



Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science

et la culture

Director-General presents results of the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Fellowship Programme

The Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, paid tribute, on Friday 23 April at UNESCO Headquarters, to the former Prime Minister of Japan, the late Keizo Obuchi, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the implementation of the "UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme".

The ceremony took place in the presence of Mrs Chizuko Obuchi, the widow of the former Prime Minister, and their daughter Akiko.

During the ceremony, Mr Matsuura said, "Keizo Obuchi had a firm belief that the key to success in every country is to consolidate the capacity-building of the nation's human resources, especially by investing resources in the younger generation, since the future will be borne by them. Sharing this belief I created the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme in his honour. With the generous support of the Japanese Government, we have been able to award 20 fellowships a year since 2001 to deserving candidates from developing countries and countries in transition."

The aim of these fellowships is to support innovative and imaginative post-graduate research in four areas of development to which the former Prime Minister was very committed: environment; dialogue among civilizations; information and communication technologies (ICTs); and peaceful conflict resolution.

To date, the total contribution to UNESCO in the form of a Funds-in-Trust by the Japanese Government amounts to US\$791,680, covering 2 phases of the Programme (2001-2002 cycle and 2003-2004 cycle), allowing UNESCO to award fellowships to 60 research fellows from 43 countries during the 2001-2003 period. Twenty fellows for 2004 have recently been chosen by the selection committee and endorsed by Mr Matsuura himself.

Two fellows of the 2003 programme, both currently studying in Germany, Mr M.V. Ivanov, of Kyrgyzstan, and Ms I.S.Mohammed Ali, of Sudan, made short statements expressing their gratitude to the Keizo Obuchi Fellowships Programme and their willingness to use their research to benefit their own country and the world.

Mrs Obuchi, for her part, expressed her appreciation to UNESCO "for its efforts to honour her late husband's spirit through the UNESCO/Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme and wished for it to contribute to the capacity-building of the younger generations in the world."

In closing, Mr Matsuura offered to the Obuchi family the booklet UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowships Programme 2001: Results Achieved, published to mark the third anniversary of the Programme, "in fond memory of a fine leader and good friend, and as a token of appreciation for Keizo Obuchi's remarkable contribution to peace and development."

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