



**GSDM**

*Call for participants*



2016 International Workshop on  
**Global Research Challenges in Africa**  
**Compared to Japan**  
3/1 - 3/11, 2016

Abomey - Calavi University in Benin Republic  
Science and Engineering challenges in global area



UNEP: United Nations Environment Program in Kenya  
Global environmental issues and perspectives

**Activities:**

- Discussion with Japanese Embassy diplomats in Benin Republic
- Biodiversity study
- Experiment rural life and more...

Selection Criteria (Max 8 students) :

- Have a deep interest to African countries
- Able to discuss on each topics
- Have an approval from your supervisor
- Able to follow visiting countries immigration laws (vaccination, visa and etc.)

To apply, send one-page of your research abstract to:

[office@gsdm.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:office@gsdm.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

Application deadline: **Wed., Jan. 20, 2016**

\*Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered.

**Call for participants : -2016 International Workshop on Global Research Challenges in Africa Compared to Japan-**

多くの先進国が成熟し様々な問題を抱える一方、日本から約1万 km 以上遠方にあるアフリカ大陸は今や世界が注目する成長する大陸である。その可能性は、豊富な鉱物・エネルギー資源にはじまり、増加する人口を基盤とする経済、食料、物流やインフラ、衛生環境を含む医療など多岐にわたる。アフリカ大陸と言っても、54カ国がヨーロッパ全土3つ分の広大な面積の中に存在しており、多種多様な民族、文化、宗教そして政治的背景を持つ。このような「大きく」かつ「多様な」アフリカ大陸の将来を考える上で、物事を一元的に捉えるのではなく、多面的な視点を持ち、さらにはアフリカと日本の関係、日本が貢献できることなどを実際に複数のアフリカの諸国にある国際機関、大学、研究機関を訪問することで考える。

While many developed countries face a variety of issues, African continent distant from Japan for more than 10 000 km is now attracting the attention of the world. The most richest continent composed on 54 countries obtrudes in a very wide field as mineral, energy resources, population, food, logistics and infrastructure, a wide variety of medical and medicine, variety of ethnic, cultural, religious. African continent presents a variety of perspectives as well as challenges and has a long relationship history with japan and others Asian countries. Visiting some UN international organizations having their headquarters in Africa and doing some activities with representatives of wide fields (academic, diplomatic, justice, political etc.) may strengthen the knowledge and skill as international leader.

<Plan>

March 1 (Tue) : Departure from Narita

March 2 (Wed) : Arrival at Cotonou in Benin, visit of the Supreme Court

March 3 (Thu) : Workshop at Abomey-Calavi University, visit of the Japanese Embassy

March 4 (Fri) : Pendjari area

March 5 (Sat) : Bio diversity study

March 6 (Sun) : Experience of rural life

March 7 (Mon) : Visit of government officials

March 8 (Tue) : Transfer to Kenya

March 9 (Wed) : Workshop at the United Nations Environment Program in Kenya

March 10 (Thu) : Transfer to Japan

<Expected participants>

8 students maximum

<Application>

Please submit 1-page abstract to [office@gmsi.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:office@gmsi.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp) **by Jan. 20**. The abstract should contain; name, email, course, grade, department, name of your supervising professor, summary of research including figures. Your application should be approved in advance by your supervising professor. Please include his/her email address in CC when submitting the application.

**International Workshop in 2016**  
**: Global Research Challenges in Africa Compared to Japan**

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**1. Outline of international Workshop**

Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most-populous continent, it covers six percent of Earth's total surface area and 20.4 percent of its total land area with abundant natural resources. However, Africa remains the world's poorest and most underdeveloped continent. It is now attracting the attention of the world including Japan.

The international workshop on Global Research challenge in Africa compared to Japan was conducted to have more understanding about this continent with hope it can be help for future development of the continent.

Visit Countries: Benin Republic, Kenya

Period: from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 to March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Participants: GSDM students 4, GMSI Students 5, Company Member 1, Faculty 3

**2. Topic and result of the international Workshop**

- Visiting Takeshi Japanese language school in Cotonou, Benin Republic
- International workshop with students at Abomey-calavi University-UAC Benin Republic for exchange the ideas and methodology to conduct the research.
- Discussion with Japanese Embassy diplomats in Benin Republic to have more information about the current situation of this country.
- Experiment rural life for understanding about the reality in this country and from that have efficient research for the develop of this continent...
- Biodiversity study
- Workshop at United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) and UN-HABITAT

**3. Students Impressions**

- By participating all above activities, I have more understanding about current situation in African in General and Benin in particularly. First of all, I have more understanding about the difficulties that the researcher in that areas facing when conducting the research. That is because of lacking information, sufficient equipment, transportations... Secondly, the understanding about the contribution of Japanese Government and the international community represented by the United Nations organization for the development of this continent. Last but not least, those activities changing our mind on the way of thinking conducting the research for more value for the global development.
- After few years the members of this workshop will be part of some organization or company and our decisions might have big impacts. Therefore, I believe we all remember this workshop and contribute towards the societies which need us more.
- This workshop was an amazing experience for all of the members. I personally believe it is a lifelong experience which will certainly help us to think in different dimensions rather than our academic research and thus pave the way to become a global leader in foreseeing future.





Fig.1. Visiting Japanese school in Benin



Fig.2. Discussion with UAC students



Fig.3 Dean of Engineering, UAC



Fig.4 Japanese Embassy in Benin



Fig.5. Rural life with Benin farmers



Fig.6. Farming activities in rural life



Fig.7. Biodiversity study at Pandjari



Fig.8. Pandjari National Park



Fig.9. Meeting at UNEP



Fig.10. Meeting at UN-Habitat