

Introducing IUJ Alumni contributing Government and IO roles:

A small selection of IUJ talent



HH Ade Padmo Sarwono, Ambassador to Palestine and Jordan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia



Class of 1994
MA, International Politics
Thesis: Japan-ASEAN Relations: Focusing on The Security Dimension

“IUJ is where you expand your knowledge, global awareness and friendships, and for diplomatic careers there is nothing better.”

What are you doing now?

After serving in Australia as Counselor General, I became the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Indonesia to ASEAN in Jakarta from 2019 to 2021. So my position was unique: an Ambassador in my own country. My task focused on ASEAN and its cooperation with external partners such as Japan. Recently, I was appointed as the Ambassador of Indonesia to Jordan and Palestine. My mission is to strengthen our understanding and mutual relationships for increased interaction and ties where possible.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

I was introduced to IUJ by my government which also provided me a scholarship to pursue my graduate studies in international political and diplomatic fields. I feel fortunate to have studied at IUJ because it has excellent and well-known lecturers not only in Japan but also globally.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

It has helped me a lot. Not only with regional understands, cross-cultural communication skills and better sense for diplomatic work, but with a network of international friends to compliment that. I now find it Interesting that my thesis is about ASEAN and Japan relations and at that time I did not know that half of my diplomatic career would be dealing with ASEAN, including Japan!



In discussions with the Secretary General of ASEAN and members of ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)



ASEAN CPRs Meeting with Australian Foreign Ministers at Nusantara Hall, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia

HE Alan L. Deniega Ambassador of the Philippines to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives



Class of 1991
Degree MA, International Politics
Thesis topic: *The Flow of Filipino Workers into Japan in Context of the Philippine Manpower Export Strategy*

“During our time in the early 90s, we were provided with state-of-the-art computers and equipment that helped connect us with the world: we were truly an international university in Japan.”

What are you doing now?

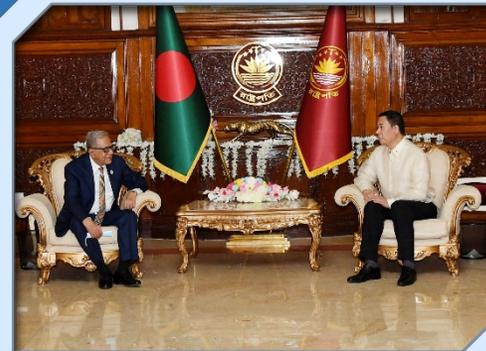
I am presently the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Bangladesh, with concurrent jurisdiction to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Before this office, I was Consul General in the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, and before that, I was Deputy Chief of Mission at the Philippine Embassy in Brussels, Belgium. I have been a career diplomat for more than 25 years now, after studying at Keio University after IUJ.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

My professor in the Asian Center in the University of the Philippines, Prof. Josefa Saniel, was training me to enter the academe, and she recommended that I pursue further studies in Japan, after studying Japanese language in the Osaka University of Foreign Studies. The program of IUJ in international studies is also well-known among academic circles in the Philippines, and provides very good training -- and networking -- in the field of international studies.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

Living in the beautiful landscape of Niigata, and interacting with the friendly people of Urasa and its neighboring places, was a source of fantastic memories. Many friends from various countries were made, including classmates from Bangladesh. The university's location also helped the students focus on their studies and network with one another. I made many friends during my time in IUJ, including many who have become government officials, including diplomats and ambassadors, as well.



Meeting with the President of Bangladesh



Amb. Deniega with his team in the Philippine Embassy in Dhaka

Mr. Zulqarnain H. Anjum, Head of Programs, UNHCR Representational Office, Uganda



Class of 2000
International Development, MA
Thesis topic: Private Sector Participation
in Infrastructure Finance
Pakistan

“ IUJ Showed me that career excellence only comes after service to humanity.”

What are you doing now?

My career has been exciting and diverse since my graduation over 20 years ago. It started at National Reconstruction Bureau in Pakistan, building on my IUJ thesis topic. I then joined the UN, and my field assignments have taken me to Sudan, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Liberia and to Global Learning and Development Centre in Budapest and then to Geneva to support many country operations in the field. Recently I was the member of UN Country Team in Liberia and now as Head of Programme, dealing with biggest refugee programme in Africa in Uganda working closely with the Uganda governments at various levels, national and international partners and donor community as well as refugees and local host communities.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

I was with the civil service in my country before heading to IUJ for the Masters programme in International Development. I was very much interested in this programme because I wanted to get some answers to my development related questions and extreme poverty related challenges in my country. My colleagues and friends guided me in my journey to IUJ.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

“IDP is a well managed and highly flexible programme that exceeds the expectations of students. It is taught by faculty who displays genuine interest in students’ research. The programme focuses on building problem-solving and analytical skills and prepares the students to overcome practical problems in the field of development planning, macroeconomic management, project finance, etc.

The long-term relationship with my supervisor even after graduation is one of the most valuable assets from IUJ that has furthered my development and enhanced my career”. IUJ has been my strength throughout my personal and professional life.



Handing over of bridge project in a refugee settlement in Liberia in 2019



Meeting with Government Official in Fort Portal Uganda in 2021

**Ms. Cigdem Akin,
Principal Public Management Economist,
Central and West Asia Department
Asian Development Bank**



**Class of 2000, Turkey
MA, International Development
Major Concentration on Economic
Development in Asia-Pacific Region**

“IUJ opens up the world to its students, and provides the practical skills to contribute to it.”

What are you doing now?

I provide expertise in country-wide economic planning and development of policy & strategy for countries in Central and West Asia in macroeconomic reform; public resource management; revenue mobilization; micro, small, and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) development and related areas

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

After receiving a BA in International Relations, I wanted to expand my international outlook and become more skilled in economics and development issues to help not only my homeland of Turkey, but the emerging markets as well. IUJ seemed to be the obvious choice.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

IUJ was my launching pad into an academic and research career in development economic fields. With IUJ as my foundation, I moved on to training with the IMF, then a PhD in International Economics. After teaching Economics to graduate students, I joined ADB and have enjoyed work in economic policy and project implementation to benefit many countries in South, Central and Western Asia. On occasion I am able to collaborate with fellow IUJers here at ADB.



Beginning a career as an Economist at ADB



Instructing students at Johns Hopkins University, SAIS

Mr. Coldrine Kolae, Solomon Islands Deputy Director, Digital Transformation, Ministry of Communication & Aviation



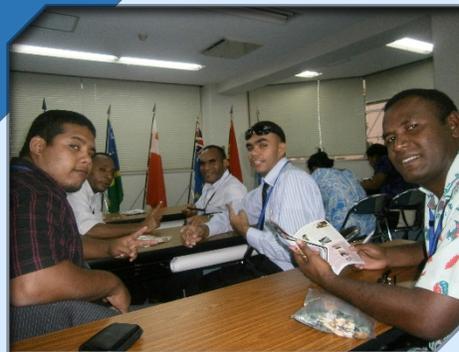
**Class of 2021
MBA**

Thesis: *ICT Intervention Contributes to Improve Service Delivery in the Public Sector – Case of Solomon Islands*

“IUJ with its experienced and specialised faculty and its rich curriculum have enlightened and equipped me to unlock the challenges of today’s business activities. More importantly, IUJ helped me establish and expand my global network of professional friends through academic and social interactions.”

What are you doing now?

Before studying at IUJ, I served as Assistant Secretary, Human Resource Management Information Systems (HRMIS). Now am a Deputy Director of Digital Transformation, a new and developing sector in our government. My role is to develop national digital transformation strategy and liaise with the national industries and International key agencies.



At a training program with fellow South Pacific government officials: from Nauru and PNG

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

IUJ drew my attention with its MBA program and curriculum, especially the E-business and digital transformation emphasis. This triggered me to seek a nomination from my government to study at IUJ. An additional importance was to improve my global understanding as well as meet new friends from all over the world – a unique feature of campus.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

The two years at IUJ helped me to grow professionally. I have now transferred to another challenging and timely environment: looking at developing, implementing and monitoring e-governance, digital transformation and e-commerce strategy for the Solomon Islands.



Coldrine, far right, with classmates from Vanuatu and Tuvalu

HE Ian Walcott

Barbados Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade



Class of 1996
MA, International Relations
Thesis: *The Dynamics of the International System*

“IUJ gave me a firsthand glimpse into Japanese culture; an unforgettable experience that I carry with me every day of my life. I try to emulate and share Japan’s culture of excellence, respect for time and discipline.”

What are you doing now?

Leading the diplomatic team as Ambassador to Panama, the scope of our Mission is quite wide. We have concurrent accreditation to all the countries in Central America, Mexico and Colombia. I help play a pivotal role with key promotional agencies, like the Barbados Tourism Marketing, Inc., as tourism is still our main industry. Further, I represent my country’s interests through Commercial Diplomacy – this is at the top of our agenda. Panama is a strategic hub for the Caribbean and all of Latin America so we are tactically located to support Barbadian companies interested in doing business in this region.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

Of all the grad schools with diplomatic training in International Relations (IR) in the 1990s, IUJ was the one school that offered the opportunity to learn about the business world as well. This gave me a blend of both worlds: business and IR. IUJ is still doing this today and anyone in IR and diplomatic fields really should take advantage of it.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

It is hard to explain the world of 1994 to today’s young people (smile) but IUJ was far ahead of its time. The training that we had in IT, data and our early exposure to the Internet definitely gave us a competitive advantage in the workplace. We didn’t quite realize at the time that we were being prepared for Computer, Internet, Software and Data literacy. All of those skills are still relevant today. In fact, in 2021, I still feel very much ahead of the curve with the skills acquired at IUJ in the mid-1990s. That’s amazing. IUJ continues to push the curve with its Digital Transformation program, and IR students can cross-register into some of those classes.



Presenting credentials to the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Panama, February 2020



Caribbean Community diplomats in Panama representing Barbados (Ian Left), Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Kiradit Sachdev
Human Migration Section, Social
Division, International
Organizations Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA),
Thailand



Class of 2004
MA, International Development
Thesis: *Global and regional analysis of economic and social factors on civil conflict*
Thai

“At I IUJ I always felt the warmth, despite an over-the-head level deposits of snow.”

What are you doing now?

After experiencing several posts with MOFA, including serving as Thai-Diplomat to Peru, I am now back in Thailand mainly dealing with issues related to illegal migrants in Thailand. This includes economic migrants, victims of trafficking and people escaping violence and persecutions and in need of international protection. I work to find sustainable solutions for them.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

I had a passion to work in the area of peace and conflict resolutions. IUJ offers dynamic programs with strong faculty members that I saw would enhance my academic skills and support my research goals at the time. Other factors were diversity of student bodies (from over 50 nations) and opportunity to live and study in Japan (including strong language programs).

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

I have significantly improved my core academic skills, which supported me through the diplomatic entrance-examination of MOFA Thailand. Since IUJ, I have never had culture shock and could assimilate myself wherever I go. This is because the time spent at IUJ was like being in a mini-earth, where I absorbed culture and differences of people from all around the globe. IUJ has given me the edge.



Speaking on behalf of Thailand at the United National General Assembly



Meeting with the President of Peru during the Ambassador’s Credential presentation.

Ms. Mayril Dizon Arciaga

Performance Management Section, Officer-In-Charge, Human Resource Management and Development Division, Department of Finance, Government of the Philippines



Class of 2020

MA

International Relations

Special research related to SDGs: *"A Study of Siargao Island of the Philippines - Sustainable Tourism"*

"IUJ is the right place in building a community of future leaders who want to make the world better."

What are you doing now?

Presently, I work under the Performance Management Section of the Human Resource Management and Development Division. My task is to ensure that employees' performances are aligned with the Department's objectives and strategic goals.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

I was working at the Department of Finance in the Philippine government. Feeling my finance career would benefit from a more international perspective, I decided to try for a JICA scholarship through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Global Leadership Program and was fortunately selected. I am so happy I went for it. Now, back at the Department of Finance, I draw upon my new world view daily.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

My experience in IUJ was really a life-changing, humbling and fulfilling experience. It provided me a strong foundation in the guidance of management which empowered me as a global citizen and helped me to be more competent as a civil servant. Studying in IUJ equipped me with great international network and significant skills that could take me into exciting management and leadership roles.



Giving guidance to her team in the quarterly review session.



Enjoying Diversity in the IUJ Classroom: the growth of a professional network the spans the globe

Ms. Bhagya Edirisinghage, Director, Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development, Government of Sri Lanka



Class of 2020

MBA

Thesis: *Analysis and Recommendations of Impact on Overseas Trainings to Individual Leadership Performance in Public Sector with Special Reference to Western Province in Sri Lanka*

“The best place to acquire knowledge, skills and cross-cultural diversity understanding.”

What are you doing now?

After 10 years of public sector services, I am currently responsible for infrastructure development for Export Processing Zones, investment promotion for local and foreign stakeholders, supervising and monitoring investment projects implemented by Board of Investment. My current career goal is to attract the \$5 billion FDI for sustainable development in Sri Lanka by 2025.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

IUJ is a well recognized US-style business school in Japan that earned AACSB international accreditation and is ranked well by the Economist’s “Best Business School.” As a young manager, interested to learn entrepreneurship, IT strategies and digital business transformation IUJ was the best place for me. I could fulfil my academic requirements with practical experience in world famous companies like Toyota, Honda etc. Moreover, Cultural diversity and snow country experience in the campus motivated me to apply IUJ.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

As an MBA student, I have developed my innovative leadership styles and management thinking to face fast-changing technological environment and acquire sustainable economic growth while taking the best advantage to the country. Knowledge and classy experience gained in the MBA, lead to a change in my professional career from an administrative perspectives to a development perspectives.



Outside the Presidential Secretariat Office where she served as Assistant Secretary to the President, Economic Intelligence before assuming her current role



With the President of Sri Lanka implementing a development project related to socio-economic sustainability while at Presidential Secretariat.

IUJ

Ms. Mumina Bakhtiyarova, Uzbekistan

Intern, working on SDG compliance, and Intern, UNODC (remote)



Class of 2021

MA, International Relations

Thesis topic: *Effect of Economic Diplomacy on FDI inflow: The Case of Uzbekistan*

*“For me, IUJ stands for **Involve** in a **Unique Journey** towards success supported by passion and consistency”*

What are you doing now?

Currently I am working in Japanese Company in the International Division, where I am contributing towards the SDGs (renewable energy, smart solutions). I am in charge for Eurasian continent and CIS countries. Moreover, I am conducting my remote internship with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (HIV/AIDS) section.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

The ultimate study destination for me was always Japan due to its unique culture, management style and “IKIGAI” (a reason for being) philosophy. At IUJ I experience it all: a calm environment just created for study and finding inner peace. The multidisciplinary approach across the curriculum allows you to look at things from different perspective, through the prism of politics, economy and business.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

I never dreamed that soon after graduation I would work in a Japanese company, and simultaneously become an intern in the United Nations. IUJ equipped me with up-to-date skills which impacted my personal and professional growth to open the door to both these opportunities. After amazing training in all aspects of IR, I am a confident, well-equipped young professional. I am very grateful to my alma mater for giving me this opportunity to be an actor in the international arena.

IUJ



With colleagues from Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Iran, Mongolia and Sudan on the IUJ campus: an IR living textbook



At work for a Japanese company on SDG compliance right after graduation

Mr. Nicky Doan

Chief Information Officer (CIO),
Database Manager, Prime Minister's Office,
Office of the Government of Vanuatu



Class of 2019
Public Management, MA
Thesis: What Are the Determinants of
Social Media Adoption in Government?
A Study on Facebook Adoption in Four
Vanuatu Government Agencies

“IUJ – Diversity at its finest.”

What are you doing now?

As CIO in a government capacity, I am responsible for the management, implementation of information and computer technologies to benefit the running of the country and its policies. I further support the development of the IT policies and seek out best practices for my country.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

My technical background was not enough for me to truly be effective for my government as an information officer. I felt the need to understand public organizations much better, including how sections relate to one another, and information sharing needs. I chose IUJ’s public management program to help me gain that bigger perspective in terms of public policy development, management and administration, and my goal was achieved

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

One of the most valued career benefits of studying in IUJ is developing the ability to communicate across multiple cultural barriers and experiences. Learning doesn't just happen in the classroom; meeting people from different cultures and making friends from all over the world helps me to be more open to new ideas and appreciate different cultures.



Presenting new findings



With government colleagues and JICA staff in Vanuatu

**Mr. Cheickna Sangare,
Technical (Diplomatic) Adviser,
President’s Office, Mali**



Class of 2020
MA, International Relations
Thesis topic: *Governance, Resilience, Insecurity and Economic Development in Mali From 2021 to 2019*

“Connecting to IUJ secures a bright future.”

What are you doing now?

My job consists of analyzing, supporting and advising the diplomatic office on policies and strategies that contribute in promoting the interests of my country abroad. Therefore, I draft notes, speeches, and prepare visits and events that impact directly the foreign relations with our international partners.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

The everlasting desire for quality education led me to IUJ where I had the opportunity to enjoy diversity from many countries, and all this by using English language as medium of communication within Japan. I was also attracted by the wonderful snowfall of Minami Uonuma.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

IUJ offered me a multicultural and diversified platform that inspired me. It was like being within a “mini United Nations.” That feeling is so relevant to my career that I will carry it forever as I work with international actors all the time.

On a diplomatic visit to MOFA, Austria



Surveying a site with a JICA professional working with MOFA, Mali for a new Japanese infrastructure investment project

**Ms. Vu Thu Trang,
Ministry of Finance, Department
of Debut Management and
External Finance**



MBA Class of 2020
*Thesis: Foreign Aid Loans and
Economic Growth in Vietnam*

“IUJ gave me not only skills for global finance, but soft skills of international communications to help me be a more confident professional on the world stage.”

What are you doing now?

I am currently responsible for Japan Affairs such as debt payments and Japanese organization loan disbursements. I also deal with ODA for some ministries in Vietnam, write loan synthesis reports and conduct various research as requested by the MoF General Director.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

IUJ’s MBA program uses the US-style of business school education and is well ranked and accredited in the world – plus right here in Asia. The campus is located in a fresh and peaceful environment in Japan and I could really connect with the international and local communities.

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

My English skills have improved immensely thanks to the IUJ teaching and campus environment being all in English. Not only English language, but I became more competent in international communication skills. When I recently joined a meeting with IMF professionals, I felt very confident in front on the specialists. Other soft skills I gained that really help my busy schedule are time management skills, project planning skills and, office-place work harmony creation – all thanks to the MBA experience at IUJ.



Showing off her IUJ MBA Diploma



Joining her Vietnamese Classmates for a Photo Opp

Mr. Kamal Kanta Poudel, Economist, Ministry of Finance, Nepal



Class of 2021
MA, International Development
Thesis: *Economic Analysis of National Pride Melamchi Water Supply Project of Nepal*

“IUJ is the center of academic excellence, most probably best-of the best in quantitative research globally.”

What are you doing now?

My current duties at the Ministry are to actively participate in policy research. The main goal is to work on the sustainability of the economic policies undertaken by the government, to conduct studies on burning economic issues and to provide evidence-based policy recommendations.

What inspired you to choose IUJ?

Most of the motivations inculcate from my personal drive of excelling educational caliber being learned from foreign universities and from the desire to engage in a multicultural educational environment having a global outlook. IUJ’s world educational ranking, a highly competent international faculty, use of knowledge-based learning modules, and study friendly environment are other prominent factors that drew me towards IUJ. To be specific, IUJ is the hub of academic excellence and renders one of the best educational platforms for quantitative research. I feel proud to be an IUJ graduate!

How did the IUJ experience support your career?

To be honest, I explored my knowledge gaps in my study area, tried my best to fill the gaps and am still working on it. After a two years study in IUJ and stay in Japan, I explored the best version of me which will, I hope, best serve my organization. The knowledge that I gained in IUJ will be instrumental for achieving my career objectives.



With other Nepalese at an IUJ festival on campus



Taking up his duties at MoF