMF Scholar (Summer)
- Farewell Reception (summer)
- Alumni Reunion (in various countries)

# Welcome Reception (Oct 8, 2008)



# Campus Visits to Each Partnership University (January-February 2008)

- Observation of class
- Lecture by IMF officials
- Meeting with scholars
- Meeting with faculty members and administrators



# Japan-IMF Scholarship Seminar

(April 21, 2008)

## *Opening Remarks*

Speaker: **Mr. Akira Ariyoshi**

Director

Regional Office for Asia and the  
Pacific

International Monetary Fund

## *First Lecture: “Economic Outlook in Japan: The Sub-prime and Credit Issue”*

Speaker: **Mr. Kazumasa Iwata**

Emeritus Professor

University of Tokyo

Former Deputy Governor

Bank of Japan

## *Second Lecture: “Reforming Global Standards on Banking Supervision”*

Speaker: **Mr. Ryoza Himino**

Director

Banks Division I

Supervisory Bureau

Financial Services Agency, Japan

## *Third Lecture: “Can Asia Decouple from the Global Slowdown?”*

Speaker: **Mr. Romuald Semblat**

Senior Economist

Regional Office for Asia and the  
Pacific

International Monetary Fund

*Concluding Remarks by Mr. Ariyoshi*

# Presentation by the Japan-IMF Scholar (June 23, 2008)

**Mr. Weera Prasertnukul**

(JISPA 2006-2008 Scholar, IUJ)

Division of International Banking Policy

Department of International Institutions  
Strategy

Bank of Thailand



Thesis ***“Exchange Rates, Price  
Levels, and Inflation Targeting:  
Evidences from the Philippines  
and Thailand”***



# Farewell Reception (June 23, 2008)



# Alumni Reunion



# Contact Information

## **IMF Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Tokyo**

Ms. Saika Kin, Programs Officer

E-mail: [sakin@imf.org](mailto:sakin@imf.org)

Tel: 81-3-3597-6708 Fax: 81-3-3597-6705

## **Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Center (PFTAC) in Suva, Fiji**

Ms. Maria Nina Samuela

E-mail: [MSamuela@imf.org](mailto:MSamuela@imf.org)

Tel: 679-3304-866 Fax: 679-3304-045

Brochure on the JISPA is also downloadable on IMF's OAP website at <http://www.imf.org/external/oap/schol.htm>

An online application will open in October 2008.