



- [Home](#)
- [University of Cambridge](#)
- [Accreditation](#)
- [Contact us](#)

18 May 2010

Jan Rihak receives special commendation



The School is delighted to announce that Jan Rihak, Cambridge MBA 2009, has been honoured with a Special Leadership Commendation at the Graduate Business Conference 2010 which was organised by the Graduate Business Forum (GBF) - a global organisation dedicated to bringing together student leaders from graduate business programmes worldwide, and hosted by the Robert H. Smith School of Business in Washington DC.

Jan was invited to join the conference in Washington from 15-17 April 2010, where he was commended in a speech by the GBF founder and chairman, Jim Deveau. Jan was subsequently presented with an official Special Leadership Commendation for his achievements in founding the charity Aiducation International UK, whilst undertaking his Cambridge MBA. Aiducation International UK is the UK branch of Aiducation International, which awards merit-based high school scholarships to bright and needy students in developing countries, turning talented and poor children who would otherwise not have access to high-school education, into empowered citizens.

Prior to commencing his Cambridge MBA in 2009, Jan was involved with [Aiducation International](http://www.aiducation.org/) (<http://www.aiducation.org/>) in Switzerland, where he helped form a strategy to enable Aiducation's global expansion. Upon his arrival in Cambridge he founded the UK fundraising arm of Aiducation together with the assistance of fellow MBA students at Cambridge Judge Business School.

Jan said "I heard about Aiducation through a colleague and was very excited about the unique concept, following a merit-based approach, and focusing strongly on transparency and

maximisation of social impact. The idea was something that really resonated with me. Being at Cambridge Judge Business School has been extremely beneficial in that there are lots of motivated MBAs who are interested in getting involved with Aiducation UK. At the School there is a very positive attitude and support towards this type of charitable initiative from both faculty and students."

The Cambridge MBA network has also been key to the growth of Aiducation UK. To date, 25 scholarships, each with a value of £1,500, have been raised for talented students in Kenya from both corporate as well as private donors.

As Aiducation UK nears its first birthday it is now focusing on ramping up fundraising activities. This year's Cambridge MBAs will soon be back in the workforce, including Jan, who will go back to his employer in Switzerland. He has already identified some strong candidates for the handover from the School's incoming MBA class in September 2010 and is busy preparing to make this transition a smooth one.

Jan speaks excitedly about the upcoming developments for Aiducation UK, such as establishing talent-raising centres in the Philippines and Bangladesh and the plan to reach out beyond Cambridge in order to secure more donors. Aiducation International is now also exploring ideas to make the model even more attractive and sustainable to funders. Jan concludes "Aiducation UK will always stay a part of my professional life and I look forward to continuing to support it alongside my career".

[Back to News from the School \(/news/items/index.html\)](/news/items/index.html)