



# Ashinaga Africa Initiative Annual Activity Report 2018





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# A Message From Our President

“The Thousand Year Capital” - this is what Kyoto, home of the Japanese Emperor from 794 to 1868, is sometimes called. It is thought to be the home of the Japanese spirit. At the Third General Meeting of the *Kenjin Tatsujin* International Advisory Council, hosted by Ashinaga in Kyoto in March 2018, the proposal to create a facility in Kyoto for the Ashinaga Africa Initiative Scholars to spend time in before leaving for their various universities, was approved. After consulting with the Mayor of Kyoto Daisaku Kadokawa, as well as our supporters, we have set April 2021 as the prospective date for its opening.

Last year, the Ashinaga Africa Initiative entered its fifth year. Since its inception, the Initiative has selected 158 orphaned students from 44 of the 49 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to become Ashinaga Scholars. Each year, the Scholars have gathered at Ashinaga facilities to attend Study and Preparation Camps directed towards supporting their preparations for studying abroad, with the Anglophone Scholars gathering in Uganda, and the Francophone Scholars gathering in Senegal. During these Camps, AAI Scholars work diligently towards expanding both their academic abilities and competency to engage with this new chapter of their lives outside of the African Continent.

So, why establish a new educational and living facility in Kyoto? Of course, I hope that the Scholars will be able to refine their English language skills and other fundamental academic knowledge while in Kyoto. However, that which I would like to express most to the AAI Scholars is the importance of *kokorozashi*. There is no satisfactory English equivalent to the word *kokorozashi*, but I think that it can be safely described as a word that combines the concepts of a heart filled with gratitude, a selfless spirit, a passion for helping others, and finally, the conceptual ability and conviction to help bring these thoughts to life. This is why the chosen name for the facility in Kyoto is the Ashinaga *Kokorozashi-Juku*.

The name Ashinaga (Long-Legs) comes from the novel “Daddy-Long-Legs,” by American author Jean Webster. This was my sister’s favorite book before she fell ill and passed away at a young age. Reading her copy of the book inspired me to create a system of anonymous donors, each giving their donations under the collective pseudonym “Ashinaga-san” (Mr or Mrs Long-Legs). Today, there are over 30,000 Ashinaga-san, in Japan, and their charitable donations have granted our organization a solid financial foundation. Most Ashinaga-san are not rich. They are regular people who do their best every day. Many of them were unable to pursue higher education for financial reasons. Yet, they save money and donate, hoping that in doing so they may support orphaned students to achieve what they themselves could not. This is a point of pride for us. These precious donations go towards improving the lives of orphaned students in sub-Saharan Africa, but that alone is not enough. We must strive for an even loftier goal; that of empowering future leaders to use their *kokorozashi* to contribute to the development of their home countries.

Kyoto is not just a cradle of Japanese culture, dotted with innumerable World Heritage sites. It is also a city of learning, with more than 40 universities and junior colleges located throughout the city. 10% of its 1.5 million population is made up of students. Kyoto is also home to many of the high-tech companies for which Japan is known worldwide. I believe life in Kyoto, with its unique mixture of tradition and modernity, will give AAI Scholars a chance to look at their own cultures with fresh eyes. And I hope that – rather than borrow from the West – such an experience will encourage them to think of their own new and innovative ways to contribute to their countries.

玉井 義信

# Tamai's Highlights of 2018



**March**

*Kenjin Tatsujin Third General Meeting, Kyoto Declaration*





**April**

*Bokin / Street Fundraising*



**April**

*New Stipend Program for Japanese Students*



**June**

*Dr. Oussouby Sacko, the President of Kyoto Seika University becomes Kenjin Tatsujin member.*



**July**

*Goto Shinpei Award*



**August**

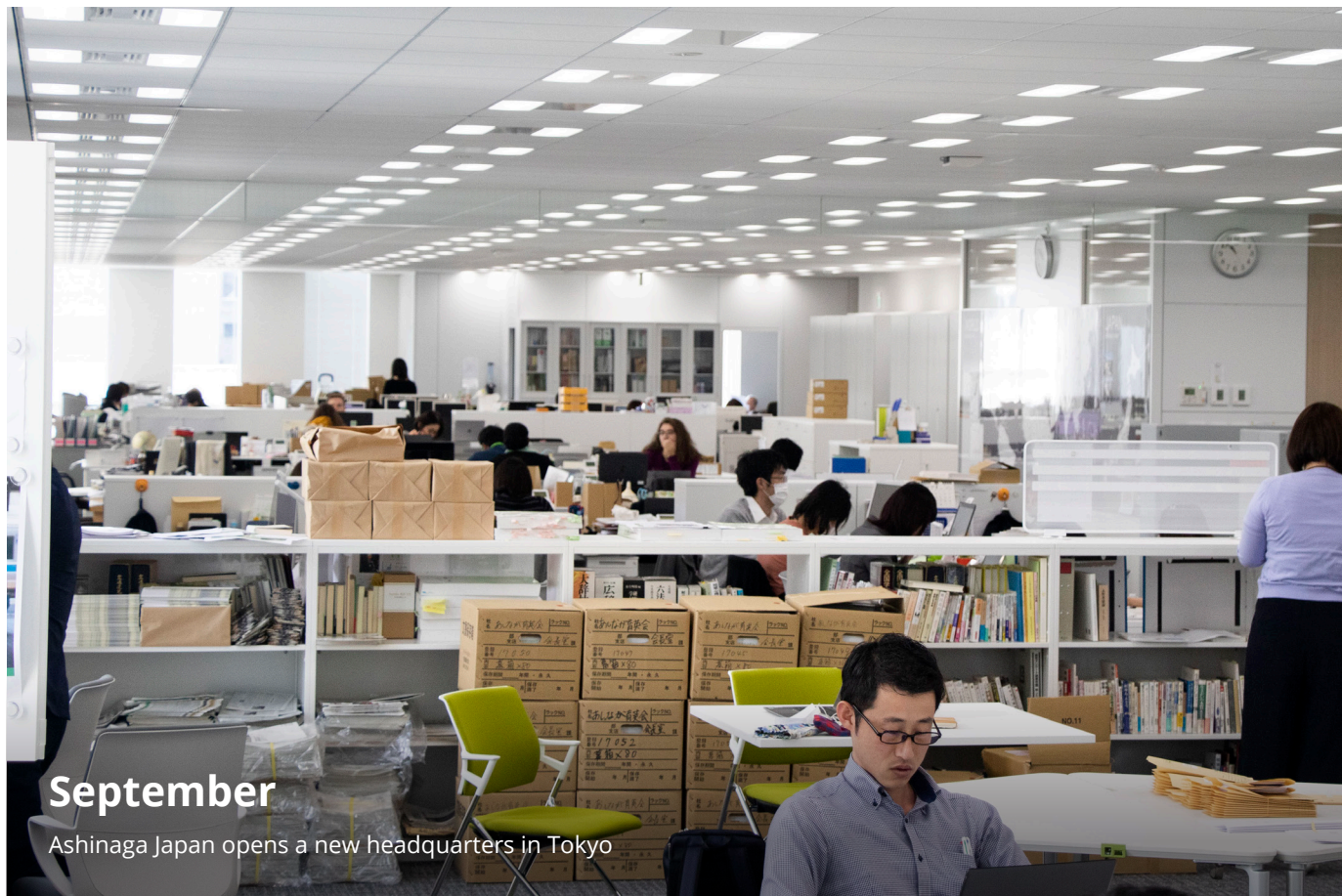
*Tamai Visits the Emperor and Empress of Japan*



**September**

*Saiko Tsudoi*









**October**

*Bokin / Street Fundraising*



**November**

*Meeting with Dalai Lama XIV*



**November**

*Meeting with Dalai Lama XIV*



**December**

*A celebration for Goto Shinpei Award*



# Kenjin Tatsujin Update

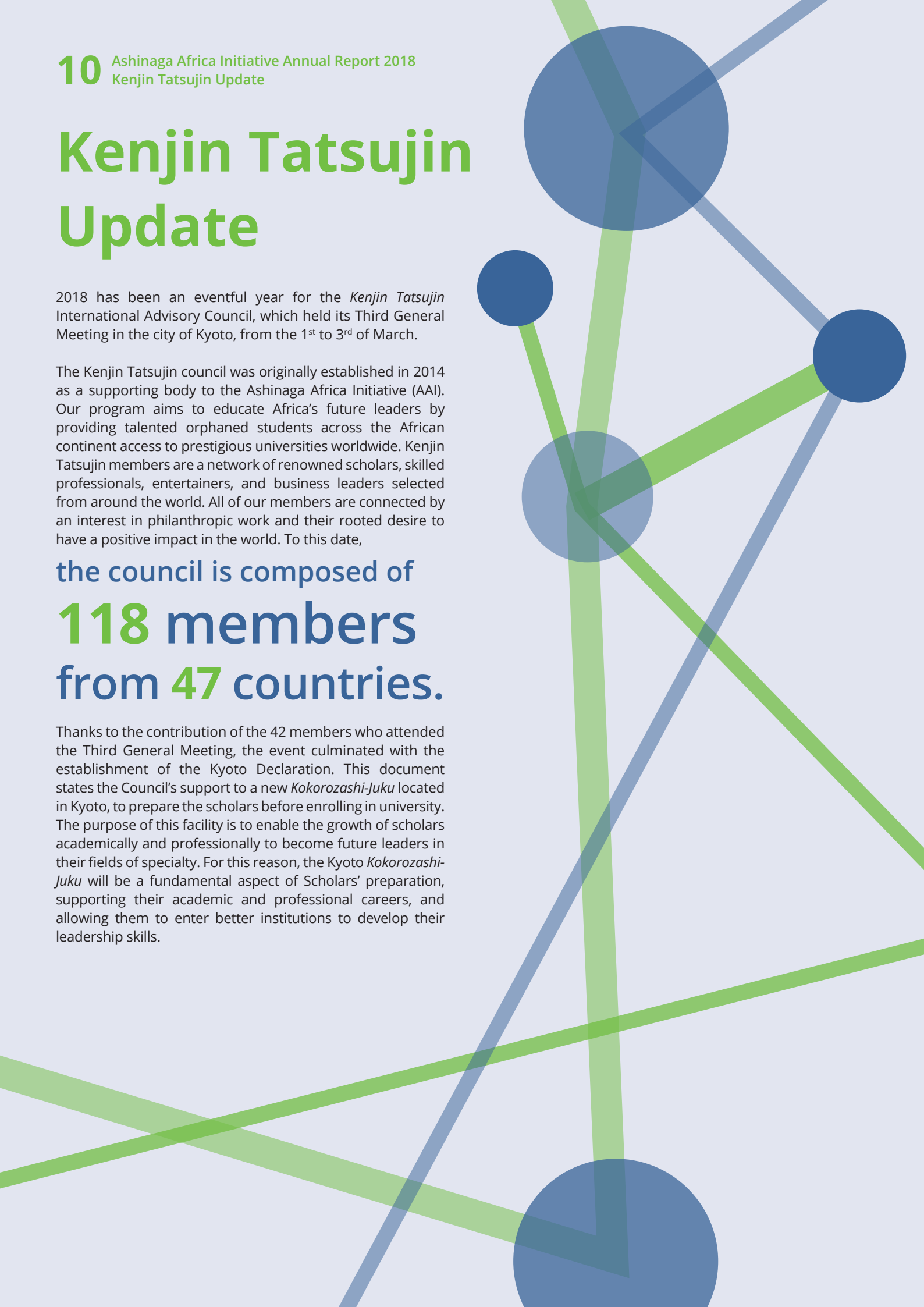
2018 has been an eventful year for the *Kenjin Tatsujin* International Advisory Council, which held its Third General Meeting in the city of Kyoto, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> of March.

The Kenjin Tatsujin council was originally established in 2014 as a supporting body to the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI). Our program aims to educate Africa's future leaders by providing talented orphaned students across the African continent access to prestigious universities worldwide. Kenjin Tatsujin members are a network of renowned scholars, skilled professionals, entertainers, and business leaders selected from around the world. All of our members are connected by an interest in philanthropic work and their rooted desire to have a positive impact in the world. To this date,

the council is composed of

**118** members  
from **47** countries.

Thanks to the contribution of the 42 members who attended the Third General Meeting, the event culminated with the establishment of the Kyoto Declaration. This document states the Council's support to a new *Kokorozashi-Juku* located in Kyoto, to prepare the scholars before enrolling in university. The purpose of this facility is to enable the growth of scholars academically and professionally to become future leaders in their fields of specialty. For this reason, the Kyoto *Kokorozashi-Juku* will be a fundamental aspect of Scholars' preparation, supporting their academic and professional careers, and allowing them to enter better institutions to develop their leadership skills.







## Kyoto Kokorozashi-Juku Update

Following the General Meeting, a press conference was held with Yoshiomi Tamai, Founder and President of Ashinaga; Mr. Louis Schweitzer, Chairperson of the Advisory Council and Former President of Renault; Mr. Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor of Kyoto; and Dr. Juichi Yamagiwa, President of Kyoto University to announce the future establishment of the *Kokorozashi-Juku*.

In December, five members of the Council gathered in Tokyo to create the foundation for the curriculum offered at the *Kokorozashi-Juku*. Together with President Tamai, Sir Eric Thomas, Former Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University; Dr. Charles Murigande, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Rwanda; H.E. James Boliba Baba, Former Ambassador of Uganda to Japan; Mr. James Kondo, Chairman of the International House of Japan, and Co-chairman of Silicon Valley Japan Platform; and Mr. Tato Takahama, Executive Director of the Pacific Research Institute, shared suggestions and opinions on the topic.

Thanks to the ongoing cooperation of the Mayor of Kyoto, Mr. Kadokawa, multiple meetings were set between representatives from Ashinaga, the Kyoto City Council and Kyoto University. This allowed further discussion on the *Kyoto Kokorozashi-Juku* as well as its role in the local community. In addition, various working groups were established internally in Ashinaga, with a goal of designing every aspect of the program and facilitating its establishment, which is scheduled for April 2021.

## Member Satisfaction

The Third General Meeting held in Kyoto as well as the other events mentioned above allowed members to develop a clearer understanding of our programs and clarified their role and contribution to Ashinaga's mission. To follow up, a general survey was sent out to all Kenjin Tatsujin members to gather information on their preferred stream of contribution to the AAI. This past year, we have been exploring three main streams of involvement, namely internship placement, AAI recruitment support and mentoring.

## Members Contribution

The internships provided by the council members are crucial experiences, which will play a vital role in our Scholars professional development. Over the past year, Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of CTBTO, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Former Prime Minister of Niger and CEO of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and Dr. Alex Coutinho, Former Executive Director of Partners in Health kindly offered internship positions to AAI Scholars, allowing them to apply their skills in new fields. Recruitment of new scholars is another area of cooperation where the council members provided their expertise. Selecting capable students with the potential to become future leaders is a key step in achieving our mission. On that note, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, and several other members have kindly offered part of their busy schedules, experience, and networks, to help us conduct interviews in their countries or have suggested local experts to join the selection committee.

Additionally, a few council members expressed their support to Ashinaga by participating in Study Camp at our local offices and spending time with our Scholars. Professor Miriam K. Were, Former Chancellor of Moi University in Kenya and recipient of the first Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize, gave a lecture to the AAI Scholars attending the Ashinaga Uganda Study Camp. Dr. Alex Coutinho, mentioned earlier, kindly invited Scholars at Study Camp to discuss about their future plans. Similarly, Ashinaga Senegal had the honor of welcoming Professor Mieke Ikegame, Former Director at the United Nation's Office of Under Secretary General and Special Advisor on Africa; Ms. Erica Terpstra, Former President of Dutch National Olympic Committee; and Dr. Mayaki, mentioned above.

## New Members

During the International Tsudoi that took place in February 2019, two new members of the council were invited to participate and give lectures to our Scholars in Japan. Professor Oussouby Sacko, President of Kyoto Seika University, and Dr. Naya Mondo, CEO and Founder of Elerai Global Services LLC were both in attendance. It is with great pleasure that we welcome them to the Kenjin Tatsujin Council.



# Kenjin Tatsujin Members

## Africa

### Angola

Nadir Tati

### Burkina Faso

Lassina Zerbo

### Cote D'Ivoire

Patrice Koffi Anoh

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

Daniel Mukoko Samba

### Ghana

Ebenezer Oduro Owusu

### Kenya

Naya Mondo  
Douglas Maina Wakiihuri  
Miriam K. Were

### Lesotho

John N. Oliphant

### Malawi

Chomora Mikeka

### Mali

Oussouby Sacko

### Mauritania

Sidi Soueina

### Mauritius

Dhanjay Jhurry

### Mozambique

Moreira William Chonguiça

### Namibia

Osmund Damian  
Mwandemele

### Niger

Ibrahim Assane Mayaki

### Nigeria

James Chukwuma Ogbonna  
Onyeka Onwenu

### Rwanda

Charles Murigande

### Senegal

Coumba Gawlo

### Sierra Leone

Kandeh K. Yumkella

### South Africa

Gilbert M. Khadiagala  
Ntombizodwa Yvonne “  
Chaka Chaka” Mhinga  
Thulisile Phiri

### Tanzania

Esther William Dungumaro

### Uganda

James Boliba Baba  
Alex Godwin Coutinho  
Betty Oyella Bigombe

### Zambia

Godfrey Simasiku

### Zimbabwe

Strive Masiwiya  
Tsitsi Masiwiya

## Asia

### Japan

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

### Philippines

Teresita T. Sy-Coson

## Europe

### Austria

Seiji Ozawa

### Belgium

Bruno Delvaux

### Denmark

Flemming Besenbacher  
Bolette Christensen

### France

Frédéric Mion  
Jean-Christophe Rufin  
Louis Schweitzer  
Lionel Zinsou

### Germany

Theodor Berchem  
Hans-Dieter Hausner  
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

Türkan Şoray

### UK

John Caird  
Louise Richardson  
Eric Jackson Thomas

## North America

### Canada

Janice R. Fukakusa  
Michael H. Wilson

### USA

Hank Aaron  
Julie Azuma  
Willie Banks  
Nancy D. Bodurtha  
Kent Eyring Calder  
Joseph Duffey  
Kathleen Durham  
William Easterly  
Andrew D. Hamilton  
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  
Tato Takahama  
Teresa Watanabe

## Latin America

### Argentina

Fernando de la Rúa  
María Kodama

### Brazil

Gilberto Gil  
Masato Ninomiya  
Alberto da Costa e Silva

### Chile

Keko Yunge

### Colombia

Ramiro Osorio  
Noemí Sanín

### Mexico

Carlos Kasuga

### Peru

Maria Luisa de Cossio de  
Gonzales Posada  
Lucho Quequezana

# A Message From Our Director

In 2018 we further expanded our recruitment and welcomed our fifth cohort of 48 candidates from 44 sub-Saharan African countries. We now support a total of 158 students, either as Scholars at university or Candidates preparing at Study Camps. Despite their busy schedules, our Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) *Kenjin Tatsujin* members have been very supportive by giving lectures, acting as mentors and providing internship opportunities to Scholars. Such support encourages our students by providing eye-opening experiences and insights, notably regarding the potential future economic growth on the African continent. 25 Scholars completed internships in sub-Saharan Africa this year, tackling key challenges that face the continent such as rural electrification, food issues, safe water supply and community health. For each Scholar this marked the beginning of a journey towards future contributions. Additionally, we have also developed our support for lusophone Scholars with the establishment of a new office in Brazil. Our staff now work in seven countries across the world: Brazil, Uganda, Senegal, the UK, France, and the USA, along with our Headquarters in Japan.

Our core mission for the AAI program is to support Scholars who are committed to returning home, or to the region of sub-Saharan Africa, to initiate change, innovation, and development. This is what we call *kokorozashi* in Japanese. To help develop our program we are updating the AAI Leadership Development Framework while also creating new MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning) and Alumni Network systems. We look forward to sharing our progress with you soon and hope for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yukie Seki', written in a cursive, fluid style.

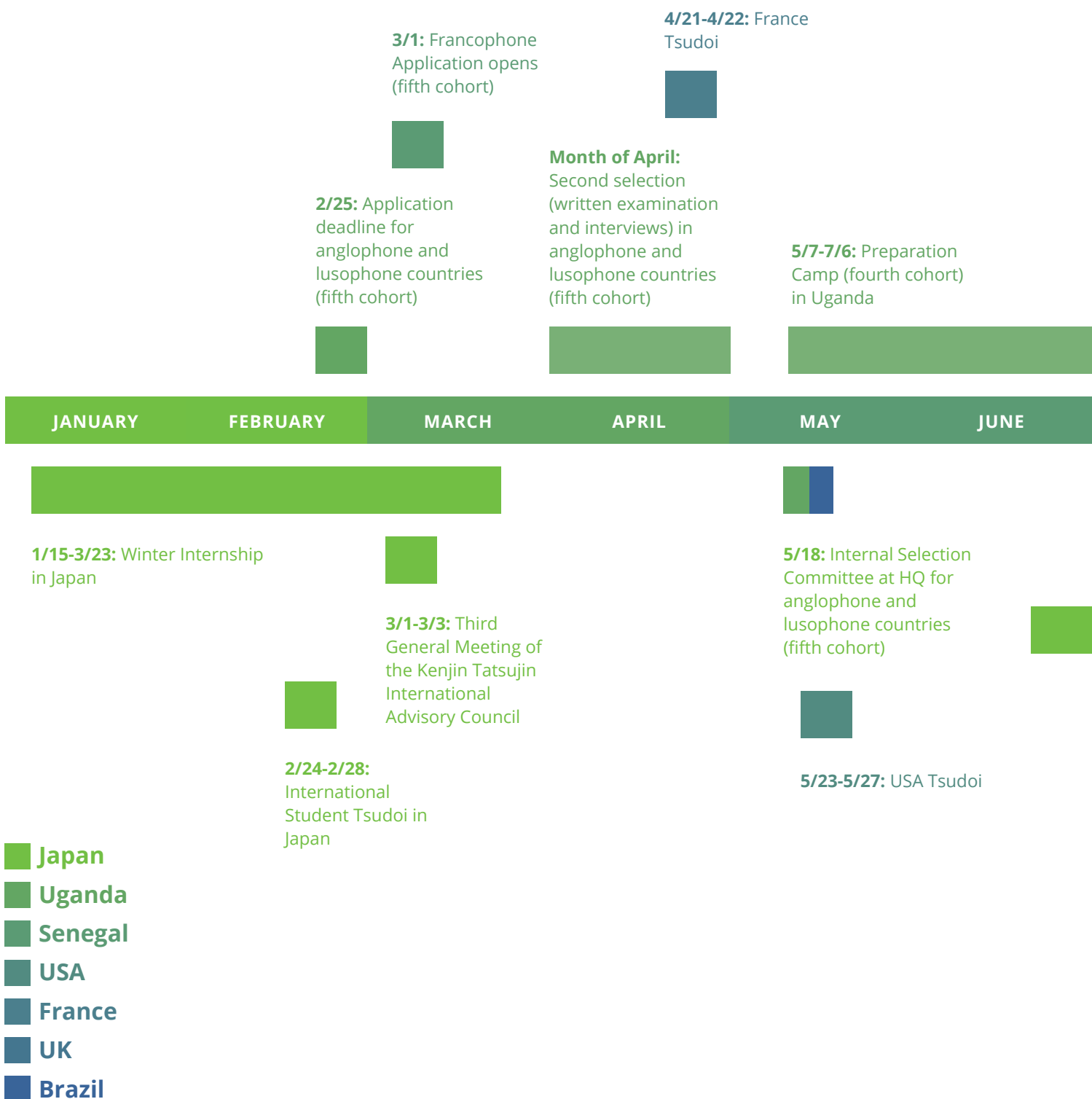
Yukie Seki







# Program Timeline









# Our Activities

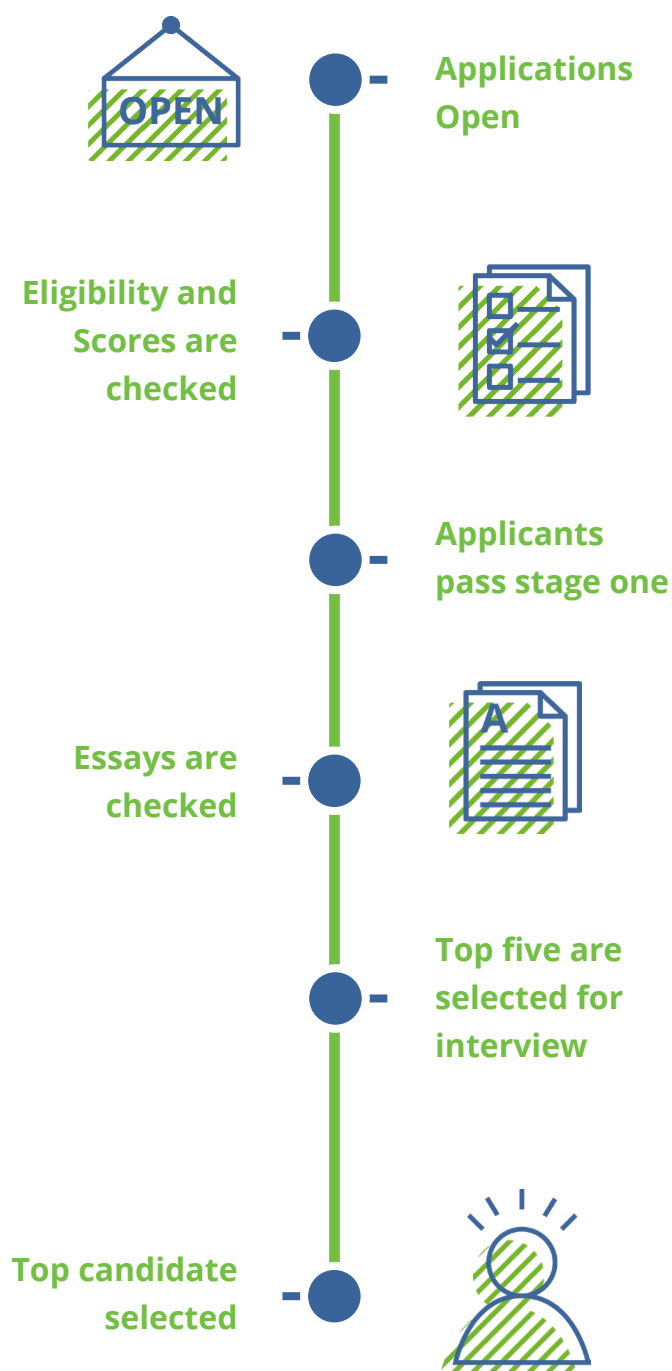
# Recruitment

This year, we  
recruited from  
**44 of the 49**  
sub-Saharan  
African countries

The number of eligible applications showed an **increase of 42%** in the 2016/17 cycle, despite there being only an **increase of 8% in total applications**. We believe this is a result of an increase in the use of social media in recruitment, as well as being in the fifth year of the program.

Selection was conducted in two steps, exactly as in previous years. During the first stage of screening, During the first stage of screening, applicants' eligibility and the strength of their high school results are assessed. For those who passed the first stage of screening, their additional information and essays were assessed, and applicants were awarded points for Academics, Resilience (vulnerability) and Leadership Potential. The top five scoring candidates from each country were then invited to an assessment day, inclusive of an examination and interview, during which Ashinaga was assisted in the selection process by local experts.

## The Recruitment Process



# Eligible Countries in 2018

## Francophone

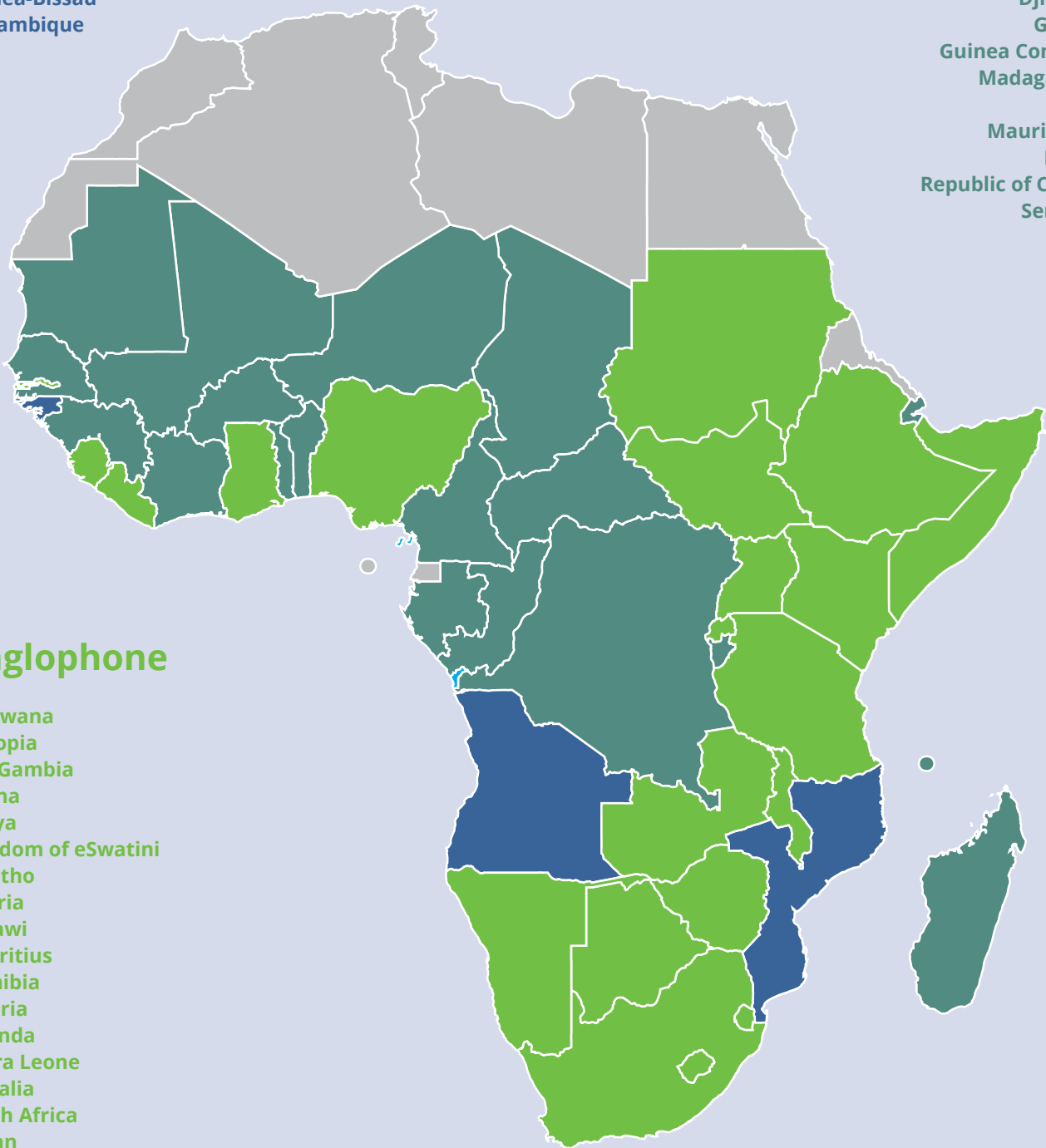
Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Comoros  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Democratic Republic of  
Congo  
Djibouti  
Gabon  
Guinea Conakry  
Madagascar  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Niger  
Republic of Congo  
Senegal  
Togo

## Lusophone

Angola  
Cape Verde  
Guinea-Bissau  
Mozambique

## Anglophone

Botswana  
Ethiopia  
The Gambia  
Ghana  
Kenya  
Kingdom of eSwatini  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Malawi  
Mauritius  
Namibia  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa  
Sudan  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe



# Anglophone

Eligible Applicants: 1586



New Countries: 2

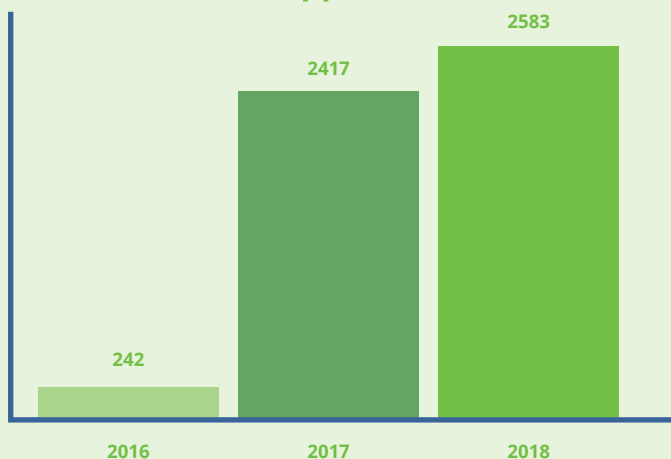


Liberia



Sierra Leone

Total Number of Applicants

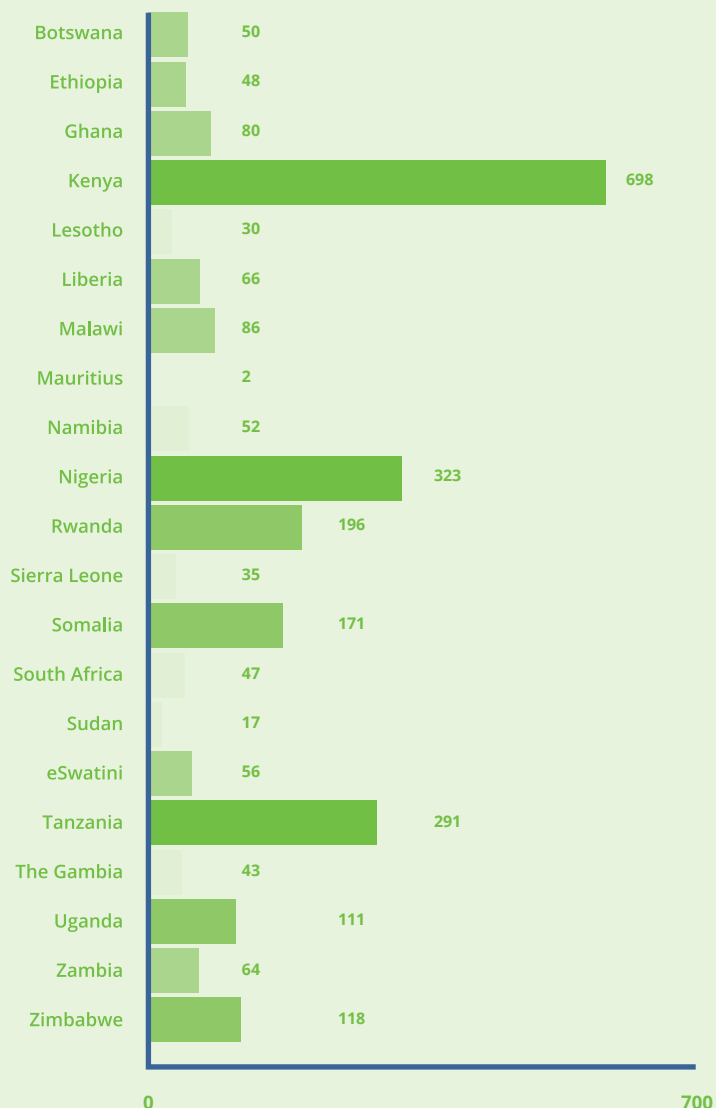


Countries Eligible: 21

Successful Candidates: 27

Japanese Track Candidates: 2

Applicants Per Country



# Francophone

Eligible Applicants: **916**



New Countries: **4**



Niger



Chad

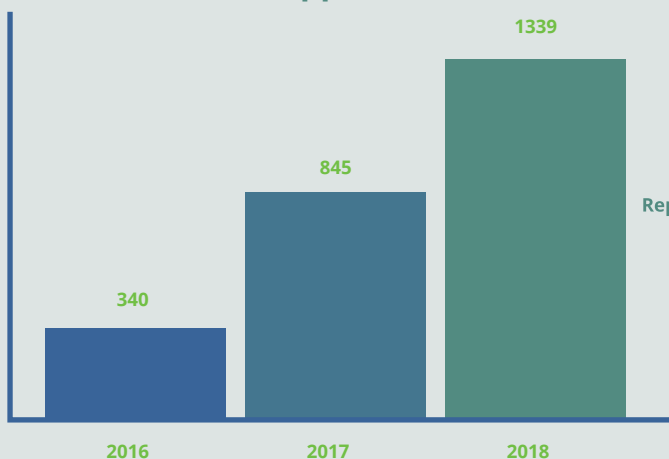


Central African Republic



Guinea

Total Number of Applicants

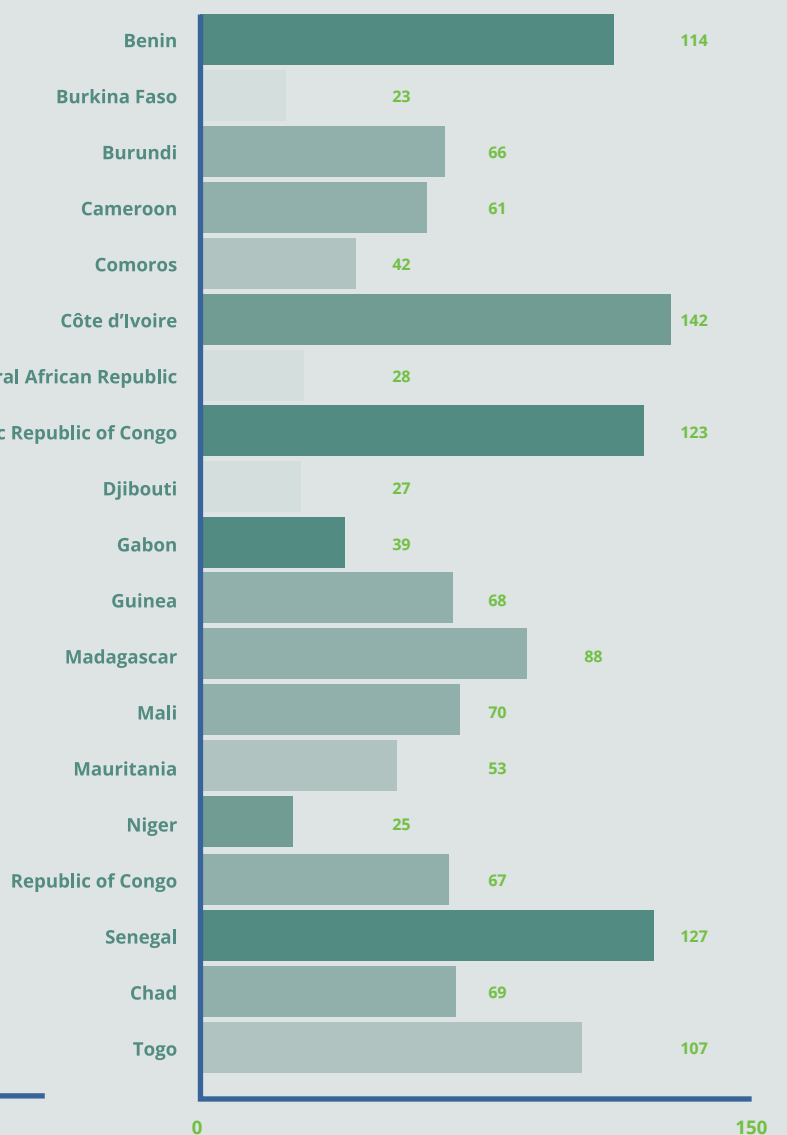


Countries Eligible: **19**

Successful Candidates: **16**

Japanese Track Candidates: **0**

Applicants Per Country



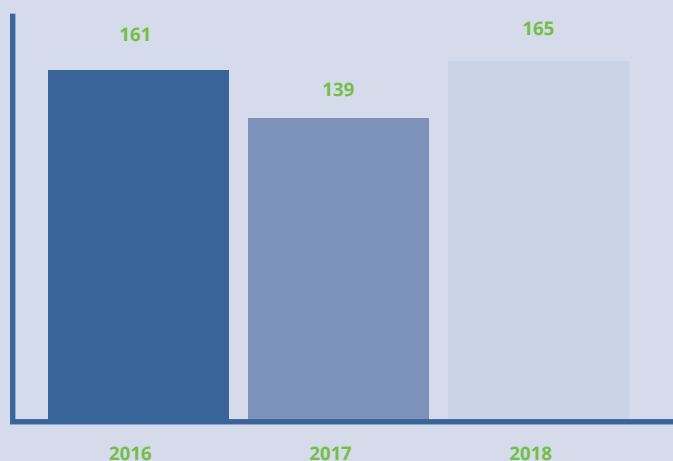
# Lusophone

Eligible Applicants: 105



New Countries: 0

## Total Number of Applicants

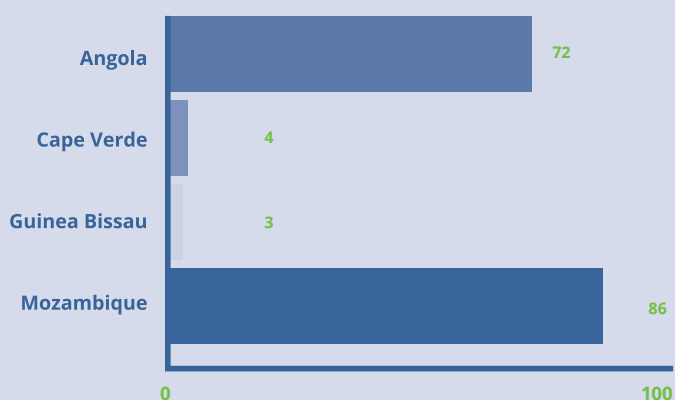


Countries Eligible: 4

Successful Candidates: 5

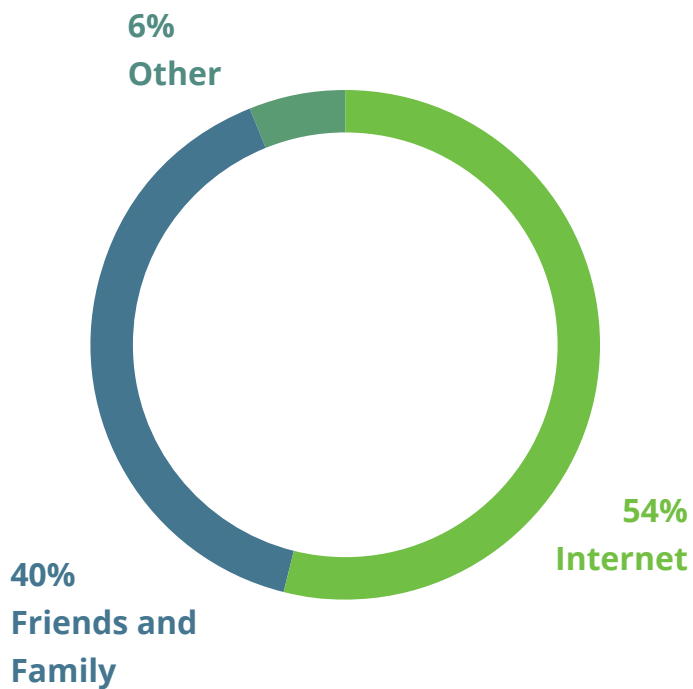
Japanese Track Candidates: 1

## Applicants Per Country

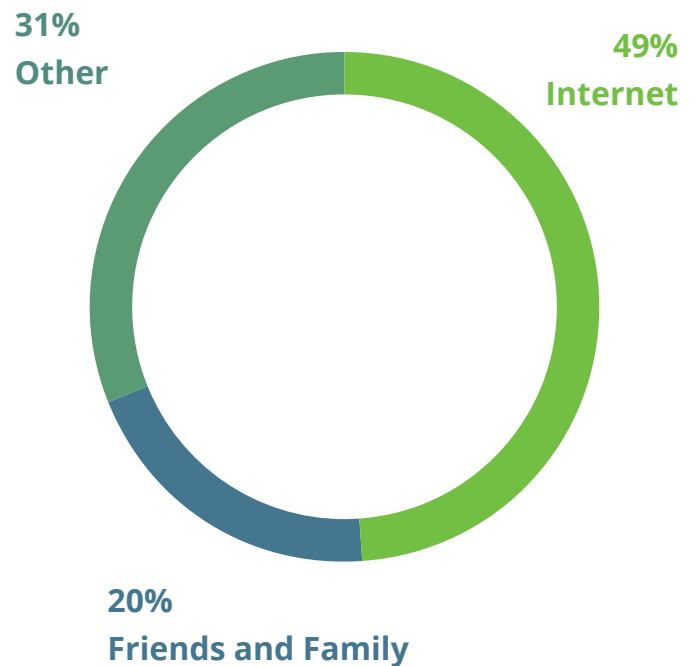


## How did applicants find out about the program?

Anglophone / Lusophone



Francophone



## Applicants Gender Balance





# Study Camp



## Anglophone / Lusophone Study Camp (fifth cohort)

July - December

Location: Nansana, Uganda

Number of Students: 33

33\* students from 25 African countries completed Study Camp in Uganda this year, where they spent six months preparing to apply for university next year.

This year's Camp was modified a little from previous years, to focus more on academic development. The Camp was divided into three sessions, each with a different focus; introduction, academic skills development, and leadership development. In the first session, Scholars focused on adaptation to life outside of their home communities and university research. The second session focused on subject-based classes and preparing for international standardized tests necessary for university entrance. In the third session, Camp participants engaged in large scale projects designed to address existing problems within local communities.

Through these projects, Scholar's problem-solving skills were developed through real-world application. In addition, the curriculum included classes to nurture *kokorozashi* - a key characteristic of an Ashinaga student: whether they are an AAI Scholar from sub-Saharan Africa or a student from Japan, it is the common mindset of thinking of others that

sets those who have received an Ashinaga education apart.

From an academic standpoint, the Study Camp is crucial in bringing students up to an internationally competitive level.

We do this through a system of structured assessment and continuous supervision, with support from staff and interns. We deliver a curriculum that consistently and cohesively supports our Scholars in attaining the required grades within a short time frame. This past year has been no exception, and we are proud to announce that our students in this year's Study Camp achieved the strongest performance in official international examinations to date.

Next year we will strive to bring improvement to all areas of Study Camp. To this end, the successes of this past year have given us incentive and indeed confidence, so as we settle into our reformed Study Camp, we can continue to aim higher.

*\*One of whom attended the Study Camp in Uganda before moving to the Study Camp in Senegal as they will be studying at a university in France.*





**Francophone Study Camp  
(fifth cohort)  
October - April  
Location: Dakar, Senegal  
Number of Students: 18**

This year Ashinaga Senegal was delighted to see 18 students from 17 countries taking part in the Francophone Study Camp. During the first phase of the Camp we explored the different talents and professional ambitions of each student while developing core academic and study skills. The awareness of our history and responsibilities as potential Scholars was also addressed through sessions on Ashinaga, our history and philosophy. Once their future fields of study were defined, students then explored their chosen field during the second phase of the Camp through the addition of subject-specific classes to their busy schedules. At the same time, we provided individual support for their university applications for France, Japan, and the UK.

The final phase of our Study Camp focused on developing leadership skills while continuing to boost academic skills. All students participated in leadership training, weekly volunteering at local charities, and a student-led leadership project. The leadership project aimed to put some of their newly acquired skills into practice, demonstrating that even at a young age and without a degree, they are already able to have a positive impact on others.

Throughout the Camp, staff members and a group of international interns worked as teachers and mentors to ensure the well-being and development of the students. Through this individualistic approach and one-on-one mentoring we have been able to support Scholars in a holistic way, preparing them for the challenges they will face studying abroad and once they return to Sub-Saharan Africa as graduates. We wish them all luck with the next stages of their journey.

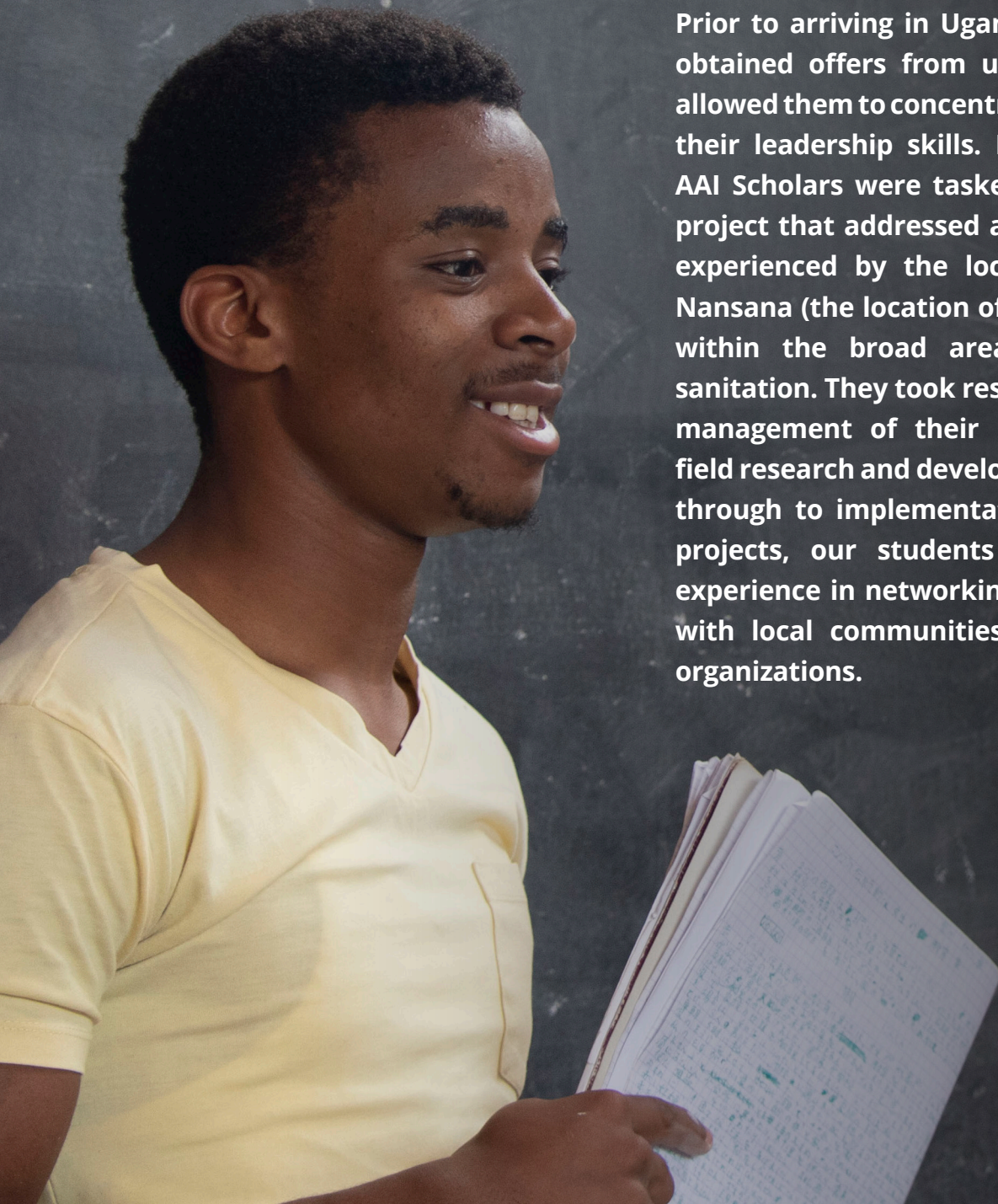




# Preparation Camp

Preparation Camp for the fourth AAI Cohort took place between May 7<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> at the Ashinaga Uganda Kokoro-Juku. This year we had 35 students in attendance (16 anglophone and 19 francophone). During the Camp, staff and interns worked closely with students to help them prepare for university and life in a new country.

Prior to arriving in Uganda, students had obtained offers from universities, which allowed them to concentrate on developing their leadership skills. During the camp, AAI Scholars were tasked with running a project that addressed a real-life problem experienced by the local community in Nansana (the location of the Kokoro-Juku) within the broad area of health and sanitation. They took responsibility for the management of their project, including field research and development all the way through to implementation. During their projects, our students gained valuable experience in networking and negotiating with local communities, businesses and organizations.





# Our Teams

## 17/18



### Student Relations

In 2018, all 107 Scholars worldwide received support from full-time staff members of the Student Relations Team (SRT). Our support is comprised of a strong communication system, academic follow-up, support in Scholars' everyday life, and the organization of *tsudoï*, or student gatherings.

With more Scholars being selected every year, the SRT are working hard to develop the best possible support structure for empowering a generation of future leaders. A general meeting was held in Tokyo in October, where all staff members of the department received training on supporting our Scholars. The regional offices also shared best practices, exchanged communication methods and found answers to new challenges together. Overall, it was a very fruitful time, allowing everyone to gain new skills and learn from colleagues around the world.

Along with this organizational expansion, we also had the pleasure to see some great achievements from our Scholars. In addition to their academic responsibilities, many of them engaged in volunteering activities, whilst others found internship opportunities. We were very pleased to invite Awa, a Senegalese Scholar studying biotechnology in France, to attend Ashinaga's *Kenjin Tatsujin* Conference, where she presented her plan to improve the cultivation and cross-breeding of rice in Senegal. We also invited Sakiinah, a Scholar from Mauritius studying medicine in Manchester, to join us in Japan at the International Student Tsudoï. There, she presented her Ashinaga Proposal research on the creation of peer groups that provide psychological support for burn victims in Mauritius.

For this upcoming year, the SRT department will continue to work hard to ensure that Scholars are supported in making great achievements during their time with Ashinaga. Most importantly, we hope the Scholars will develop the skills and confidence to fulfill their mission: return to the African continent and become leaders in its development, innovation and change.

### University Relations

In 2018, the University Relations Team (URT) worked consistently across all offices with two main objectives. The first was to identify schools that could offer the best placement for our Scholars according to their needs and abilities. The second was to establish partnerships to facilitate admission processes and to secure financial aid.

While working towards these two goals, each regional office operated independently based on its country's specificities and requirements. This year, we had several successes as the vast majority of our Scholars were accepted by partner institutions, most of which offered partial or full financial aid.

In the United States, five out of six Scholars were admitted to top-tier partner universities with a pledged total financial aid of \$284,719 per year. In Japan, 16 out of 27 Scholars received both admission and a full or partial scholarship from a partner university. In the United Kingdom, several new partnerships were established, most notably with Bristol University and Portsmouth University, which both offered financial aid for future admissions. The University of Edinburgh has also offered four Mastercard Foundation scholarships for our students currently applying to universities. In France, public education is very subsidized, making admission into the public *Grandes Ecoles* very competitive. However, this year, three out of five Scholars were successfully placed in these institutions, while another Scholar received an offer from a private partner *Grande Ecole* with a 40% scholarship on tuition fees.

In the future, we will continue to support Scholars in gaining admission in top universities, as well as securing partnerships and financial aid agreements to ensure the AAI's sustainability.

# Japan and Australia

3 Scholars studying at



2 institutions  
in Australia

University of Queensland

University of New South Wales

Akita International University

University of Aizu

26 Scholars studying at  
18 institutions in Japan

Tokyo Nichigo Gakuin

Sendagaya Japanese College

Sophia University

Nagoya University

International Christian University

Doshisha University

Ritsumeikan University

Osaka Japanese Language  
Education Center

Keio University

Tokai University

Osaka YMCA Japanese  
Language School

Yokohama National University

Yamanashi Gakuin  
University

Okayama University

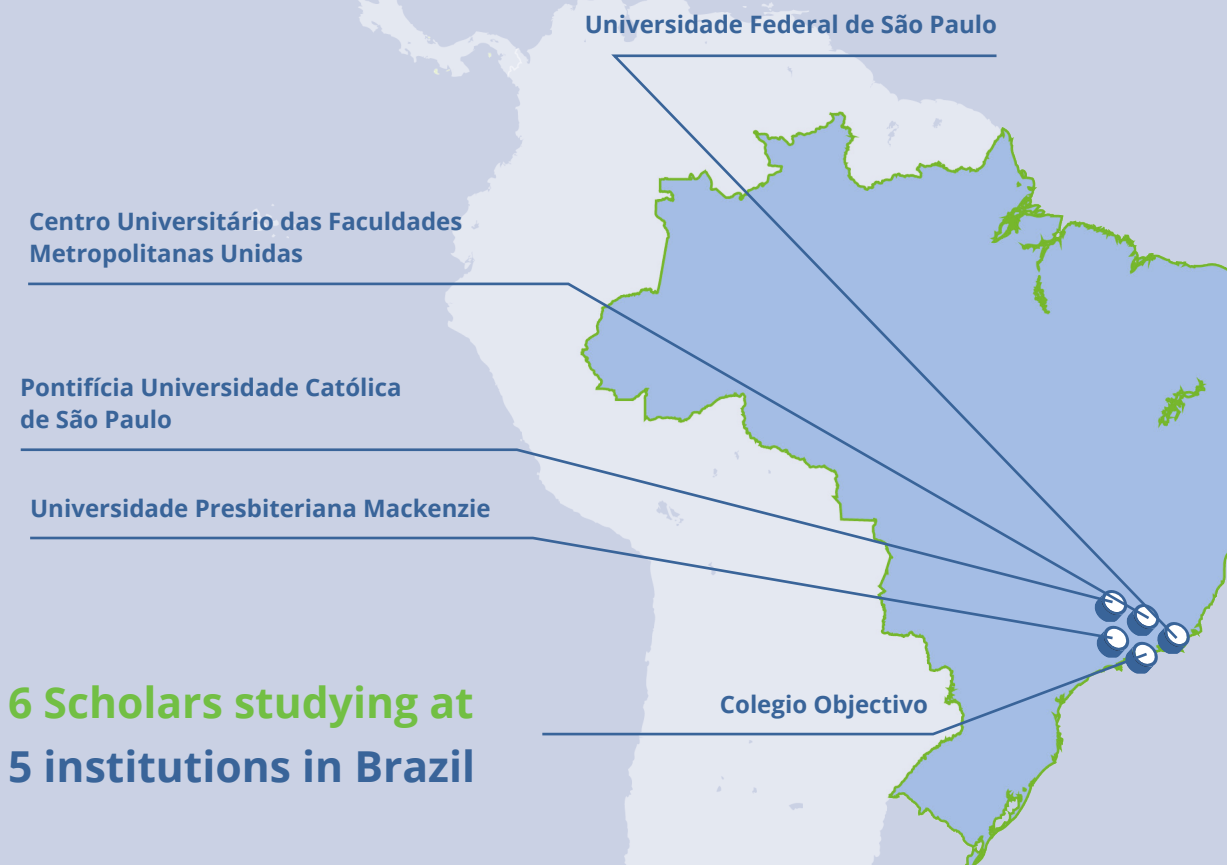
Kwansei Gakuin University

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

# North America and Brazil



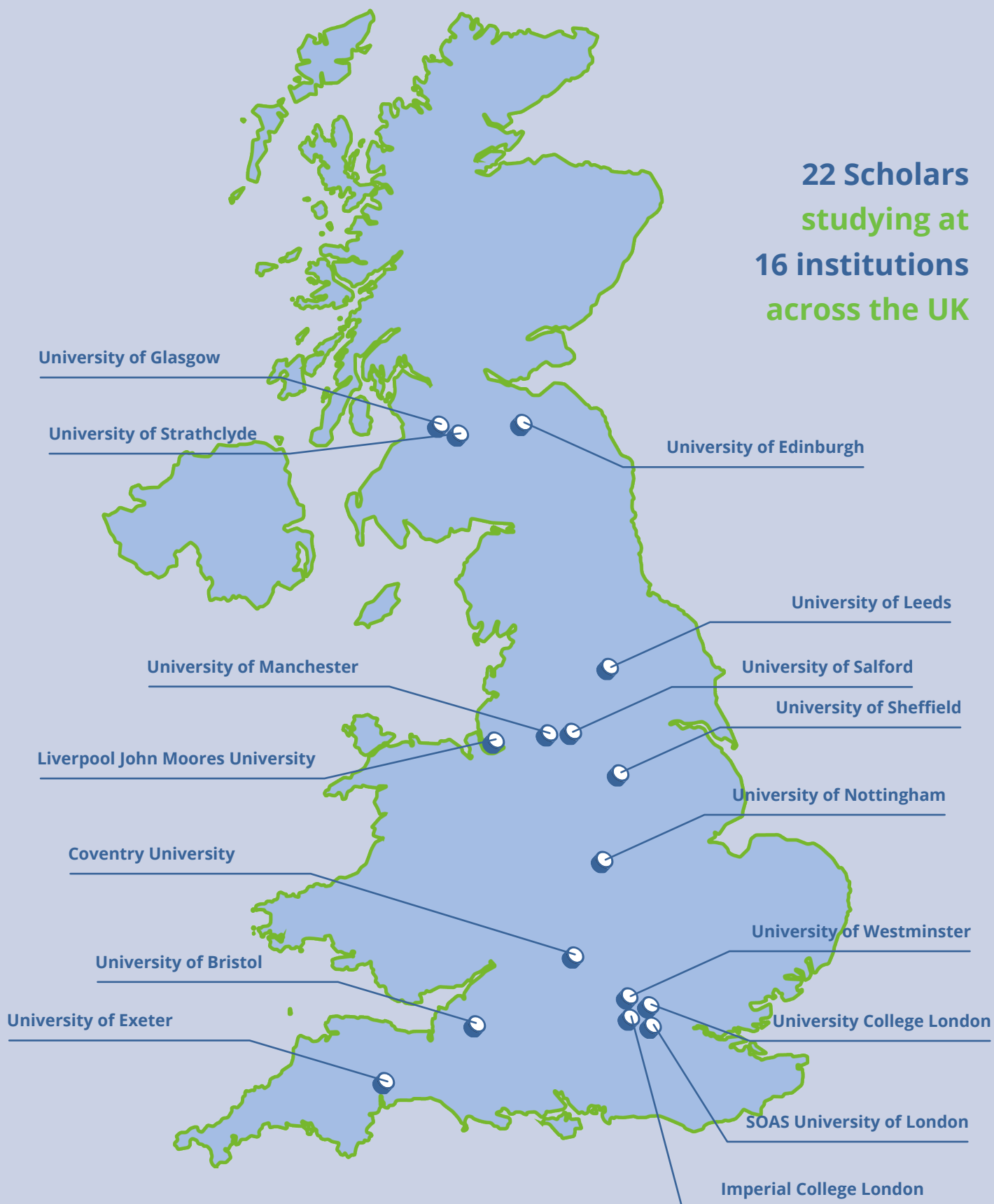
**19 Scholars studying at  
18 institutions in North America**



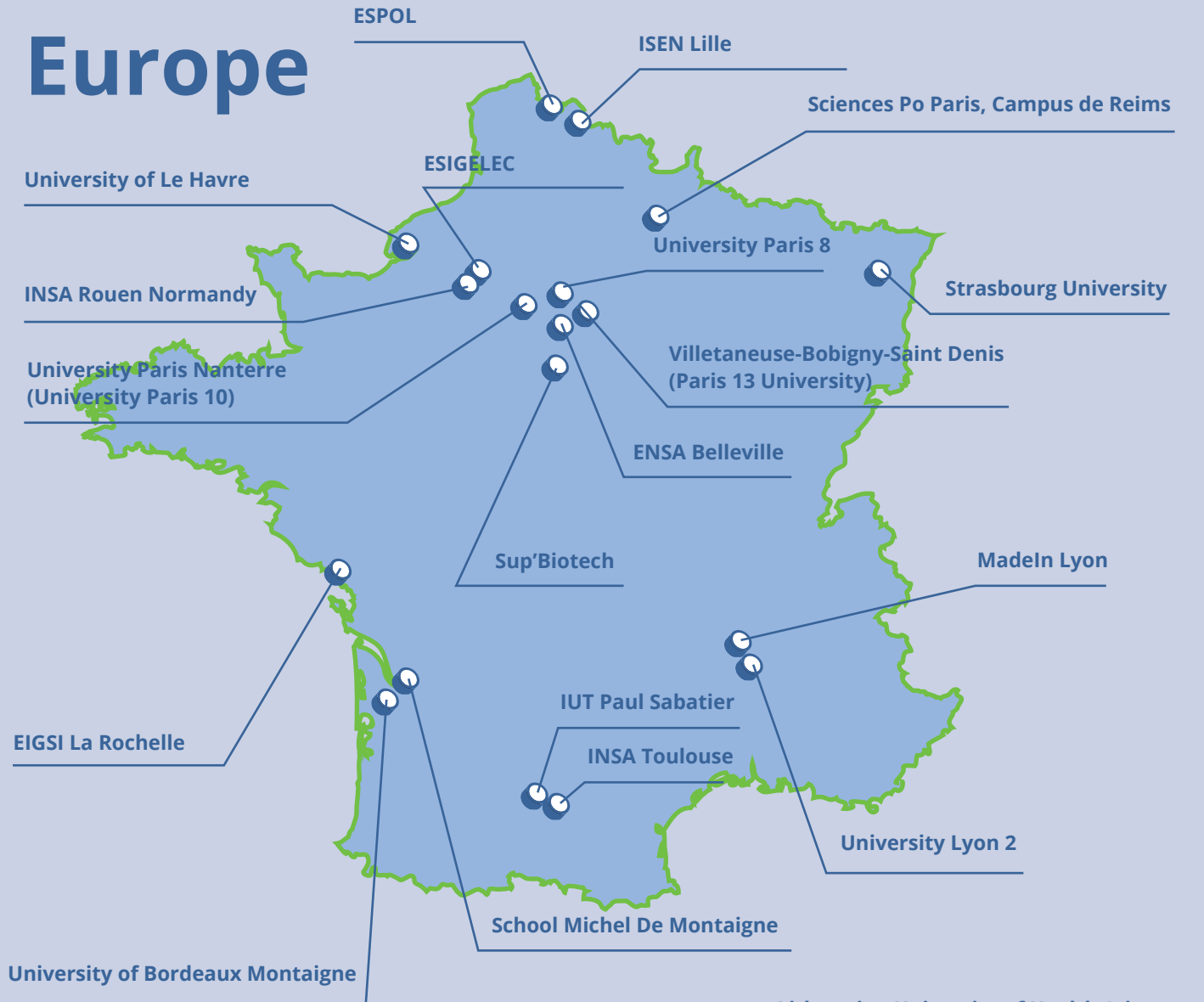
**6 Scholars studying at  
5 institutions in Brazil**

# UK

22 Scholars  
studying at  
16 institutions  
across the UK



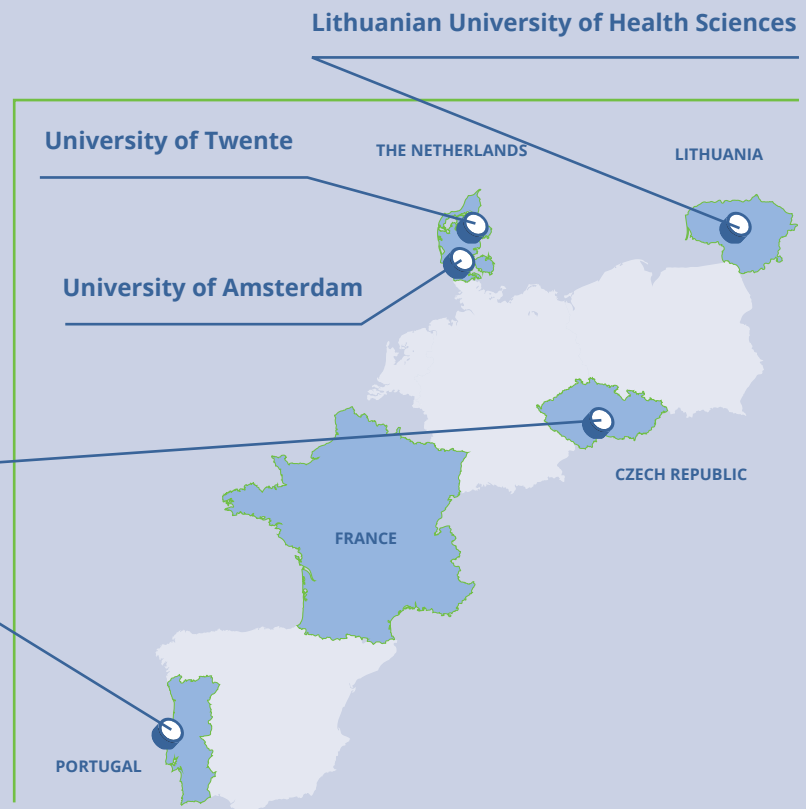
# Europe




**31 Scholars**  
**studying at**  
**24 institutions**  
**across Europe**

Charles University

University of Porto







**“The internship was a great experience because it provided me with entrepreneurial and interpersonal skills.”**

Paddy Musaka, AAI Scholar



# Career Development

The Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) Internship in Africa is an important component of a Scholar's career development. It enables Scholars to deepen their understanding of the various and complex socio-economic needs in Africa, to enhance their professional skills, and to develop their network connections with organizations and companies working in and for Africa. It is for these reasons that the Terms and Conditions of the AAI stipulate that Scholars should complete a minimum of one eight-week internship in Africa during their undergraduate degree.

2018 saw significant progress. The Professional Network Development (PND) team - formed in 2017 and encompassing staff members from each regional office, expanded Ashinaga's network of professional partners to increase the availability of internship opportunities in Africa. The PND team also provides career development support to Scholars in collaboration with the Student Relations Team (SRT). As a result, in 2018, 25 Scholars successfully found an internship either through Ashinaga or by themselves, and went on to complete internships across various industries, such as engineering, health, education, renewable energy, agriculture and more. A brief overview of the companies and organizations AAI Scholars interned with include Mota Engil, Aerial Industries, African Leadership University (ALU), Elerai Global, Crystal Water Solutions, National Crops Resources Research Institute in Uganda. Additionally, with the support of various *Kenjin Tatsujin* Council members, we were also able to offer internship opportunities at Partners in Health, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and at the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

In 2019 we will focus more on cultivating Scholars' own initiative in finding opportunities for themselves. With that in mind, we aim to further strengthen the support we provide Scholars in developing their professional skills.

## Paddy Mukasa

**Sophomore at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, studying BA Hons Accounting.**

**Internship Location: Crystal Water Solutions, Malawi.**

In the summer of 2018, I undertook an internship in a Malawian start-up called Crystal Water Solutions. This company was founded by students of the African Business Institute, which kindly matched me to this internship.

As this is a new organization, my main responsibility was establishing the book-keeping systems. This involved recording the daily financial transactions of the company in a way that allowed efficient record tracking. As with any small start-up, my role required flexibility and I also got the opportunity to help in the marketing and operations management sections.

My main contribution to the company was formulating the company's first financial statements, which were required by the stakeholders such as the investors, shareholders and the clients. I really enjoyed this as it was a meaningful contribution to the business. Having financial statements in place meant the company could secure funds from investors and increased clients' trust. It was also my responsibility to design some financial paperwork systems, including requisition forms, receipt books and additional funding forms.

The internship was a great experience because it provided me with entrepreneurial skills and improved my interpersonal skills. It also helped me to apply my classroom knowledge to a real-world business environment, which was a great milestone for me, both professionally and academically. The constructive criticism I received about my work, from both my colleagues and the boss, also helped me to grow. Finally, throughout the internship I learnt many things about the Malawian culture, which was a great pleasure for me.

# Global Outreach



## Ashinaga 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 in turn. **In 2018, we received more than 700 applications and accepted 114 interns from 51 universities all over the world.** Our interns worked in various teams in our offices and *Kokoro-Juku* dormitories in Japan, and in our Study Camps in Uganda and Senegal, to help further the AAI and arouse our Scholars' interest in the world.

This year, we had interns from 12 different countries living alongside our AAI and Japanese students in our dormitories and working with them at street *bokin* (street fundraising) and *tsudo* (summer camp). More interns from sub-Saharan Africa were recruited to act as mentors and increase networking opportunities for AAI Scholars. In Senegal, for the first time, interns helped to establish and run the English Track program at our Senegal Study Camps for the growing number of francophone Scholars who hope to study in English.

In Uganda, interns with teaching experience were recruited to help strategically reform the Study Camp curriculum according to AAI Scholars' university countries of study. As a result of these changes, Scholars' IELTS and SAT scores saw a vast improvement in 2018.

The Ashinaga Internship Program continues to offer our interns the opportunity to gain meaningful work experience whilst building a selection of transferable skills, and we intend

to offer these opportunities to a diverse range of students from universities all around the world in 2019 and beyond.

**"Not only I was able to develop my professional skills and learn a lot about how an international organization works but interning at Ashinaga gave me so much more than that: an outstanding human and cultural experience."**

**(Daniela Humala, intern with Ashinaga in Senegal, Uganda and Japan)**



## 2018 Intern Universities

**Brazil:** PUC-PR, São Paulo University, University of Brasilia, UNESP **Canada:** McGill University, Université Laval **China:** New York University (Shanghai Campus) **France:** École Polytechnique, INALCO, Panthéon - Sorbonne Paris 1, Paris Diedrot University, SciencesPo, Université Paris – Saclay **Hong Kong:** Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) **India:** National Institute of Technology, Rourkela **Italy:** Ca Foscari University of Venice, University of Bergamo **Japan:** Ehime University, Kyushu University, Nagoya University, Ritsumeikan University, Sophia University, Teikyo University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Waseda University **Mauritius:** African Leadership University (Mauritius) **Rwanda:** African Leadership University (Rwanda) **Singapore:** National University of Singapore **UK:** University of Cambridge, University of East Anglia (UEA), University of Edinburgh, University of Exeter, University of Leeds, University of Manchester, University of Oxford, University of Portsmouth, University of Sussex **USA:** Colby College, Columbia University, Franklin and Marshall College, Harvard University, Middlebury College, Northwestern University, Princeton University, UCLA, University of Buffalo, University of Oregon, University of Pennsylvania, University of Southern California, Vassar College **Vietnam:** Vietnam National University

### Student Ambassadors

Ashinaga has seven Ambassadors at six universities in three countries. 2018 was the third year of the program and we built upon the success of 2017 to develop a more streamlined approach aimed at spreading the Ashinaga values amongst diverse student bodies. Two members of the existing Chapters (McGill and Sciences Po Aix) were continued, and an additional three were added (Sciences Po Paris, Waseda, African Leadership University). All Chapters either underwent training in Tokyo or remotely. This covered topics in international development theory, leadership, marketing, volunteering, Ashinaga's values and activities, and how to make a difference on campus.

### Locations of Ambassadors

University	Country
McGill University	Canada
Sciences Po Aix	France
Sciences Po Paris	France
École Polytechnique	France
Waseda University	Japan
African Leadership University	Mauritius





# Regional Office Update



# Japan

This year, we have implemented several new initiatives and programs. The most notable was the addition of the Japanese Track program.

This requires selected Scholars to study basic Japanese during their time in the Uganda and Senegal Study Camps before attending language schools in Japan for intensive learning for 12-18 months. Upon completing language school, Scholars will enroll in universities in Japan, with Japanese as the language of instruction. 2018 was the first year we ran this program and we welcomed eight Scholars from both anglophone and francophone sub-Saharan Africa. Many Scholars showed significant improvement in their Japanese language ability and they were able to share their *kokorozashi* and visions for their home countries in Japanese at various speech contests.

Since 2014, we have been working hard to expand our networks with universities in Japan. This year, Scholars were admitted to the following national and public educational institutions:

- Akita International University
- University of Aizu
- Nagoya University
- Okayama University Discovery Program for Global Learners

These universities have high academic standards and are staffed by prestigious researchers and faculty, whilst having lower tuition fees and living expenses. Some programs provide smaller class sizes, interactive discussions, and problem-solving workshops which will support Scholars in becoming independent and develop their leadership skills.

Experiencing Ashinaga activities such as *tsudoj* for Japanese high school and university students as well as *bokin* (street fundraising with Ashinaga Japanese students), our AAI Scholars are actively developing the mindset of paying forward and supporting their peers back on the African continent. In addition, many of our senior year Scholars are enthusiastically participating in their local communities. Some examples include volunteering to teach English to young Japanese children, interning with local businesses or are getting involved in part-time jobs related to their *kokorozashi* and major field of study. It is pleasing to also see that Scholars are actively engaged with African communities in their area of domicile.



## Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

This year we have invested in developing our Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems. There are three stages of this work. The first is to ensure that all data relevant to our program objectives is monitored and captured. The second involves a more comprehensive analysis of this data, allowing us to better understand the impact of our program. Finally, we will use this knowledge to refine and improve our work and activities: we plan to maximise the impact we have and the efficiency with which we achieve that impact.

This year we have focused on building and training the MEL team, developing the AAI's logframe and consolidating our Indicators. We have built systems to ensure that the collected data feeds into organisational strategy and managerial decisions, in order to ensure that we are taking an evidence-based approach at each step of the AAI's development. We will also be able to use our MEL systems to more clearly demonstrate the impact of our work as we step up our fundraising activities in the coming year.







# Uganda

2018 marks the fifth year since the AAI began. We started with ten students and this year we welcomed over 50. This positive expansion is largely thanks to the people who support the AAI and the efforts of our Scholars.

The demands of 2018 on Ashinaga Uganda have been challenging, and it is with a sense of pride that we are able to sign off for the year with so many successes under our belt. With several new staff and a reshuffling of our priorities to focus further on the improvement of both academics and *kokorozashi* together, it was a busy beginning to the Preparation Year cycle, as we began overhauling some of the finer details of the Study and Prep Camps and implementing a refocused curriculum.

As always, the AAI aims to nurture future leaders in Africa and we seek to ensure that all Scholars evidence the four key Ashinaga ethos, namely a warm heart, an open mind, a proactive attitude and an international outlook. To tackle these complex challenges, Study Camp has been broken into three separate sessions, each with distinctive approaches. As a constant program running throughout these sessions, Scholars engage in specially tailored *kokorozashi* classes, encouraging them "to think of others rather than oneself."

As they progress through the revised curriculum, Scholars are overseen on an individual basis by our staff who pay close attention to their personal academic needs and progress. In tandem with staff-Scholar relations, Ashinaga Uganda worked hard to improve and standardize the teaching skills of our interns, who take responsibility for the day-to-day teaching. Rounding the revised Camp experience off, Kenjin Tatsujin members visited Uganda to lead sessions and workshops based upon their specific skill sets. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to them for providing the Scholars with these unique opportunities.

Thanks to the efforts of all staff, interns, Kenjin Tatsujin, and Scholars, the academic level in examinations showed drastic improvement, with an average increase of 1.2 in IELTS and an average increase of 162 points in the SAT exams. It is from successes such as these, as well as the changes we can directly see in the Scholars, that we can say with great confidence that the challenges this year were successfully surmounted, and more than ever we are on a trajectory for further successes in the coming years.

今村嘉久

Yoshihiro Imamura  
Director of Ashinaga Uganda

## Maryann Wanjira Gicheru - 2018 AAI Japan English Track Candidate from Kenya

As I left Kenya for Uganda in July 2018, I was excited to meet people from different parts of Africa. However, this was also what scared me most. It was my first time in such a diverse environment and interacting with people from different cultures. Looking back at that worried girl, I can't help but smile since she did not know the next six months would be the best of her life. Upon my arrival at the *Kokoro-Juku*, I found everyone eagerly waiting for me. The excitement and smiles everyone had when I alighted from the car is something I will always remember. In that moment, I knew I had found a family; I freely talked and bonded with everyone as if I had known them all my life.

In retrospect, Ashinaga Uganda *Kokoro-Juku* is the only environment where I have grown holistically both academically and personally. An invaluable lesson I learnt is the importance of supporting others and being kind. I was surrounded by students, interns and staff who were always ready to help in a heartbeat. The support system that other students and I received is what kept us going and motivated us to extend the same support to others.

The most memorable moment for me was the community betterment project. Our task was to mentor primary school and high school students on the value of education and to teach them how to make reusable sanitary pads. This trip served as both a challenge and a learning opportunity for me. I was inspired by how the children would walk for so many kilometers to school, yet they remained resilient. I also learnt the invaluable lesson that a few words can make a very big difference in someone's life. I will forever be indebted to Ashinaga for giving me this opportunity to develop my leadership skills and to make a difference in children's lives.

I am looking forward to attending the Preparation Camp in May 2019, which I believe will ease my transition to study in Japan. I would like to express to my utmost gratitude to President Tamai and Ashinaga San. Thanks to them, I now have the opportunity to realize my *kokorozashi* to help women in my community through education and giving them the means to financial independence.



**“The Ashinaga Uganda Kokoro-Juku is the only environment where I have grown holistically both academically and personally.”**

Maryann, Kenya, AAI Japan English Track Candidate





# Senegal

I look back on our achievements over the past year with mixed emotions. Of course, there is much to be proud of, but after three years it was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Mr. Tomoyuki Nakamizu, to whom I must say a big thank you for all his hard work helping to establish Ashinaga Senegal and shaping it into the organization it is today. In taking over as Director, I have been working with the team to continue what has been started whilst ensuring that our programs and ambition continue to grow.

At the start of the year, we set ourselves two challenges. The first was to reach out to the four francophone countries from which we have never recruited an AAI Scholar; the Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea and Niger. With the support of new and old partners we had great success on this front and can now proudly say that one student from every francophone sub-Saharan African country has been selected for the program since its launch.

The second challenge was the creation of a new English language track for our Study Camp, with seven French-speaking students being given the opportunity to study in English in Japan or the UK. This presented significant challenges to the selected students and indeed our staff, but they have all been tackled head on with great enthusiasm and I look forward to seeing the results of this hard work in the weeks and months to come.

The year ahead promises to be one of transition as we introduce a new recruitment timeline to better suit the needs of the program and our students. This transition will provide us with a crucial period of reflection as we look back on all that we have achieved since 2014 and all that is left to achieve in the years to come. In doing so, we will focus on how to provide the best support possible to ensure that our students have the tools necessary to achieve perhaps the most significant challenge of their lives; the fulfilment of the AAI's mission.



**Nicholas Carter**  
Director of Ashinaga Senegal

## Joseph Kouadio - 2018 AAI Japan English Track Candidate from Côte d'Ivoire

When I got my baccalaureate diploma in 2017, I was admitted into a very competitive statistics program in Abidjan. Unfortunately, this program was just one year long and although I was supporting myself by giving private lessons to younger students, I could not afford to pay for a whole degree at university. I was very frustrated because I felt strongly that I had the ability to study at a top-level university and fulfil my academic and professional projects. Being selected for the Ashinaga Africa Initiative was a blessing. It brought me peace and made me happier with myself.

Many scholarship programs tend to focus only on academic support, but the Ashinaga Africa Initiative is more than that. This program is helping me learn more about my strengths and objectives. I am learning how to do the things I love to do in a way that will bring a positive change to my community. In Côte d'Ivoire many young people have projects and ideas with great potential, but only a small number of them can find the funds, and my ultimate goal is to participate in the development the agricultural sector in Côte d'Ivoire by studying economics and specializing in statistics. Such a degree will be essential in my goal to help finance farming communities and ensure the success of their projects.

I am preparing to study in Japan. I will have to study in English, and this is of course a challenge, but I am improving my level every day. I know I am getting there. I am also really excited to study in Japan. Everyone refers to this country when it comes to ethics, discipline and hard work; the Ashinaga philosophy and values are already preparing me for this experience.

A love story has begun between Ashinaga and myself, and I have received so much that I know it will not be easy to give something as big as what I have received. But I will work hard to give back this kindness by being useful to my community upon my return.





**"I am learning how to do the things I love to do in a way that will bring a positive change to my community."**

Joseph, Côte d'Ivoire , AAI Japan English Track Candidate



# USA

2018 was our fourth consecutive year since we established our office in Washington, D.C. in December 2014. Ashinaga USA now has 18 Scholars from 14 African countries studying in North America, including six new AAI Scholars who joined us this summer and one Scholar who unfortunately had to leave the program.

Since 2014, AAI Scholars in the United States have been pledged or received nearly \$3 million in financial aid and scholarships. Thanks to this generosity from our university partners, as well as considerable donations from our supporters, we have been able to provide AAI Scholars with a life-changing education in US universities.

In the spring of 2018, two of our "Pioneer Scholars", i.e. the very first Scholars from Uganda, graduated from their respective universities. One of them works in a private educational institution in South Africa, and the other works at Pepperdine University in California.

Given the decision at the June board meeting to transition our office from Washington, DC to New York, we have set up a temporary office space on Madison Avenue in Manhattan starting in mid- December. We are planning to complete the office transition to New York by May of 2019.

After spending an exhilarating four years establishing the foundation of our activities in the USA, we will now expand our efforts to include fundraising. We hope that this will be another exciting endeavor that will allow us to support more and more AAI Scholars.

Next year will be a new start for Ashinaga USA. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all the stakeholders of Ashinaga, and I would also like to ask for your continued cooperation and support for our activities.



**Yukichi Okazaki**  
President of Ashinaga USA

## **Bakang Molefi - Freshman at College for Creative Studies studying Fine Arts in Animation and Business from Botswana**


I was born and raised in Botswana, Africa. I came to the U.S in pursuit of a quality education and to study towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Animation, and Business.

As a Freshman, I have had a wonderful and purposeful first semester in my program of study which included gaining a foundation in the basic concepts of Fine Art and Animation. The experience was a productive one and I have learned a lot more than I ever expected. Most of all, I have honed my skills in time management and team building. The academic challenges I face, like any other student, require me to be confident in those fields and to know what resources are available to me.

Despite several emotional moments and frustrations along the way, I am proud of the hard work and patience I have poured into the completion of my assignments. My intention is to further my capabilities and to use the obstacles from the first semester as learning opportunities to perform even better. I want to thank Ashinaga USA for what they offer. Without their financial and support, I wouldn't have achieved what I have so far.

I have found peace being in Detroit because of the warm smiles and hospitality provided by the residents of Detroit and the surrounding communities. Outside of university, there are several activities and events that people collectively observe and celebrate. This sense of unity moves my heart. So much so that I feel like I am 'home', where the community is connected, especially in collective work and celebrations. In this way, Detroit is no different from my first home in Botswana.



A young man, Molefi, is standing on a paved path on a college campus. He is wearing a blue patterned button-down shirt, dark shorts, and a black backpack. A purple lanyard with an ID badge hangs around his neck. He is smiling at the camera. In the background, there is a large, multi-story brick building with many windows, green trees, and a grassy area. A few other people are visible in the distance.

**"I want to thank Ashinaga for what they offer. Without their support, I wouldn't have achieved what I have so far."**

Molefi, Botswana, Freshman at College for Creative Studies



# France

Ashinaga France has had another successful year supporting 29 Scholars studying in France, the Netherlands, Lithuania, and the Czech Republic. The Scholars are supported by our Student Relations team, our Professional Network Development team and our partner, Campus France.

The most rewarding event of the year is the welcoming of new Scholars. It was so encouraging to see the second-year Scholars take part in running the orientation program for the new arrivals. They showed them around Paris and gave them advice on adjusting to a foreign culture. Each Scholar is assigned a mentor, who were former interns or volunteers. The combination of our staff, mentors, and older Scholars' guidance creates a strong support system for new Scholars.

We frequently hold gatherings called *tsudoi* for our Scholars. At *tsudoi*, staff and Scholars work together to reach their goals of leadership development. A core part of our *tsudoi* is cultivating our Scholars' Ashinaga Proposals, projects they will develop during their studies to contribute to a specific issue in their respective home countries. Another essential aspect of *tsudoi* is developing professional skills. This past year, a professional trainer ran a workshop on body language, vocal power, self-confidence, and networking. It is rewarding to see their abilities improve not only during these workshops, but also when they continue to strengthen these skills on their own, preparing them for their eventual return home.

Our Scholars ended the academic year on a high note, with ten achieving grades with distinction. They then took advantage of their summer holidays to participate in non-academic activities. Through Ashinaga connections, two Scholars completed internships in Africa. Six others found their own internships both in Africa and Europe, and three Scholars found paid-jobs. One Scholar even returned home to conduct field work on his Ashinaga Proposal. We are delighted by their initiative and progress.

In the coming year we will increase partnership and network engagement and will continue to develop our leadership training programs to support an estimated 40 Scholars. Ashinaga France will continue to work closely with all other regional offices and with HQ to actively participate in developing and strengthening communication and collaboration.



**Samantha Smith**  
Director of Ashinaga France

## **Nthabiseng Patricia Mphou - Sophomore at the University of Amsterdam studying Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics from Lesotho**

Being an Ashinaga Scholar has opened up multiple doors of opportunities for me. Not only has it allotted me a platform to embrace the dreams I have for my country and the rest of Africa, but it has also equipped me with the tools to further make my dreams a reality. Their financial support during my studies in the Netherlands has been the most outstanding expressions of their belief in young minds changing the world. Even more, Ashinaga constantly prepares its Scholars for the real world through Tsudoi, where self-development and professional development courses are prioritized.

Through Ashinaga, I have been able to discover and grow my capabilities. I have also learned strategies to smoothly further my studies while not losing sight of my aspirations and ambitions. With a mandatory business proposal that outlines one's ideas for Africa, the minds of Scholars are challenged and their creativity is awakened. As the evidence points out, my ideas are persistently challenged and that means my critical thinking abilities are enhanced as well.

Apart from self-awareness and critical and creative thinking skills, I also acquired some professional experience during my summer break through an internship at start-up incubator called Outbox Uganda, which I obtained with the help of Ashinaga. This internship served a significant role in enhancing the practicality of my major while additionally improving my fieldwork skills.

To conclude, Ashinaga was a missing piece in my life, now that I have its support by my side, I feel more secure and complete. My growth as well is improving exponentially. Being part of the Ashinaga family this year has been the best thing that has ever happened to me. All thanks to Ashinaga, I am a better person this year and forever.



# outbox



Incubation



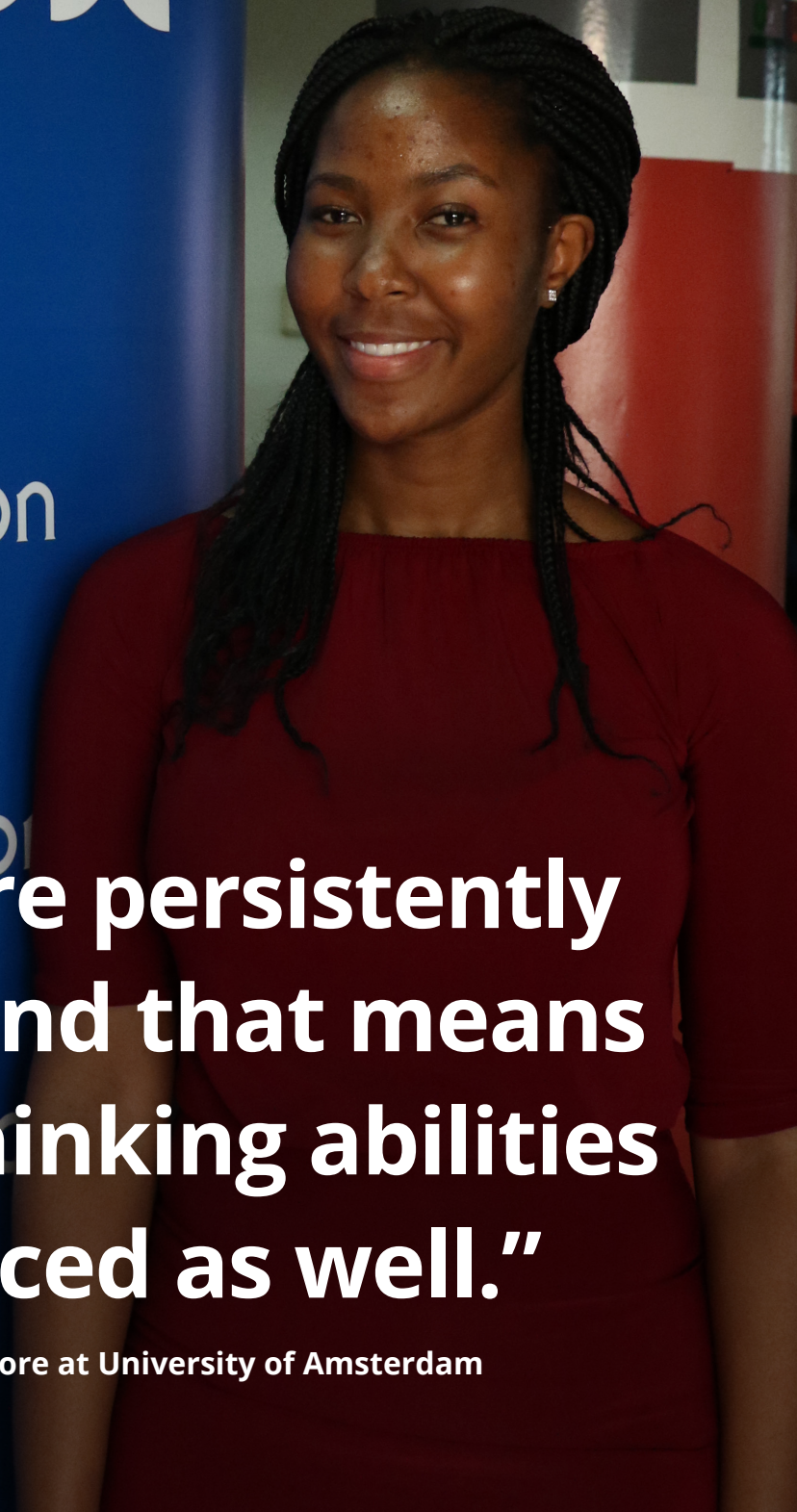
Innovation



Collaboration

**“My ideas are persistently challenged and that means my critical thinking abilities are enhanced as well.”**

Patricia, Lesotho, Sophomore at University of Amsterdam





## UK

2018 has been a very positive year for Ashinaga UK. We have been particularly pleased to see the growth and development of our Scholars' desire and belief in their ability to lead change in Africa.

Building on the foundations established in 2017, our first year as an office, we focused on developing two aspects of our work: student support and administration. Significant administrative achievements include the submission of our application to register as a charity and the successful completion of our first external audit.

Our student support work focused on cultivating *jiritsu*, self-reliance. We were delighted to see so many Scholars independently find internships, and to see many others travel to Africa to conduct research on their Ashinaga Proposal. These Proposals, for which Scholars put forward an innovative solution to a problem in their community, country, or region, continue to improve and several Scholars are now on the cusp of being able to implement their ideas.

We are delighted to have welcomed Sir Eric Thomas to our Board of Directors and to have cultivated stronger ties with universities, including King's College London, who hosted *tsudo* at no charge, and Edinburgh, who have offered us four full scholarships and invited two of our students to take part in a transformative leadership course.

In 2019 we are going to pivot from improving internal processes to developing external relations and fundraising. A key achievement of 2018 has been the establishment of a more robust Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning system, which is essential for fundraising in the UK. Building on this, Ashinaga UK has set the ambitious goal of being self-sufficient, that is domestically fundraising the costs of running the UK part of the AAI program, within the next five years. For this, and for our Scholars, we request your continued kind support.



**Dr Michael King (Oxon)**  
Director of Ashinaga UK


### **Suzan Nimrod Kilamile - Senior at University of Nottingham Studying Medical Physiology and Therapeutics from Tanzania**

I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to have become part of the AAI and to be able to pursue my degree at one of the leading universities in the UK, the University of Nottingham. With the support from Ashinaga and my fellow AAI Scholars, I have accomplished many things I never thought would be possible. This included gaining work experience outside Tanzania. I undertook internships in Kenya and in the UK, which have boosted my confidence and helped me pursue a career in the health sector. Additionally, spending a significant amount of time volunteering in Nottingham built up my knowledge and gave me the confidence to raise awareness about social issues. I view my time as an Ashinaga Scholar as an investment. My experience with Ashinaga in the UK has brought me a few steps closer to achieving my *kokorozashi* goal: contributing to the development of health provision in Tanzania.

### **Haftu Abebe Derbew - Senior at University of Sheffield studying Biomedical Science from Ethiopia**

Discovering Ashinaga in 2014 transformed my dream of studying at a prestigious university into a reality. I was accepted into Sheffield University, where I have received an excellent education and the chance to study in a culturally-diverse environment. I am now in the final year of my Biomedical Science degree. After completing my studies, I plan to work on stem cell and cancer research in Ethiopia. I have developed an in-depth understanding of my field by studying in the UK. I am also grateful that I was able to connect with alumni, who have become role models. Through my extracurricular activities, such as volunteering with local charities, I learned the significance of sharing my personal experience to facilitate a connection when leading others. As an Ashinaga Scholar, I have been privileged to meet people beyond my field of study. I especially enjoyed getting to know the other Ashinaga UK Scholars, as speaking to them enabled me to gain new perspectives into Africa and the resources and opportunities that we have.



A photograph of a young man and a young woman standing in front of a Christmas tree. The man, on the left, is wearing a white button-down shirt and has a beard. The woman, on the right, is wearing a black top and has her hair in braids. The Christmas tree in the background is decorated with red ornaments, gold lights, and a large red bow.

**“My experience with Ashinaga  
in the UK has brought me a  
few steps closer to achieving  
my kokorozashi.”**

Suzan, Tanzania, Senior at University of Nottingham



# Brazil

Ashinaga Brasil was officially established in April 2018 as Associação Ashinaga, with Dr Masato Ninomiya as its President, and a regional office in São Paulo, home to the world's largest Japanese diaspora. Despite only recently being inaugurated, the office already supports 11 scholars in Brazil and Portugal, a number which is projected to double in three years. We are on target to ensure that half of our Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) scholars will attend university tuition-free, via the Brazilian PEC-G international development program.

The tuition fee waiver will significantly reduce the cost of attending top-tier universities in Brazil, as well as expand access to 5-year STEM courses - such as Engineering, Computer Science and Agroecology - for Ashinaga Scholars. This, in turn, will have a notable impact on the outcomes of the AAI, as well as broaden Scholars' capacity to lead development projects in their communities. Scholars continued proving themselves to be exceptional during 2018, with Nilza Machago (University of Porto) receiving a prize for the highest grades in her course, and André João Monteiro (Mackenzie University) also achieving top results in his first semester.

Supported by a dedicated Lusophone Professional Network Development team, Scholars have undertaken internships with the Ministry of Agriculture in Mozambique, as well as the prestigious Catavento Science Museum in Brazil. At the same time, we continued to expand our network amongst key organisations in Portuguese-speaking countries, where business leaders have expressed interest in working or partnering with Ashinaga Scholars, who are increasingly being recognised as the changemakers of tomorrow.

This was partly the result of Ashinaga's unprecedented publicity in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa throughout the year. Our Brazilian staff members were prominently featured in every major media outlet in Mozambique, Angola, Guinea Bissau and Cabo Verde. This generated huge interest in our scholarship and we received a record 374 applications for the latest intake. Scholars Muenecongo Cameia and Tomé Francisco also featured in several television news channels in Brazil, raising Ashinaga's profile to such an extent that their educational institutions provided us with a significant tuition fee reduction for 2019.

Following the establishment of Ashinaga Brazil in April, our Portuguese-speaking Kenjin Tatsujin played an increasingly pivotal role in the AAI throughout the year. Angolan fashion designer Nadir Tati gave lectures on entrepreneurship during our summer camp, and esteemed Mozambican musician Moreira Chonguiça took an active role in the recruitment and selection of candidates in April and November. We continue to be grateful to them for their support, and that of other Kenjin Tatsujin. In 2019 and beyond, we look forward to adding São Tomé e Príncipe to our list of supported countries,

and strengthening our ties with the Ministry of Education in Brazil. Muito obrigado - thank you very much - for your support during the past year. I take this opportunity to invite you to visit us in Brazil, where the Ashinaga family would be honoured to welcome you.



**Andrew Castro**  
Director of Ashinaga Brazil


## **Alfredo Muenecongo Cameia – Freshman at Mackenzie Presbyterian University studying Administration and International Business from Angola**

*My kokorozashi is to reduce both the unemployment and the illiteracy rates in my community. Illiteracy across Africa is such a huge problem. As over 50% of the population lack access to education, it generates other social issues such as low paid jobs, high birth rates, social inequalities, and rural expansion. Giving people access to basic and higher education can gradually reduce illiteracy rates, increase salaries and, consequently, stimulate economic growth. Illiteracy cannot be considered a disease to be eradicated but a social problem to be solved by the leaders of today and tomorrow.*

*I am a future leader who will work towards solving this social problem for the betterment of my compatriots, so that they can live with dignity, pursue better job opportunities and achieve greater life expectancy with the help of Jehovah, the local government, friends and the Ashinaga Family.*

*Confucius once said: If your goal is for one year, plant rice; if your goal is for ten years, plant trees; but, if your goal is for a hundred years, educate children." I strongly believe that a good country is made with both men and books. Education can build us up and prepare us to face and overcome the challenges of our environment. Ashinaga has given me a one-of-a-kind opportunity to be equipped with the necessary tools to become a better leader and positively impact my community.*





**“Ashinaga has given me a one-of-a-kind opportunity to be equipped with the necessary tools to become a better leader and positively impact my community.”**

Alfredo, Angola, Freshman at Mackenzie Presbyterian University



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