

Mitsui Bussan Scholarship Program 20th Anniversary Reunion for Indonesia Alumni Held on February 3

A reunion for alumni of the Mitsui Bussan Scholarship Program for Indonesia was hosted by PT.Mitsui Indonesia in the city of Jakarta on February 3, 2017. The Mitsui Bussan Scholarship Program for Indonesia is a non-profit foundation established in 1992 to cultivate individuals that will contribute to the further development of Indonesia and promote exchange and goodwill between Japan and Indonesia. Since then, two or three high-school graduates have been selected for the scholarship every year, receiving support during five-and-a-half years of study in Japan, including 18 months at a Japanese-language school, followed by four-year university courses. By 2016 the program had provided support to 40 individuals, of whom 12 are currently studying. Graduates are active not only in Japan and at home in Indonesia, but also in Singapore and the United States. After graduation, many scholarship students have progressed to postgraduate studies. To date, seven scholarship alumni have earned doctorates, and ten master's degrees.

2017 will mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of this scholarship program. Because there were several years in which no scholarships were awarded, 2017 will also be a milestone as the year in which the 20th group of scholarship students will be selected. Applications for 2017 opened on February 1. Last year there were over 13,000 applications, and we are expecting a large number this year as well.

Seven of the 14 alumni who returned to Indonesia to work after graduation were present at the reunion. We have learned that all of the alumni are working actively in a variety of fields, including business, university-level teaching, and agricultural research.



The reunion was a lively and enjoyable event. It brought the alumni together for the first time in many years, and they took the opportunity to talk about many things, including their current situations, their experiences during their scholarship student days such as the challenges involved in taking university entrance exams and writing graduation theses, as well as visits to each other's homes.

Through this scholarship program Mitsui & Co. aspires to contribute to the further development of Indonesia, and to the strengthening of friendly relations between Japan and Indonesia.