
*CHIPO JAYA 5th Batch African Business Education (ABE) Initiative Program
Participation at International University of Japan (IUJ)*



With JICA Certificate, February 2021 at JICA Tokyo

STUDYING IN JAPAN

My name is Chipo Jaya and I finished my JICA ABE 5th Batch Scholarship in Japan for two years and a half and came back to Zimbabwe in February 2021. I acquired a **Master of Arts with Specialization in Economics from Graduate School of International Relations** at the International University of Japan. Despite the language challenge, for an ambitious student, the gains of studying in Japan are matchless.

Studying in Japan was the best experience in my life. The immense culture of politeness and level of safety offered an enhancing promise of a peaceful environment for studying thus Japan became the topmost desire for a study destination and today, I am excited I chose Japan. I grew both in my career and cultural sensitivity. My message to prospective students is *GANBATTE* (work hard and never give up because you can do it) and it is important to keep a balance between school and social life.

The first year at the International University of Japan (located in Niigata Prefecture) was a busy one because I always enrolled for the maximum number of modules one could take. I never felt that I was the only African girl in the classes because I blended well with other cultures.

THE INTERNSHIP TO BUILD MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS BEYOND BORDERS

In the rapid globalisation of today's world, young leaders are required to play a key role at local and international level. The objective of the JICA ABE summer internship program in August 2019 was to exchange views and develop leadership of those who can play a leading role in their respective communities – and in enhancing business relationships between Japan and Africa.

Long-term Internship: Diving into Code Corp

After earning my Master's in Economics from the International University of Japan in September



2020, I started my second internship experience with the Dive into Code Corp amidst the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was challenging I must say, living in one building for 6 months while working and training how to code rigorously online.

The long-term internship exposed me to hands-on web development using the ruby on rails programming language. I found this invaluable because I never thought that anyone from any field besides IT would be able to code and develop website under such a short space of time.

Now, I am currently helping Dive into Code with researching trends in web development and machine learning business in Zimbabwe, to enable Dive into Code's venture in the country. I would like to apply what I learned in Japan, including *KAIZEN* (continuous improvement), and other aspects of the Japanese culture.

Finally, I would like to say JICA ABE initiative program has taught me a lot. The experience helped me greatly, giving me an edge in Japanese corporate world. Studying and working in Japan has taught me how to pay attention to detail, and how to appreciate the value of time. Hopefully in the future, I can be the bridge between this Japanese corporation, and hopefully more in the expanding of their business in Southern Africa.

I am forever grateful to JICA for awarding me this great opportunity.