



IMF

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

## 2014 Internship Report

Every year, the IMF Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OAP) recruits two interns; one in an Economist and the other in a Communications position.

Let's hear stories from the interns of 2014.

First, **Norito Manabe**, a Communications intern.

### —Why did you decide to apply for the position?

I would like to work for the World Bank and be engaged in the field of the environment and development. So I thought it would be a great opportunity to get to know what it is like to work for an international organization.

### —What are the roles of the communications intern?

The roles vary, but these are the projects that I was working on; preparing for events and seminars and creating novelty goods and publicity materials. In September 2014, Ms. Christine Lagarde, the Managing Director of IMF, came to Japan to give a speech at an international symposium, and I contributed to preparing briefing books and interviews.

### —Have you gained any special experience being an intern at OAP?

Definitely the Managing Director's visit. It was such a great honor to work with one of the most powerful women in the world.

### —What is the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific?

The office is also called OAP, and its roles include monitoring regional developments and assessing progress and issues in regional integration and cooperation.

### —Any messages for future interns?

Through the internship, I was able to put my future plan into a more concrete shape. Of course, it was challenging, but I learned many lessons from the internship. I hope more and more people will share the experience.



Norito Manabe  
Born in 1989. Earned MSc from University College London in 2014.



At Global Festa Japan 2014

At the Global Festa, I explained the roles and the history of the IMF using materials I had made. Also, I tried to gain the interest from a lot of people by offering novelty goods.



IMF goods I designed.

Next, **Kentaro Murayama**, an Economist Intern.

—Can you introduce yourself?

I study Development Studies and trading at a graduate school in the US. I hope to work for an international organization in the future, and I am interested in both research and operation and monitoring of an economy, and this is why I applied for the position. I believe this is something you cannot do at school.

—As an Economist intern, what do you do?

At the beginning of the internship, I was given assignments and did research. It was mainly about Japan's economic growth, equality, and the potential impacts of Abenomics. Also, I researched female employment in Japan and the impacts of an aging population. For instance, policies such as pulling out of deflation and promotion of employment. In addition, I was also engaged in reporting on regular announcements from the government and the central bank of Japan to the HQ in Washington D.C.

—Have you faced any difficulties during the internship?

When I was doing research at university, I just needed to be good at a specific field. However, at IMF, a broader knowledge and specialties were required. One of my duties was answering questions about IMF publications, and I needed to have knowledge to answer such questions. Of course it was challenging, but it encouraged me to gain deeper knowledge.

—Any comments for future interns?

I had enough time to undertake research and was also able to do operation work. Answering questions about IMF publications helped me to develop an in-depth knowledge. It widened my view, so hopefully those who are interested in the position will apply.



Kentaro Murayama  
Born in 1983. Doing PhD in  
Economics at American  
University.



**Schedule of one day**

10:00	Come to work
11:00	Check news papers and economic indicators
11:30	Meeting with supervisor
12:00	Lunch
13:00	Research
15:00	Staff meeting
16:00	Meeting with IMF workers from HQ
17:00	Research
18:00	Leave work

Now, let's ask more stories from two interns.

**—What are good memories of the internship at IMF?**

**Kentaro:** It was great to talk to experts from various fields. And I also enjoyed chatting with other interns.

**Norito:** Lunch time was my favorite. There are many restaurants near the office, so I sometimes went to have lunch with others from IMF.

**—You both studied at University outside Japan, and what did you study?**

**Norito:** I studied Environmental Studies including topics such as climate change, sustainable development and biodiversity. My dissertation was about nuclear power in Japan.

**Kentaro:** I am currently working on my thesis on food security in sub-Saharan Africa. I found it is important to see the differences among individuals and regions.

**—What do you plan to do in the future?**

**Kentaro:** I hope to be engaged in work which has both research and operation roles. Specifically, development-related work at a think tank or an international organization.

**Norito:** I will start working for a trading company from April 2015. I would like to do business in the environment and infrastructure sectors. In the future, I hope to work at the World Bank.

**—Can you give us your overall impression of doing the internship?**

**Norito:** It was such a great experience to work for an international organization while living in Japan. I was able to accomplish my original aim to know what it is like to work for an international organization.

**Kentaro:** I learned a lot of things through the internship. And it was also nice to meet people from various fields. Meeting experts was the best thing during the internship.

