

30 STORIES OF SERVICE

JOINT JAPAN WORLD BANK Graduate Scholarship Program

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What motivated you to pursue a career in a development-related field?

I was born in a developing country. I have always thought that I do not have to suffer the poverty, instead turn it into an opportunity - to act and contribute to its reduction. So, since I was convinced by the importance of the issues related to sustainable development, this was the area that I oriented my college studies. Additionally, I have worked at the Central Bank whose crucial role is to ensure economic and financial stability in order to improve growth; and I believe that economic growth is the most powerful tool for reducing poverty and improving the quality of life in developing countries.

What have you learned about yourself during this experience?

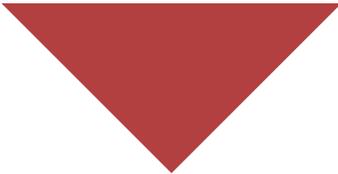
This experience showed me that there is no limit to what we can achieve as long as we believe and do not give up.



Why do you think you were chosen for the JJWBGSP?

I face challenges every day in my life such as balancing the demanding responsibilities of my job with the special moments spent for my family life including 4 children under 9 years old. ... I have always overcome every challenge with faith, hard work and perseverance. I was also recommended by my employer for the Center for Development Economics (CDE) program. So, I think, I was awarded the JJWBGSP because they know that I will represent their organization well during my academic year in college and beyond, when I go back in my country. They know that they can rely on me to apply the same diligence and contribute to the development of my country.

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What role has your family, friends, and/or employer played in your study abroad experience? How has this helped or hindered your journey?

My parents have made many sacrifices that allow me to focus on good education throughout school and college in my country. Now, I have this opportunity to become the first person in my family to attend an international master degree college, which will put the crown on my studies.

However, I was worried about leaving my family alone and without my salary. But all the members of my family did not offer much resistance and they supported me to study abroad. I am also fortunate that my husband is faithful and a very good father, and my children have two grandmothers, so they won't be all alone or lacking in care.

My employers have also let me go even though I had to transfer my responsibilities to my team, I have confidence in their abilities to deliver excellent work - as they have always done.

For more stories from JJWBGSP recipients, follow #30StoriesofService. To apply, visit: www.worldbank.org.



What has been the most rewarding and challenging part of your study abroad experience?

The most challenging part is that it is the first time I am leaving my home for such a long time (one academic year) and I miss my husband and my four children. Fortunately, the CDE has a host family program which was very helpful in overcoming homesickness.

As I am from a country where English is not the official language, the most rewarding part of my study abroad experience is the improvement of my English language skills. The fact I'm being immersed in American culture also increased my self-reliance.

What advice would you offer to other women who are considering applying for the JJWBGSP?

We, as women, know how to care of our children and our neighbor as we are the most dependent person in the society. And sometimes, we think that it is a small thing. But those who are faithful in small things are also faithful in big things. In our developing country, poverty is not only a fact, nor an indicator, it represents people that are suffering, that are dependent and fragile. They need you! This JJWBGSP scholarship is the best opportunity for us to get skills and become an actor who fight against poverty in our country.