



JUAAB NEWS

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Ambassador Kiminori IWAMA's Message for JUAAB AGM Newsletter on September 29th



Ambassador's Message
JUAAB Annual General Meeting 2023



Embassy of Japan
in Bangladesh

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to you for organizing the Annual General Meeting of the Japanese Universities Alumni Association of Bangladesh.

I appreciate JUAAB for actively contributing to the year-long celebration of 50th anniversary of establishing the diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh last year.

This year, one of our focus is the enhancement of Japanese language education. I am happy to see the number of Japanese language learners is increasing. JUAAB has been efficiently conducting Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) twice a year. I expect JUAAB's further support to improving Japanese language learning for Bangladeshi people.

Last month, JUAAB Japanese Cultural Centre was inaugurated which is supported by Japan Government's "Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects". I expect the Japanese Cultural Centre will be utilized to organize various cultural events to spread our culture and to deepen our friendship.

I also expect the newly elected executive committee will take JUAAB to a higher level with their meticulous activities.

Lastly, I would like to appreciate tremendous efforts by JUAAB members. I sincerely hope that JUAAB will continue its contribution to cultural exchanges between Japan and Bangladesh.

IWAMA Kiminori
Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh



Message of the JUAAB President

22nd Annual General Meeting of JUAAB



JUAAB is the association of the people who obtained their Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD degrees from Japanese Universities. JUAAB was established in 2000 on the historical occasion of the 30th year of Japan's diplomatic recognition of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. JUAAB's objective was to be conscious of the need for forging and fostering the bonds of friendship and harmony between the people of Bangladesh and Japan on the exchange of academic knowledge, socio-cultural understanding, and mutual appreciation of our age-old tradition. JUAAB now has more than 700 life members and they are working in different universities, research organizations, and other public and private organizations for the economic and social development of our country, Bangladesh.

After 23 years, JUAAB has achieved an esteemed position, not only in strengthening bondage and friendship between Japan and Bangladesh but also in mobilizing resources towards self-sustenance. JUAAB is now proud to have its own permanent floor space of 4000 sqft in a modern building at Farmgate, Dhaka. Other than that, we have another 1137 sqft apartment at Shyamoli, Dhaka.

In Bangladesh, there were American, British, German, and several other countries' "Cultural Centers" but there was no Japanese Cultural Center. That is why, we took the initiative to establish the "Japanese Cultural Center" in Bangladesh and with the kind support of the former Japanese Ambassador, HE Mr. Naoki Ito and the current Japanese Ambassador HE Mr. Kiminori Iwama, JUAAB has been finally able to inaugurate "JUAAB Japanese Cultural Center" on August 26, 2023. The aim of the JUAAB Japanese Cultural Center is to uplift the level of Bangladesh-Japan educational and cultural relationships to newer heights in the coming days.

We took various initiatives to recover the losses of COVID-19 crisis such as increasing the number of Japanese Language classes and we also increased JUAAB's potential to conduct more number of student's JLPT. We have also introduced full automation system for admission and registration of students in Japanese Language Courses, and JLPT. Both these initiatives worked well and we were able to increase the number of students both in language school (200 to 600) and JLPT registration (3000 to 9000). JUAAB's website and Facebook are very vibrant now. In the last one year, JUAAB was able to receive the grassroots financial support (62 lakh Taka) from Japan Embassy of Bangladesh to establish "JUAAB Japanese Cultural Center", a grant for 14th National Speech Contest from Japan Foundation, as well as a remarkable number of world famous books through "Read Japan Project" from the Tokyo Foundation of Policy. Besides, during this time, we took the initiative to register our two flats and already succeeded in registering the Indira Road Flat. The registration process of the other flat is going on. We have also deposited one core Taka as "Fixed deposit". In the history of JUAAB, this time we have been able to form a new executive committee of JUAAB (October 2023 to September 2025) through a very successful participatory election.

Finally, I am acknowledging the contribution of all our senior fellows who initiated the formation of JUAAB, JUAAB members and JUAAB office staff. I am really grateful to HE Mr. Kiminori Iwama, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh and other Japanese Embassy staff for helping us in various ways to make another year successful. Last but not the least, I sincerely hope that the friendship and bond between Bangladeshi and Japanese people will continue to grow and I am expecting the grand success of 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of JUAAB.

Professor Dr. M A M Yahia Khandoker
President, JUAAB
September 29, 2023



Editorial



Dear esteemed readers, on behalf of the editorial board of the Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh (JUAAB), I am happy to present this 22th anniversary issue. It gives us immense pleasure and great satisfaction to announce that we the members of the editorial board and Research and Publication Committee have the opportunity to contribute to publish the “JUAAB NEWS-2023”.

We all know that JUAAB was launched on 29th September, 2000 with the direct help of the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka. The main objectives of this organization are to build friendship and strong network among the Bangladeshi nationals who earned their academic degrees from Japanese Universities and various institutions. Besides, JUAAB is continuously organizing many programmes to promote and familiarize Japanese culture, education, social and moral values in our society in Bangladesh. It is great news for us all that Japanese culture center at JUAAB has been inaugurated on 26th June 2023 by HE Iwama Kiminori, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh. We are the biggest non-political organizations with highly educated life members. Now, we have our own modern and well decorated office space, international standard Japanese Language School, an experienced management team along with elected Executive Committee and Advisory Council. We are regularly organizing Ikebana, SAFJUA, educational seminars on Japanese education system, Japanese cultural programmes, conducting JLPT examinations, orientation program for MEXT scholars, reception for returnee graduates, donation for natural calamity affected people in home and abroad, Hiroshima- Nagasaki day observation, etc.

Along with many regular successful activities in 2023, JUAAB conducted a wonderful election for its next executive committee during this time. It was the biggest and most friendly event. We believe through your active participation, JUAAB will flourish more and more in coming days. As like as before, we are requesting all of our new returnee potential graduates to become members of JUAAB and to help to grow JUAAB with new ideas and activities.

We have tried our best to bring you more updates and write ups in the present issue. We hope you will enjoy the reading, and we are looking forward to receiving your critical analysis, suggestions, feedbacks and future contributions. We wish to express our heartiest gratitude to H.E. Mr. Iwama Kiminori, the Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, Japanese Embassy Officials, Alumni and family members, Honorable Advisors, EC members, JUAAB office staffs, JUAAB Japanese school teachers and press personnel for their cordial cooperation and guidance to publish this Newsletter within a very short time. May Almighty save us all!

Dr. M. Mizanur Rahman
Editor,
JUAAB News
Research and Publication Secretary, JUAAB
And
Professor, Dept. of Physics, University of Dhaka



JUAAB MEMBERSHIP

Citizens of Bangladesh having at least one academic degree (Bachelor, Master, Doctorate or equivalent) from a Japanese university shall be eligible for membership.

Subscription:

1. Life member Taka 10,000 (Ten Thousand) only
2. General member Taka 1000 (One Thousand) only and annual membership fee of Taka 1000. (One Thousand) only



General Secretary's Report September 29, 2023



Dear Alumni of Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh
Welcome to you ALL.

Last year was a very busy year for JUAAB. Due to Covid-19 last few years we could not function properly. This year many positive things have happened for JUAAB. Personally I am delighted that I will be able to end my tenure with the very positive development of JUAAB.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Alumni Executive Committee, Advisory Council members, Office Bearers and all the members of JUAAB for extending their cooperation during this difficult period.

21st AGM of JUAAB was held on 31 March, 2022. I would like to summarize our activities after the last AGM in the following paragraphs.

(A) General Information of JUAAB

1) JUAAB Members:

Due to the fact that JUAAB took the initiative to increase the number of life members, the number of life members is steadily increasing every passing year. Newly graduates from Japan are frequently communicated by JUAAB EC members encouraging them to become the life member of JUAAB. Also focal points appointed to coordinate JLPT exams, regularly contact with Japanese graduates encouraging them to become life members of JUAAB. Through this practice, last year 62 life members were added and now total members of JUAAB members stood at 726.

(2) Financial and wealth status and liabilities of JUAAB

Although JUAAB Treasurer will present detail JUAAB financial report and audit report, I am taking the opportunity to give you all a brief financial and wealth status and liabilities of JUAAB at a glance.

JUAAB assets:

JUAAB running balance: 2,14,72910.17 Taka in Bank account

Samoli Apartment = 73,00,000/- Taka; (purchase price)

Indira Road Apartment = 4,00,00000/- Taka (purchase price)

JUAAB liabilities:

At present JUAAB does not have any liabilities.

(B) JUAAB Activities

(1) 21st Annual General Meeting of JUAAB

The 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the 11th Executive Committee of JUAAB was held on 31 March, 2022. The venue was Thai Chi Restaurant & Café, Farmgate, Dhaka. More than 270 participants were present at the AGM. Honorable Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh could not attend the AGM as he was outside Dhaka at that time. Everybody enjoyed the cultural show followed by dinner. Some important decisions were taken on the AGM. Before, JUAAB year begins at April and end at March in accordance to Japanese fiscal year. As Bangladeshi government make it compulsory for every institution to follow Bangladeshi fiscal year, we changed the JUAAB year from April-March to October - September in order to follow Bangladeshi fiscal year.

(2) Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

JUAAB EC always tried their best to do the work with highest sense of responsibility and transparency. Generally as per provision, in each of 3 (three) months, 2 (two) EC meetings needed to be conducted. A total of 24 EC meetings were conducted for smooth conduction of JUAAB activities last one year. Several meetings were also held with Embassy officials for strengthening relation between JUAAB and Japan Embassy.

(3) Pitha Utshob

Pitha Utshob is an integral part of Bangladeshi culture. In order to give an understanding about Bangladeshi culture, especially about pitha utshob to Japanese, we arrange this festival in JUAAB on 3 March, 2023. His Excellency IWAMA Kiminori and Mrs Kiminori attended the Utshob. Mr. Yamamoto from cultural division of Japanese Embassy was also present. In order to make it as a family gathering also, all the members of JUAAB along with their spouses were invited. Many of them were present on the day. It was a grand success as Mr. and Mrs. Kiminori tested many of the Bangladeshi pithas and inquired about them. We arrange live preparation of pitha in front of the guests so that they can understand and enjoy about how pithas are prepared in Bangladesh. A special thanks to Dr. Md. Joyal Abdin for proposing and organizing the event with the help of all EC members and staffs of JUAAB.

(4) Grant assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project (GCGP)

After a long and intense negotiation with Japanese Embassy we were successful to obtain the grant. A large number of institutions were interested for the grant. The main aim of the grant was to renovate and upgrade the JUAAB office so that it could be declared as JUAAB Japanese cultural center. We are grateful to HE Ito Naoki for his personal effort regarding this matter. We are also grateful to Prof. Dr. AKM Moazzem Hussain for his advice and guidance which helps us to obtain the grant.

(5) Mr. Yamamoto's visit to JUAAB

Mr. Yamamoto visited JUAAB office on 11 June, 2023. The main purpose of his visit was to see the progress of implementation of the Cultural Grassroots Project. He also visited language class room and talk to them.

(6) MOU between Department of Japanese Studies, University of Dhaka and JUAAB

15 June, 2023 a MOU was signed between Department of Japanese Studies, Dhaka University and JUAAB. As the main goals of both are to spread Japanese Language and culture, we think that collaboration between us will benefit both of us.

(7) 'JUAAB Japanese Cultural Center' Inauguration Ceremony

As mention before, Japanese Embassy gave us Cultural Grassroots grant for declaring JUAAB office space as JUAAB Japanese cultural center. On August 26, 2023 the cultural center was officially inaugurated by his Excellency Honorable Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Mr. Iwama Kiminori. Honorable Chairperson of the parliamentary Standing Committee, Ministry of Culture Simeen Hussai Rimi, MP could not come to the occasion due to her personal program. Mrs Kiminori and two deputies of cultural division of Japanese Embassy, Mr. Komine and Mr. Yamamoto were also present in the ceremony. The Ceremony was attended by about 140 JUAAB members and guests. The program was very successful and lively. Honorable Ambassador Mr. Iwama Kiminori and Mrs. Kiminori were presented with crests. A documentary on JUAAB was also shown in the function which gave a good glimpse of JUAAB for the audience. We appreciate the contribution of Bangladesh Ikebana Association (BIA) and especially Mr. Masud Karim for making such a nice documentary on JUAAB.

(8) General Election of JUAAB

As per provision of JUAAB constitution, Executive Committee Election of JUAAB should be held every two years. That is Executive Committee is formed for two years and new committee is elected through election after two years. This year was election year for JUAAB. Election was held on 1st September, 2023 at JUAAB Office, 28 Indira Road, Farmgate, and two panels contested the election. A total of 390 members took part in the election process. Election was held in a festive atmosphere with highest transparency. Honorable chairman of Advisory Council of JUAAB Prof. Dr. A. K. M. Moazzem Hussain was the Chief Election Commissioner. Two other honorable members of Advisory Council of JUAAB, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Mahmud and Prof. Dr. Mohibur Rahman were also in the Election Commission as members. JUAAB facilitated all the necessary arrangement for the smooth conduction of the election.

(9) JUAAB Newsletter

As always JUAAB Newsletter was published for AGM. It contain round the year JUAAB news and activities.

(C) Activities related to Japanese language

(1) JUAAB Japanese Language School

JUAAB Japanese Language School is one of the best language schools in Bangladesh. From the beginning, the school is trying to teach Japanese language with utmost sincerity and devotion. Mostly the school teaches N-5 level language course for 6 months and 3 months known as long course and short course respectively. Recently Japanese Government has decided to hire employees from Bangladesh but the condition is that they have to have at least N-3 level language knowledge. So we are giving more emphasis on higher level language teaching so that Bangladeshi people could learn advance course and could avail the opportunity to go to Japan for employment.

From January 2023 to July 2023, 07 long courses on N5 level, 01 short courses and three six months course of N4 level was completed successfully. New six months JLPT Level course have been started from August, 2023. After the end of each course, certificates were distributed through a ceremonial event. Last year a total of 560 students were enrolled in JUAAB language school. In JLPT examination students of JUAAB Japanese Language school doing better in comparison to the students of other Japanese Language school in Bangladesh.

(2) Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

Under the authority of Japan Foundation, through the direct supervision of Japan Embassy in Bangladesh, JUAAB conducting Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) in the month of July and December every year. Students from all Japanese Language School in Bangladesh take part in this test. JLPT Exam-2023 was held on July, 02. The number of participants for this JLPT was 5318. JUAAB life Members of different institutions was the Proctors and Assistant Proctors to conduct the JLPT. Next JLPT exam will be held on December 3, 2023. A total of 9708 students have registered for December JLPT.

We are extremely grateful to all the life members of JUAAB who had done their duty as proctor and assistant proctor during this time of pandemic. Without your help it might be impossible to conduct the JLPT examination physically. Thank you very much.

(3) The 14th National Speech Contest in Japanese Language

The 14th Japanese speech contest in Japanese Language was held on 25 February, 2023 at 'Multi-purpose Hall Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh. A preliminary contest for short-listing of candidates was held at JUAAB office on 11 February. Total sixteen contestants were selected, 5 each from advance and beginners category for the final speech contest. Mr. Ken Komine from embassy of Japan, Mrs. Eiko Hussain was present as Judge in the preliminary round. During final contest His Excellency IWAMA Kiminori Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh was present. Japan Commerce & Industry Association in Dhaka, Kaicom Solutions, SAITO, ITOCHU, Sumitomo Corporation, Nagasaki Japanese Restaurant, Nippon Koei, Mitsubishi Corporation, Marubeni, YKK Bangladesh Pte. Ltd. Were present through their representative.

Christina Miti Rozario from Beginners category stood 1st. Shaher Azad and Shohoj Amullo Ahmed and Raisa Samiha Reza stood 2nd, 3rd 4th respectively from Beginners category. Tanzina Afroz stood 1st from advanced category. Salman Sakib and Ashraful Amin stood 2nd and 3rd respectively from advanced category. Japan Embassy's Certificate, Japanese company's gift and educational tools was given to First, Second and Third position holders and all participants received the certificate.

(4) UNDP- JUAAB Meeting

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) wanted to spread Japanese Language program throughout Bangladesh. They rightly pointed out that all the Japanese Language School is situated in the capital city Dhaka. Many students outside Dhaka are

unable to learn Japanese language as a result. So they contacted Japanese embassy and discuss this matter with them. Japanese embassy suggested them to contact with JUAAB in order to implement their program. As a result UDPP and JUAAB are discussing about the ways how to spread Japanese language through the country. At present we are consulting with the UNDP in order to find out concrete ways to implement the process

(5) Meeting with other Japanese Language Schools

Regular meetings are held with different Japanese Language Schools in Bangladesh and also in Japan regarding teaching Japanese language to Bangladeshi students.

(6) Consulting for JLPT pass students for admission into language school in Japanese

After JLPT exam, those who are passed different levels of language try to get admission in one of many Japanese Language School in Japan. JUAAB give consultancy service to this students so that they can find appropriate school in Japan and their visa application is successful in Japanese embassy in Bangladesh.

(D) Activities with Japan Embassy in Bangladesh

(1) 50th year's anniversary dinner at Embassy

2022 was a special year for Japan Bangladesh relation. It was the 50th anniversary of Japan Bangladesh relationship. So Japanese Embassy arranged many programs throughout the year. On 30 June, 2022, H.E. Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh invited many people from different spectrum of life. JUAAB EC members were also invited.

(2) Farewell of HE Naoki ITO

After a very busy and productive tenure HE Naoki ITO invited us for a Farewell party on 7 December, 2022.

We are extremely thankful to him for all he has done for JUAAB and Bangladesh. Wish him a very successful life wherever he stays. We will always miss him.

(3) Courtesy visit to HE Iwama KIMINORI

After departure of HE Naoki ITO, HE Iwama KIMINORI joins as new Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh. As always we gave him a courtesy visit on 8 January 2023 and welcome him in Bangladesh. We assure our all-out support and cooperation to him during his stay in Bangladesh.

(4) Cultural Grassroots Grant Signing Ceremony

23 January, 2023 is a historic day for JUAAB. On the day we finally signed Cultural Grassroots Grant project with Japanese Embassy. It fulfills the longstanding dream of our founder members and all the members of JUAAB for having a cultural center here in Bangladesh.

(5) Emperor Birthday

On Japanese Emperor's Birthday on 23 February 2023, the embassy invited JUAAB President for the dinner. A large number of Diplomats, Politician and high officials of Bangladesh attended this program.

(6) Meeting between Japanese Embassy and Japanese language Schools in Dhaka

Japanese Embassy organized a meeting between Japanese Embassy and different Japanese language schools in Dhaka. They discuss about the state of language teaching in different schools and their difficulties, teaching Japanese language. Meeting expresses the view that this kind of interaction should continue so that they could exchange ideas and discuss various problems they face.

(7) Read Book Project

Under this project Japanese embassy gave us books on Japan in English. It was a very good addition in our library as we were looking for good books to keep in the library.

Professor Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Khan

General Secretary

Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh (JUAAB)

JUAAB COURSES

Japanese Language Courses: (Online & Offline)

Six-months long course for those intending to sit for JLPT (N-5, N-4 & N-3) and also to continue higher level courses and higher studies in Japan Classes: 3 days a week, Fees TK. 25,000/ Three months short courses (3 times a year) for those willing to learn the basic conversation.

Fees TK. 12,000/

Ikebana and Dry Flower making courses:

The course fee TK. 6,000/- for three months



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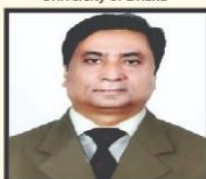
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