JDS Network News

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-English Edition-

The JDS Network News has been featuring alumni who are making significant contributions in their home countries. In this issue, we are pleased to introduce two distinguished alumni from Mongolia and the Kyrgyz Republic who are serving in key government positions.



Source: THE STATE GREAT HURAL

Mr. BADRAKH Naidalaa

Mongolia

Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University, Graduated in 2004. Minister of Energy of Mongolia.

On April 3, 2026, Mr. Badrakh Naidalaa, a JDS alumnus from Mongolia, was appointed Minister of Energy of Mongolia. Mr. Badrakh came to Japan in 2002 as a member of the first batch of JDS Mongolia and pursued a master's degree at the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University.

During his studies in Japan, he conducted research on estimating the equilibrium level of the real exchange rate in Mongolia. After returning to Mongolia, he built a distinguished career as an economist, serving primarily in the banking sector and the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia.

Mr. TALAS Aidarbek uulu

Kyrgyz Republic

Graduate School of International Relations, International University of Japan, Graduated in 2020. First Deputy Minister of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic.

On March 31, 2026, Mr. TALAS Aidarbek uulu, a JDS Alumnus of the Kyrgyz Republic, was appointed First Deputy Minister of Finance. He arrived in Japan in 2018 as a JDS Fellow of the 12th batch of the JDS Kyrgyz project and pursued a master's degree at the Graduate School of International Relations at the International University of Japan.

According to an online article by the Ministry of Finance, in the statement announcing Mr. Talas's appointment, the minister highlighted his professional background and praised his effective performance in the budget policy sector, high level of expertise, commitment to principles, and strong sense of responsibility.



Source: KAKTUSMEDIA

Both JDS fellows are expected to continue contributing significantly to the development of their respective countries and to the further strengthening of bilateral relations with Japan.

JDS News

Fellows and Japanese Government Officials Strengthen Ties through Networking Events

Between November and December 2025, exchange meetings between JDS fellows and government officials from Japanese ministries and agencies were held across a total of seven ministries and agencies. The primary objectives of these events were to raise awareness of the JDS within each ministry and agency and to promote networking opportunities between JDS fellows and Japanese government officials. The programs combined lectures delivered by ministry officials with exchanges of views between the officials and the JDS fellows.



Group Photo at the METI

During the lectures, ministry representatives introduced the policies and challenges addressed by their respective organizations, illustrating their explanations with concrete examples. While most of the exchange meetings were held within ministry premises, some ministries offered unique programs. For example, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) hosted its event at the Komaba Research Campus of the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, the University of Tokyo, where participants not only attended lectures but also joined a campus tour and interacted with ministry staff.

Participating fellows expressed positive feedback, including comments such as “I was able to gain a very comprehensive understanding of the international technical cooperation and human resource development programs implemented by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)” (participant in the exchange meeting with METI).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) also shared the following comment “What impressed us most was the participants’ proactive attitude in seeking to apply Japan’s experiences to policy formulation and problem-solving tailored to the circumstances of their own countries. We hope that, upon returning home, they will make use of this experience and play an active role in further strengthening relations with Japan.”



Lecture Delivered by the MAFF

Following the exchange meetings, JDS fellows and ministry representatives were seen exchanging business cards and discussing possibilities for future bilateral cooperation. Through these exchange events, it is expected that mutual understanding in various fields between Japan and JDS partner countries, as well as networks among stakeholders from both sides, will be further strengthened.

Data of JDS fellow 2026

【JDS countries * (from started year)】

Uzbekistan, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Bangladesh, 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

Thank you for your continued interest in the JDS Network News.

As the government officials exchange program offers JDS fellows a valuable opportunity to engage directly with Japanese government officials, we greatly appreciate the proactive cooperation of the ministries in hosting these sessions.

【Inquiry】

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