

## Building Alumni Relationships: Connecting Former, Current & Future Students in the JDS Program

JDS Tsukuba Alumni Network  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University of Tsukuba  
October 1, 2023  
13:00 to 15:00  
Hybrid Venues: Special Meeting Room, University Hall &  
ZOOM



1

## Today's Program (Part 1: 13:00 to 13:50)

- Introductory remarks (Leslie Tkach-Kawasaki, Director, JDS Program) and introducing current JDS students
- Presentation by Mari Minowa (former Director, JDS Program): "Building Alumni Relationships: Connecting Former, Current, and Future Students in the JDS Program"
- Video messages from former professors and students
- Memorial video of Mya Yamin
- Break (5 minutes)



2

2

## Today's Program (Part 2: 13:50 to 15:00)

- Panel discussion: Reflecting on JDS past contributions, looking forward to future collaborations
  - Onsite panel participants: Professor Minowa, Professor Shuto, and Mingyue Liu (current JDS fellow)
  - Zoom panel participants: Tinat Hnep, Aung Thu, Hou Meng, and Zhan Wenqian (possible commentaries from Professor Faucher and Professor Mori)
  - Photo memories: Tinat Hnep and Aung Thu
- Introducing J-TAN (JDS Tsukuba Alumni Network)
- Quiz time!
- Q&A Session
- Closing remarks (Leslie Tkach-Kawasaki)
- Commemorative photo (online and onsite)



3

3

## Introductory Remarks Leslie Tkach-Kawasaki, Director, JDS Program



4

4

Presentation by Mari Minowa (former Director, JDS Program): “Building Alumni Relationships: Connecting Former, Current, and Future Students in the JDS Program”



5

5

Video messages from former professors and students

Alexander Bukh ([former] professor)  
Carole Faucher (former professor)  
Edson Kenji Kondo (former professor)  
Makara Phann (former student)  
Nathan Quimpo ([former] professor)  
Jeet Sapkota ([former] professor)



6

6

## Alexander Bukh (Tsukuba, 2008-2012)

Alexander Bukh is an Associate Professor in International Relations at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

He holds a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and a LLM in International Law from Tokyo University.

Alexander has published extensively on international relations in Northeast Asia. His publications have appeared in academic journals such as *Third World Quarterly*, *The European Journal of International Relations*, *Asian Survey*, *International Relations of the Asia Pacific* and *The Pacific Review*.

He is the author of *Japan's National Identity and Foreign Policy: Russia as Japan's 'Other'* (Routledge, 2008) and *These Islands Are Ours: The Social Construction of Territorial Disputes in Northeast Asia* (Stanford University Press, 2020), a recipient of the 2020 Choice Award for Outstanding Academic Title, sponsored by the American Library Association and a co-winner of the 2021–2022 ISA Asia-Pacific Distinguished Book Award.

Alexander is also a producer and a co-director of a documentary on territorial disputes-related activism in Japan and Korea titled *This Island in Ours* (Contented Production, 2016).



7

7

## Carole Faucher

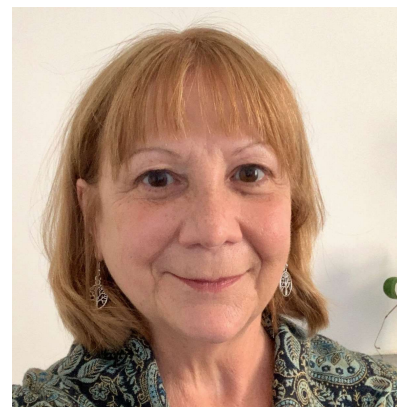
Carole Faucher is a Canadian socio-anthropologist based in Tangier, Morocco.

She holds an MSc. In Anthropology from the Université de Montreal and a PhD in Sociology and Anthropology from the National University of Singapore.

She is an Affiliate Professor and course leader with the UNESCO Chair Global Health and Education and Senior Researcher at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tangier, University Abdelmalek Essadi, where she also leads a new diploma course in Higher Education in Prevention, Health Promotion and Health Education for health professionals.

Her current research interests include identity processes, transcultural mediation, health education and health promotion, the co-production of knowledge in global health promotion, and the impact of climate change disasters on schooling in vulnerable communities.

Her latest publications include McLellan, R., Faucher, C., Simovska, V. (eds) (2022) *Wellbeing and Schooling: Cross-cultural and Cross-disciplinary Perspectives*, London: Springer.



8

8

## Edson Kenji Kondo (Tsukuba 2003-2007)

Edson Kenji Kondo is the Director of the School of Public Policy and Government at FGV EPPG and the President of the National Association of Graduate Courses in Administration.

He also serves as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and visiting professor at the Institute of Strategic Leadership in Japan and Shizenkan University.

Professor Kondo graduated in Production Engineering from the University of São Paulo (1980), obtained an Extension in Economics from the University of Colorado, in Boulder, and did his master's and doctorate in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University between 1990 and 1994.

Professor Kondo was a Professor of Public Policy at the University of Tsukuba from 2003 to 2007.



9

9

## Makara Phann (Fellow, 2011-2012)

Makara Phann is currently the Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Cambodia to the United Nations (since August 2021).

He is the former Director of the International Cooperation Department within the General Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFA-IC) (2019-2021)

Makara Phann was also the Deputy Director of the ASEAN Political-Security Cooperation Department, General Department of ASEAN, MFA-IC (2017-18).

His undergraduate degree is in Archaeology from the Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and his M.A. in International Relations is from the University of Tsukuba.

Makara Phann received the award of "Officer" in the Royal Order of Monisaraphon in 2013.



10

10

## Nathan Quimpo (2006-2018 & current)

Nathan Gilbert Quimpo is a semi-retired adjunct lecturer of political science and international relations at the University of Tsukuba. He has also taught at the University of the Philippines, University of Amsterdam, Sophia University, Hosei University and Toyo University.

A long-time political activist in the Philippines before turning to academia, Nathan did his Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations at the Australian National University.

Nathan has authored *Contested Democracy and the Left in the Philippines after Marcos* (Yale University Southeast Asia Studies, 2008) and co-authored *Subversive Lives: A Family Memoir of the Marcos Years* (Ohio University Press, 2016).

He has published articles in various journals, including *Comparative Politics*, *Pacific Review*, *Asian Survey*, *Southeast Asian Affairs*, *Critical Asian Studies* and *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*.



11

11

## Jeet Sapkota (2013-2018 & current)

Jeet Sapkota is an Associate Professor in the School of International Studies at Kwansai Gakuin University and adjunct professor at the University of Tsukuba.

After receiving his Diploma in Engineering as well as his Bachelor and MBA at Tribhuvan University in Nepal, he did an MA and PhD in International Studies at Waseda University in Japan.

Jeet's research interests include the economic policy, development economics, globalization, and topics in Asian economies. He also does work in the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality, as well as relationship between welfare, globalization, and economic policy in developing countries.

His work has appeared in journals such as *Sustainability*, *Education Sciences*, and the *Journal of Asia-Pacific Studies*.



12

12

Video Memorial  
Mya Yamin



13

13

BREAK



14

14

## Panel discussion: Reflecting on JDS past contributions, looking forward to future collaborations



15

15

## Mari Minowa

---

Specially Appointed Professor in charge of academic exchange with Latin American universities from April this year. Until her retirement in March this year, she was a full-time professor of the University of Tsukuba from 2002 to 2023. Prior to that, she worked in the field of international development, as economist in the World Bank from 1993 to 2000, and as JICA expert in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) from 2000 to 2002.

Prof. Minowa has a Ph.D. in economics from Cornell University in the US, MA in International Studies from the University of Tsukuba, and BS degree in geography from the University of Tokyo. Her field of research is economic and social development in Latin American countries.



16

16



## Motoko Shuto

Motoko Shuto is a professor emerita, University of Tsukuba. She completed the Doctoral Program in Law/International Relations, Hitotsubashi University in 1980 and got her PhD. After having served as a professor for Komazawa University (1982-2001), she served as a professor for University of Tsukuba (2001-2018). She worked as a consultant for the Project on "Follow-up Analysis of the ASEAN Member States' Self-Assessment of the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour Recommendations" (2022-2023). She is currently Vice President of the Japan Association of Global Governance.

Some of her latest publications include:

"The COVAX Facility and Agenda for Global Public Interest," *Journal of Public Interest and Common Good Studies*, Vol. 21, No.1, 2021, pp. 1-12.

"ASEAN's Governance on Cross-Border Labor Migration," *The Study of Global Governance*, Vol.6, 2020, pp. 33-53.

"Patterns and Views of China's Public Diplomacy in ASEAN Countries: Focusing on Confucius Institutes," *Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies*, Vol. 7, Issue 2, 2018, pp. 124-148.



17

17

## Liu Mingyue

Liu Mingyue is a staff member of the Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Kunming Municipality, Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China.

She was born in 1997 and graduated from Jinan University in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in management.

From 2022 to 2024, she has been studying at the University of Tsukuba in Japan for a master's degree in international relations under the JDS program, and is still in the progress at this moment.

Her supervisors are Professor Akiyama Hajime, Professor Kashiwagi Kenichi, and Professor Aki Mouri.

Her current research focus is on international sister cities.



18

18

## Tinat Nhep

Tinat Nhep is an Executive Vice President at the CAMFIRST SCHOOL in Cambodia.

He graduated his Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Tsukuba, Japan under the JDS program between 2010-2011. His former supervisors were Professor Carole Faucher, Professor Nathan Gilbert Quimpo, and Professor Leslie Tkach-Kawasaki.

Tinat also received his Ph.D. in Tourism Management from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand in 2019.



19

19

## Aung Thu

Aung Thu is an alumnus of the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program from Myanmar, having studied at Tsukuba University during the academic year 2011-2012. He earned a Master's Degree in International Area Studies under the guidance of Professors Carole Faucher, Leslie Tkach-Kawasaki, and Mari Minowa.

While at Tsukuba University, Aung Thu worked as a Staff Officer at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Myanmar, gradually advancing to positions such as Assistant Director, Deputy Director, and eventually Acting Director. In 2022, he furthered his education by obtaining a Master of Business Administration Degree from the European International University in France.

Since 2019, Aung Thu has been dedicated to his role as the Head of Agriculture and Stakeholder Engagement at the Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation (Swisscontact), a renowned Swiss non-profit foundation, in Myanmar.



20

20

## Hou Meng

---

Hou Meng is currently a staff member at Yunnan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, People's Republic of China.

She studied in the Master's Program in International Public Policy in Tsukuba University from October 2021 to March 2023 as a JDS China Program fellow. Her supervisors in Tsukuba University were Professor Mari Minowa, Professor Leslie Tkach-Kawasaki and Professor Hajime Akiyama.

Hou Meng's master's degree thesis focused on China's public diplomacy programs in Latin American countries.

Before joining the JDS China Program, she studied Spanish linguistics in Sichuan International Studies University in the People's Republic of China.



21

21

## Zhan Wenqian

---

Zhan Wenqian is currently working as a civil servant of the Foreign Affairs office of the People's Government of Yunnan Province, China with primary focus on promoting a friendly relationship between China and Southeast Asian countries, especially Myanmar.

With the purposes of gaining more academic knowledge and learning Japan's successful experience in foreign affairs field to further empower her career, she applied the JDS program.

She studied in the Master's Program in International Public Policy in the University of Tsukuba, Japan from October 2021 to March 2023.

Her supervisors in the university were Professor Hajime Akiyama, Professor Mari Minowa, and Professor Leslie Tkach-Kawasaki.



22

22

Photographs by former students



23

23

Introducing J-TAN (JDS Tsukuba Alumni Network)



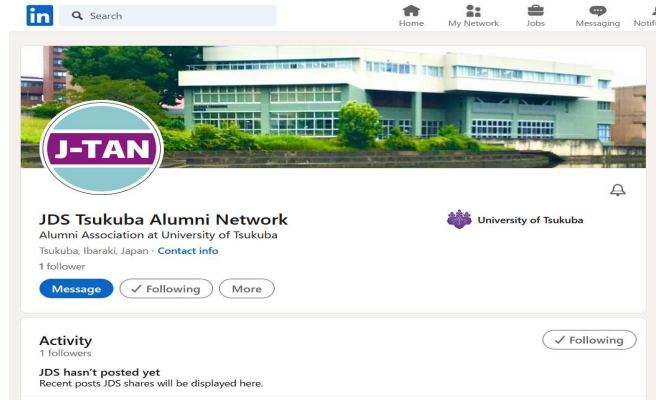
24

24

# Introducing J-TAN (JDS Tsukuba Alumni Network)



Linkedin Website – Please follow us!  
Log into “Linkedin” and search for “JDS Tsukuba Alumni Network”



25

25

# Our newsletter (twice a year!)



26

26

Our website  
(coming soon!)

JTAN – JDS Tsukuba Alumni Network



**About**

- [About JTAN](#)
- [About the University of Tsukuba](#)
- [About IPP](#)

**JTAN News**

- [2023 University of Tsukuba 151st Anniversary Event](#)
- [2023 Fall Photo Contest](#)
- [Fall Newsletter](#)

**Activities**

- [Activity Reports](#)

**Get Involved**

- [Update Your Alumni Info](#)
- [Submit Photo of Article to the JTAN Newsletter](#)

Quiz time!



## Q&A and Final Remarks



29

29

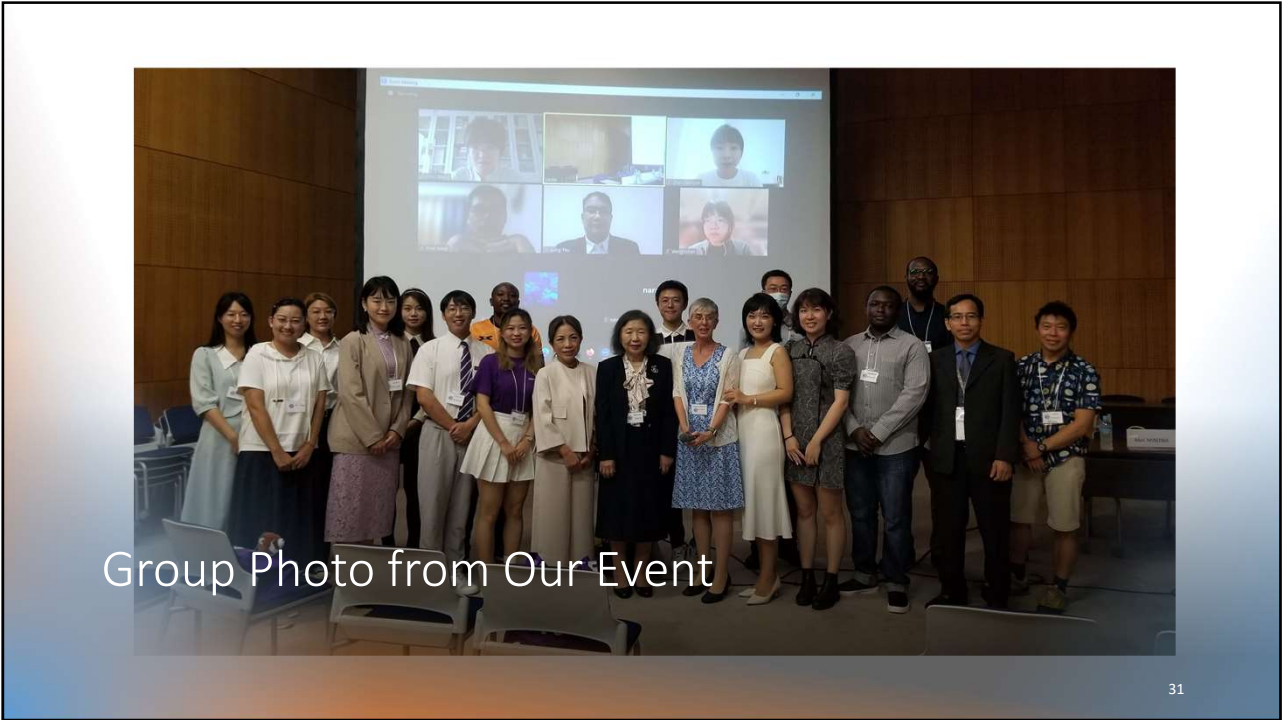
Building Alumni Relationships:  
Connecting Former, Current &  
Future Students in the JDS Program

October 1, 2023

Thank you for joining us today and let's keep in touch!



30



31