DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Dear Colleagues and future JISPA applicants,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the Japan- IMF Scholarship Program for Asia (JISPA), a unique initiative that has supported young officials from key economic agencies in the Asia-Pacific region, who are committed to contributing to the economic development and sound policy-making of their home countries.

Since its inception in 1993 as a "boutique" scholarship program that aims to enhance the macroeconomic management of target countries in the region, including Central Asia, JISPA has provided opportunities for young government and central bank officials to develop their expertise in economic policy through graduate studies in Japan. The IMF Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OAP) is proud to administer this esteemed program sponsored by the Government of Japan.

JISPA has two tracks: the Master's Track and the Ph.D. Track. The Master's Track is the flagship program of the scholarship, in which we partner with four prestigious universities in Japan: The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Hitotsubashi University, International University of Japan, and The University of Tokyo. Each of these institutions offers a tailored curriculum—all in English—that balances theoretical foundations with practical applications, ensuring that our scholars are well-prepared to tackle real-world economic challenges when they return to their organizations after earning graduate degrees.

The JISPA Ph.D. Track offers highly motivated government officials the opportunity to pursue doctoral studies at any accredited university in Japan. The program is designed for scholars who seek to further advance research skills required for their future roles as prominent economic policymakers and institutional leaders, who hold a strong commitment to contribute to policy formulation in addressing complex challenges in their home countries.

Beyond academic training, JISPA's boutique approach fosters a close-knit community of scholars, which leads to a strong alumni network: another intangible value offered by the program. Even after graduating from JISPA, our alumni remain closely connected through a strong regional network. For instance, we offer the JISPA Continuing Education (JISPA-CE) program, where we invite selected alumni back to Japan for a training program where alumni are updated with the latest developments in economic policy.

With over 1,000 scholarships awarded from JISPA, our alumni have gone on to hold senior roles in central banks, ministries of finance, and other key institutions to lead the countries' economic policies and thence contributing to the growth and stability of the world economy. The growing influence of the alumni reflects JISPA's lasting impact on capacity development in the Asia-Pacific.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to evolving JISPA to meet the changing needs of the global economy. We are excited to continue our collaboration with the Government of Japan and our partner universities to provide an exceptional educational experience that empowers the next generation of economic leaders.

Thank you for your interest in the program, and we look forward to receiving your application to JISPA.

Warm regards,

TAKASHI NAGAOKA
Director
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