

JUAAB NEWS

VOLUME 23

AGM Issue

September 2024

Bangladesh



JUAAB AGM 2024

28 September, 2024

Ambassador IWAMA Kiminori's Message



Embassy of Japan
in Bangladesh

I am delighted to express my heartfelt felicitations to all the member of JUAAB on the occasion of the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Japanese Universities Alumni Association of Bangladesh (JUAAB). We really appreciate JUAAB's steadfast commitment and hard work which have helped us deepen people-to-people interactions and mutual cooperation between our two countries.

JUAAB is the largest Japanese alumni organization in Bangladesh at present. Its dynamic leadership and members are conducting JLPT very efficiently. The number of applicants for JLPT has been increasing in recent years. This July, the number of examinees was almost 10,000. It was a huge task and we really appreciate JUAAB's leadership during JLPT implementation.

In August 2023, JUAAB established its Japanese Cultural Center by improving facilities under the scheme of 'Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (GCGP)'. I am delighted to know that they have organized various Japanese cultural programs like origami workshop, tea ceremony, Japanese film show, Ikebana demonstration, Japanese conversation program etc. in this cultural center. I hope JUAAB will utilize this facility to engage more people to enjoy Japanese culture.

I sincerely hope JUAAB will continue to strive towards facilitating academic, social, cultural and people-to-people interactions between two countries for years to come. I wish every success of this annual general meeting.

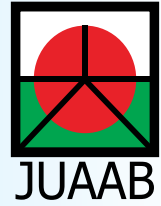
IWAMA Kiminori

Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh.



Message of the JUAAB President

23rd Annual General Meeting of JUAAB



I am truly pleased that “JUAAB News-letter”-2024 is going to be published on the occasion of 23rd AGM of Japanese Universities Alumni association in Bangladesh. Since its (I) formation in the year 2000 by our senior fellows is working with the vision to promote friendship between Bangladesh and Japan through sharing and exchange of cultures, knowledge and technologies by organizing different national socio-cultural events of the two countries, (II) to organize Japanese language course, Ikebana course, origami demonstration, Bangladeshi traditional cake (Pitha) festival, Japanese language speech contest for Bangladeshi nationals, Bangla language speech contest for Japanese nationals and other aspects of Japanese cultural activities for Bangladeshi nationals.

JUAAB conduct education seminar in different Universities of Bangladesh focusing on education systems and opportunities of higher education facilities in Japan.

Dedication and hard work of present executive committee have enable us to build one of the most innovative and vibrant association in Bangladesh.

On behalf of Japan foundation every year first Sunday of July and December JUAAB conduct Japanese Language Proficiency Test in Bangladesh. I must extend my gratitude to all executive committee and general members for their passion and vigor efforts that make successful and smooth conduction of December-23 and July-24 JLPT examination. It create not only a positive impact of Japan foundation to JUAAB but it is an ambitious journey to accelerate the relationship between JAPAN and Bangladesh.

We remain steadfast in our efforts to create a more diversity in successful events not only in Dhaka but also in different region of the country.

We are profoundly grateful for the essential contribution from the present and previous His Excellency Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh who plays a vital role in the continued vibrancy and success of our association. This executive committee recognize all JUAAB members for their participation in all events of JUAAB to make them success.

As I embark on my second year as president of this organization I am more certain than ever that our organization's 24 years of success can be attributed to the all past Executive committees, Advisory council and each members of JUAAB.

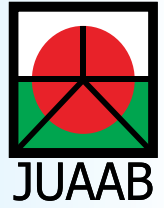
I with my members of executive committee want to set a vision which is a commitment to continuous pushing the boundaries of events and innovation.

With our vital mission at the forefront we are eager to reach a new heights of excellence which will act as thread, that will helps to make strong bonding between Japan and Bangladesh.

Professor Dr. Md. Khorshed Alam
President, JUAAB



Editorial



Dear esteemed readers, on behalf of the editorial board of the Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh (JUAAB), it's my immense pleasure to pen down this editorial note. It is my honour and privilege to serve our organization and communicate with you all through this platform. It gives us 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 LETTER-2024".

We all know that JUAAB was launched on 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.

JUAAB has made remarkable progress over the past 24 years. We are the biggest non-political organizations with highly educated about 911 life members. Now, we have our own modern 4000 sqft office space, international standard Japanese language School, a vibrant management team along with elected Executive Committee and Advisory Council. We are regularly organizing SAFJUA, education seminars on Japanese education system, conducting JLPT examinations, orientation for MEXT scholars, reception for returnee graduates, donation for natural calamity affected people in home and abroad, Hiroshima-Nagasaki day observation, etc. Recently, Five lacs taka was handed over to help the people of flood-affected areas from JUAAB by donating to the Relief and Welfare Fund of the honorable Chief Advisor.

It's really a great achievement for us all that JUAAB Japanese Cultural Center (JJCC) was established at JUAAB office premises on 26th August 2023 through support from the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects of Japan. Presently we are regularly organizing different Japanese cultural events like Origami Demonstration, SHADOO (Japanese Tea Ceremony), Ikebana Demonstration, Bengali Speech Contest for the Japanese, Japanese Film Show etc. at JJCC premises.

The current executive committee has tried its best to make JUAAB a unique organization in Bangladesh. New Executive Committee has already been elected in democratic way with large number of members participation. 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 innovative ideas and activities.

We aim to create a platform that will inspire, educate, and inform our members. As we want the newsletter to be as inclusive as can be, we encourage all of you to share your ideas and feedback with the editorial team. We value your input and look forward to hearing from you.

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.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to JUAAB. Let's work together to make a positive impact in our community and beyond.

Dr. Kashfia Ahmed
Editor,
JUAAB News
Research and Publication Secretary, JUAAB



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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

JUAAB MEMBERSHIP

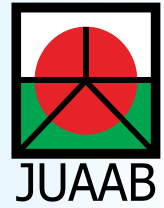
Citizens of Bangladesh having at least one academic degree (Bachelor, Master, Doctorate or equivalent) from a Japanese university shall be eligible for membership.

Subscription:

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



General Secretary's Report 23rd AGM of JUAAB 28 September 2024



Respected members of the Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh (JUAAB), Warm greetings to all of you!! It's our great pleasure to welcome you all to the 23rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of JUAAB. The current executive committee (EC) of JUAAB took charge on October 01, 2023, for the tenure of October 2023–September 2025. This EC was formed through a highly competitive and festive election held on September 10, 2023, casting about 400 votes. The elected EC office bearers were introduced in the last 22nd AGM of JUAAB held on 29 September 2023 at KIB, Farmgate.

We tried our level best in the last year to uphold the privilege of JUAAB members and the betterment of JUAAB as well. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all office bearers of the Executive Committee, the Advisory Council, and all the members of JUAAB for extending their kind cooperation to perform different activities during this period.

I would like to summarize our activities done after the last AGM in the following paragraphs:

A) General Information of JUAAB

1) JUAAB Members:

Since the establishment of JUAAB in 2000, initiatives have been being taken to increase the number of life members, and the number is steadily growing every year. New graduates from Japanese universities are frequently communicated by JUAAB EC members, encouraging them to become life members of JUAAB. Also, focal points at different institutions have been appointed to keep regular contact with Japanese graduates, encouraging them to become life members of JUAAB. Through this practice, 178 new life members were added, and now, the total life members of JUAAB stands at 911.

2) Financial & wealth status, and liabilities of JUAAB

Although the JUAAB Treasurer will present a detailed JUAAB financial report and audit report, I wish to take the opportunity to give you a brief financial and wealth status and liabilities of JUAAB at a glance.

i) JUAAB assets:

Apartment at Indira Road (JUAAB Office, 4000 sf) = Tk. 4,00,00,000/- (Four crores taka) [purchase price]

Apartment at Syamoli (1138 sf) = Tk. 73,00,000/- (Seventy lacs taka) [purchase price]

Fixed deposit receipt (FDR)=Tk. 1,00,00,000/- (One Crore taka)

JUAAB running balance: Tk. 6,10,85,090/- in bank account

(as of 30/06/2024) (With JLPT Registration fee)

ii) JUAAB liabilities: At present, JUAAB does not have any liabilities.

B) JUAAB Activities

1) Executive Committee (EC) Meeting

JUAAB EC always tried their best to do the work with the highest sense of responsibility and transparency. Generally, as per the JUAAB Constitution, in each of 3 (three) months, 2 (two) EC meetings needed to be conducted. A total of 12 EC meetings were performed for the smooth conduction of JUAAB activities last year. Several meetings were also held with the Japanese Embassy and Japan Foundation officials to strengthen relations between JUAAB and the Japanese Embassy.

2) Pitha Utshob

Pitha Utshob is an integral part of Bangladeshi culture. To give an understanding of Bangladeshi culture, especially about pitha utshob to the Japanese, JUAAB arranged this festival at the JUAAB office premises on 9 February 2024. His Excellency IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador of the Japanese Embassy and Mrs Kiminori attended the program. About 150 valued guest including Mr. Ken Komine, Head of cultural division of the Japanese Embassy, EC members, AC members, life members and their family members were present and enjoyed the tastes of popular Bangladeshi pithas.

3) Participation to Japan Alumni Conference

President of JUAAB, Prof. Dr. Khorshed Alam attended the 4th Japan Alumni Conference held in Tokyo, Japan, during March 3–9, 2024. A total of 14 countries from different regions of the world participated in the conference. The President presented the activities run by the JUAAB. The MOFA and Japan Foundation highly appreciated the presented activities. They also expressed their desire to extend their cooperation towards JUAAB activities.

4) Establishment and organizing programs of JJCC

JUAAB Japanese Cultural Center (JJCC) was established at JUAAB office premises through support from the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects of Japan. JUAAB implemented the project by receiving a grant of USD 66,216 (BDT. 62,82,175) through the Japan Embassy. In addition, JUAAB spent about Tk. 5,00,000/- (five lacs) to complete the JJCC establishment project paying IT & VAT as the condition of the grassroots project. JUAAB expresses sincere thanks to the people of Japan through the Japan Embassy in Bangladesh for the Grassroots grant. The JJCC inaugurated on 26 August 2023 has been being run by organizing different events as per the decisions of Language and

Cultural Sub-committee endorsed by the JUAAB EC. The JJCC organized the following events for the public at JJCC premises.

i) Origami Demonstration: Origami is a traditional Japanese Culture for making birds, animals and many other things using square-size colour papers. The technique of Origami is very much popular among the children of Japan Japanese Origami expert Mr. Ikeyama Kohshiro and Mrs. Eiko Hussain conducted the demonstration on February 03, 2024. About 40 people attended the program.

ii) Japanese Film Show: The Embassy of Japan provided the Japanese film to show at JCC on 24 February and 8 June 2024. About 50 audience enjoyed the Japanese movie.

iii) SHADOO (Japanese Tea Ceremony): The traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony (Shadoo) was demonstrated at JJCC on March 02, 2024 by a Japanese Expert, Mrs. Rie OKADA using the equipment lent by the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh.

iv) Ikebana Demonstration: JJCC organized the event for the general public on 27 January and 23 March, 2024 at JUAAB class room in collaboration with Bangladesh Ikebana Association (BIA). Ikebana is a traditional Japanese Culture for arranging fresh flowers in different styles based on specific measurements, and it is aimed at bringing peace of mind and harmony with nature.

v) Bengali Speech Contest for the Japanese: JUAAB organized the event with the kind support of an NGO, Ekmattra, on 26 April 2024 for the Japanese living in Bangladesh. JUAAB EC members and Mr. Ken Komine from the Japan Embassy were present in the program. A total of 8 contestants participated in the program. Mr Shoji Akihiro stood first, Ms Shiho Tanaka second, and Mr Al Namiki stood third in the contest. Mr. Hiroki Watanabe from the Ekmattra was present.

vi) Japanese Conversation: About 30 people attended the program held on May 25, 2024. Mrs. Eiko KAMBE and Ms. Natsuko Sato facilitated the Japanese conversation.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the respected members of the Language and Cultural Sub-committee, executive committee and resource persons who were involved in organizing the events.

5) JUAAB Newsletter

The JUAAB Newsletter was published for the AGM.

6) Donation for Flood affected victims

A Bank Cheque of Tk. 5,000,000/- (Five lacs taka) was handed over to the Manager of Sonali Bank Ltd., Manik Mia Avenue Branch, to help the people of flood-affected areas from JUAAB by donating to the Relief and Welfare Fund of the honorable Chief Advisor.

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 has been trying to teach Japanese language with utmost sincerity and devotion. The school mainly teaches three levels of Japanese Language courses—N5, N4 & N3 for six and three months, known as long and short courses, respectively. Recently, the Japanese government decided to hire employees from Bangladesh, but the condition was that they have to have at least N-3 level language knowledge. So, we are placing more emphasis on higher-level language teaching so that Bangladeshi people can learn advanced courses and have the opportunity to go to Japan for employment.

From August 2023 to July 2024, eight long courses at the N5 level and three six-month courses at the N4 level were completed successfully. A new six-month N5 Level course has started in September 2024. A new eight-month N3 level course is also running. After the end of each course, certificates were distributed through a ceremonial event. Last year, 560 students were enrolled in JUAAB language school. In the JLPT examination, JUAAB Japanese Language school students performed better than students of other Japanese Language schools in Bangladesh.

2) Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

Under the authority of the Japan Foundation, through the direct supervision of the Japan Embassy in Bangladesh, JUAAB conducts the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) in July and December every year. Students from all Japanese Language Schools in Bangladesh take part in this test. JLPT Exam was held on December 3, 2023, and July 7, 2024. The number of participants for this JLPT was 9708 and 10329, respectively. JUAAB life Members of different institutions served as the Proctors, Assistant Proctors, and test management team members to conduct the JLPT. The next JLPT exam will be held on December 1, 2024. A total of 11392 students have registered for December JLPT. In JLPT December 2023, a high-level representative from the Japan Foundation led by Ms Hasegawa Masayo, Director of Japan Foundation, visited Bangladesh and monitored the JLPT-related activities of JUAAB towards the test conduction. They expressed their higher satisfaction with the management of JUAAB for conducting this JLPT. JUAAB EC members discussed different JLPT-related issues, especially the budget, with them. After the fruitful discussion, the test honorarium of JUAAB members involved in conducting the JLPT could be increased to a greater extent. We are grateful to all the life members of JUAAB for your kind cooperation in conducting the JLPT with sincerity and in a very festive mode.

3) The 15th National Speech Contest in Japanese Language

The 15th Japanese speech contest was held on 17 February 2024 at the Multi-purpose Hall, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh. The program was organized jointly by JUAAB and the Japan Embassy. A preliminary contest for short-listing candidates was held at the JUAAB office on 10 February 2024. A total of 18 contestants were selected, five from the advanced and 13 from the beginners' categories, for the final speech contest. Mr. Yamamoto Kyohei from the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Ikeyama Kohshiro, and Mrs. Harue Zaman were present as judges in the preliminary round. His Excellency IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, was present during the final contest. Japan Commerce & Industry Association in Dhaka, Kaicom, Nagasaki Japanese Restaurant, SAITON-ENSI Bangladesh Ltd., ITOCHU, Marubeni, Nippon Koei, Mitsubishi Corporation, Medicare Japan, Kazuko Bhuiyan Trust, Alsok, Sojitz, Toyota Tsusho Corporation and Biman Bangladesh Airlines were present through their representative.

Atikuzzaman Al Mamun from the Beginners category and Surovi Akter from the Advanced category became the Champion. Biman Bangladesh Airlines sponsored two round-trip tickets from Bangladesh to Japan for the Champion of Advanced category. In addition, JUAAB sponsored USD 150 to Ms. Surovi Akter, a student of JUAAB Language school and the Champion of the advanced category. The Certificates, Japanese company souvenirs, and educational tools were given to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd prize winners; all participants received the certificates.

4) Meeting with other Japanese Language Schools

Regular meetings were held with different Japanese language schools in Bangladesh and Japan regarding teaching the Japanese language to Bangladeshi students.

5) Consulting service

The students who passed JLPT try to get admission to Japanese Language Schools in Japan. JUAAB gives consultancy services to these students to help them find an appropriate school in Japan and help their visa applications become successful at the Japanese Embassy in Bangladesh. JUAAB signed MOU between 4 Japanese Language Schools—International Art and Design College, Sendai; First College Kanazawa; Kyoto Minsai Japanese Language School; and Mirai Japanese Language School, Kobe. A total of 13 students enrolled in different Japanese Language Schools through the consulting service of JUAAB. Recently, an MOU between JUAAB and the International University of Japan (IUJ) was signed to provide consultancy services for Bangladeshi students who wish to enroll in IUJ for higher education in business studies.

6) JUAAB office visit by Japanese

Representatives from some Japanese Language Schools also visited the JUAAB office in November and December 2023 and March and April 2024. A fruitful discussion was held between them on further improvement of the Japanese Language Course and for collaboration. As JUAAB maintains an appropriate procedure in Japanese language teaching, such as syllabus, teaching tools, and listening materials in the course examinations process, they showed intention to accept students from JUAAB School for higher study in Japan. Initiative has been taken to develop MOU between JUAAB and Japanese Language institutions.

D) Activities with the Japanese Embassy in Bangladesh

1) Emperor Birthday

JUAAB President, General Secretary, and some other EC members with their spouses attended the dinner on 15 February 2024 at the residence of the Ambassador on the occasion of the Japanese Emperor's Birthday. Many Diplomats, Politicians, and high officials of Bangladesh attended this program.

2) Teachers' Training Program

Japan Foundation, New Delhi Office organized a one-month long Training for Teachers Program for the teachers of Japanese Language Schools in Bangladesh at the Embassy of Japan to train them up with modern teaching techniques of Japanese Language to attain the higher success of JLPT in Bangladesh. The JUAAB insisted Japan Foundation to organize this training program to enhance the quality in Japanese Language education in Bangladesh. Eighteen language teachers including one from JUAAB Language School attended the training program.

Professor Dr. Md. Alamgir Hossain

General Secretary

Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh (JUAAB)



JLPT Examination



15th Speech Contest



Japan Alumni Conference

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Published By : Executive Committee of JUAAB for the Term 'October 2023 -September 2025
Phone: 481 22116, Cell: 01749-762539, Website: www.juaab-bd.org, E-mail: info@juaab-bd.org