

Advancing Sustainability in Higher Education

SDG–Universities Platform (SDG-UP)

United Nations University

Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

UNU SDG–Universities Platform (SDG-UP)



UNU
IAS



United Nations University (UNU)

UNU is a global think tank and postgraduate teaching organization headquartered in Japan. Its mission is to contribute, through collaborative research and education, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. UNU encompasses 13 institutes located in 12 countries around the world.

In carrying out this mission, UNU works with leading universities and research institutes in UN Member States, functioning as a bridge between the international academic community and the United Nations system. Through postgraduate teaching activities, UNU contributes to capacity building, particularly in developing countries. jp.unu.edu/about/unu



United Nations University (UNU)



The UNU Global System

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

UNU-IAS is a research and educational institute dedicated to realizing a sustainable future for people and our planet. Based in Tokyo, Japan, UNU-IAS serves the international community by producing evidence-based knowledge and solutions to inform policymaking and address the priorities of the UN system.

Through policy-oriented research and capacity development the institute drives progress in four thematic areas: Governance for Sustainable

Development, Biodiversity and Society, Water and Resource Management, and Innovation and Education. UNU-IAS postgraduate education advances the broader transformation towards sustainability in society — producing the policymakers and researchers of tomorrow, who will be at the forefront of global efforts for sustainability.

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Message from the Chairperson

The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) established the SDG Universities Platform (SDG-UP) in October 2020 to strengthen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiatives and human resource development in higher education through collaboration between UNU and Japanese universities. As of March 2024, 29 Japanese universities are participating in the platform. Monthly workshops are organized to leverage the expertise and strengths of each university, advancing discussions on the role of Japanese universities in the sustainable development of Japan and the world.

The platform has been promoting substantive collaboration, inspiring new activities. These include the development of an interdisciplinary online teaching course and participation in panel discussions at international conferences hosted by Times Higher Education (THE), among others. These new initiatives could not have been possible without the broad networks and expertise of the participating universities.

The world has been facing new and compounding challenges such as the pandemic crisis and regional and global conflicts. In 2023, the annual global average temperature was 14.98°C, the highest since recordkeeping began in 1850. It is anticipated that multiple factors will continue to affect progress on the SDGs, including climate change and geopolitical risks heightened by biodiversity loss. Universities play a crucial role in advancing innovative solutions to global problems and educating future sustainability leaders. They also have the potential to strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation, including with local communities and businesses, to promote behavioural change. With only six years remaining until 2030, the target year for achieving the SDGs, universities are at the forefront of global sustainability efforts, tackling increasingly complex issues.

This report summarizes the achievements and efforts of SDG-UP participating universities, highlighting their strengths and unique features. Through sharing their knowledge and experiences, we hope that the universities will continue to contribute to a more sustainable and resilient society.



Prof. Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi

Director, UNU-IAS
Chairperson, SDG-UP

About the United Nations University SDG–Universities Platform (SDG–UP)

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires all people, countries, organizations and companies to transform their actions and approaches. With growing interest in the SDGs among younger generations, universities have a key role to play in educating them to become agents of change for the transformation towards sustainability.

Collaboration between universities not only advances their sustainability efforts, but also helps them to raise their international profile and foster a student body that will contribute to building a sustainable future.

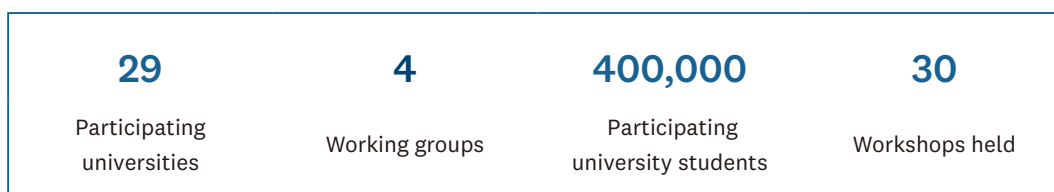
In October 2020 UNU-IAS established SDG–UP to mobilize efforts by Japanese universities on the SDGs

through collaboration and exchange of best practices. As of March 2024, 29 universities from across Japan participate in this initiative and have engaged in more than 30 workshops.

Objectives

1. Strengthen universities’ efforts on the SDGs.
2. Develop responsible global citizens who can play an active role in the local and international community.
3. Enhance the visibility of higher education institutions through activities promoting sustainability.

Key Figures



The first SDG-UP workshop

Key Features

1 Diverse Participating Universities

Collaborative efforts towards sustainability require an emphasis on inclusion and embracing different ideas and perspectives.

SDG-UP is composed of a wide variety of institutions in different regions, with different educational programmes and funding sources. They include national, public, municipal, and private universities, as well as specialized and women’s colleges.

This diversity enhances knowledge sharing by incorporating rich experience and skills to generate more creative and innovative solutions.

Number of Participating Universities, by Type of Institution

Tokyo Metropolitan Area / Others	14 / 15
National or Public / Private	12 / 17
Colleges	6

2 Active Engagement of Management, Faculty and Staff

Effective leadership is essential in promoting transformative change. Therefore, SDG-UP requires the management of each university to be actively involved, in addition to faculty members and staff interested in sustainability. This inclusive approach promotes open dialogue and ensures responsibility is shared at all levels.

3 Specialized Working Groups

SDG-UP has established four working groups: Management; SDGs Curriculum; University Evaluation and Accountability; and Sustainable Campus. The working groups meet regularly and hold in-depth discussions on each topic.



4 International Networks and Evaluation Agencies

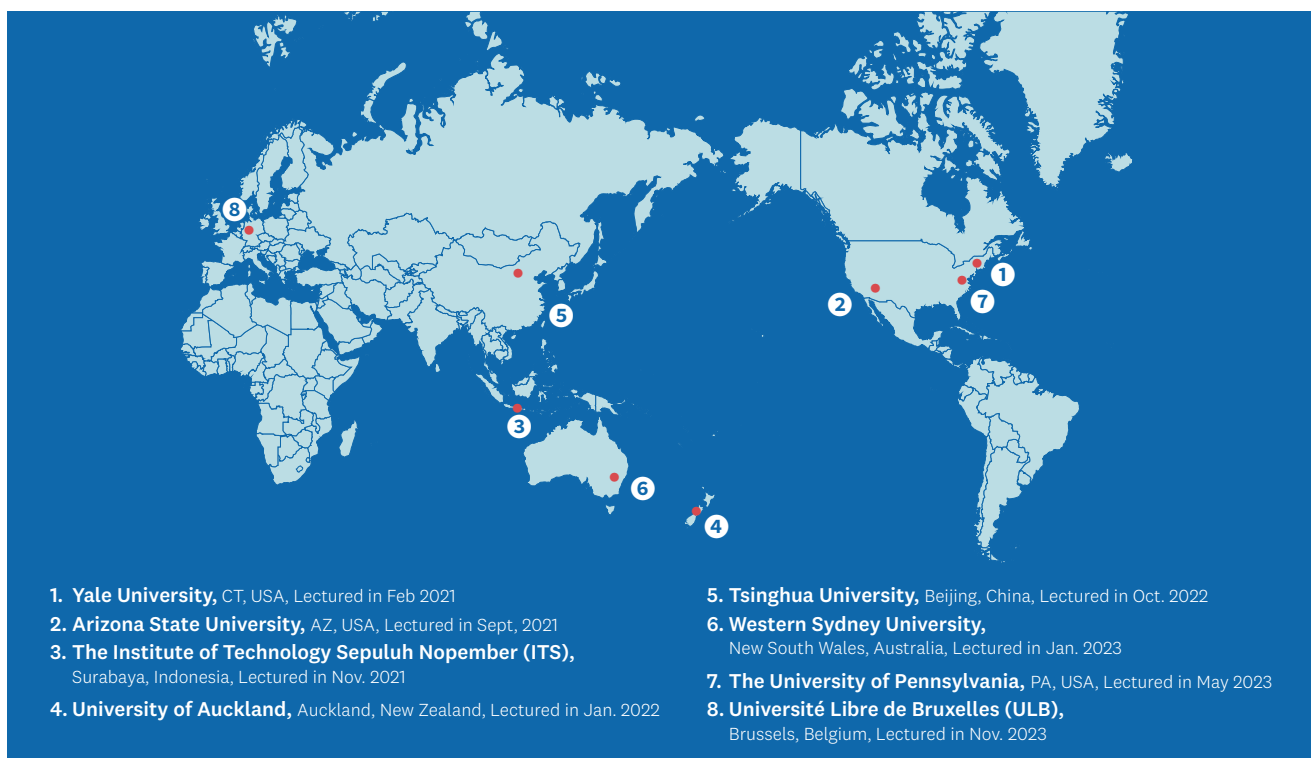
SDG-UP focuses on good practices for sustainability not only in Japan but also overseas. It has facilitated dialogue with eight universities in Asia, Europe, Oceania and the United States that are highly regarded for their sustainable activities.

Since 2020, SDG-UP has collaborated with Times Higher Education (THE), which produces rankings on the progress of universities towards achieving the SDGs. This has enabled the platform to analyze the positions of Japanese universities, including their strengths and weaknesses. Discussions with THE also provide valuable opportunities to exchange ideas on international evaluation standards.

Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi, the Chair of SDG-UP, is a member of the Advisory Board for THE Impact Rankings.

Participating Universities (29, as of March 2024)

Chiba University of Commerce, Ehime University, Hiroshima University, Hokkaido University, International Christian University, International University of Japan, Kanagawa University, Keio University, Kwansei Gakuin University, Nara University of Education, Notre Dame Seishin University, Okayama University, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Osaka Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Osaka Metropolitan University, Osaka University, Ryukoku University, Showa University of Music, Soka University, Sophia University, Tokai University, Tokyo City University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo University of Science, Toyo University, The University of Kitakyushu, The University of Tokyo, University of Tsukuba



Universities which participated in SDG-UP dialogues

Achievements to Date

1 SDGs Curriculum

Sustainability education at universities is often carried out individually by each professor, and not all students have opportunities to learn about the SDGs. Therefore, the SDGs Curriculum working group took the lead in creating an interdisciplinary curriculum entitled "Introduction to the United Nations SDGs". As of March 2024, four universities have adopted the programme as a course. The SDGs Curriculum working group plans to develop the programme further to improve its usability.

Student Feedback

The following comments are from students at Tokai University who took the course:

- “I had only vague knowledge of the SDGs, so I wanted to use this class as an opportunity to deepen my understanding. In particular, I wanted to know how I was involved in these issues and what I could do.”
- “This class is a good introduction to the SDGs, and provides us with opportunities to learn in completely different fields.”
- “It was good to learn about the SDGs not only through theory but also from practical examples. By thinking about the SDGs from various perspectives, I was able to broaden my knowledge. It was impressive to see how we should address the current situation and what actions we should take when we look at it from the perspective of the SDGs. I would like to take action based on the knowledge and perspectives gained from the study.”



Introduction to the UN SDGs syllabus

国連SDGs入門—「行動の10年」のためのサステナビリティの学び

Introduction to the UN SDGs: Learning Sustainability for the Decade of Action

- (1) 授業概要・イントロダクション
- (2) 共通の前提 (UNU-IAS/関西学院大学) 開発パラダイムの変遷とSDGs: 規範と実践の間から
- (3) 開発・国際 (東京外国語大学) アフリカからSDGsを考える—食料問題と平和を中心に—
- (4) 開発・国際 (国際基督教大学) SDGsをめぐるグローバル・ガバナンス
- (5) 環境・持続 (北海道大学) SDGs13と14に関連する学術活動としての気候科学と海洋科学
- (6) 環境・持続 (東京都立大学) SDGsの潮流とカーボンニュートラルの実践
- (7) 経済・投資 (上智大学) SDGsとESG投資
- (8) 経済・投資 (愛媛大学) ヒトとヒト、ヒトとモノ、モノとモノのつながり
- (9) 外国・共生 (神奈川大学) アジア (中国・韓国・台湾) と日本のSDGs活動
- (10) 外国・共生 (関西学院大学) 日本における移民・外国人の受け入れとSDGs
- (11) ジェンダー・人権 (ノートルダム清心女子大学) 行動と変化から学ぶ: SDGs実践編
- (12) ジェンダー・人権 (お茶の水女子大学) ジェンダー基礎論・組織を強くする評価
- (13) 参画・変革 (奈良教育大学) 歴史文化遺産を通じたESD
- (14) 参画・変革 (東海大学) 持続可能な未来を創る~わたしたちのシティズンシップ
- (15) データ・サイエンス (北九州市立大学) 国連統計データベースの扱い方

Course contents available in Japanese

2 Public Symposiums

SDG-UP held public symposiums in 2022 and 2023, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. The events each engaged several hundred people, including faculty members, students, and company representatives.

30 March 2022, UNU headquarters, Tokyo
Promoting the SDGs and Thinking about the Future of Universities

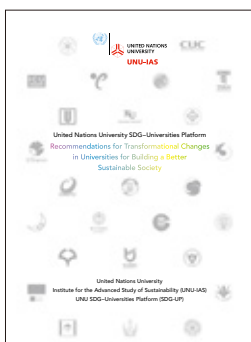
29 March 2023, UNU headquarters, Tokyo
Transformation of Behavior at Universities through Efforts to Achieve the SDGs



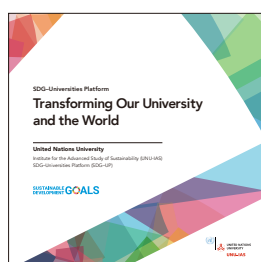
Group photo of the 2023 Symposium at UNU

3 Publications

SDG-UP creates and publishes brochures every year, which provide an overview of the Platform's activities and introduce sustainability efforts by participating universities. These brochures have been introduced and distributed at international conferences, including United Nations events, to raise awareness of SDG-UP and its activities.



Brochure in 2021



Brochure in 2022

4 THE Global Conference

SDG-UP member Hokkaido University was the only Japanese university invited to speak at the Global Sustainable Development Congress (GSDC) 2023, held at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia on 29 May-1 June, 2023. Organized by THE, the event shared sustainability practices from across the world, bringing together 538 educational institutions from 67 countries. The GSDC 2023 Communiqué affirmed that universities should embed the concept of sustainability in their strategic plans and make interdisciplinary SDG programmes mandatory for their students.



Invited Speakers at GSDC 2023

Sustainability Activities by Participating Universities

1. Chiba University of Commerce
2. Ehime University
3. Hiroshima University
4. Hokkaido University
5. International Christian University
6. Kanagawa University
7. Keio University
8. Kwansei Gakuin University
9. Nara University of Education
10. Notre Dame Seishin University
11. Okayama University
12. Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology
13. Osaka Medical and Pharmaceutical University
14. Osaka Metropolitan University
15. Osaka University
16. Ryukoku University
17. Showa University of Music
18. Soka University
19. Sophia University
20. Tokai University
21. Tokyo City University
22. Tokyo Institute of Technology
23. Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
24. Tokyo University of Science
25. Toyo University
26. The University of Kitakyushu
27. University of Tsukuba

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations University.

Name of University	Chiba University of Commerce
URL	www.cuc.ac.jp/eng/
Contacting Email Address	p-office@cuc.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.cuc.ac.jp/about_cuc/activity/integratedreport/mstsp000002e6fo-att/integratedreport2022_en.pdf

Fair Trade University

Chiba University of Commerce has been selected as the fifth "Fair Trade University" in Japan by the General Incorporated Association Fair Trade Forum Japan. This recognition is largely due to the "CUC Ethical Student Club," whose students have been at the forefront of promoting fair trade within and

outside the university. Collaborating with faculty and cafeteria staff, they have implemented a range of initiatives, including the creation of a fair trade charter, introduction of fair trade products like coffee and chocolate in the student cafeteria and Co-ops, and organizing fair trade film screenings and exhibitions.



CUC Ethical Student Club members

Name of University	Ehime University
URL	www.ehime-u.ac.jp/en/
Contacting Email Address	sdgs@stu.ehime-u.ac.jp

Launch of the SDG Contribution Human Resource Development Program in the Post-pandemic Era

Ehime University plans to offer a mandatory course for all students "Beyond SDGs: A Sustainable Future Post-2030". After two trial runs in 2022 and 2023, the course content and delivery method were improved based on student feedback, and the course is now scheduled to be available in the academic year 2024.

The university has also fully resumed fieldwork aimed at developing human resources that contribute to the SDGs. As part of the SUIJI Service-Learning Program, Ehime University students and students visiting from Indonesia stayed in rural areas of Ehime Prefecture to explore solutions to local SDG challenges. In February 2024, students from Ehime University are scheduled to visit rural areas in Indonesia to engage in similar activities.

SUIJI : Six University Initiative Japan Indonesia
HP: aac.isc.ehime-u.ac.jp/academic-exchange-with-indonesia/



Japanese and Indonesian students who participated in the SUIJI Service-Learning Program in August 2023





Name of University	Hiroshima University
URL	About Hiroshima University: www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/about NERPS: nerps.org/
Contacting Email Address	NERPS Office: nerps@hiroshima-u.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	Integrated Report : www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/about/ir_fb/ir SDGs Report : nerps.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/files/sdgs-report/HU_SDGs_report2023en.pdf

Transdisciplinary Research Projects Aiming to Form Globally Recognized Research Clusters

Established by Hiroshima University, the Network for Education and Research on Peace and sustainability (NERPS) has been conducting transdisciplinary research projects on peace and sustainability since 2020.

From December 2020 to March 2022, NERPS carried out international transdisciplinary research projects on peace and sustainability jointly with

Columbia University, University of Denver, University of Nottingham Ningbo China and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. From February 2023 to March 2025, similar projects will be implemented with the universities and research institutes shown in the figures below. In the future, each aims to become a research center of international standing and contribute to the development of "Science for Sustainable Development" that is set forth in the long-term vision of Hiroshima University.

<p>1 International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (Austria)</p> <p>Principal Investigator: Ali Kharrazi Research on urban policies and applicable strategies to achieve more circularity and sustainability among highly dependent phosphorus importing countries</p> 	<p>3 University of South Florida (U.S.A.)</p> <p>Principal Investigator: Katherine Alfredo Research on how poor households negotiate access to clean water to improve technology implementation and safe water communication in the Indian communities of Eastern Maharashtra and West Bengal</p> 
<p>2 Murdoch University (Australia)</p> <p>Principal Investigator: Tobias Ide How Do Rebel Groups React to Disasters?</p> 	<p>4 Columbia University in the City of New York (U.S.A.)</p> <p>Principal Investigator: Joshua Fisher Research on the Drivers of Peace, Conflict, and Environmental Sustainability Associated with Natural Resources and Protected Areas</p> 

Examples of NERPS activities

Name of University	Hokkaido University
URL	www.global.hokudai.ac.jp/
Contacting Email Address	sdg@facility.hokudai.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.global.hokudai.ac.jp/about/publications/

THE Impact Ranking Award

A plaque honoring Hokkaido University for being ranked No. 1 in Japan in THE Impact Ranking for four consecutive years from 2020 was awarded by THE.

Invited lectures abroad

Hokkaido University was invited to give a lecture at the GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONGRESS 2023. In his speech, he introduced Hokkaido University's efforts regarding the SDGs.

Promoting engagement

In order to deepen the understanding of "contributing to the achievement of the SDGs," which is one of the goals of Hokkaido University, FD/SD is conducted for all faculty and staff within the university to foster engagement (unity and empathy) among all members of the university.



1st place national plaque for 4 consecutive years



Invited Speaker at GSDC 2023



Implementation of FD/SD

Name of University	International Christian University
URL	www.icu.ac.jp/en/
Contacting Email Address	icu-sdgs-mygroup@icu.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	sites.google.com/info.icu.ac.jp/icusdgs/sdgs-action

ICU students are taking the lead in promoting sustainable activities in various places on campus

We manage bamboo forests on campus to prevent it from negatively impacting the ecology.

Students and faculty/staff members work together to utilize the bamboo by digging bamboo shoots and having workshops on making chopsticks from the bamboo.

Also, at the suggestion of a student group, we are using "Re-repacks" containers in the cafeteria. Thin film attached to the surface of the container allows it to be recycled.



Managing bamboo forest on the ICU Campus



Using "Re-repacks" in the university cafeteria

Name of University	Kanagawa University
URL	www.kanagawa-u.ac.jp/#
Contacting Email Address	gakucho-office@kanagawa-u.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.kanagawa-u.ac.jp/sdgs/

The SDGs Award Poster Contest

Kanagawa University announced the Kanagawa University Diversity Declaration in September 2018 and the Kanagawa University Commitment to the SDGs in April 2019.

In addition to fostering diversity, the university is strengthening efforts to promote education and research to achieve the SDGs and solve issues in the local community.

Every year a poster contest is held with the aim of raising awareness of the SDGs.

The contest highlights SDG initiatives by students, which help solve sustainability issues, to advance further research and implementation with the assistance of companies that have provided sponsorship.

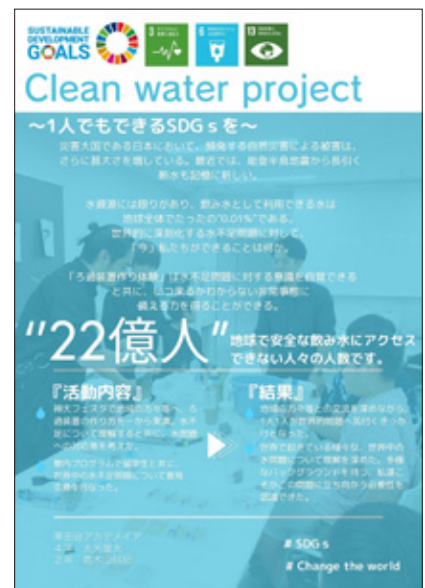
Winning entries of Kanagawa University SDGs Awards 2023



Grand Prize



KU Encouraging Prize



KU Encouraging Prize

Name of University	Keio University
URL	www.keio.ac.jp/en/
Contacting Email Address	office-planning@adst.keio.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.global-sdgs.keio.ac.jp/en/sustainability_report/

The SDGs Student Conference

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Student Conference was launched in June 2022 to ensure that student input is reflected in the university’s SDGs initiatives. The proposals are compiled by Keio students after multiple rounds of discussions with advice from faculty, staff members and other experts.

Keio Mentoring Program for Female Faculty Members

The university introduced the mentoring program to support women’s empowerment and leadership amongst its faculty members. It aims to put into practice the Keio spirit of hangaku hankyo (“learning while teaching, teaching while learning”) in which the mentor and the mentee both learn from and teach each other.



Final Proposal Presentation at the SDGs Student Conference 2023



Keio Mentoring Program for Female Faculty Members

Name of University	Kwansei Gakuin University
URL	global.kwansei.ac.jp/
Contacting Email Address	kg-sdgs@kwansei.ac.jp

SDGs Symposium Held in Cooperation with Kobe City

In promoting the SDGs, Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU) places great importance on collaboration with local communities. In February 2023, KGU co-hosted a symposium with Kobe City on the theme of promoting the SDGs through collaboration between the next generation and local communities. The Head of Kobe City’s Planning and Coordination Bureau held a discussion with three KGU student organizations, which work respectively on raising awareness of the SDGs, preventing food loss, and restoring satoyama in Kobe. Students highlighted various difficulties in their activities, such as setting mid-term goals in the absence of experts and gaining trust from companies as a youth organization.

SDGs WEEK Held in Cooperation with the HQ-Accredited Student Organization

KGU’s SDGs Headquarters supports the activities of “KG SDGs Campus Supporters”, a student organization accredited by the Headquarters. Incorporating ideas from the students, the Headquarters held an SDGs Week in October 2023. As one of the events during the Week, international and Japanese students participated in a GPS Plogging event, which consisted of a neighborhood cleanup and a discussion on SDG-related topics in English. Other activities during the Week included a special radio broadcast, second-hand clothes collection, and an exhibition on the history of the SDGs.

Related links: SDGs in Action @ Kwansei Gakuin (<https://kgc2039.jp/sdgs/>)
KG SDGs Campus Supporters (<https://kg-sdgs.com/>)



Panel discussion during the Symposium



Students who participated in the GPS Plogging event

Name of University	Nara University of Education
URL	www.nara-edu.ac.jp/
Contacting Email Address	k-soumu@nara-edu.ac.jp

In 2023 Nara University of Education developed several education for sustainable development (ESD) and SDG related initiatives.

(1) An ESD certification program was implemented to enhance current teachers' skills. Initially conducted in 12 locations, including Yakushima in Kagoshima Prefecture, Shirahama in Wakayama Prefecture, Yamagata City in Yamagata Prefecture, Kikuchi City in Kumamoto Prefecture, and Matsuyama City in Ehime Prefecture. The program was expanded nationwide. Modules include (i)basic understanding of the SDGs; (ii)ESD learning theory and unit concept creation; (iii) analysis of ESD good practice examples and training; (iv) mutual review of ESD unit concept proposals; and (v) mutual examination of ESD learning instruction plans. (i) and (ii) were conducted online. (iii) and subsequent steps were conducted face-to-face on-site. After examination and evaluation, students receive an ESD Teacher certification. There are also ESD Master and ESD Specialist courses. Approximately 170 people are expected to be certified this year.

(2) The Kinki ESD Consortium is run by universities in cooperation with boards of education, schools, companies, social education facilities, etc. It developed a multi-stakeholder ESD project.

The consortium that were held on January 6th and 7th organized a Presentation of Achievements and Exchange of Practices to disseminate a wealth of information, including an ESD Children's Forum, where students presented the results of their studies, lectures and symposiums on ESD, and exchange of ESD practices by teachers.

(3) To enhance ESD activities based on an international perspective, the university held the ESD International Symposium 2024 in Nara on February 17th with the aim to build on the results of this symposium to establish international initiatives on ESD.

(4) ESD/SDGs Continuous Online Seminar 2023 were held as in the previous year.

(5) The course, Introduction to the United Nations SDGs, was launched. Classes using content created by SDG-UP were held in the second half of 2023. There are 34 students registered (255 students per grade). Approximately half of the students plan to obtain a certificate for viewing all content, including teaching practice.



Presentation of Achievements and Exchange of Practices held by the Kinki ESD Consortium



Notre Dame Seishin University

Name of University	Notre Dame Seishin University
URL	www.ndsu.ac.jp/english/index.html
Contacting Email Address	nrs@post.ndsu.ac.jp

Achieving the SDGs through the “Seishin Collabo,” a university-wide social collaboration project

At Notre Dame Seishin University, the NDSU Center for Regional Collaboration and SDGs Promotion (NRS) plays a central role in university-wide efforts to promote the SDGs.

NRS Director conducts a lesson on the SDGs every year in the third session of all first-year students' compulsory courses. Students learn about the initiatives of the UN office of the university's founding organization, the Sisters of Namur Notre Dame (SND), which was also involved in the formulation of the SDGs as a UN NGO, and about the development of the SDGs. The NRS centre conducts a longitudinal survey to monitor changes in students' sustainability awareness over the course of their studies.

The University has also implemented the Introduction to the UN SDGs, a course which was developed by

the SDG-UP Curriculum Subcommittee. Around 100 students take this class every year.

Since 2023, NRS has led university-wide social collaboration activities (Seishin Collaboration) for the realization of sustainable Okayama and Setouchi. Students across faculties, departments and grades form groups and engage in regional, local and international activities in collaboration with the public and private sectors. The programme provides female students with opportunities to contribute to society, strengthen leadership, foster career awareness and increase interest in entrepreneurship, while also providing local stakeholders with important opportunities to learn about SDG 5 (gender equality), including anti-harassment rules and regulations.

Many students attend both the Introduction to the UN SDGs course and participate in the Seishin Collaboration initiative, as they are interrelated.

Leaflet of “Seishin Collabo”

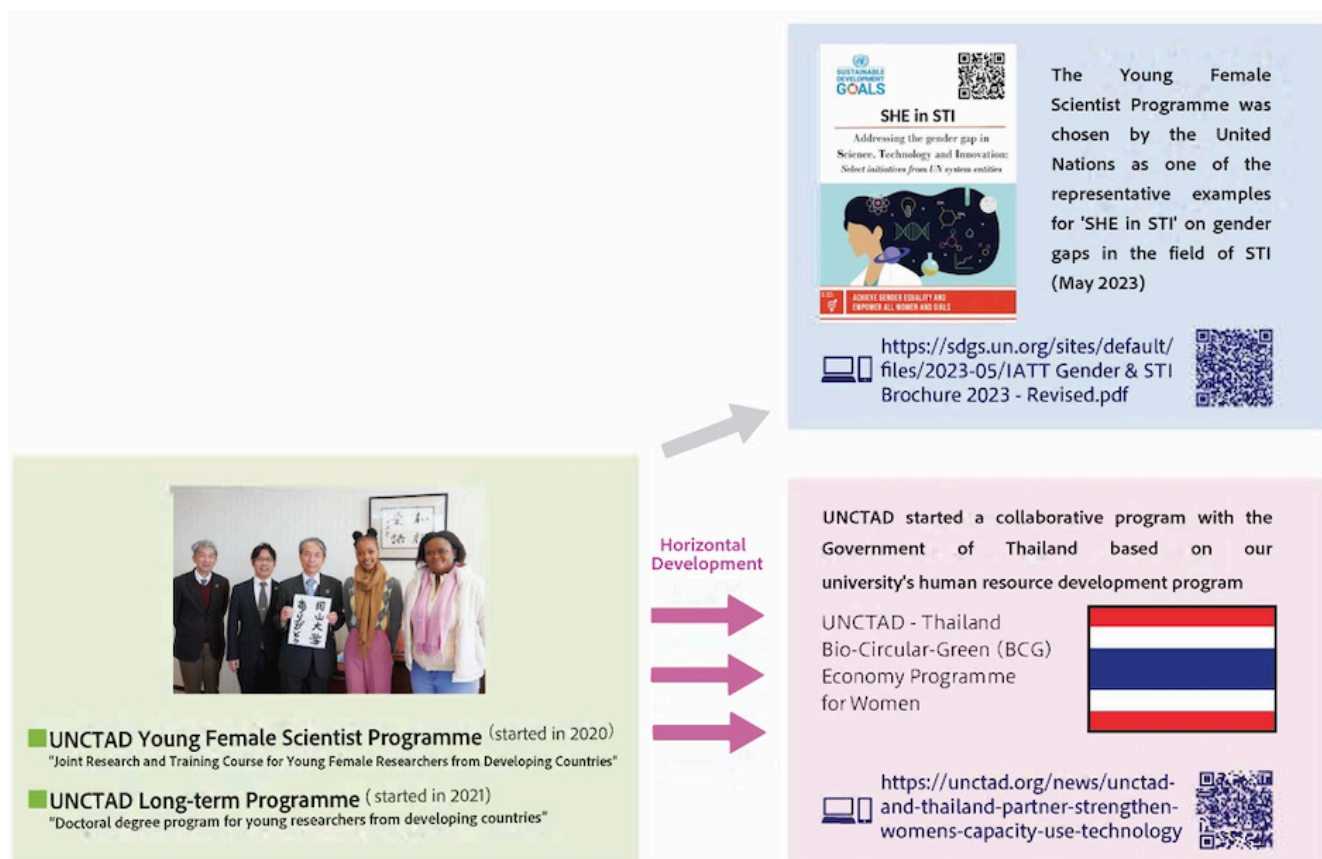
Name of University	Okayama University
URL	www.okayama-u.ac.jp/index_e.html
Contacting Email Address	kokusai@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.okayama-u.ac.jp/eng/about_okayama_university/Integrated_Report.html

Disseminating to the world a human resource development model that contributes to promoting the active participation of women in the fields of science, technology, and innovation in developing countries

Okayama University-UNCTAD "Joint Research and Training Course for Young Female Researchers from Developing Countries (Short-term Program) was selected by the United Nations as one of the representative examples for "SHE in STI - Addressing the gender gap in Science, Technology and Innovation: Selected initiatives from UN system entities -" a global

initiative on the gender gap in the fields of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) at the "Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs (STI Forum)" of the UN. The selected initiatives, including the short-term program, were published in a report.

UNCTAD set this program as a model for eliminating the gender gap among young female scientists and launched a collaborative program with the Government of Thailand in 2023.



Developing programs to address the gender gap

Name of University	Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology
URL	www.oist.jp/sdg
Contacting Email Address	sdg@oist.jp

Rewilding Campus Lawns

The Okinawa Institute of Science Technology started an initiative to convert an unused lawn back to forest to reduce environmental impact and to facilitate plant and animal dispersal across the habitats interlacing campus grounds. The initiative also seeks to replace some trees that were cut down during construction and contribute to capturing carbon dioxide from the environment.

The project was supported with funding from the Okinawa Prefectural Government and OIST. Using data from tree diversity surveys, ecologically relevant species were selected and more than 30 volunteers helped to plant nearly 500 saplings in 2023. In the first year, they continued to support the site by removing

weeds. This joint effort ensured that the saplings were established successfully.

The project is an effective test case for converting lawns or restoring unused or degraded land back to forests. It has highlighted the ecological and cultural importance of landscaping urban environments with native species, which are better adapted to local conditions and more resistant to pests, thus reducing reliance on chemical intervention. The reforested site can now serve as an outdoor educational lab to introduce students and visitors to the significance of these native trees. OIST aims to expand reforestation efforts across campus and inspire similar initiatives to bolster biodiversity.



Perfectly maintained lawns are expensive due to water, fertilizer, and pesticide costs and they reduce biodiversity



Photo of a unused lawn



The red dot shows the location of the project area.



Completed pilot phase of this reforestation effort.



Volunteers added compost to the area before planting saplings.

Name of University	Osaka Metropolitan University
URL	www.omu.ac.jp/sdgs/en/
Contacting Email Address	kikaku-sdgs@ml.omu.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.omu.ac.jp/en/assets/omu_english_brochure.pdf

Social Responsibility Report Written by the Students

The Social Responsibility Reports of Osaka Prefecture University and Osaka City University (the predecessors of the present Osaka Metropolitan University) have been traditionally written by students. After the consolidation in April 2022, students of Osaka Metropolitan University and Osaka Metropolitan University College of Technology jointly published the University Public Corporation Osaka Social Responsibility Report, which includes the environmental loads and their countermeasures; education and research activities relating to the environment; students' environmental activities; and case studies from other universities and corporations.

The report is written and edited entirely by the students.

Last year, the students implemented the ECO-idea Contest to raise awareness of the energy crisis.

Five outstanding ideas were chosen out of seventy-three submissions, and the best idea was voted on by all students and staff. The winning idea focused on the visualization of light and fuel expenses. The monthly energy consumption data of each campus and each building can now be seen on the university website. The university plans to expand this initiative, and incorporate students' ideas in university management, not only in the environmental but also in the social and governance fields.

University Public Corporation Osaka Social Responsibility Report 2023 URL: www.omu.ac.jp/about/efforts/environment/



Winners of ECO-idea Contest



Social Responsibility Report

Name of University	Osaka University
URL	sdgs.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/
Contacting Email Address	sdgs-expo2025@office.osaka-u.ac.jp

Inochi Forum

Ahead of Expo 2025 in Osaka, Osaka University established the Inochi Forum with three economic organizations in the Osaka-Kansai area to promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that leaves no one behind, in line with the Expo’s theme “Designing Future Society for Our Lives”.

Osaka University has established working groups called Action Platforms (AP) in collaboration with businesses, government and local authorities, NPOs/ NGOs, domestic and overseas universities, and exhibition associations.

The APs engage in subcommittee activities on various themes such as the SDGs, global challenges (e.g.

disaster prevention, energy, gender and poverty), and themes beyond the SDGs (e.g. science and technology, arts and sports), advancing actions toward achievement, creation and innovation.

The APs’ activities will be summarized in the Inochi Declaration outlining what humanity must do for a sustainable future and a flourishing society, to be presented at the Expo.

Furthermore, there are plans to gather diverse voices from around the world, including young people and children, regarding their aspirations for precious lives and an ideal society. This initiative named *Inochi* Voices will be utilized to formulate actions for the APs and the *Inochi* Declaration.



Activities of the *Inochi* Forum

- 1 Activities carried out under Action Platforms on the SDGs and Beyond the SDGs**

Establish Action Platforms for the SDGs and the challenges we face (e.g. disaster prevention, energy, gender, and poverty) and themes Beyond the SDGs (e.g. science and technology, arts, and sports). Members from businesses, governments, and academia, and citizens, including Co-Creation Challenge Participants and Co-Creation Partners, will collaborate in establishing platforms. Activities will be promoted to achieve around each theme.
- 2 Accumulation and analysis of *Inochi* Voices**

Gather the voices of various people from businesses, governments, academia, and citizens, including young people and children (*Inochi* Voices) regarding precious lives and ideal society. Utilize AI to organize the relationship between meetings, themes, Co-Creation Challenges, and SDGs, and incorporate them into the *Inochi* Forum and activities of Action Platforms.
- 3 Dissemination of the *Inochi* Declaration at the Expo**

Compile the discussions in each Circle, the outcomes of Action Platforms, and *Inochi* Voices, and disseminate them as the *Inochi* Declaration at the Expo.

Inochi: A Japanese word meaning something to be protected and nurtured in order to live well. Respecting inochi and creating a society in which individuality and full potential are celebrated embodies Henri Bergson’s words “elan vital”, or a vibrant experience of life.

Name of University	Ryukoku University
URL	www.ryukoku.ac.jp/english2/
Contacting Email Address	rec-k@ad.ryukoku.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.ryukoku.ac.jp/english2/sdgs/

Eco-Campus: Achieving 100% Renewable Energy

Ryukoku University has been conducting research on the regional implementation of renewable energy with regional financial institutions and others, and has devised a model for a mega solar power generation business that contributes to the local community. Based on this model, the Ryukoku Solar Park was established in 2013, in which the university participates as a socially responsible investment.

Since that time, we have continued our eco-campus initiatives and switched to a renewable energy power supply and demand contract. As of June 2023, the electricity used on all three campuses is 100% renewable.



Ryukoku Solar Park Inami (Inami-cho, Wakayama)

The Ryukoku University Student Climate Conference

To address climate change and promote decarbonization, national and local governments in Europe and elsewhere are holding climate assemblies, and policy proposals are developed through discussions with citizen representatives.

In response to this global trend, the inaugural Ryukoku University Student Climate Assembly was held in 2021, organized and attended by students.

During the second assembly in 2022, students established the group [OC's], through which they compiled discussions and ideas into a proposal and then submitted it to our university President.



Ryukoku University Student Climate Assembly Report 2022

Showa University of Music

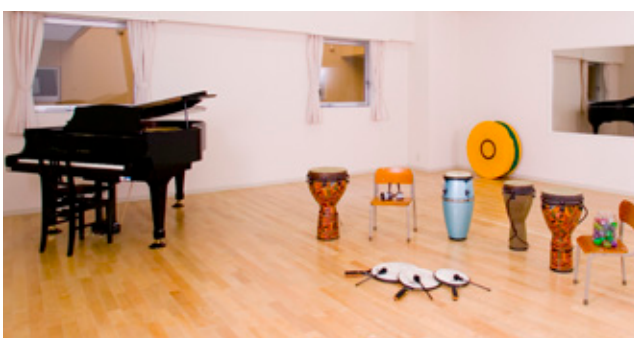


Name of University	Showa University of Music
URL	www.tosei-showa-music.ac.jp/english/
Contacting Email Address	lifelong@tosei-showa-music.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.tosei-showa-music.ac.jp/english/

Connecting with the Community via Music and Art Toward a Vibrant and Thriving Society

Showa University of Music operates a counseling room for music and mental development called Musica Bambino. This is a consultation service for parents who are worried about the development of their preschool children. It is staffed by faculty members and graduate students qualified as music therapists.

The university also carries out activities to deliver music to elementary and junior high schools, institutions for the elderly, and others. The goal is to foster human resources that grow together with the community and contribute to society while improving themselves.



Music Therapy Room used at "Musica Bambino"



Musical instrument experience and concert in the community

Name of University	Soka University
URL	www.soka.ac.jp/en/
Contacting Email Address	sokauniv-sdgs@soka.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.soka.ac.jp/about/disclosure/finance/report/

The SDGs Minor Program Develops Students' Ability to Contribute to the SDGs through Cross-departmental Programmes

In 2023, Soka University launched a minor system that allows students to study interdisciplinary specialized subjects related to the SDGs, in addition to fulfilling the curriculum requirements of a major degree in their faculty.

The minor system allows students to gain comprehensive knowledge in specialized areas of study in fields other than their faculty to ensure a broad range of learning.



Name of University	Sophia University
URL	sophia-sdgs.jp/en/
Contacting Email Address	sustainability-co@sophia.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/4970/

Results of the 2023 PRI Assessment -Sophia University Scored “5 Stars” in All the Modules Assessed-

Sophia University signed the United Nation's Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) in 2015. The university has been committed to environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing since signing the PRI, with the belief that considering ESG factors is

vital for achieving both superior long-term investment performance and positive impact toward sustainable society.

Sophia University will continue to explore responsible investment which is aligned with its founding philosophy and educational principle “For Others, With Others”.

Signatory of:



Results of the 2023 PRI Assessment (Summary)

	Policy Governance and Strategy	External manager (selection, appointment and monitoring)						Confidence building measures
		Indirect - Listed equity - Passive	Indirect - Listed equity - Active	Indirect - Fixed income - Active	Indirect - Private equity	Indirect - Real estate	Indirect - Infrastructure	
Star score	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)
Module score	96	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PRI Median	★★★ (Three stars)	★★★ (Three stars)	★★★ (Three stars)	★★★ (Three stars)	★★★ (Three stars)	★★★ (Three stars)	★★★★ (Four stars)	★★★★ (Four stars)

Results of the 2023 PRI Assessment (Summary)

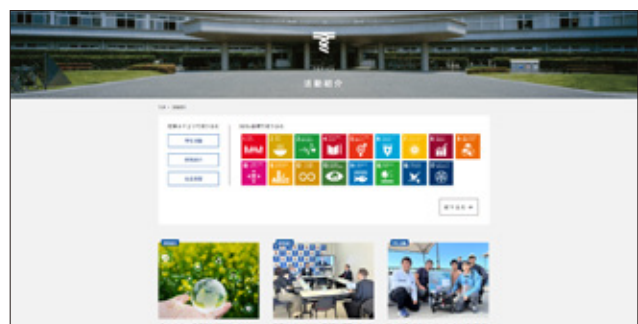
Name of University	Tokai University
URL	www.u-tokai.ac.jp/

Launched a New Website for Carbon Neutrality and SDGs Initiatives

Tokai University promotes carbon neutrality and the SDGs through the following initiatives: a unique liberal arts course on modern civilization; the Challenge Project consisting of social contribution activities planned, designed and implemented by

students; and the SDGs Mirai Code radio program broadcast on TOKYO FM that disseminates sustainability research.

In the summer of 2023, a website was launched to communicate these efforts both inside and outside the university.



New Website for Carbon Neutrality and SDGs Initiatives

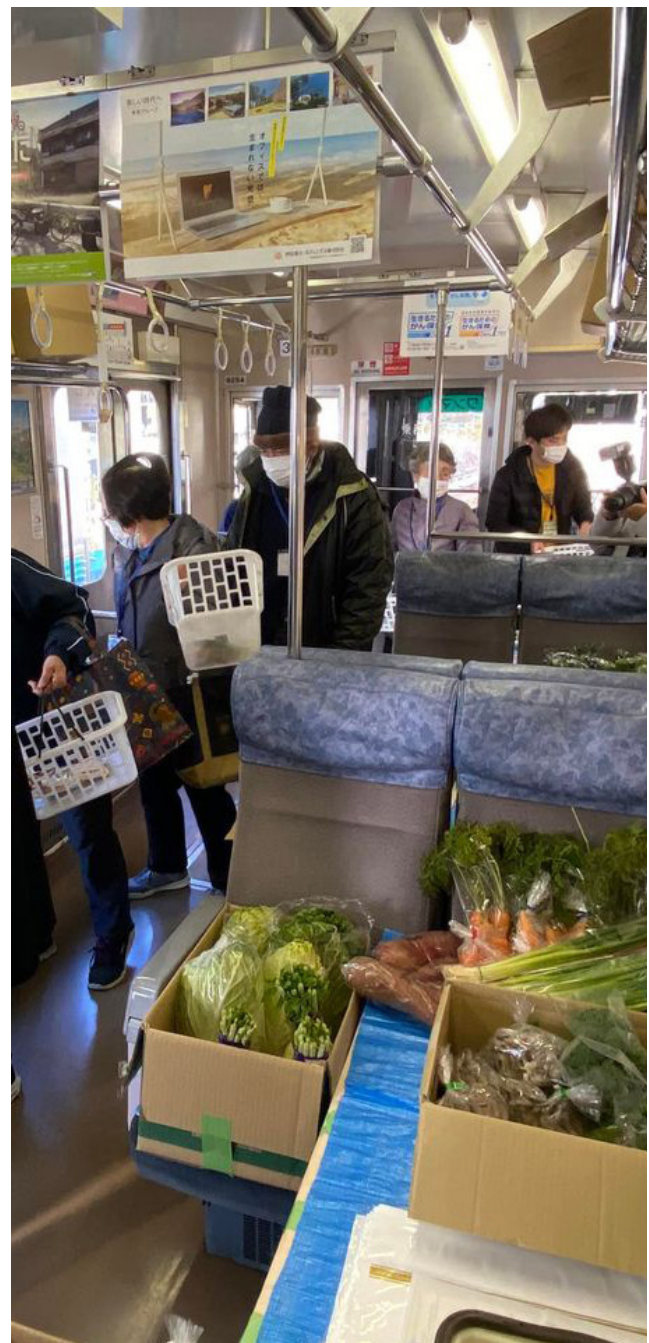
Name of University	Tokyo City University
URL	www.tcu.ac.jp/english/
Contacting Email Address	nishibus@tcu.ac.jp

Research on Shopping Trains that Turn Railroad Cars into Mobile Supermarkets

While high population density in city centers is a growing problem, the number of supermarkets in rural areas is decreasing as the population declines, causing inconvenience for elderly people who do not own cars. To alleviate this issue, Tokyo City University conducted a demonstration experiment that transformed train cars into a mobile supermarket on the Izukyu railroad line in Shizuoka prefecture. Such shopping trains have many merits, such as easy-to-understand layouts, the ability to transport many products at once, and the utilization of local railways. Through this experiment, it became clear that there are great hopes for the practical application of shopping trains.



Interior of Shopping Train



Name of University	Tokyo Institute of Technology
URL	www.titech.ac.jp/english
Contacting Email Address	sdg-up@jim.titech.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.titech.ac.jp/english/public-relations/about/overview/publications

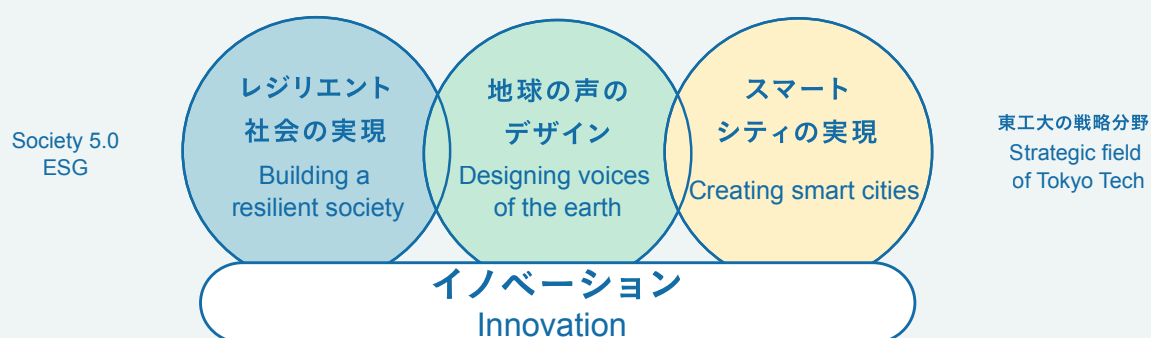
Tokyo Tech SSI (Sustainable Social Infrastructure)

SSI is a strategic field of Tokyo Tech that aims to build the next-generation social infrastructure to support the safety, security and happiness of each individual in the era when the average life expectancy can reach 100 years. Tokyo Tech SSI aims to create new

knowledge and make practical contributions to society through collaboration with industry, government and academia, as well as through international partnerships, in order to solve global social issues.

東工大 SSI Sustainable Social Infrastructure

人生100年時代の安全・安心で一人ひとりの幸せを実現する次世代の社会インフラを実現
Next generation social infrastructure to support the safety, security, and happiness of each individual



Name of University	Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
URL	www.tufs.ac.jp/english/
Contacting Email Address	kenkyu-soumu@tufs.ac.jp

A Student Organization Works Toward Carbon Neutrality

The Tafuene student group was founded by students who attended the "Trends and Prospects for Environmental and Energy Issues and Nature Environment" lecture course at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. The group is active as an official

university club, joining and participating in the Renewable Energy University League as student members, exchanging information with students from other universities, and even designing and making their own stickers to encourage students to turn off lights in their classrooms.



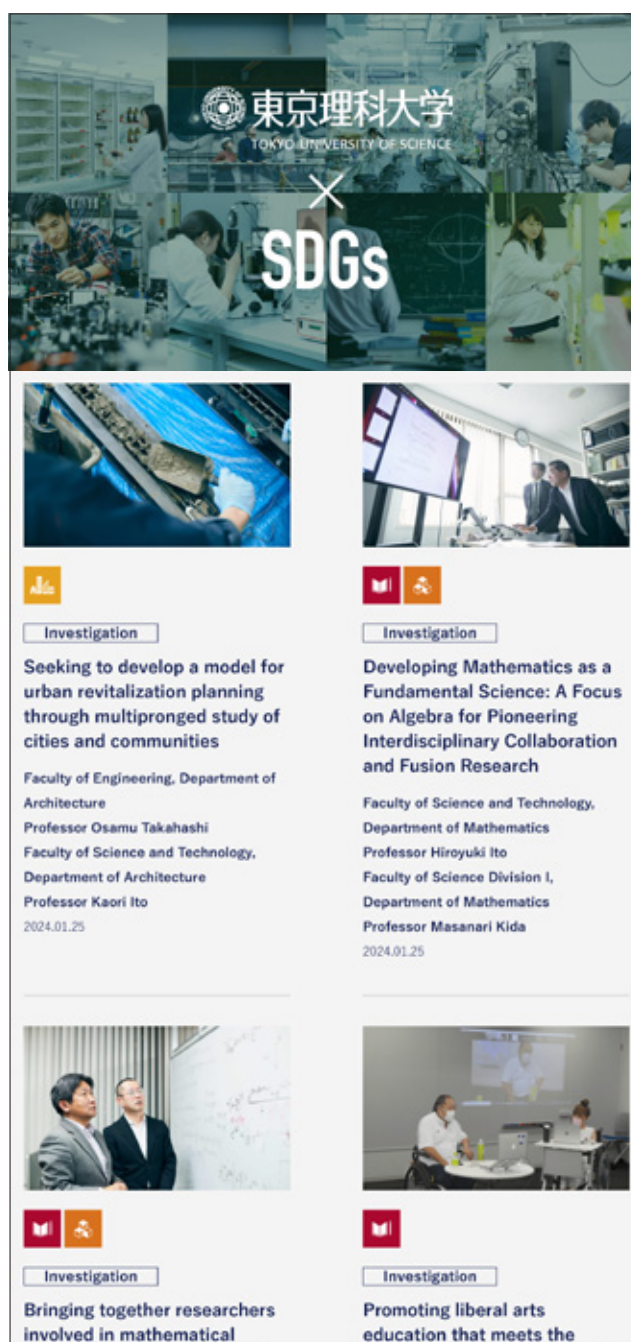
Distribution of energy conservation awareness stickers on campus

Tokyo University of Science

Name of University	Tokyo University of Science
URL	www.tus.ac.jp/en/
Contacting Email Address	koho@admin.tus.ac.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.tus.ac.jp/sdgs/en

A Dedicated Website for Compiling and Publicly Disseminating SDG-related Information from TUS

In line with the education and research principle that seeks to “pursue science and technology for the harmonious development of nature, humanity and society”, Tokyo University of Science (TUS) facilitates original research within each of its faculties and graduate schools to advance interdisciplinary and integrative collaborative research at the Research Institute for Science and Technology, all of which is focused on addressing the challenges facing society, particularly those targeted by the SDGs.



The screenshot displays the 'Tokyo University of Science x SDGs Web Site'. At the top, there is a banner image with the university's name in Japanese (東京理科大学) and English (TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE), and the text 'SDGs' overlaid. Below the banner, there are four featured articles, each with a thumbnail image, a title, a category 'Investigation', a brief description, the faculty and department, the professor's name, and the date '2024.01.25'.

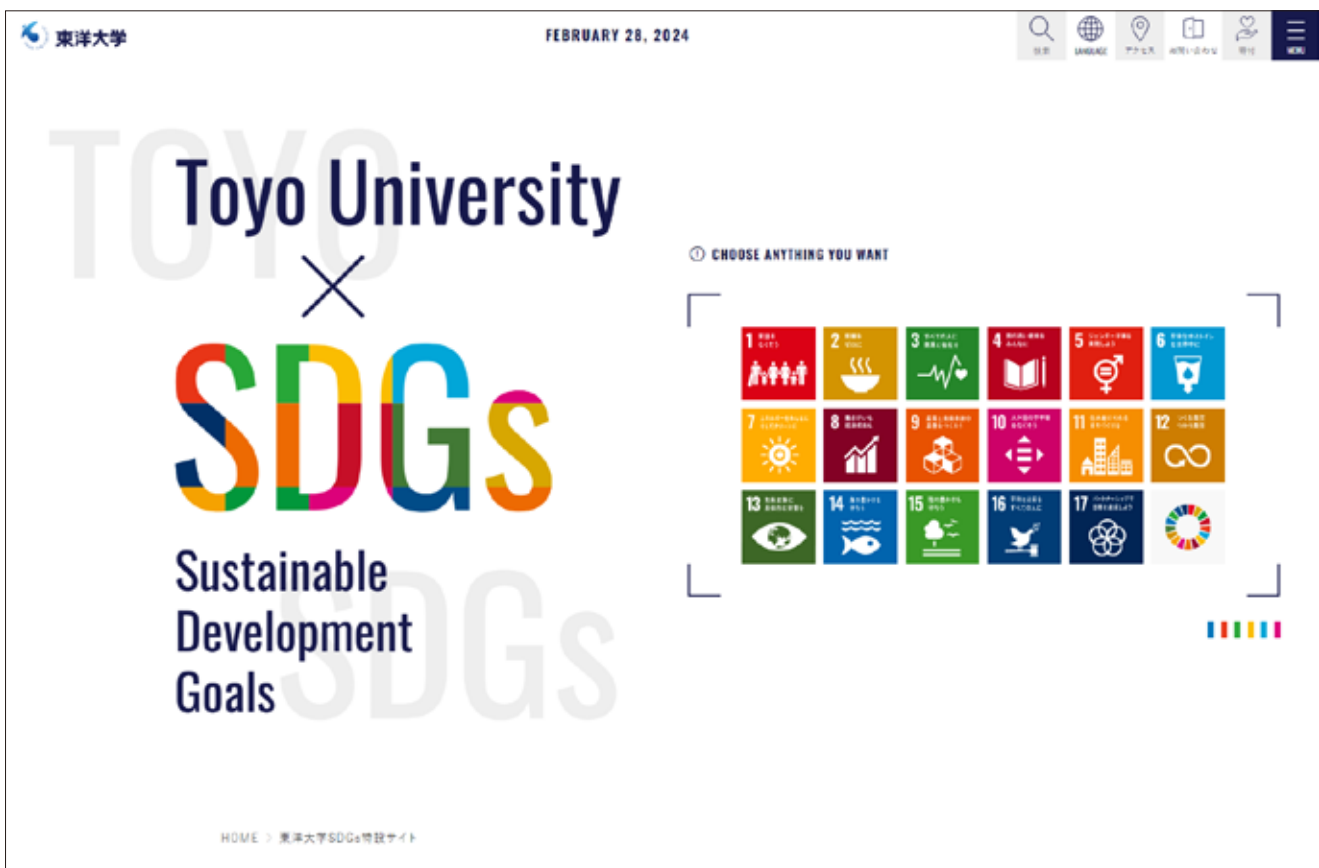
- Article 1:**
 - Thumbnail:** A person working in a laboratory.
 - Title:** Seeking to develop a model for urban revitalization planning through multipronged study of cities and communities
 - Faculty:** Faculty of Engineering, Department of Architecture
 - Professors:** Professor Osamu Takahashi, Professor Kaori Ito
- Article 2:**
 - Thumbnail:** A person presenting at a computer monitor.
 - Title:** Developing Mathematics as a Fundamental Science: A Focus on Algebra for Pioneering Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Fusion Research
 - Faculty:** Faculty of Science and Technology, Department of Mathematics
 - Professors:** Professor Hiroyuki Ito, Professor Masanari Kida
- Article 3:**
 - Thumbnail:** Two people in a meeting.
 - Title:** Bringing together researchers involved in mathematical
- Article 4:**
 - Thumbnail:** A person in a classroom setting.
 - Title:** Promoting liberal arts education that meets the

Name of University	Toyo University
URL	www.toyo.ac.jp/
Contacting Email Address	ml-sdgs@toyo.jp
URL of the Integrated Report, etc.	www.toyo.ac.jp/sdgs/

The TOYO SDGs Weeks Deepen the Understanding of the SDGs.

Toyo University established the Toyo University SDGs Charter of Action on 6 June 2021, aligning with the principles of the SDGs and committing to the creation of a brighter future for the global community. It has set action goals in five fields: education, research, social/international contributions, environmental contributions, and diversity and inclusion.

Starting in 2021, the university designated four weeks in October and November as the Toyo SDGs Weeks, during which time we held various programmes related to the SDGs. In 2023, 33 programmes were held that attracted a total of 4,180 students. Some of the programmes, such as a symposium, were opened to the public to better disseminate the information to help bring about a more sustainable world.



Special website for SDGs information www.toyo.ac.jp/sdgs/

Name of University	The University of Kitakyushu
URL	www.kitakyu-u.ac.jp/
Contacting Email Address	chiiki@kitakyu-u.ac.jp

Interdisciplinary Approach to Human Resource Development that Supports Environmental Sustainability

In 2016 the University of Kitakyushu (UKK) adopted three goals: environmental sustainability, regional engagement, and global connections. UKK offers a specialization in environmental studies through its education for sustainable development (ESD) programme, available as a minor in the arts-focused faculties on the Kitagata Campus, and through a specialized curriculum in the science-focused faculty on the Hibikino Campus. Solutions to environmental problems require an interdisciplinary approach, and it is essential for students to acquire knowledge and skills from various fields, as well as develop networks with people in different professions and with different specialties.

With this in mind, UKK has created a subject Environmental Technology for the Future, available to students on both campuses, to provide educational

opportunities made possible by a fusion of the arts and sciences.

Kitakyushu City, where UKK is located, has also been recognized by the OECD as Asia's first model city for promoting the SDGs, and is working to expand the introduction of renewable energy and create a comprehensive base for wind power-related industries.

The university is also making efforts to develop human resources for offshore wind energy through the Kitakyushu Offshore Wind Camp × SDGs Offshore Wind Energy Education Programme in cooperation with Kitakyushu City.

UKK aims to build a sustainable society and will work on SDGs education to create human resources who have the capacity for original and critical thought required to find solutions to environmental problems.



Sustainable development (ESD) programme



The Kitakyushu offshore WindCamp x SDGs



At Kitakyushu Environment Museum



Special Lectures on Environment

UNU SDG–Universities Platform (SDG-UP)

SDGs-UP@unu.edu

