



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

The Director-General



JAPAN
Official Development Assistance

To: National Commissions for
UNESCO of the Member States and
Associate Members concerned

Ref.: DG/7/08.352

23 JUN 2008

Subject: **UNESCO/KEIZO OBUCHI**
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME
Cycle 2009
Japan Funds-in-Trust Project

Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that, within the framework of the Japan Funds-in-Trust Project for Capacity-Building for Human Resources, Japan has generously offered to finance **20 research fellowships** for the ninth successive year, in memory of the late Prime Minister of Japan, Keizo Obuchi. Mr Obuchi was known in the international arena for his personal commitment to development issues and his determination to consolidate the efforts made by the international community to further the social and economic development of humankind. As you know, fellowships are an important tool in ensuring capacity-building in the Member States and Associate Members concerned.

The UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme focuses on post-graduate research activities in the following four areas, as identified by late Prime Minister Obuchi:

1. Environment (with particular emphasis on Water Sciences);
2. Intercultural Dialogue;
3. Information and Communication Technologies;
4. Peaceful Conflict Resolution.

Aware of your Government's interest in the empowerment of your young researchers, I should be grateful if you would transmit this announcement to interested governmental and non-governmental bodies, universities, institutes of higher education and scientific research institutes. All nominations should be submitted through your National Commission.

The target group, eligibility criteria, conditions for application, application procedures and terms of the research fellowships are set out in Annex I to this letter. To enable the Selection Committee to make the best possible choice, I should be grateful if you would arrange for your country's candidates – a maximum of two - to submit, in as complete a manner as possible, the application form enclosed herewith as Annex II, and to attach thereto the required forms. All applications should be received by **9 January 2009** at UNESCO, Fellowships Section, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris (an advance copy may be sent by fax: 33 1 45 68 55 03 or by e-mail a.zaid@unesco.org).

The Programme functions according to the rules of open competition. As the number of research fellowships put at the disposal of UNESCO under this Programme is limited, only candidates with the necessary qualifications, and who demonstrate outstanding intellectual qualities, imagination and personal commitment, will have a chance of being selected.

I am confident that this jointly-sponsored UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship Programme will serve to strengthen UNESCO's efforts to enhance the capacities of young researchers in areas crucial to global development.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Koïchiro Matsuura

Enclosures: 2

cc: Permanent Delegations to UNESCO of the Member States concerned

UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme 2009 Cycle

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Mr Keizo Obuchi, former Prime Minister of Japan, passed away on 14 May 2000 at the age of 62. Soft-spoken and charismatic, he was known as a man of integrity, honesty and modesty. He built a reputation as an exemplary official and was a particularly adept negotiator. A member of Japan's Diet (Parliament) for over thirty years, he served as Japan's Foreign Minister in 1997 until he was elected Prime Minister in July 1998. Mr Obuchi was known in the international arena for his commitment to development issues and his resolve to put Japan at the forefront of countries involved in consolidating the efforts of the international community to further progress in the social and economic development of humankind.

2. With a view to keeping alive and honouring the spirit of former Prime Minister Obuchi and his belief in "people building the next era", 20 fellowships per year, for the ninth year, will be awarded to deserving candidates from UNESCO developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs), who are eager to undertake research on one or more of the topics listed below. The aim of the fellowships is to support innovative and imaginative post-graduate research in the areas of development to which former Prime Minister Obuchi was committed and which coincide with areas of particular interest to UNESCO.

B. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

1. The UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme funded under a Japan Funds-in-Trust project will aim, in particular, **to impact on capacity-building and research activities** in the following areas which were of particular importance to Mr Keizo Obuchi: 1. Environment (with particular attention to Water Sciences); 2. Intercultural Dialogue; 3. Information and Communication Technologies; and 4. Peaceful conflict resolution. **No other research topics will be considered.**

C. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants, a maximum of TWO from each applying National Commission, must meet the following general criteria:

1. Candidates under this Programme must be **post-graduate researchers**, already holding either an M.A. or M.Sc. degree (or equivalent) and wishing to pursue research work abroad (preferably in their own region) with a view to enhancing knowledge in one of the four specific fields mentioned in paragraph D.1 below. Thus, those who are in the process of completing their Master's degree must have completed it **PRIOR** to taking up their Fellowship.
2. Candidates must be persons of high intellectual promise who may be expected to make significant contributions to their country on return.

3. Candidates must be no more than **40** years of age. Thus, applicants born before 1 January 1969 will not be considered under the Programme.
4. The selected Fellow must carry out the research under the auspices of an academic supervisor in a host institution. Confirmation of acceptance from the academic supervisor is imperative.
5. Priority attention will be given to:
 - * **Women**
 - * **Candidates from least developed countries (LDCs)**
 - * **Palestinian researchers**
6. Candidates must be proficient in reading and writing the language of instruction in the proposed country of study/research.
7. Applicants must be in good health, both physically and mentally.

D. CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION

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| 1. Domains of research: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment (with particular emphasis on to Water Sciences); • Intercultural Dialogue; • Information and Communication Technologies; • Peaceful Conflicts Resolution. |
| 2. Duration of proposed research: | minimum: 3 months
maximum: 9 months |
| 3. Closing date for receipt of applications: | 9 January 2009 |
| 4. Possible date of commencing research: | Any time from September 2009 |
| 5. Deadline for termination of research: | December 2010 |
| 6. Place of study: | 1 or 2 countries <u>abroad</u> |

It should be understood that upon termination of the Fellowship, the beneficiary must agree to return to his/her home country so that knowledge acquired may be put to good use in local research and training programmes.

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| 7. Study arrangements: | Research must be carried out under the auspices of an academic supervisor in a host institution |
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8. Application Procedures

All applications must be submitted with the required documentation on the UNESCO Fellowship Application Form. Each Member State may nominate a **maximum of two (2) candidatures**. It is the National Commission's responsibility to select the two candidates whose applications it wishes to submit to UNESCO. The application(s) should reach the Fellowships Programme Section, UNESCO, 7, Place de Fontenoy 75352 Paris 07 SP before **9 January 2009** and an advance copy may be sent by fax to: 33.1.45.68.55.03.

The application **must** include the following attachments:

- (i) The UNESCO Fellowship application form duly completed in duplicate. Two recent photographs (obligatory) should be included with the form.
- (ii) Certified copies of degrees or diplomas (including transcript of grades) in duplicate. Proof of having obtained a Master's Degree must be included.
- (iii) A letter of recommendation from someone familiar with the candidate's work.
- (iv) A host institute's letter of acceptance (i.e. the institute that has accepted the candidate for work should she/he be selected for a Fellowship). This letter of acceptance must indicate that the host institute confirms its willingness to provide the relevant research facilities required by the candidate in the chosen field of specialization.
- (v) The certificate of language proficiency (on the UNESCO form) duly completed in duplicate for the language of the country of study (should this be different from the candidate's mother tongue) issued by an official authority.
- (vi) **A detailed description, one to two page(s) (maximum), in either English or French**, of the research work for which the candidature is being put forward. The research proposal should cover the following points:
 - **Why?** The concrete nature of the proposed project's contribution to the fields listed in paragraph D.1 above; its innovative, original aspects; and the scope and purpose of the research project. The candidate should demonstrate the reasons the theoretical and practical knowledge or training acquired at the host institution would be beneficial to her/his on-going research project.
 - **What?** The expected results or impact of the research project being undertaken.
 - **How?** Describe the proposed arrangements for conducting the research.
 - **Where?** The proposed country where research will be undertaken (one to two countries maximum) and the name and address of the host institute.

- **When?** The timeframe explicitly stating the proposed starting date and the suggested duration of research which should be of **three months minimum and nine months maximum**.
- **How much?** A **detailed budget estimate** indicating the resources required for the candidate to undertake the proposed research. The amount should be determined according to the proposed duration and place of research (between US\$6,000 to US\$10,000). The amount should not exceed **US\$10,000**. All figures must be shown in US dollars and must be included on a separate page. The amount indicated should cover, exclusively, the international or domestic travel costs for the approved itinerary and personal subsistence abroad, etc. (The object of this Programme is to provide **research fellowships so it is considered that in most cases tuition fees will not apply**). Applicants should be realistic in compiling their proposed budgets, and consider that an average of US\$1,000/US\$1,800 per month for accommodation and meals (including local transportation and incidentals) should not be exceeded. Applications where funds requested are judged to be excessive in relation to the objectives and importance of the project are likely to be considered for a smaller grant.

(**Note:** The following costs are **not eligible**: computer or equipment purchases; publication costs; attendance at conferences, unless a case can be made that such attendance is an integral part of the research and would make a direct and significant contribution to the outcome of the development of the research project.)

UNESCO and Japan attach the greatest importance to originality and quality. Consideration will be given only to well-planned research proposals which demonstrate innovation, imagination and relevance, and which promise to contribute to knowledge in the four specific areas mentioned in paragraph D.1 above.

Files which are incomplete or which are received after the deadline for application, as well as candidatures that do not meet the requirements mentioned above, will not be taken into consideration.

E. FACILITIES OFFERED BY UNESCO/JAPAN

The Fellowships financed by Japan and administered by UNESCO will consist of the following:

- A maximum amount between US\$6,000 to US\$10,000 will be awarded to selected candidates. The amount, to be paid in two or three instalments, is intended to cover research costs only, **and will not be negotiable**.
- No other costs will be considered and grants will be neither extended nor renewed.

F. SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES

A Selection Committee made of experts in the four areas listed above will make recommendations for the final decision of the Director-General of UNESCO. Applications will be judged on the basis of the merit of each application and its pertinence to the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship Programme.

Selected candidates will receive a Letter of Award.

Candidates who have not been informed of their selection by **1 September 2009** should consider that their applications have not been approved in the selection process.

G. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH UNDERTAKEN UNDER THIS PROGRAMME

Once the Fellowship has expired, the beneficiaries will be encouraged to disseminate the results of their research. No prior approval of UNESCO will be required for publication of a scholarly paper resulting from research done while benefiting from the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship Programme. However, the Fellow will be asked to acknowledge UNESCO, the Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme and the Government of Japan in their paper as having provided support for the Fellowship and the Fellow will be required to send a copy of the report and/or printed article to the Organization for information. It should be emphasized that UNESCO has no obligation to publish the scholarly papers and no allowance will be provided for that purpose.

Selected beneficiaries will be required to submit an interim and a final report describing the results of the research undertaken. Fellows will be required to send UNESCO a one-page summary with their report that will be reproduced later in a leaflet and disseminated widely by UNESCO.