

30 STORIES OF SERVICE

JOINT JAPAN / WORLD BANK Graduate Scholarship Program

MEET EI EI SWE, MYANMAR

National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies - GRIPS (2022)
Japan



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

As a developing country, Myanmar mainly depends on revenue for its development and the Internal Revenue Department (IRD) is the main source generating revenue in Myanmar. IRD provides the government with funding needed to invest in development and finance public goods; therefore, in pursuing a career at IRD, my goal is to contribute to a maximization of revenue for the Government of Myanmar. Since I joined IRD in 2015, the Department has been accelerating the implementation of a tax reform program, including tax policy reform, tax administration reform, legal reform and ICT reform. I believed that with a better conceptual understanding and stronger technical knowledge of taxation, I could better contribute to the success of this tax reform program. This was my main motivation for applying to the Tax Course of the Public Finance Program at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Japan.

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

Studying at GRIPS was my first international experience. The most rewarding part of this experience were the knowledge and skills I gained through the course of the Program and the new friendships I was able to forge at that time. Moreover, I really enjoyed discovering the traditions and culture of Japan. The most challenging part of studying abroad was the language. When I arrived in Tokyo, I didn't have much confidence speaking English and felt nervous about being able to communicate effectively with others. However, I was able to gradually improve my speaking skill through daily communication with my new international friends.

How will the scholarship help you to advance in your professional career?

The JJWBGSP scholarship was a life-changing milestone in my professional career. It allowed me to learn from international best practices in taxation, education, and economic development. The Tax Course of the Public Finance Program at GRIPS provided me with a solid professional education in the field of

taxation. Combining my new knowledge and skills, I am dedicated to making continued efforts to best support the goals of IRD and to contribute to the economic development of my country.

As an alumnus, what advice would you offer to others who are considering applying for the JJWBGSP?

Studying abroad is a great opportunity to advance a professional career and the JJWBGSP scholarship can be decisive to make that happen. The scholarship benefit package is sufficient to get by in a foreign country. My advice to potential applicants is that they should trust themselves and highlight their achievements for the development of their country.