

# ABEイニシアティブ留学生の声

## Voices from ABE Initiative participants



**Michael Yidinne Bationo (Burkina Faso)**  
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### The development of the African continent will come from its youth

#### アフリカ大陸を発展させるのは若い力

It is an honor for me on this unique occasion to serve as a living testimony of the vitality of the relationship Africa and Japan have been nurturing over several decades. As a witness, it is also my pleasure to share my insights of what I like to label as a "win-win" partnership between two developments giants and unique cultural identities.



I am BATIONO Yidinne Michael, born and raised in Burkina Faso and proud African. Coming from one end of the planet to study and evolve on the other one, I have been frequently asked by my hosts: "Burkina Faso wa doko desuka?". Answering this question is each time an opportunity to shed light on the country where I forged my identity and strongly rooted in my belief system that in a more and more connected world, taking a chance to meet and learn from those who share with me a similar or even a different experience will give me the tools to help bridging the knowledge gap essential to any sustainable growth. Burkina Faso, also known as the country of honorable and honest people is a 274,200 km<sup>2</sup>

landlocked country located in West Africa and surrounded by six countries, making it a crossroad area in the region. Before landing in Japan nine months ago, I completed a 5-year stay in Senegal, another West African country where I completed a bachelor's in business administration and a master's degree in project management. Aware that the development of the African continent will come from its youth and fascinated the Japanese business culture and history, I successfully applied for the ABE Scholarship and I am pursuing a master's degree in international relations. I am convinced that this additional formation will provide me with the necessary skillset allowing a better understanding of the interests that lead countries in their relations with others, the means to mirror the development success stories I am encountering in my homeland and the opportunity to share an African approach on the Japanese land. In line with the ABE Program goals, I want to be a bridge linking Japan and Burkina Faso and ultimately serve to make not only Africa and Japan but the whole planet a better place. The TICAD 7 is a needed exchange platform to consolidate the cooperation between Japan Africa. I expect this conference to be the ordeal for the elaboration of policies compliant the domestic situation of each participants and an effective orientation of the Japanese aid. As an example, in Burkina Faso, the agricultural sector is one of the locomotives of the economy and is set to benefit to the whole world.



**Edem Dayon Dorfe (Ghana)**  
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I am a currently a full-time first year student in the International Masters' of Business Administration (IMBA) program of Waseda University. It's been a little over 7 months since I came to Japan last year. I like to work in the area of sales, marketing and business development, this is because, I love to be part of the creating and develop new connections and business possibility, as well as working on finding innovative ways to expand existing business. Studying in Japan so far has been a very wonderful experience for me. One of the questions that I get asked the most is "Why did you come to study in Japan?" I thought that coming to Japan would be a good learning experience for me, outside my comfort zone- different culture, food, and language. Secondly I am fascinated by Japanese attention to detail and culture of continuous improvement through Kaizen, which I was first learnt about when I watched documentary series about Japan in primary school. Daily life studying in Tokyo is both stressful and rewarding at the same time. I live one hour away from school and usually find myself in the rush hour. I have lectures every day, with many assignments and projects which are based on the analysis of real world business problems. I try to find the time to connect with friends and to attend cultural and networking events from time to time which gives me the opportunity to make new connections and learn more about different cultures; both Japanese and other countries. Before coming to Japan, I wasn't very interested in sports, but I have since



### Amazing level of orderliness in Japan

#### 驚くべき日本の秩序と他者への関心

come to enjoy playing soccer and dodgeball in my leisure time. I am amazed by the level of orderliness in Japan, and people's concern for others. Just recently, my student ID card dropped from my pocket on the train and I got a letter from the lost and found office of the police a week later about it. I have since retrieved my card and now I have my own little saying: in Japan, everything comes back to you. Coming from a developing country like Ghana, we still have a long way to go and a lot to learn on our journey to development. Ghana's government has recently launched industrialization project it has dubbed as "one district, one factory" which aims at creating manufacturing centers in every district. The reason behind this movement is to try to reduce Ghana's over-dependence on imports. This is in line with TICAD's first pillar - Promotion of economic structural changes through economic diversification and industrialization. It is my hope that upcoming TICAD will provide the opportunity for Japanese companies to understand more about my government's policy for industrialization and would be more motivated to expand their interests in Ghana and Africa at large. Even though, Japan and Africa may be considered far away by geographical location, it is my hope that we get closer together, through trade and partnership. At the end of my 2 year program, I do not want to have graduated with only knowledge from books and lectures, but I want to be able to form connections with companies and people from all over the world, to share ideas, to collaborate and to find new innovations that I can introduce to my country and continent. This is my dream and vision. On the other hand, I would like to be an ambassador for my country, to share information about my culture and situation in my country that will help companies make informed business decision concerning my home.

**Hind Mahmoud Elhaj Mohammed (Sudan)**  
ヒンド マハモード・エルハージ・モハメド (スーダン)  
Kyushu Institute of Technology Graduate School of Engineering  
ABE Initiative 5th batch participant

### Language is the key to fully understand Japanese way of thinking and living

#### 日本語は日本式のやり方を理解する鍵

Coming to Japan was a dream come true for me. I can still remember it clearly, when the airplane landed in Haneda airport and I set my foot in Tokyo. "Hind! You made it!" I said to myself. My name is Hind Mahmoud by the way. I was filled with happiness, excitement and ready to experience and try everything I read and watched about Japan and Japanese culture. It was time to live the dream to the fullest.

Since I came here, I've tried every food you could think of, be it exotic or not, Takoyaki, Okonomiyaki, Sashimi, Natto,...etc. I've visited Beppu, Hakata, Shimonoseki, Tokyo and planning to visit more. I am from an African country that has the most number of pyramids -not Egypt- and the longest river in the world. Were you able to guess it? Yes, it's Sudan. Sudan is geographically and populationally diverse with a lot of mineral, livestock and other natural resources. But unfortunately due to many factors we are struggling as a nation to rise. I lived half of my life in Oman a country in the middle east and the latter half in Sudan and currently living in Japan. Living in three different societies with a lot of contrast between them and some similarities, broadens any person's

mind and makes him/her more adjustable and understanding. I really advise you to live in/or visit other countries. I consider myself lucky to be an ABE initiative participant and a systems engineering master student at Kyushu Institute of Technology in LaPlace laboratory where small satellites are built by students and students are nurtured to grow and advance. All of the above leads to a very important question "what am I going to do with this great opportunity?" Step one is to learn the Japanese language. I believe language is the key to fully understand Japanese way of thinking and living. Step two is to build a network through conferences, internships, events and social activities with Japanese people. One of the important advantages of ABE is the network we have among the African participants. Pairing this with the Japanese network is definitely a gain. Step three is to seek the possibility to work in a Japanese company and help by putting my knowledge and experience in practice. I can also provide all the information needed to enter the Sudanese market and African market through the network I have. And help them understand the needs of market, while also developing my country through those investments.



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