



JDS Alumnus Leads Cambodia's Digital Finance Revolution as Secretary General of the National Bank of Cambodia



H.E. Mr. Kru Veasna

Graduate School of International Management, International University of Japan, Graduated in 2003. Secretary General of the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC)

H.E. Mr. Kru Veasna, Secretary General of NBC, has been substantially involved in Cambodia's advancements in digital finance. As one of the first-batch JDS alumni, his international perspective has been a valuable asset to NBC and Cambodia's financial innovation.

NBC successfully launched "Bakong," Cambodia's next-generation Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system, in 2020 after long and careful research since 2016.

Developed in collaboration with Japanese start-up Soramitsu, Bakong utilizes iOS and Android mobile apps to promote financial inclusion, allowing users to access an all-in-one mobile payment and banking app. The name "Bakong" was inspired by the historic Khmer temple.

The idea for the Bakong initiative began in 2016, with NBC forming a working group led by him to explore blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) for payment systems. The study evolved into the "Bakong Project" in early 2017. Soramitsu was formally selected as the developer in April 2017, with the first prototype completed later that year. The system was further refined in 2018, enabling domestic financial institutions to interconnect with the platform.

This groundwork laid the foundation for improved technological adaptation and fostered international collaboration. After years of research and partnership, NBC developed Bakong to support Cambodia's financial goals, enhancing transaction efficiency, security, and access to financial services, all of which have contributed to a positive impact on the economy. The launch of Bakong highlights Cambodia's commitment to digital innovation in its financial infrastructure, fostering greater inclusivity and contributing to economic development in this digital era.

The successful partnership with Soramitsu was rooted in the trust he developed through his studies and life in Japan. Reflecting on this, he remarked "While we were exploring potential global partners for Bakong, I felt a strong sense of trust toward Japan, shaped by my own study abroad experience. Immersing myself in Japanese culture laid the foundation for long-term cooperation with Japan and Soramitsu."



JDS Alumna of Bangladesh appointed as Secretary of the Cabinet Division of Bangladesh Secretariat



Source: [Bangladesh National Portal](https://www.bangladeshnationalportal.gov.bd/)

H.E. Ms. Zaheda Parveen

Graduate School of Law, Kyushu University, Graduated in 2006.
Secretary, Cabinet Division, Bangladesh Secretariat

On February 2025, Ms. Zaheda Parveen was appointed as Secretary of the Cabinet Division of Bangladesh Secretariat. Ms. Zaheda came to Japan in 2004 as part of the third batch of JDS Bangladesh and studied at Graduate School of Law, Kyushu University. Before coming to Japan, she was working at the Ministry of Public Administration. After returning to her country, she served as Additional Secretary of the Cabinet Division and has now been appointed as Secretary of the Cabinet Division.

Ms. Zaheda is currently responsible for government reform and the implementation and monitoring of good governance. Regarding her recent promotion, she commented, “In addition to obtaining a master's degree from Kyushu University, I believe the knowledge I gained regarding Japan’s judicial system through JDS and the Japanese way of thinking I learned from Japanese people were seen as added value that set me apart from other staff members.”

During her study in Japan, she chose “Various Issues in the Administration of Criminal Justice: A Comparative Study on Japan, USA and Bangladesh” as her research topic, and deepened her expertise in the field of law, including economic law and commercial law. She also actively experienced Japanese culture through a homestay program. Ms. Zaheda also mentioned, “The way of thinking and the system of the society that I learned during my stay in Japan inspired me to think new ideas for improving my country.”

Ms. Zaheda was intrigued to study in Japan for a long term after participating in JICA’s Youth Training Program, which led her to apply for JDS. It is expected that Ms. Zaheda continues to utilize the knowledge and experience she gained through JDS to contribute to the development of Bangladesh.

Data of JDS fellow 2025

JDS countries * (from started year):

Uzbekistan, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Pakistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Kenya, Senegal, Ukraine , Mozambique.

*Countries where JICE is entrusted with the implementation of JDS.

Belonging Organizations:

President Office, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Central Bank, etc.



The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) is a project of JICA under the Japanese Grant Aid which supports human resource development by providing young leaders from target countries with full scholarships for graduate degrees in top Japanese Universities.

Greetings from editors

Konnichiwa from JICE JDS PR team in Tokyo. Hope this newsletter finds you well.

In Bangladesh, there was good news that a female JDS returned fellow became Secretary. We look forward to seeing more female fellows take on prominent roles in the future.

[Inquiry]

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