

# 30 STORIES OF SERVICE

## JOINT JAPAN WORLD BANK Graduate Scholarship Program

**MEET MELANIA MUJUTYWA SHAYANEWAKO, ZIMBABWE**  
YOKOHAMA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (2004), JAPAN

### How has the JJWBGSP help you contribute to your country once you have completed your program?

After completing my programme, I was promoted to become a Chief Economist in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion, Zimbabwe a position which enabled me to contribute to the macroeconomic policies that the Zimbabwean economy was developing which aimed at growing the economy. I was able to effectively contribute to policy debates at various platforms and was able to write policy briefs for policy makers. Furthermore, I have succeeded to work for the United Nations in my country with agencies such as UN Women and UNDP in pursuit of supporting development efforts in Zimbabwe.

I give credit to the programme as it equipped me with good attributes of an economist who is able to research and work in the area of knowledge empowerment and my Master thesis was published by Lambert Academic Publishing. Furthermore, the programme helped me to understand the intricacies of how economies work, thereby, arousing a great interest in the same and significantly contributing to the work of the Government and the United Nations of promoting development.

### Why do you think were awarded this scholarship?

I believe I was awarded the scholarship because of the potential that was seen in me in contributing to the development of the Zimbabwean economy.



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

The desire to understand in depth how the essential things in life can be developed for human beings from an economic point of view motivated me to pursue a career in development. Having studied, heard and read a lot about how economies grow was my aspiration to understand the disparity between the different development levels of countries and how they can transform from less developed to developing and then developed countries. In this regard, it was my desire to further pursue a career in development so that I can help to find solutions for my home country so that it can transform to a developed economy.

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## **What was the best part about your university?**

The best part was having the practicum lessons at the National Tax Agency which complemented the understanding of the theory and the translating of the theory to directly influence development policies. Overall, the practicum helped me get an insight into the application of economics in the real world.

## **What was the most rewarding and challenging part of your study abroad experience?**

The most rewarding experience was to learn the different socioeconomic developments of different countries given that the studying at Yokohama National University in Japan enabled me to interact with students from other countries. Furthermore my study abroad enabled me to have an appreciation of different cultures and I had felt at home while away from home. This was further strengthened by members of the Kanto Christian Church and its leadership who welcomed in their homes.

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

Having grown up with a single parent (my father only) following the passing away of my mother, my father always encouraged me and gave me hope in life to meet new challenges. Furthermore, my two sisters were supportive and we communicated regularly throughout my stay abroad even though they had not studied abroad. My employer was also supportive in continuously updating me of the socioeconomic developments and sharing up to date information on the performance of different sectors of the Zimbabwean economy. This greatly helped my studies abroad as I was always kept abreast of the developments back home and was able to share relevant and context specific information with other students.

## **What did you learn about yourself during your experience?**

I learnt that I can adapt and work easily with professionals and students despite the different cultural, economic and social contexts that we grew up in. The fact that I was coming from a landlocked country which does not experience snow did not hinder me to participate in extra curricular activities such as skiing during the winter period, an activity which I had not tried before. With this I learnt that everything is possible as long as there is determination and team effort.



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

The JJWBGSP is a programme that is beneficial for professional progression and would also assist member states of the students who will have benefited from the programme, given the immense contribution that the beneficiaries of the programme would give in terms of sound policy advice for development.

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