

Congratulations to Dejen and Penjor on graduating from SEISA University!



Each with their diploma in hand. Mr. Dejen (left), Mr. Penjor (right)

FGC and SEISA Group have invited sports scholarship students from Africa and Asia to Japan, and have worked to develop youth through sports. Mr. Dejen Tesfalem Weldu and Mr. Tshering Penjor, who came from Eritrea in Africa and the Kingdom of Bhutan in Asia, studied and competed in track and field events at SEISA Kokusai High School. After graduating, they entered SEISA University Accommodation Course to continue their activities.

When they first arrived in Japan, they didn't understand any Japanese, and in addition to the language barrier, they were confused by cultural differences and had many difficult experiences. Despite all of this, they never gave up and continued to strive forward. They have grown a lot and are now able to communicate entirely in Japanese.

In track and field, each of them has even gone so far as to represent their home country in international competitions. Above all, these two, who were supported and loved by many people, became symbols of the "bridge between Africa and Asia" that the late former chairperson of FGC and SEISA Group, Yasuo Miyazawa, had hoped for.

On September 19th, Mr. Dejen and Mr. Penjor graduated from university. On the graduation day, their teachers and coaches came to celebrate, and also His Excellency Estifanos Afewoki, Ambassador of Eritrea to Japan, was in attendance. Many people from Bhutan also attended online. After receiving their degrees from SEISA University President Tetsuo Nishimura, they proudly expressed their gratitude to everyone who has supported them and expressed their determination for the future.



Received a diploma from SEISA University
President Tetsuo Nishimura



Expressed their gratitude in their graduation speech



The Commemorative photo was taken with H.E. Estifanos Afewoki, Ambassador of Eritrea to Japan
(center of photo), and the university professors

After graduation, Mr. Dejen joined the track and field club of a company in Kagoshima, Kyushu, and Mr. Penjor returned to the Kingdom of Bhutan. They continue to pursue further growth and success as athletes and begin to move toward the next stage of their respective careers. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported Mr. Dejen and Mr. Penjor as international students. Please look forward to their future endeavors.

With so many memories in their hearts...



In 2017, Mr. Dejen came to Japan
and entered high school



In 2018, Mr. Penjor came to Japan
and entered high school



In 2019, they graduated from SEISA Kokusai High School Shonan and entered SEISA University
With former Chairperson Yasuo Miyazawa (right), Ambassador Estifanos (left),
and fellow Eritrean student Anur (second from the right)

Graduation Words

(From the graduation speech)

Dejen Tesfalem Weldu

I would like to thank SEISA University, SEISA Group, FGC, and everyone who has supported me through so many experiences. It has been six and a half years since I came to Japan. I will never forget the support I received from everyone. It is because of your support that we were able to live in Japan. It was a great pleasure to be able to compete in athletics and study. In particular, I would like to once again express my heartfelt thanks to Honorary President Yasuo Miyazawa (former chairperson of FGC) for his thoughtfulness and kindness towards us. Without being able to fully express my gratitude, the Chairperson passed away. It was my dream that he would be here beside us at our graduation ceremony. However, I believe that he is here in spirit. Thank you very much.

Tshering Penjor

I stand before you to thank everyone for your support and encouragement and to explain my commitment to my future resolutions.

Over the past five and a half years, I have met so many wonderful people and learned so much. I will always continue to strive for more. I cannot name everyone who has had a positive influence on me, but I would like to express my sincere gratitude to SEISA Group, FGC, my high school and university teachers, my tutors, and the track and field team. And the person who gave me the best opportunity is Honorary President Yasuo Miyazawa. Thanks to him, I was able to get to where I am now and represent my home country, Bhutan, internationally.

I will return to Bhutan and continue to pursue my dream of becoming a professional athlete by following the "The Three Guiding Principles" of SEISA. Wherever I go, I will never forget SEISA as my family. Thank you very much.



Int'l student
Almage's
home country

Introduction to the culture of the Republic of Mali ~Mud Architecture~

Mr. Almage, a sports scholarship student who came to Japan in May this year, has been working hard on basketball and studying in the second semester after his first summer vacation in Japan. In Japanese, he has mastered hiragana and katakana and is now learning kanji. In basketball, he is gradually making a name for himself, and his team is winning more and more often against teams of higher ranks.

We introduce the culture of Mr. Almage's home country, the Republic of Mali. In this first installment, we introduce Mali's mud architecture. Mali is a country with a rich culture of musical excellence, dance, painting, and folk art and has a deep history behind it. Once known as the "Golden Kingdom", today there are four sites that are registered as World Heritage Sites. One of them is the "Old Towns of Djenné", which has a history dating back to BC. Djenné is located in the middle of the Niger River, the great river that flows through West Africa, and prospered at the end of the 13th century as a transit point for gold that crossed the Sahara Desert.

A distinctive feature of Old Towns of Djenné is its traditional mud-built architecture. Huge mosques, houses, and other buildings built of mud have "terron", or pieces of wood, built into the walls. The facades of the buildings represent the various members of a family: father, mother, and children, with the number of dots representing the number of children.

We will introduce the music of Mali in the next issue. Please look forward to it!



Mr. Almage



Mud Architecture in the Republic of Mali:
Great Mosque of Djenné



The Kingdom of Bhutan

Graduates and others participate in international competitions

After graduating from SEISA University on September 19th, Mr. Penjor left for Hangzhou, China on September 25th without a moment to catch his breath. This is to represent the Kingdom of Bhutan at the Asian Games. This time, he and four other SEISA graduates participated in the Asian Games as representatives of the Kingdom of Bhutan. Here we report on the current state of Bhutanese sports, which continues to grow and compete in international competitions.

Asian Games

Four graduates represent the Kingdom of Bhutan

The 19th Asian Games, considered the Asian version of the Olympics, was held in Hangzhou, China from September 23rd to October 8th. The Kingdom of Bhutan sent a team of 28 athletes, the largest in its history, including Ms. Sonam Choden, a graduate of SEISA Kokusai High School Shonan, represented recurve archery, Mr. Tandin Wangchuk, a graduate of SEISA Dohto University, represented the judo 73kg class, and Mr. Kinley Tshering represented the judo 66kg class, and SEISA University graduate Mr. Tshering Penjor represented the short distance 200m and 400m track and field events.

The Bhutanese athletes also participated in the Asian Para Games, which was held following the Asian Games. Four athletes, including Ms. Chimi Dema (women's shot put) and Mr. Pema Rigtsel (men's archery), became Bhutan's first ever Paralympic athletes at the Tokyo Paralympic Games and had a pre-camp at the SEISA Hakone Campus, participated in the Games.



Alumni who participated in the Asian Games.
Ms. Sonam (top left), Mr. Tandin (top right), Mr. Kinley (bottom left), Mr. Penjor (bottom right)

The World Aquatics Championships

- Fukuoka 2023

Bhutanese athletes visited Japan

Prior to the Asian Games, the World Aquatics Championships - Fukuoka 2023 was held from July 14th to 30th, and athletes from the Kingdom of Bhutan also participated in the event. The World Aquatics Championships is the second most important swimming event after the Summer Olympics, and was the second time in 22 years that the championships were held in Japan, the first being in Fukuoka 2001.

Two Bhutanese athletes represented Bhutan at the Games. Mr. Sangay Tenzin, who also participated in the Tokyo Olympics, competed in the 200m freestyle and 100m freestyle, while Mr. Kinley Lhendup, another representative, competed in the 200m individual medley and 100m butterfly. Mr. Sangay recorded his second personal best in the 100m freestyle and also set a new personal best in the 200m freestyle. Mr. Kinley, on the other hand, came to Japan for the first time in this competition. He set a new personal best in the 200m individual medley and a second personal best in the 100m butterfly. Mr. Sonam, Secretary General of the Bhutan Olympic Committee (BOC), also visited Japan for a meeting to discuss future collaboration between Bhutan, FGC, and SEISA Group.



(From left to right) Coach Mr. Alex, Mr. Kinley, Mr. Sangay, and BPC Executive Director Mr. Sonam

The world's barriers are still very high, but the athletes are demonstrating their full potential, and Bhutanese sports are certainly expanding their field of activities in international competitions. FGC will continue to support SEISA graduates and Bhutanese athletes who will lead the next generation.



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公益財団法人
世界こども財団

1805-2 Kokufuhongo, Oiso-machi, Naka-gun, Kanagawa 259-0111
(within SESA Group)

• TEL. 0463-74-5359 • FAX. 0463-74-5374 • E-mail: fgc@fgc.or.jp
• Website: www.fgc.or.jp
• Facebook: Search for "Foundation for Global Children" or "FGC!"
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