

Ashinaga Africa Initiative Annual Activity Report 2017



ASHINAGA



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I am proud to report to you that we have made tremendous progress in 2017. As we reflect on another exceptional year at Ashinaga, I appreciate our dedicated supporters who enable us to continue the Ashinaga movement. For over 50 years, we have so far provided over 100,000 orphaned students the chance to receive higher education. Presently, our support also extends to Sub-Saharan Africa to strive for poverty eradication. It has been four years since we launched the Ashinaga Africa Initiative, which provides orphaned students with international higher education, a global network, and the opportunities necessary to become leaders in their communities. With this message, kindly allow me to share my current thoughts with you.

The 60 richest individuals control 80 percent of the world's wealth. I cannot help but think that people fighting against injustice and inequality are still in the minority on the global stage, and that most people are simply living materialistic existences focused on increasing their own profits. I want our students to see that while losing a parent has put them through financial and mental hardships, they can channel the pain and suffering they have experienced into perseverance and motivation to achieve their goals. Our scholars are able to overcome their adverse circumstances and use the knowledge they gained from secondary education to benefit society and those in need. I want our students to think hard, study hard, and work to find solutions to ensure everyone can have access to education. I call this sense of mission *kokorozashi* (will, ambition, life goal).

During my lifetime, I have dedicated over 50 years supporting and providing educational opportunities for orphaned students, believing a sense of *kokorozashi* to help others is crucial. This is also true for our AAI scholars. By having their own *kokorozashi* to support their fellow peers, they have motivation to return to Africa and work towards supporting the growth of their communities.

I want our students to understand that Ashinaga is not providing funds for them to attend university so that they can gain a degree, earn money, and have a great life. I want them to spend time thinking about what they can do for their communities and their people. By committing to return and invest in their own local communities, this can lead to an impact of a global scale. Through this ambition, our actions can lead to a society without racism and where dignity of all human beings is respected. I do not mean that AAI scholars should not think of themselves at all, but that if you devote your career to working for others, you will naturally obtain a higher sense of purpose and happiness.

I have a dream; continue developing the AAI, so students can become future leaders and work towards finding solutions for the problems facing Africa today. That is my *kokorozashi*.

When I was 27, I lost my mother in a traffic collision. To this day, I have spent my whole life working tirelessly to support orphaned and bereaved children. I am now 83, but am as determined as ever to continue working hard. I look forward to working with you all to further the goals of the AAI. Thank you for being part of the Ashinaga family and for your continuous support. I wish you all the best of health and prosperity for this year.



Yoshiomi Tamai
Ashinaga President

Tamai's Highlights of 2017



February

Second General Meeting of the
Kenjin-Tatsujin International Advisory Council



Photo by Yusuke Takeda



April

Frédéric Mion visits HQ



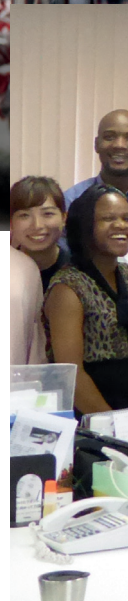
April

The 94th Student Fundraising Campaign



July

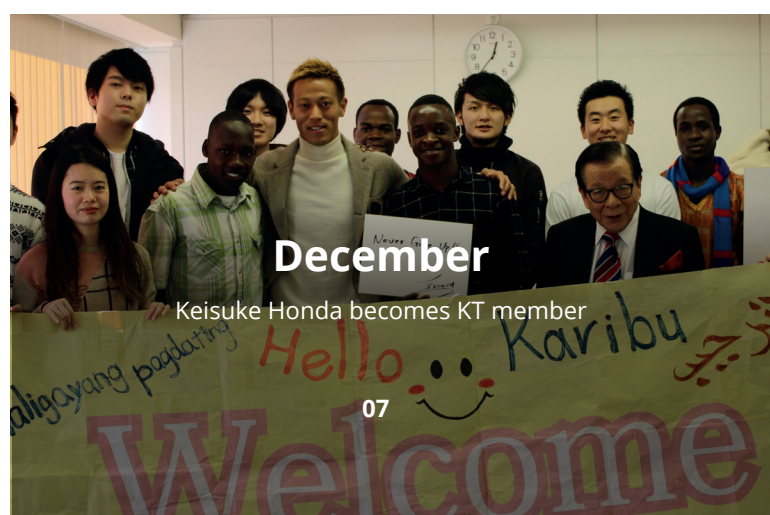
Tamai meets Ambassador Jason
Hyland (former acting US
Ambassador to Japan)




August

Lassino Zerbo (KT member) visits HQ

Ashinaga Africa Initiative Annual Report 2017





We are very pleased to share this report showing our activities and our progress working towards the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI). 2017 was the fourth consecutive year of the program, and welcomed a new cohort of 42 candidates from 35 different countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, currently giving us a total of 109 students. As you read the detailed description in this report, you will see the multitude of projects being carried out to support our Ashinaga scholars. Our staff work around the world at offices based in Uganda, Senegal, UK, France, USA, and HQ in Tokyo, working in four languages. Most notably, our global network has expanded through our internship program, which attracts students from top universities and in turn provides opportunities for our scholars to attend the same schools.

From its fruition in 2014, the Ashinaga Africa Initiative's main purpose is to help grow our scholars into the leaders of the future. It aims to contribute to Sub-Saharan Africa's expanding role in global development through increasing access to international higher education. AAI scholars are orphaned students who are committed to return to Africa to initiate change and development. We provide them with the academic and financial support to study abroad, as well as access to mentoring and career development. Each year, we aim to select one scholar from each country in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Thank you for all your strong support on the AAI. We look forward to your continued partnership.

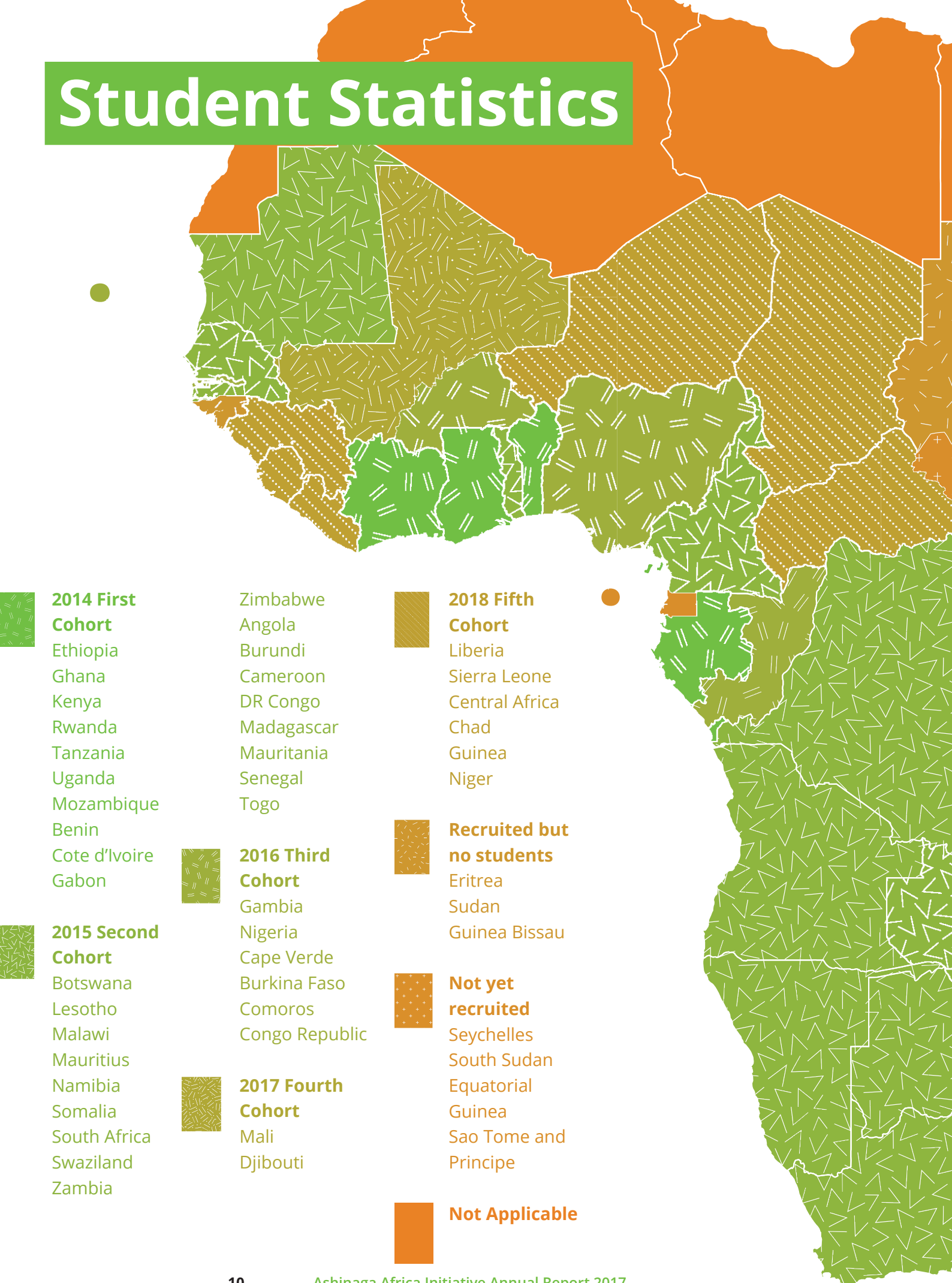
Sincerely,



Yukie Seki

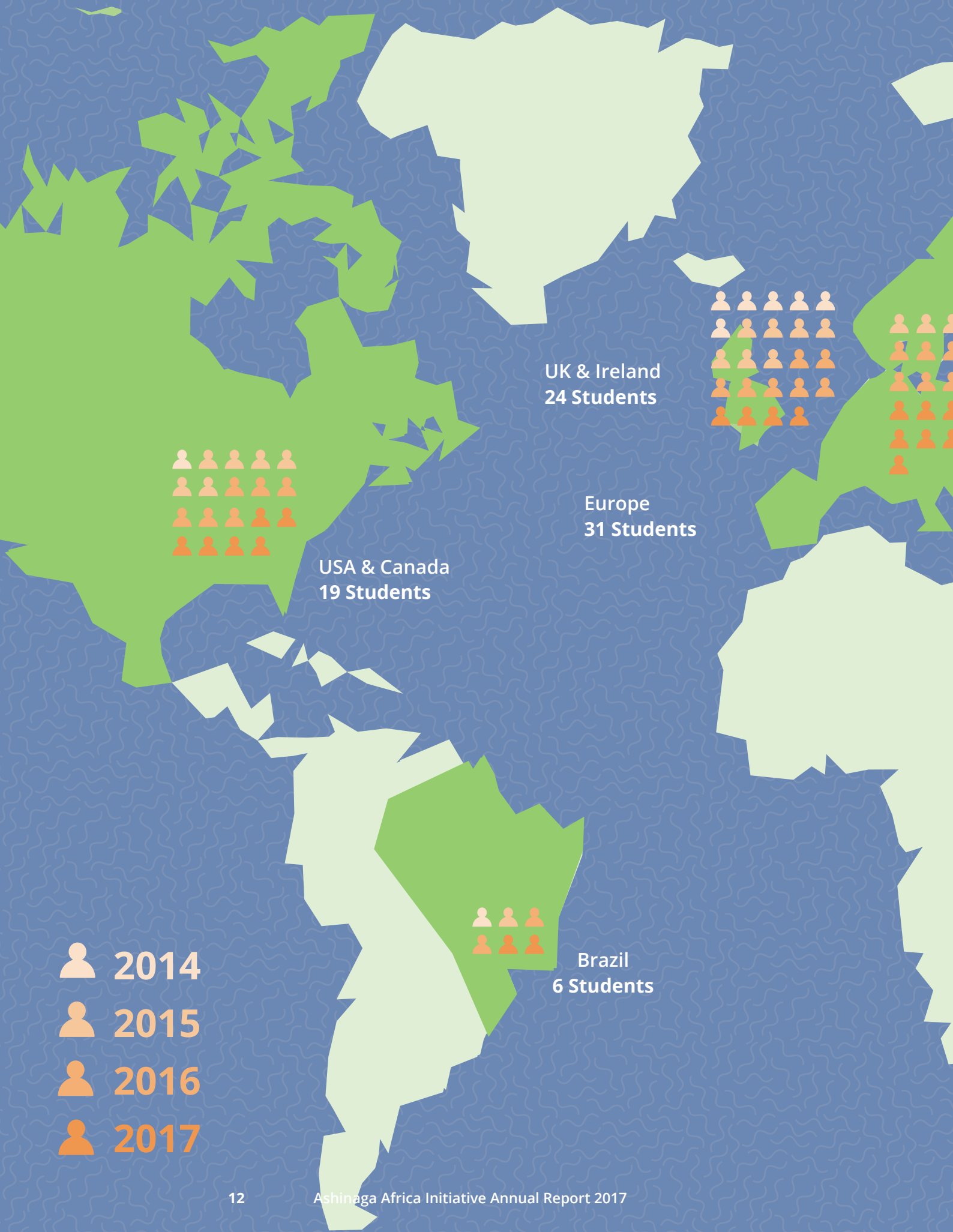
Ashinaga Africa Initiative Director

Student Statistics



Since 2014, Ashinaga
has helped enrol
109 students
into university

Country	Students 2014-2017
Uganda	5
Senegal	5
Ethiopia	4
Kenya	4
Mauritius	4
Rwanda	4
Tanzania	4
Zimbabwe	4
Mozambique	4
Benin	4
Cote d'Ivoire	4
Madagascar	4
Botswana	3
Ghana	3
Lesotho	3
Malawi	3
Namibia	3
Somalia	3
South Africa	3
Swaziland	3
Zambia	3
Angola	3
Burundi	3
Cameroon	3
DR Congo	3
Togo	3
Gambia	2
Nigeria	2
Burkina Faso	2
Comoros	2
Congo	2
Gabon	2
Mauritania	2
Cape Verde	1
Djibouti	1
Mali	1
Total	109



-  2014
-  2015
-  2016
-  2017

Current Location of AAI Students 2017

	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
Japan	2	3	5	16	26
Australia	0	2	1	0	3
Brazil	1	1	2	2	6
USA & Canada	1	6	6	6	19
UK & Ireland	6	7	7	4	24
Europe	0	6	11	14	31
TOTAL	10	25	32	42	109

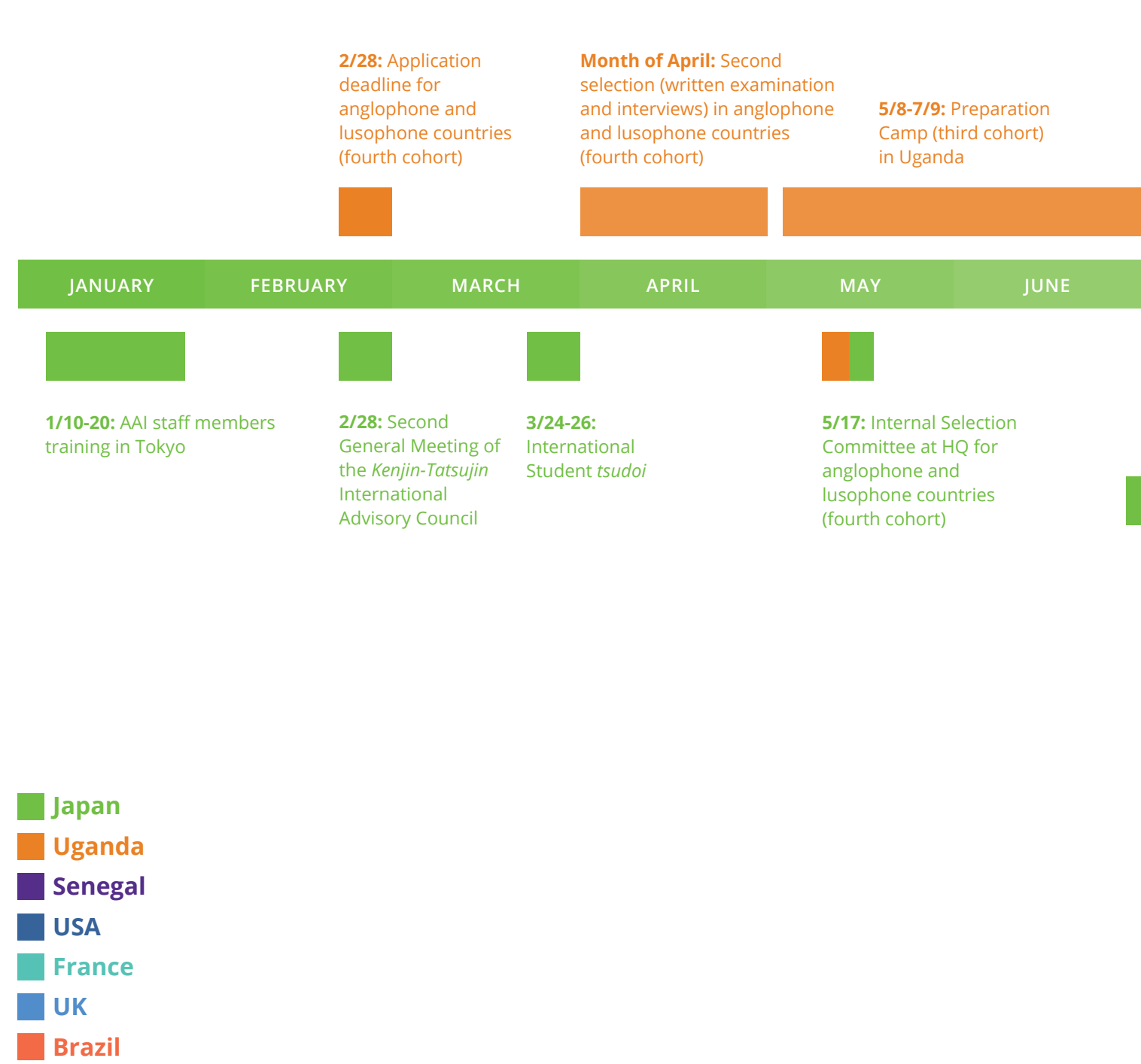


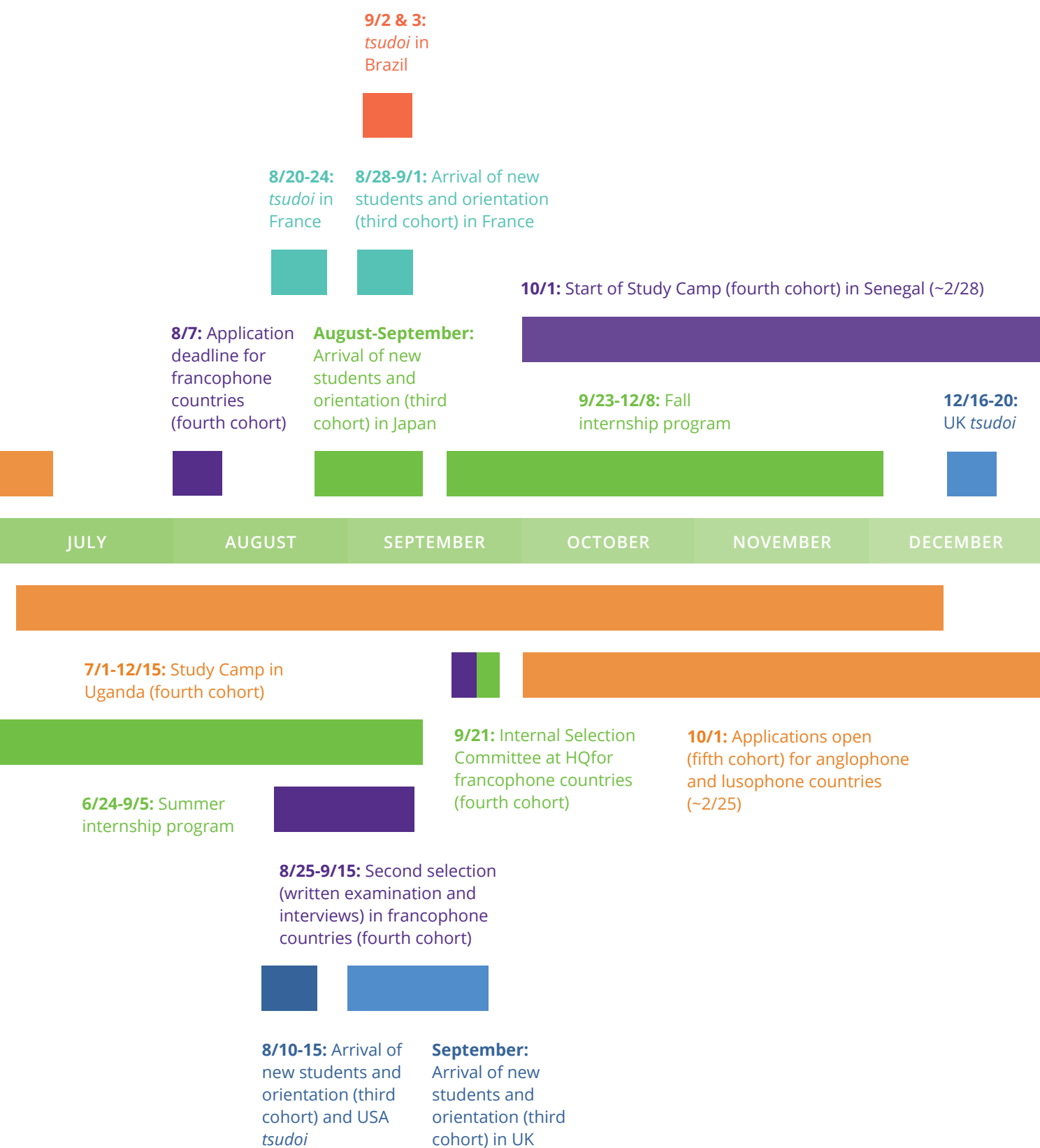
Japan
26 Students



Australia
3 Students

Program Timeline





Recruitment

Anglophone

Countries Eligible: 19

Number of Applicants: 2417

New Countries: N/A

Successful Candidates: 21

Japanese Track Students: 2

Acceptance Rate: 0.87%

Lusophone

Countries Eligible: 4

Number of Applicants: 139

New Countries: N/A

Successful Candidates: 2

Japanese Track Students: 0

Acceptance Rate: 1.4%

Francophone

Countries Eligible: 15

Number of Applicants: 845

New Countries: Mali, Djibouti

Successful Candidates: 19

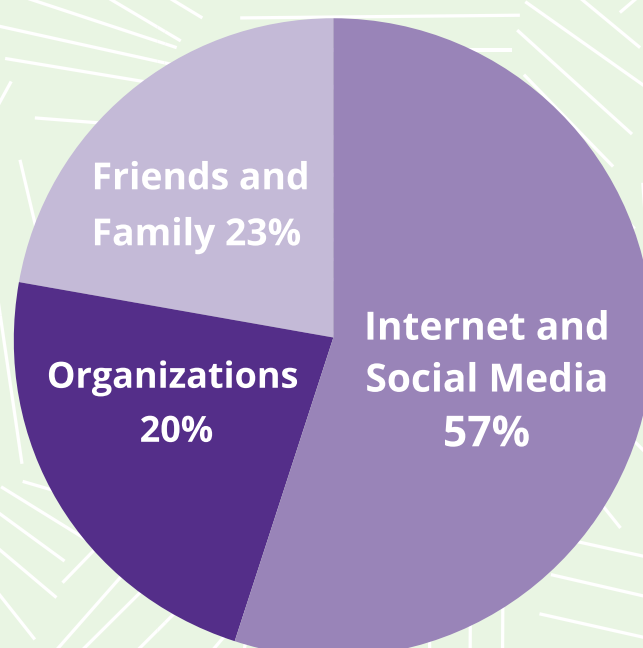
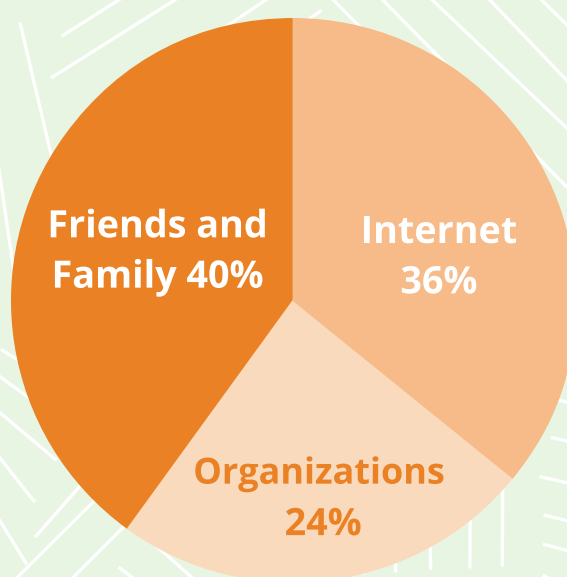
Japanese Track Students: 5

Acceptance Rate: 2.25%

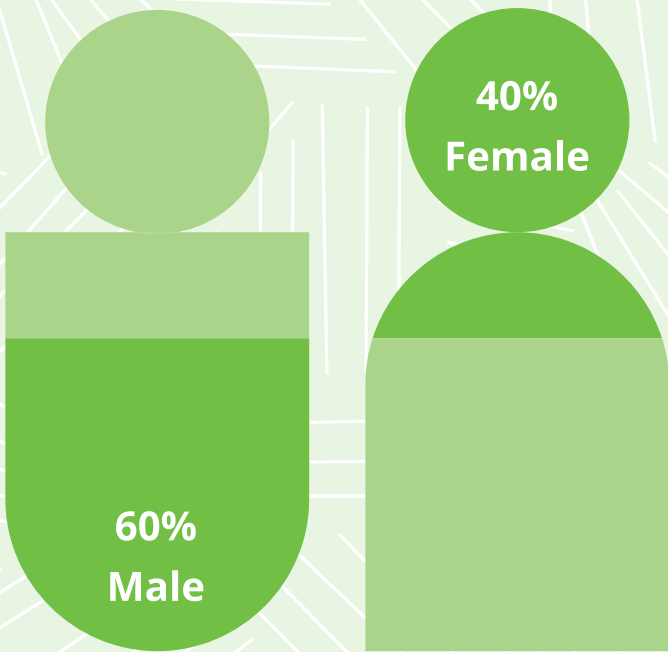
Recruitment in 2017 was conducted in a total of 38 countries. We saw a significant boost in the number in applicants from the previous year, thanks in part to our increased method of using social media to target potential candidates.

Selection was conducted in two steps, firstly with a document screening, followed by an exam and interview. Eligibility and high schools results are prioritised, followed by two essays on their background and their goals, as well as extra-curricular activities. The top five candidates for each country are selected to undertake an interview and exam, during which Ashinaga is aided by local experts.

How did applicants find out about the program?



Gender Balance of Applicants



Top 5:

Kenya 737
Nigeria 559
Zimbabwe 278
Rwanda 189
Ghana 127

Bottom 5:

Cape Verde 0
Guinea Bissau 0
Comoros 6
Republic Congo 9
Mauritania 11

Total Eligible Countries:

38

2016

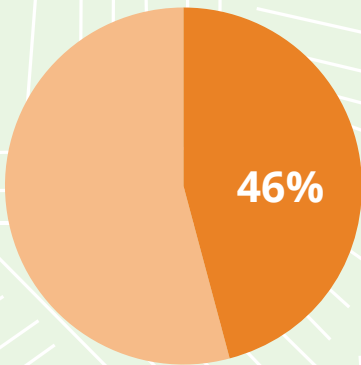
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2017

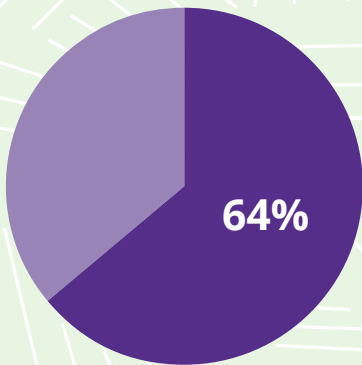
2417

Number of Eligible Applicants 2017

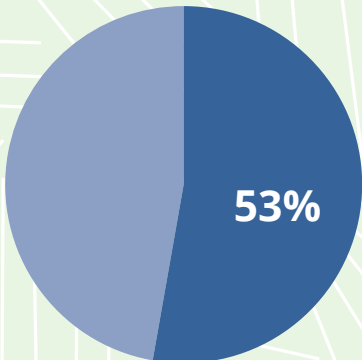
Anglophone



Francophone



Lusophone



2016

161

2017

139

2016

340

2017

845

Study Camp



Anglophone/Lusophone Study Camp July - December 2017

Anglophone / Lusophone Study Camp (fourth cohort)

July - December

Location: Uganda

Number of Students: 23

Students from the anglophone and lusophone Study Camp held at the Uganda *Kokorojuku* successfully completed the program in December 2017. 23 students from 19 countries across the continent spent six months studying and preparing to apply for university next year. With the aid of 30 interns, candidates were put through intensive academic training and leadership development.

Students at the camp in Uganda go on to study in Europe, the USA, Brazil, Australia, and Japan. This year, 11 students from this cohort will be going to Japan, with two scholars on our new Japanese language track program.

Ashinaga's *Kokorozashi* education is a key element within the camp. Whereas our main goal is to get our scholars into university, at the Uganda *Kokorojuku* we also aim to develop their global awareness, leadership skills and their capacity to grow as individuals. Life in the *Kokorojuku* also provides them with a precious opportunity to live with other scholars from different many countries, but who all share the same future goals. They are able to encourage and support each other to clear a path for their future.

Francophone Study Camp (fourth cohort)

October - February

Location: Senegal

Number of Students: 19

The AAI students participating in our francophone Study Camp have spent four months in Dakar preparing to study at and applying to universities in France, Belgium, and Japan, while also developing the leadership skills, self-confidence, and ambition necessary to return to their home countries as experts in their respective fields.

19 students from 15 different countries participated in the Study Camp between October and February, with 14 being selected to study in French and 5 students selected to study in Japan on the Japanese language track program. The Study Camp also welcomed 15 interns from 11 countries who were tasked with supporting the students as both teachers and mentors. In addition to teaching an academic curriculum designed to develop the skills necessary for the students' university studies, they have also coordinated extracurricular leadership activities, and provided support and guidance during the application process through individual mentoring sessions.

The Study Camp focused first on helping the students build a solid foundation of key skills while also working to determine their academic orientation and potential future studies, before moving onto subject-specific preparation tailored to the needs of each student. With such a diverse group, classes in Pan-Africanism were organized to develop the students' knowledge and understanding of the history, challenges and potential of their own countries and the continent as a whole. Global awareness classes also encouraged the students to develop an international outlook and perspective of the world around them and the role of Africa in our globalized society.

Throughout this process, an emphasis was placed on the continued development of the students' leadership skills. In addition to an intensive leadership training workshop, the students have been encouraged to develop such skills at every opportunity, both inside and outside of the classroom. Weekly volunteering opportunities allowed them to engage actively with the community in Dakar while also developing new skills and self-awareness. Given the task of independently organizing their own leadership project, the students put their newfound skills to good use by devising, planning and promoting their project at schools and in the local community. Within eight weeks they received and subsequently donated hundreds of clothes to a school supporting street children in Dakar. Above all, this activity made it clear to the students that they do not need to wait until the end of their studies before having a positive impact and contributing to their community.

Francophone Study Camp October 2017 - February 2018



Vatosoa Razafiniary AAI Francophone Candidate from Madagascar

Normally all students in Madagascar who receive their high school diploma with a distinction have the opportunity to study abroad, but when I got this grade there was nothing for me because of the country's financial problems. It was always my dream to study abroad and it was very difficult to abandon this, but a few months later when I was in my first year of medicine, my brother told me about the Ashinaga leadership program. He suggested that I apply, as I would have to give up studying medicine. I hesitated about this for a long time, as I eventually realized that my goal is to help people and that it didn't have to be only through medicine. Through the program I had the possibility to help people on a much larger scale. I am currently participating in Study Camp organized by Ashinaga Senegal and I can see the changes occurring in me; my academic skills are improving, I can see my cohesion developing with the other students who come from other countries, I enjoy the cultural exchanges that happen each day and I am learning to help others through volunteering activities. When you come from a developing country it's a dream to study abroad and at the moment I am preparing for my studies in France in the field of engineering. I want to start by focusing on general engineering skills before being able to specialize in a field that will help Madagascar, such as civil or computer engineering. I really can't wait to start my studies and I hope that, if I have the time, I will also be able to discover French culture.

Concerning the end of my studies, there are lots of things that I would like to do, but what I hold closest to my heart is that I want to leave my mark on the development of Madagascar. In order to achieve this, there are two things that I would really like to contribute to, and the first is the improvement of the infrastructure of my country. The second is an improved access to education for girls. In Madagascar, there are regions where traditions and customs do not promote the rights of girls and their parents sell them into the sex tourism industry as a source of income. I think that education should be for everyone and that this will help our development.

Preparation Camp

Preparation Camp for the third AAI cohort was implemented from May 8th to July 7th with 29 students (21 Anglophone and 8 Francophone). During the Camp, staff and interns worked closely with students to help the scholars prepare for university and life in a new country.

Student Relations

Launched in 2014, the Ashinaga Africa Initiative has so far provided 67 scholars with university education in 11 countries. This year, they have continued to receive the support and guidance of the Student Relations Team (SRT) from our regional offices.

At the time of arrival in their country of study, SRT picks up students from the airport, takes them to their new housing and/or campus, and provides an orientation to make sure that they can smoothly start their university life in a foreign environment. SRT also continues to provide day-to-day communication with scholars to give advice regarding daily issues, social/cultural adjustment, and their studies. They also regularly make visits to the scholars to discuss in person. SRT ensures the scholars' well-being and academic success throughout the year.

In addition, AAI scholars continue to work on their Ashinaga Proposal in which they apply their knowledge and skills acquired at university toward an achievable idea that addresses a particular social issue in the African continent. Scholars are responsible to take the initiative to carry out this project; however, SRT offers advice and support whenever necessary. SRT in each regional office organizes reunions, called *tsudoï*. During *tsudoï*, scholars have the chance to reflect on campus life, to share and understand everyone's individual experiences, learn team building, work on individual development, receive career guidance, and to listen to prominent speakers. The goal of *tsudoï* is to prepare our scholars to return to Sub-Saharan Africa after graduation and to become leaders who can initiate change, innovation, and development.

In 2017, we held *tsudoï* in the following regions:

March:	International Student <i>tsudoï</i>, Japan
August:	Ashinaga France <i>tsudoï</i>
	Ashinaga USA <i>tsudoï</i>
September:	Lusophone <i>tsudoï</i>, Brazil
December:	Ashinaga UK <i>tsudoï</i>



Students and Staff at International Student *tsudoï* in Tokyo



Student getting feedback from Senegalese entrepreneur Theo Lam at Ashinaga France



Ashinaga USA *tsudoï*

University Relations



Additionally to giving support to our students, the Student Relations Team continues to build our University relations in each region. Ashinaga is regularly finding new partnership universities for our students, as well as gaining additional scholarships. During 2017, we have been able to negotiate several full/partial scholarships for tuition fees for our scholars. Below is a detailed list of the current partner universities we have and information on where fee reduction has been made possible.

List of Universities

JAPAN

- Doshisha University (50% off tuition fee for four years for admitted students)
- Kwansei University (100% off tuition fee for four years for two students per year)
- Tsukuba University
- Ritsumeikan University
- Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
- International Christian University
- Yamanashi Gakuin University (100% off tuition fee for one student for four years)
- Yokohama National University (50% off tuition fee for one student)
- Keio University (full scholarship for tuition for one student)

AUSTRALIA

- Queensland University
- New South Wales University

BRAZIL

- University Center of United Metropolitan Colleges
- Objectivo College

USA

- American University
- University of Michigan
- Clark University (50% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- Mount Holyoke College (75% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- DePauw University (50% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute (70% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- Princeton University (97% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- University of Notre Dame (90% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- Trinity College (80% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (10% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- Plattsburgh State University of New York (40% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- Duke University (100% of costs covered for one student for all four years)

- University of Richmond (85% scholarship for one student for all four years)
- University of Rochester (100% of costs covered for one student for all four years)

CANADA

- University of Montreal
- Simon Fraser University

UK & IRELAND

- University of Glasgow
- University of Sheffield
- University of Nottingham
- University of Westminster
- Coventry University
- Liverpool John Moores University
- University of Strathclyde
- University of Salford
- University of Leeds
- Imperial College London
- School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
- University of Bristol (50% off tuition fee for admitted students)
- University of Manchester
- INTO Manchester (15% off tuition fee for admitted students)
- INTO Exeter (15% off tuition fee for admitted students)
- Dublin International Foundation College

FRANCE

- ESIGELEC (Graduate School of Engineering)
- MADE iN (Management Art & Design Entrepreneurship)
- Strasbourg University
- Sup'Biotech (Paris Higher Biotechnology Institute) (40% off tuition fee for one student for five years)
- EIGSI (Industrial Systems Engineering School)
- Nanterre University (Paris 10)
- European School of Political and Social Sciences (ESPOL)
- UFR SMBH (Paris 13)
- Paul Sabatier University (Toulouse 3)
- University of Vincennes in Saint-Denis (Paris 8)
- University of Bordeaux
- MONTAIGNE
- Lycée Michel-Montaigne

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Charles University

NETHERLANDS

- University of Amsterdam
- Holland International Study Center

PORTUGAL

- University of Porto

OTHER SUPPORTING UNIVERSITIES

- Sophia University (full scholarship for 4 years for one student per year)
- Tokyo International University (full scholarship for 4 years for three students per year)
- Tokyo Nichigo Gakuin (Japanese Language School) (100% off tuition)
- Portsmouth University (20% off tuition fee for admitted students)
- Edinburgh University (the Mastercard Foundation Scholarship for one student for the 2018 entry; covers all costs, such as tuition, living costs, flight & visa)

PRE-AAI SCHOLARS

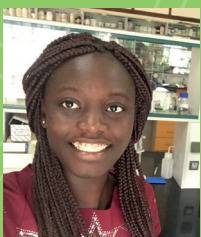
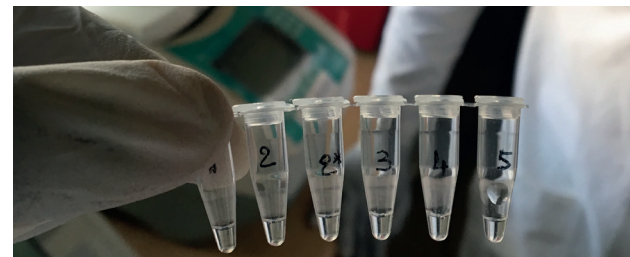
- Smith College (100% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- Pepperdine University (75% of costs covered for one student for all four years)
- Villanova University (40% of costs covered for one student for all four years)

Career

Development

The mission of AAI is to contribute to Sub-Saharan Africa's expanding role in global development through access to higher education abroad. AAI scholars are committed to returning home, or to the region of Sub-Saharan Africa, to initiate change, innovation and development. To support them, Ashinaga provides scholars with the training and resources they need to contribute positively to their communities, countries, and continent. An internship in Africa is one of the important components for career development, as it enables scholars to deepen their understanding of the socio-economic needs in Africa, enhance their professional skills, and develop a network with successful organizations and companies working for Africa. According to the Terms and Conditions of AAI, at minimum one internship in Africa is mandatory for each AAI scholar.

2017 observed a firm step towards establishing an organizational framework to support the career development of scholars. The Professional Networking Development (PND) team was formed, comprised of staff members from each regional office. The aim is to expand Ashinaga's network with potential partners to increase the internship opportunities in Africa as well as to provide career development support to scholars in collaboration with the Student Relations Team. So far, about 20 scholars have found internship opportunities in Africa and gained valuable experience and inspiration from motivated employers/entrepreneurs. They interned for more than eight consecutive weeks in Africa in various industries, such as renewable energy, education, health and medicine, and civil engineering.



Awa Thioub Faye

Sophomore at Sup'BioTech studying Biotechnology

Internship location: National Crops Resources Research Institute, Uganda

During the summer of 2017, I undertook an internship at an agricultural research lab in Uganda and focused on learning three key steps of diagnosing sick plants:

- The first step takes place in the field. The goal is to collect samples of the plants which are the most likely to be affected by relying on the observation of symptoms linked to the various sicknesses.
- The second is the extraction of DNA. It is done by crushing the leaves, adding chemicals, centrifugation.
- The third provides the final diagnosis. The DNA of the virus is amplified by PCR then the electrophoresis makes it possible to detect the presence or not of the virus.

I worked on two types of viruses: the Cassava Mosaic Virus (CMD) which attacks the DNA of the plant and the Cassava Brown Streak Virus (CBSV), its RNA. The diagnosis obtained is transferred to other laboratories which work, for example, in research for the eradication of the virus. My working environment varied from starting in a group of interns, to working independently to retrieve samples and conduct DNA tests. One benefit has been that it has improved my English speaking ability and enabled me to network in a new environment. After doing the internship I now see the potential for biotechnology in Africa. I was able to put my academic knowledge to practice for the first time and this experience will only prove to be beneficial for me in the future professionally.

Tokyo Headquarters



As the Ashinaga Africa Initiative has expanded further, so too has its leadership. Yukie Seki, Member of the Board of Directors for Ashinaga who directed the AAI for the past year, was joined by two additional directors, Kayo Torii and Shihoko Numa. With this new leadership structure, the AAI has been divided into three different sections. Yukie Seki has continued to serve as a Member of the Board, as well as Director of Recruitment and Education. Kayo Torii, who has extensive experience working with JICA (the Japan International Cooperation Agency), leads Development and Outreach. Shihoko Numa, who is the former Acting Director of Ashinaga Uganda and Ashinaga USA, leads Student and University Relations.

The headquarters in Tokyo has continued to work very closely this year with other regional offices to carry out the Ashinaga Africa Initiative. The Tokyo office oversees all AAI activities, but is also responsible for scholars studying in Japan, Australia, Brazil and Portugal, and oversees the programs in these countries. What makes the Tokyo office unique is that it also provides support to 27 non-AAI scholars, such as university students from Ashinaga Uganda, high

school students from Uganda and Senegal, and one-year exchange program students from Indonesia and Turkey.

Since the Tokyo headquarters welcomed its very first international student from Uganda in 2006, we have provided support to about 50 international students before the AAI began. Although they always were invited to the summer *tsudo*i reunions for Japanese students, this year was the first time we organized a *tsudo*i specifically for the international students. The students appreciated the discussions and sessions on issues surrounding international students studying in Japan. It was also a significant time for the international students to build solidarity amongst themselves.

In the past, most of these students in Japan have attended the same universities. However, the AAI scholars have started attending three new universities this year, including Keio University, which is the oldest institute of modern higher education in Japan and is one of the most prestigious private universities in the country. Our University Relations will continue to explore and develop new partnerships.

From next year, the Tokyo headquarters will start a new program, called the Japanese track program, in which scholars will first attend language schools to study Japanese, and then apply to universities in Japan. Previously, scholars have studied in English at Japanese universities; however, courses given in English are limited. If scholars study in Japanese, they will be able to choose from a variety of courses.



Staff and students at Brazil tsudoi held in September

As well as assisting students living in Japan, the Tokyo Headquarters also provides support to students studying in Australia, and our lusophone scholars studying in Brazil and Portugal.

This year was another great step in expanding our lusophone program. During the summer, SRT held their very first *tsudoi* in Brazil, and we had our first AAI scholar start university in Portugal.

Nilza Machango- Freshmen at University of Porto studying Civil Engineering

During September, Nilza began her new journey at University of Porto in Portugal. She is the second eldest of four sisters and was raised by their grandmother who supported her both mentally and financially. With hard work, Nilza successfully completed secondary school in December 2015 and started to attend university in Mozambique. However, she was never able to attend the school because of financial reasons.

Nilza heard about the Ashinaga Africa Initiative from her family. At first, she did not know if it was relevant to her situation and was not sure if she should apply. However, after realizing she was eligible, Nilza saw Ashinaga as the opportunity she had been looking for to achieve her dreams. When Nilza was told she had reached the interview stage of the application process, she "was so happy and excited! I couldn't believe what I was hearing. It was the day I have been waiting for all these years. It was the day that I have realized that my dreams can come true. From that day, I was hopeful, and became confident about my application."

The University of Porto, founded in 1911, is the second largest Portuguese university and has a high reputation for its research facilities. In the future, Nilza hopes to use her skill in engineering to improve primary schools in her community. "In Mozambique, many children, especially orphans, don't get enough education, because primary schools are few and very poor. Schools don't have basic infrastructure, such as classrooms, chairs, and desks. I believe that if the infrastructure of schools improve, Mozambique will have more children going to school, and these children can develop our country in the future."

Even though she has just begun her studies, Nilza recently won a prize at university for an international student achieving one of the highest grades in her faculty. "So far, my experience at university has been great. I feel that it's a place where I will learn a lot and have many unforgettable experiences. I am in love with the school, the city and the country. I hope to grow as a professional and as a person at the University of Porto. I want to become a real civil engineer who not only uses their knowledge from university, but can also use their skills to solve social problems in local communities."



AAI student Nilza pictured with Kenjin-Tatsujin Member Rosa Mota



AAI student Nilza pictured with Kenjin-Tatsujin Member Rosa Mota

“Ashinaga; a life changing opportunity towards a better world.”

Samuel, Rwanda, AAI Japanese track student





This year has been full of changes for Ashinaga Uganda. The AAI program increased the number of anglophone and lusophone target countries from 23 to 25. We still have some countries to include and they will be targeted with careful consideration for the next recruitment cycles.

In the past, the AAI program has supported students to progress onto higher education in top universities around the world, mainly in the USA and Europe. Although AAI generally only selects one student per country. After much consideration, in 2017 we expanded the opportunity by introducing an additional Japanese track. These students will be studying in Japanese and are expected to become not only leaders in their continent but a bridge between Japan and Africa.

In management, Ms. Yuka Yamada left her position as Director of Ashinaga Uganda after five years. Her contribution to Ashinaga Uganda was tremendous and memorable. As her successor, I have been working in Uganda since June.

Although the AAI program has grown exponentially and has developed an extensive network across Africa, there is still huge potential to improve. Better promotion and advertisement strategies of the program are especially vital in order to attract excellent candidates. Since the aim of the AAI is that our scholars become leaders in their countries/communities in the future, we mainly focused on enrollment in top universities. However, in order for them to return and contribute to the African continent, it is also crucial for our students to have and maintain a firm *kokorozashi*. Therefore, it is required to establish a firm definition of *kokorozashi* and how to enlighten its value and importance to AAI candidates during the camps.

Yoshihiro Imamura
Director of Ashinaga Uganda

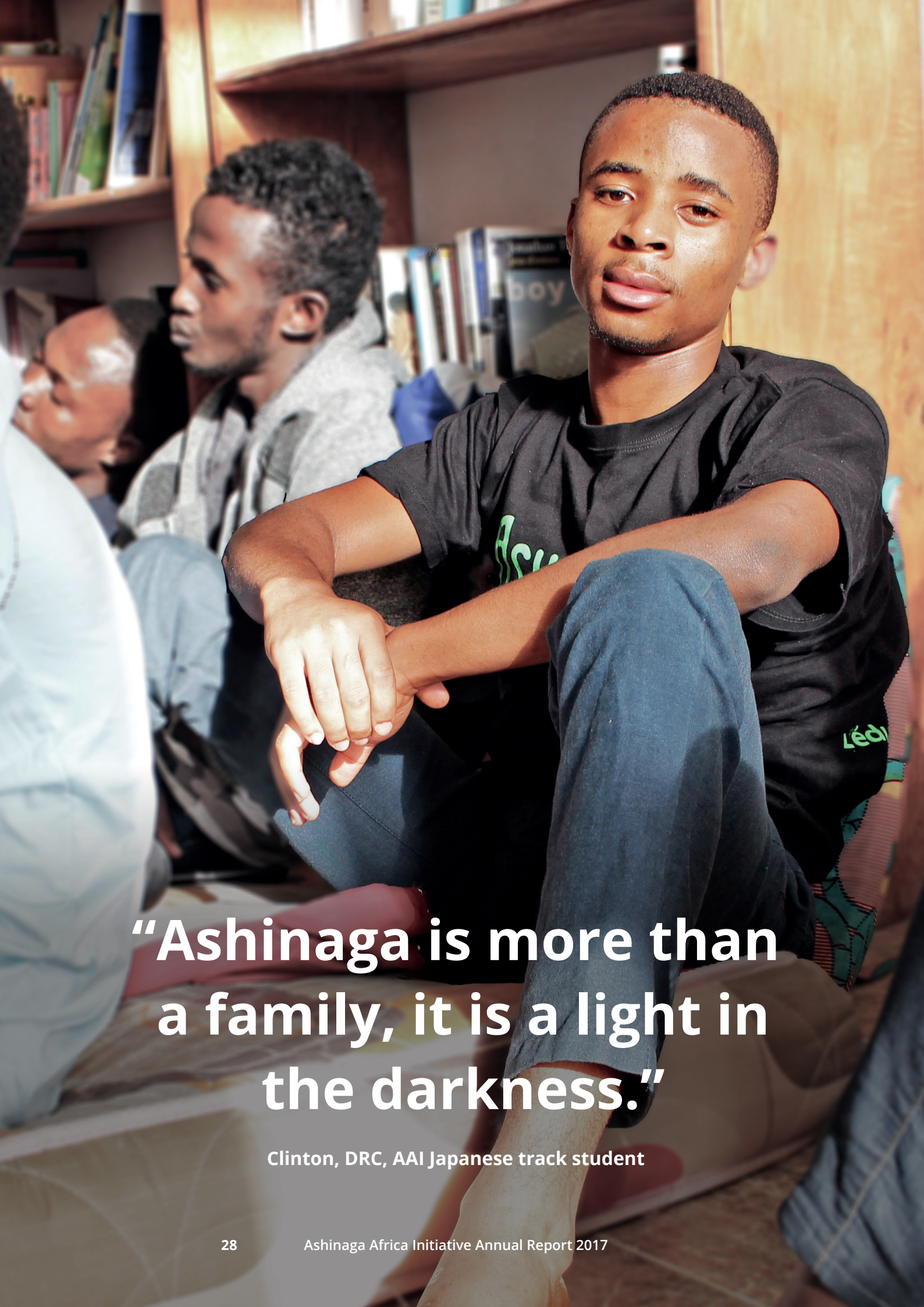
Samuel Ndayizeye - 2017 AAI Japanese Track Candidate from Rwanda

My name is Samuel Ndayizeye, and I am the 2017 Ashinaga scholar from Rwanda. From April 2018, I will be studying my favorite language, Japanese, for one year before enrolling at Tokai University for a degree in Biomedical Engineering. Looking back at the six months spent at the Uganda Kokoro-juku, I would honestly say that it's the best time in my life. When I arrived to the *Kokorojuku*, I was so amazed by the warm welcome that I was given by scholars, interns and staff members. I still remember the welcoming hands and very happy faces that I saw on my first day with Ashinaga Uganda. "Welcome to Ashinaga Uganda and make it your home," I was told by Mr. Hector.

Up on my arrival at Ashinaga Uganda *Kokorojuku*, I was welcomed by colleagues from diverse cultures including 23 scholars, 20 interns, and 10 staff members. They all immediately became my new wonderful good family: many brothers and sisters who are kind and friendly, teachers who are highly motivated, supportive and approachable anytime they are needed, a good team of staff who treated me with love and care. Every day, we shared meals and every time was an opportunity to share personal stories and experience. We played games together, traveled together, laughed together and discussed our common goal: to be the next generation of life changers and influencers after our studies with the help of Ashinaga. Suddenly, the *Kokorojuku* became my second new home.

During Study Camp, I had opportunities to learn how to live and work with people from different cultures, and how to respect and develop each other. Through Ashinaga, I have a firm idea of where I want to be tomorrow. I will return to Africa to work in the medical field. I would like to contribute to making medical care affordable and improving it by applying advanced technology. I would like Rwanda, my country, and Africa to benefit fully from the opportunity offered to me by Ashinaga.

I feel very thankful to Tama-chan and Ashinaga-san in general for giving me this special chance and a hope for the future - not just my future only, but the future of my country and Africa at large. Through Tama-chan, I can live my dreams. May he live long!



**“Ashinaga is more than
a family, it is a light in
the darkness.”**

Clinton, DRC, AAI Japanese track student



My journey as the Director of Ashinaga Senegal began three years ago. Thanks to excellent staff, we have run several successful projects such as AAI recruitment and Study Camp, local primary school and university scholarship programs, and a new Japanese language track program.

Over the last three years, I have learnt so much from all the AAI students. There is a huge evolution in them from the moment they are selected until they leave our Study Camp. Scholars arrive with a lot of uncertainties, but by the time they leave, they belong to the Ashinaga family and have confidence for the future. I find it very rewarding to be a witness of this evolution, listening to our students explain aspirations for the development of Africa, inspires me to continue putting all my energy into this program.

One of the highlights of the 2017 Study Camp was the leadership project the students worked on in addition to their academic preparation; they decided to raise awareness and help street children in Senegal. They went to meet companies, schools and organisations in Dakar and after two months they were able to collect four big baskets of clothes and food that they brought personally to an organisation which takes care of young children in difficulty. They were welcomed by the children singing a song to thank them and this experience taught our AAI scholars that they can help people and that they have the power to help the communities in their home country in the future.

As the 2017 Study Camp concludes, I feel confident sending them to study abroad where our regional offices will take care of them. They have the motivation and the power to participate in the development of their continent.

中水 智之

Tomoyuki Nakamizu
Director of Ashinaga Senegal

Clinton Yves Petemoya - 2017 AAI Japanese Track Candidate from Democratic Republic of Congo


I travelled 8,000 kilometres at the age of 18 in order to apply to Ashinaga. Congo is the second biggest country in Africa and with the very bad road network, it took me more than a month to gather all the necessary documents. If you have a map, you can trace my journey. I went from Kinshasa to Bandundu, and then onto Kasai, Lubumbashi and Kalemie, where I took the boat to Uvira and then a bus to Bukavu and then another boat to Goma before having to do the whole journey in reverse to get back to Kinshasa.

When I returned to Kinshasa I did not have internet access. I went to an internet café to scan and send my documents, where I met a girl who was also applying for the scholarship. At that moment I suddenly realised the scale of this organisation; I knew that there would be an enormous number of applicants and stiff competition, but I had the feeling that this year would be my chance.

I was selected to be a part of the Japanese language track at the Senegal Study Camp. Before arriving I only knew the words "arigatou," "konnichiwa," and "manga," but I've now realised that Japanese is an extremely interesting language, which I have become motivated to master. The first thing I want to do when I arrive to Japan is to try ramen for the first time! After studying Japanese, I plan to study civil engineering. I want to contribute to my society by providing better road networks, improving a better understanding of the vast cultures in DRC, and use my skills in engineering to provide better access to produce across the country.

I would like to pass on a message to the Ashinaga-san, whoever you are, wherever you are. Thank you for everything that you do for us, the Ashinaga students, and for the smile that you have given back to us. One day I saw a testimony from a lady in Japan who had lost her son. She didn't have a lot of money, but she said that it was with a heart full of joy that she was donating what little she could.

Today I know that the philosophy of Ashinaga is connected to my own story. For me, Ashinaga is more than a family, it is a light in the darkness. The organization has helped my growth and taught me that all the kindness we receive, should one day be passed on to others.



“I’ve learned that leadership means service. It means empathizing with others and trying to understand their perspectives.”

Hilda, Uganda, Senior at Smith College



Ashinaga USA established its Washington, DC headquarters in December of 2014 and achieved 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization in 2015. We have now reached the milestone of a successful three-year operation. In North America, we presently have 14 scholars studying in the United States, and two scholars in Canada with a total of 16 pursuing their education at renowned schools such as Princeton University.

Comprehensive financial aid packages from universities in North America significantly reduce the cost of attendance for our scholars. Our scholars receive on average a scholarship of \$30,000 (US) annually. These resources thus allow us to successfully send our scholars to some of the most prestigious, but also costly, institutions in the world.

This year, in the spring of 2018, the very first Ugandan students to study in the United States, also known as the three Pioneer scholars, are scheduled to graduate from their respective universities. In December, I visited each of these students on campus in the United States. Being so far away from their homes in Uganda, they overcame several obstacles with much determination and hard work. Over the past three years, they have not only adjusted but are thriving, having grown into distinguished young men and women. Paving the way for all AAI students around the world, I am confident that these Pioneer scholars will become leaders within Uganda, and for the continent of Africa as a whole. Their four years of learning, as well as the work of Ashinaga staff around the world, will equip them to take strides as global leaders; the cultivation of such scholars concerns all of us.



Yukichi Okazaki
Director of Ashinaga USA

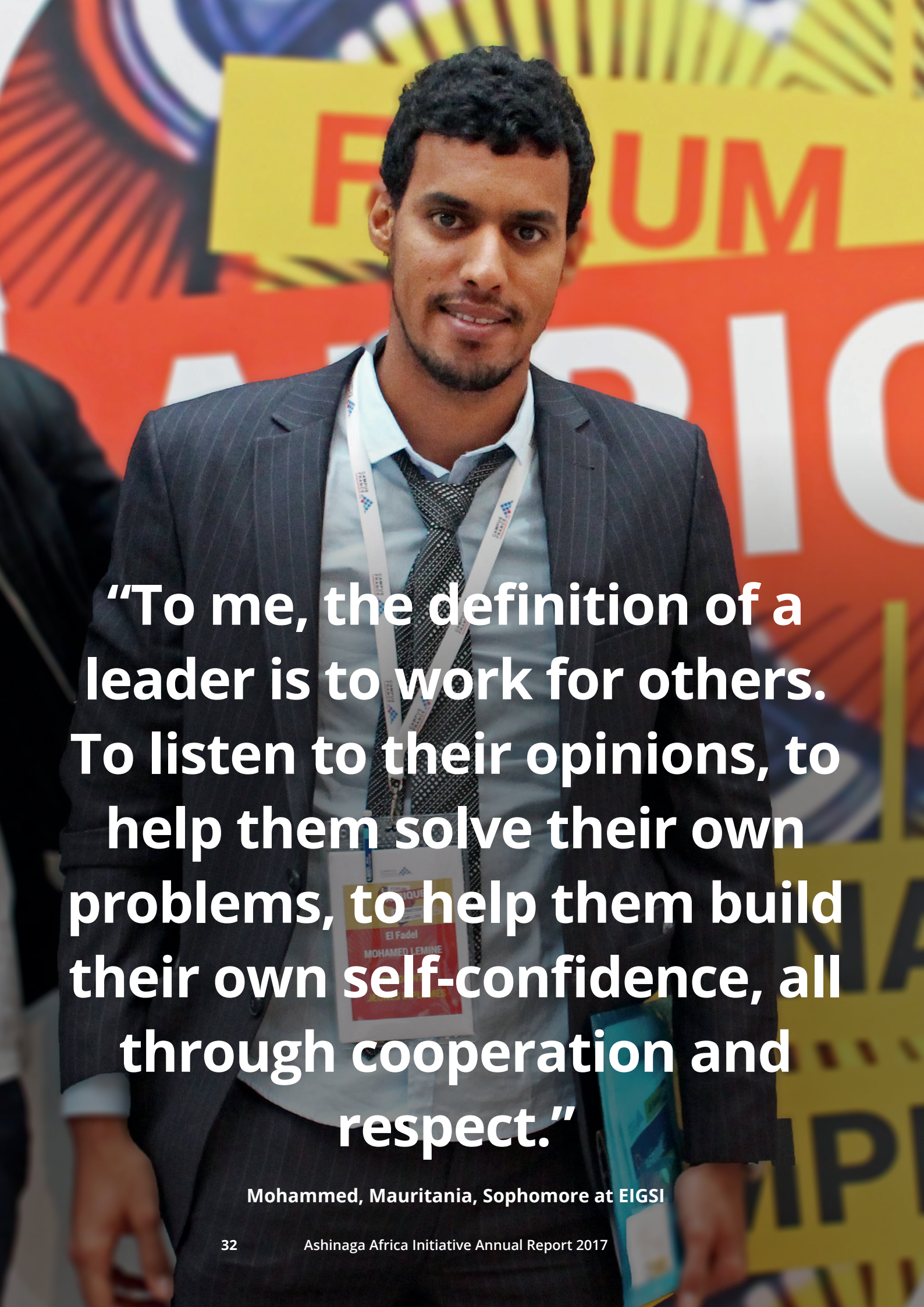
Hilda Nalwanga - Senior at Smith College Studying Government & African Affairs

Hilda Nalwanga, a senior Government and African Studies Double Major with a Certificate in International Relations at Smith College, is currently in her final months of school before graduating in May 2018. Born and raised in Nansana, Uganda, it was during her A-Level course that Hilda was first introduced to Ashinaga Uganda by attending one of its leadership camps. Thereafter, Hilda's involvement with Ashinaga only grew, and she soon became one of Ashinaga's candidates to study at university abroad. Ashinaga saw Hilda as a leader, and she embraced this role. Not only did Hilda become more involved in Ashinaga's local programs in Nansana, but she also eventually found herself applying to Smith College in the US with Ashinaga's support.

Several years later and about to graduate, Hilda is reflecting on what she has learned throughout this journey. "From all my experiences at Smith and with Ashinaga, I've learned that leadership means service. It means empathizing with others and trying to understand their perspectives. Communication is a very important part of that, and that's something I've also learned so much about at Smith."

Regarding her future plans, Hilda says, "I am looking forward to the transition. Coming to the US was the most exciting time because everything was new and I was on my own. However, after I graduate I will no longer be under the umbrella of an institution like Smith College or Ashinaga, so I am excited and nervous about that change. I will have to stand on my own two feet as an adult, and I'm excited to see how I will navigate those challenges."

Among Hilda's many accomplishments, she has recently been awarded a \$7,000 grant to pilot an international internship program for students at Smith. She is also currently working with a professor to establish an elementary school in Kenya by writing the course curriculum.



“To me, the definition of a leader is to work for others. To listen to their opinions, to help them solve their own problems, to help them build their own self-confidence, all through cooperation and respect.”

Mohammed, Mauritania, Sophomore at EIGSI



The Ashinaga France office was registered as an “association 1901” also known as “association à but non-lucratif,” or a not-for-profit organization, on December 5th, 2016. This past year, the regional office continued to develop our work in France and around Europe. We supported 16 students in France, The Netherlands, and the Czech Republic in collaboration with our partner, Campus France.

A particularly meaningful moment was the orientation program of our second promotion of students in August 2017. Our second-year students were able to host their younger peers and introduce them to their new environment. Their assistance adjusting to a different culture and way of life was invaluable. Students toured Paris together, and came back to Ashinaga to discuss the differences they noticed while exploring the city. At another student gathering, Ashinaga invited a Senegalese-French entrepreneur to workshop our students’ ideas for their innovative Ashinaga Proposals, projects they will develop during their studies to contribute to a specific issue in their respective home countries. Meeting and speaking with experts and those who have been successful in giving back to their country is essential for our students to envision themselves with a similar future.

Another significant experience for the students was the African Employment Forum hosted by Campus France in Paris in November. Students spoke with entrepreneurs and international companies to understand their professional options and to practice networking and be responsible for their future careers. Ashinaga staff members also joined the Women in Africa Summit in Marrakech, Morocco, connecting with companies, non-profits, and entrepreneurs who are dedicated to investing in the potential of Africa and witnessing its success.

In the coming year we will continue developing the work we do in France and around Europe. This will involve student support for an estimated 28 students, increasingly engaging existing partnerships and networks, and raising awareness of the activities of Ashinaga, in particular with the hosting of an opening ceremony in Paris in 2018. We

also plan to continue developing connections with companies and developing our leadership training programs for our students to maximize their potential. The France office will work closely with all other regional offices and with HQ and actively participate in developing and strengthening the communication and collaboration between these offices.

Samantha Smith
Director of Ashinaga France

Mohamed Lemine El Fadel - Sophomore at EIGSI Studying Mechanical Engineering

Mohamed is a 25-year-old Mauritanian studying mechanical engineering at EIGSI La Rochelle, France. While Mohamed tends to shy away from the spotlight, he is a hard-working student who shows great understanding and compassion for his fellow scholars. He tutors fellow classmates in subjects they find difficult, and tirelessly searches for opportunities to develop his own skills. Over the last two years, Mohamed has also demonstrated growing leadership skills which have illustrated his responsibility and maturity. The rest of his Ashinaga colleagues looks to him as a natural leader of the group, and holds the utmost respect for him. He has encouraged and inspired other students to explore their communities in Europe, and to continue to study hard.

He would like to participate in the development of his country using solar energy. He believes that the climate of Mauritania is ideal for solar energy as it enjoys a warm and sunny climate year round. He believes that the transition to a more sustainable source of energy is the answer to many problems and challenges the country currently faces.

His love for his country and the African continent has pushed him to intern for local companies so he may better evaluate the local economy and have a larger understanding of the expertise needed to contribute to the development of Africa, and more specifically, Mauritania. He is determined to return home and provide support to his community.



"Success is a myth until one meets the right motivation at the right time. There is always hope and breakthrough if one has people who believe in them."

William, Lesotho, Sophomore at Leeds University



2017 has been an extra-ordinary year for Ashinaga UK in which we have started to realize President Tamai's vision for our office. We divide our workload into student support, university relations, external relations, and administration. This year we decided to focus on student support, developing systems to help our students maximize their potential. In addition to this we had a significant amount of administrative work to do, as a new organization, and made more progress than we had anticipated with universities.

The UK office has grown from one full-time staff member to four. We currently support 20 students from 13 countries. All our students successfully progressed to their next year of study, many with excellent grades, academic awards, and glowing references from their professors. Many of our students undertook internships in Africa and all made real progress on their Ashinaga Proposals. The UK office created the Ashinaga leadership framework, now adopted across AAI, and is now working on a four-year curriculum of student support building on this framework. The orientation for new students and winter camp went very well, with senior students supporting junior students a key component of our programs. We also engaged with external experts, including Dr Seraphin Kamdem of SOAS, who presented at our winter camp, and Professor Kevin Marsh and Dr Anne Makena of Oxford.

The launch event of the UK office at the Houses of Parliament, supported by Sir Eric Thomas, was the highlight of our year. President Tamai, Vice-President Shimomura, and I were delighted to welcome Ambassador Tsuruoka as our guest of honor. All of our guests were very moved by one of our students, Sena, who gave an incredible speech on the impact Ashinaga has had on her life and on her future plans.

In 2017 the UK office negotiated partial tuition scholarships with the University of Bristol and the University of Portsmouth, as well as full scholarships with the University of Edinburgh. In the coming year we hope to develop more relationships with universities, as well as with other scholarship organisations,

charities, and companies. Student and staff participation in conferences will be a key part of this relationship building. The UK office will also focus on developing monitoring, evaluation, and learning programs, to refine every aspect of our work. The support of our students, of the Ashinaga offices, and of the *Kenjin-Tatsujin* has been central to our successes in 2017. We will continue to place these relationships at the heart of our work in 2018 and beyond.

Dr Michael King (Oxon)
Director of Ashinaga UK

William Tlelima - Sophomore at University of Leeds Studying Civil Engineering

William is a 20 year old student from Lesotho, studying Civil and Structural Engineering at the University of Leeds. William is a proactive and friendly student who engages all those he meets. Academically, William is very strong and however heavy his workload he always remains calm, positive, and focused. This past year, William has particularly excelled in mathematics, while also playing an active role in his university's African society.

This summer William found himself an internship in an engineering firm in South Africa. The company was very impressed with William's professionalism, flexibility, and knowledge, and have asked him to return to them in the future. This internship also prompted William to change his Ashinaga proposal from clean energy to improving sewage and waste water treatment. William presented on his internship experience, from finding an internship to how to maximise the gain from an internship experience, to all the students at the Winter *tsudo*.

At the UK office launch event William met Dr John Oliphant, the High Commissioner of Lesotho, who was very impressed with William's vision and his determination to use his engineering skills to bring about positive change in Lesotho.

Global Outreach

Internship Program

The Ashinaga Internship Program began in 2013 as an English teaching program for students in Japan and Uganda. Since then, Ashinaga has continued to expand and develop its movement globally, enabling the Internship Program to grow as well. In 2017, we received more than 800 applications, and accepted 92 interns from 63 universities all over the world, who worked in our offices in Japan, Uganda, and Senegal to help us under the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI).

Internship Teams:

- Education Support
- Student Relations
- Fundraising and Marketing
- Translation
- Professional Network Development
- Media

2017 Intern Universities

Belgium University of Liège **Brazil** Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO)
Canada McGill University, Université Laval, University of Montreal
Czech Republic FAMU Prague **France** École Polytechnique, INALCO, Sciences Po Paris, Sciences Po Rennes, Sorbonne Paris Cité, Université Paris 13
Hong Kong Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hang Seng Management College **Italy** Ca' Foscari University of Venice, University of Bologna, Università degli Studi di Bergamo **Japan** Bukkyo University, Hitotsubashi University, Nihon University, Sophia (Jochi) University, Tohoku University, Tokyo International University, Waseda University **Lithuania** Vilnius University **Mauritius** African Leadership University **Netherlands** Leiden University **Philippines** University of the Philippines – Manila **Poland** University of Warsaw **Portugal** University of Lisbon **Singapore** National University of Singapore **South Korea** Yonsei University **Uganda** Makerere University **UK** Cambridge University, Kingston University, London School of Economics, Southampton University, University College London, University of Aberdeen, University of Bath, University of Bristol, University of East Anglia, University of Edinburgh, University of Kent, University of Leeds, University of Oxford, York University **USA**, Earlham College, Kalamazoo College, Knox College, Lewis & Clark College, Middlebury College, New York University, Princeton University, St. Olaf College, Trinity College, UC Berkeley, University of Richmond, University of Southern California, University of Virginia, Vassar College, Yale University

92 Interns at 63 unis in 19 Countries

It was a space in which I was allowed to spread my wings and work on projects from initial conception until bringing them to life. While I previously had some brief teaching experience, I felt challenged to teach extensive courses in subjects such as Pan-Africanism, English, or Study Skills. Looking back at how fast my internship went, I can surely confess that it was a transformative experience. It not only allowed me to give new definitions to social impact but also to that of friendship, ambition, kindness and perseverance.

Amina Soulimani (African Leadership University), intern with Ashinaga Senegal



45 Japan
31 Uganda
16 Senegal



Global Outreach

Student Ambassadors

The Student Ambassador (SAs) Program involves establishing and working alongside student-run and student-organized Chapters across Europe, North America, and Asia. The overarching aim is to raise awareness and encourage support for the cause of higher education in development, with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa - in alignment with Ashinaga's philosophy and activities. SAs and their Chapters raise awareness of Ashinaga and its cause amongst university student bodies.

**Ashinaga has
13 Ambassadors
at 11 universities**
from 5 different countries

2017 was the second year of the Ashinaga Student Ambassador Program and we have built upon the successes of 2016 to develop an expanded but more streamlined program aimed at spreading the Ashinaga movement amongst diverse student bodies. Five members of the existing Chapters (Bristol, Edinburgh, UCL, McGill) were continued, and an additional five were added (National University of Singapore, Oxford, Princeton, Sciences Po Paris and the University of Southern California). For all Chapters, the Student Ambassadors underwent training in Tokyo - covering topics relating to international development theory, Ashinaga, leadership, marketing volunteering, and how to make a difference on campus.

List of 2017 Chapters

University	Country
McGill University	Canada
Sciences Po Aix	France
Sciences Po Paris	France
National University of Singapore	Singapore
University of Bristol	UK
University of Edinburgh	UK
University College London	UK
University of Oxford	UK
Princeton University	USA
Trinity College	USA
University of Southern California	USA



Kenjin-Tatsujin

The *Kenjin-Tatsujin* International Advisory Council is a body of international leaders that forms a key part of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative.

The Council had it's First General Meeting in 2015, since then the council has grown to hold over 100 members from across five continents.

List of Current *Kenjin-Tatsujin* Members

Asia

Japan

Yuichiro Anzai
Akito Arima
Hideaki Domichi
Junzo Fujita
Kazuo Hiramatsu
Keisuke Honda
Mieko Ikegame
Daisaku Kadokawa
Takashi Kawamura
Masaakira James
Kondo
Michiharu Kurita
Hiroshi Matsumoto
Hideo Miyahara
Ryoji Noyori
Toshiro Ozawa
Masashi Sada
Yoko Sakanoue
Masayoshi Son
Juichi Yamagiwa
Tetsuo Yamaori
Yasuhiro Yamashita

Philippines

Teresita T. Sy-Coson

Africa

Burkina Faso

Lassina Zerbo

Ghana

Ebenezer Oduro
Owusu

Kenya

Miriam K. Were

Niger

Ibrahim Assane
Mayaki

Rwanda

Charles Murigande

Senegal

Coumba Gawlo

Sierra Leone

Kandeh K. Yumkella

South Africa

Ntombizodwa
Yvonne "Chaka
Chaka" Mhinga

Uganda

James Boliba Baba
Alex Godwin
Coutinho

Zimbabwe

Strive Masiyiwa

Europe

Austria

Seiji Ozawa

Belgium

Bruno Delvaux

Denmark

Bolette Christensen

France

Frédéric Mion
Jean-Christophe
Rufin
Louis Schweitzer
Lionel Zinsou

Germany

Theodor Berchem
Dieter Lenzen

Greece

Marianna V.
Vardinoyannis

Italy

Andrea Bocelli
Alberto Michelini

Netherlands

Erica Terpstra

Poland

Marek Ziółkowski

Portugal

Leonor Belezza
Antonio Ramalho
Eanes
Manuela Ramalho
Eanes
Rosa Mota

Spain

Antonio Garrigues
Walker

Sweden

Göte Bernhardsson

Turkey

Turkan Soray

UK

John Caird
Andrew D. Hamilton
Eric Jackson Thomas

North America

Canada

Janice R. Fukakusa
Michael H. Wilson

USA

Hank Aaron
Willie Banks
Nancy D. Bodurtha
Julie Azuma
Kent Eyring Calder
Joseph Duffey
William Easterly
Lloyd Hand
Catharine Bond Hill
Linda Hoaglund
Sheena Iyengar
Steven Knapp
Norman Yoshio
Mineta
Dikembe Mutombo
Santa Jeremy Ono
Witney W.
Schneidman
Paul Tagliabue
Junji Takegami
Kathleen Durham
Tato Takahama

Latin America

Argentina

Fernando de la Rúa
Maria Kodama

Brazil

Gil Gilberto
Masato Ninomiya
Alberto da Costa e
Silva

Chile

Keko Yunge

Colombia

Ramiro Osorio
Noemi Sanin

Mexico

Carlos Kasuga

Peru

Maria Luisa de
Cossio de Gionzales
Posada
Lucho Quequezana

**Please Note: This list
was updated as of 31st
December 2017**



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