

New intern at the Secretariat

I am A.N.M. Moinul Kabir from Bangladesh. I came to Japan on 23 August 2009 to start a Master's Degree course in International Development Studies (IDS) at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). This is a one-year and seven-month program under a Japan International Cooperation Agency scholarship. On 1 October 2010, I started a five-month internship at the APO Secretariat as part of my program. The Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID), a joint organizer of the IDS program along with GRIPS, facilitated the internship under an agreement with the APO.



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I am working in the Secretariat Industry Department under the supervision of Program Officer K.D. Bhardwaj. Under the FASID–APO agreement, I will be involved in some projects as well as daily activities of the department. The first assignment I completed was attending phase two of the e-learning course on Total Quality Management. The environment in the Secretariat is truly international and friendly.

In Bangladesh, I was employed from 2000 in the Bangladesh Bank, the central bank. Before coming to Japan, I was working as a deputy director in the Foreign Exchange Policy Department, a key department of the central bank, where I was involved in different policy formulation- and implementation-related activities. The bank is huge in terms of number of employees (almost 5000), so I am sure that they will manage during my absence.

My wife is a journalist and my daughter is in grade one of primary school. They are waiting for my return to Bangladesh but hoping to visit Japan. In my free time, I like reading but love playing/watching cricket, badminton, and tennis and listening to music. One of my passions is travel, and so far I have visited eight countries.

Although the nature of work in the APO Secretariat is different from my job in Bangladesh, I think that I will benefit by learning new things, especially project implementation and management. As Bangladesh is an APO member, I can become aware of what needs to be done to improve productivity. Internships are particularly helpful for people involved in development-related services. The APO promotes the sharing of experience among member countries where technical assistance is needed to enhance productivity. Interns can also learn about different aspects of development by sharing ideas. At the same time, they can experience the essence of an international working environment. For those who would like to become interns, all I can say is “give it a try.”