



## 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. For more information, please visit <https://unu.edu/about>



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.

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.

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

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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. It aims to strengthen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiatives and human resource development in higher education through collaboration between UNU and Japanese universities, and to disseminate these achievements both domestically and internationally. As of March 2025, 25 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 sustainable development.

The platform has been promoting activities aimed at creating further networks through impactful opportunities at the global scale. These include participation as panelists in international conferences hosted by Times Higher Education (THE) and the Global Forum of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), which is currently co-chaired by UNU. In addition, participating universities have worked together to develop interdisciplinary online teaching materials.

The world is facing urgent challenges including climate change, regional conflicts and biodiversity loss. The role of universities as institutions of higher education — and the expectations placed upon them — are growing significantly in the effort to build a more resilient society. Through this platform, we aim to leverage the diversity of participating universities with their unique strengths to advance domestic activities and promote international discussions in collaboration with international organizations. By doing so, we hope to make further contributions to achieving the SDGs.

This report introduces the activities of SDG-UP in the fiscal year 2024 and summarizes the initiatives of participating universities that are actively addressing global challenges. By sharing their achievements and experiences, we hope to advance solutions to these challenges and contribute to the creation of a sustainable 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 2025, 25 universities from across Japan participate in this initiative and have engaged in 39 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

<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>39</b>
Participating universities	Working groups	Participating university students	Workshops held



2024 SDG-UP Public Symposium

# 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	12 / 13
National or Public / Private	11 / 14
Colleges	5

## 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 focused on specific themes.



In FY 2025, Working Group on University Evaluation and Accountability will be reorganized and integrated, and a new Working Group on AI and Higher Education will be established.

## 4 International Networks

SDG-UP focuses on good practices for sustainability not only in Japan but also overseas. It has facilitated dialogue with 10 universities and institutions in Asia, Europe, Oceania and the United States that are highly regarded for their sustainable activities.

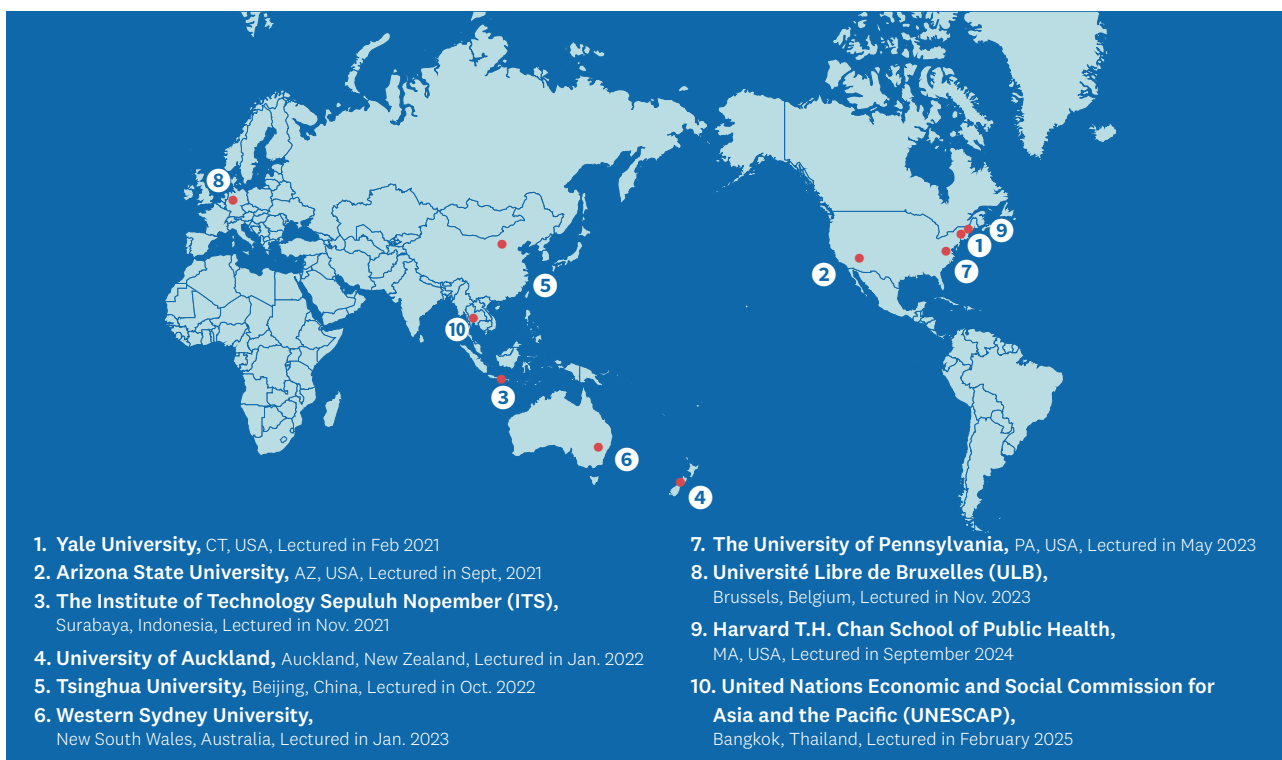
Since 2020, SDG-UP has collaborated with Times Higher Education (THE), which produces rankings on the progress of universities towards achieving the SDGs. This has enabled the platform to analyze the positions of Japanese universities, including their strengths and weaknesses. Discussions with THE also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

In FY 2024, SDG-UP invited experts from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) as guest speakers to present on 'Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,' 'Pathways to Achieving the Sustainable Development

Goals,' and 'Multistakeholder and Multilateral Cooperation and Ways Forward.' After the presentations, SDG-UP workshop participants exchanged ideas on how Japanese universities can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

### Participating Universities (25, as of March 2025)

Chiba University of Commerce, Ehime University, Hokkaido University, Institute of Science Tokyo, International Christian University, Keio University, Kwasei 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, Ryukoku University, Showa University of Music, Soka University, Sophia University, Tohoku University, Tokai University, Tokyo City University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, The University of Kitakyushu, The University of Osaka, The University of Tokyo, University of Tsukuba



Overseas universities and institutions invited as a guest speakers

# Working Groups Activities

## 1 Working Group on Management

Working Group (WG) on Management consists of presidents and vice-presidents of participating universities, and focuses on university management and its role in building a sustainable society.

The mission of universities are education, research, social contributions and university administration, which should incorporate the eight key concepts shown in Figure 1. These can be further categorized into fundamental aspects of university management (concepts 1, 2 and 3), the development of intangible aspects (4 and 7), the development of tangible aspects (5), sharing of advanced case studies and networking (6), and engagement (8).

From the perspective of what university management should do to promote SDGs at each university, there are top-down and bottom-up flows. To effectively manage these flows, we created a University SDGs Management System (Figure 2)\*.

In FY2024, the WG examined the significance of university management promoting student engagement. By creating top-down and bottom-up flows, it considered the impact of different policies, changes in student behaviour, and the ripple effects on faculty and staff. The WG classified these into the following three types and shared examples from participating universities.

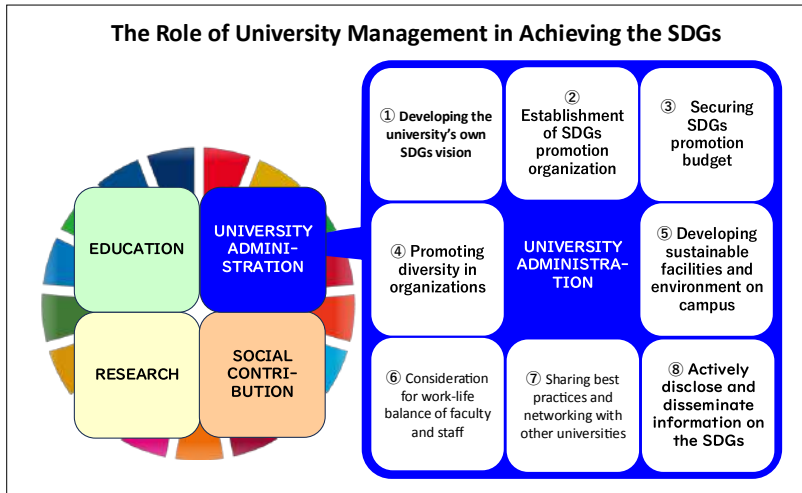


Figure 1: SDGs management of universities

\* For details, please refer to "The Role and Responsibility of University Management Towards a Sustainable Society – Recommendations and Advanced Cases."



### Catalysts for the promotion of students' engagement in SDGs

- » Student staff (Sophia University, Student staff)
- » Presidential student project (Keio University, SDGs student Conference "Jukusei Kaigi")
- » Student organization (Nara University of Education, UNESCO Club)

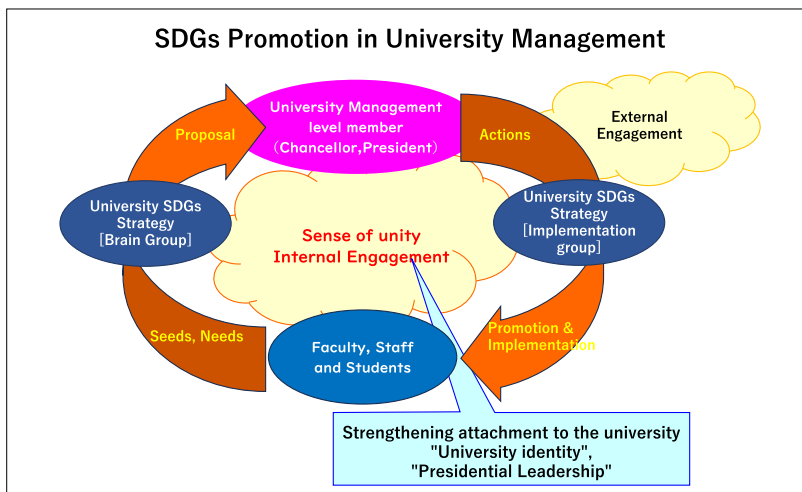


Figure 2: University SDGs management system

## 2 Working Group on SDGs Curriculum

Since FY2021, the Working Group (WG) on SDGs Curriculum collaborated with 12 universities to develop a course titled "Introduction to the UN SDGs" for first- and second-year undergraduate students. After a trial run in FY2022, the course was fully implemented in FY2023, with certificates of completion issued.

The unique features of "Introduction to the UN SDGs" are: (i) the curriculum was developed by combining specialized courses that each university excels in, using the strengths of SDG-UP and its diverse members; and (ii) emphasizing

the 169 targets and actions, considering the time-bound nature of the SDGs.

Each session consists of an on-demand video lecture produced by the participating university and discussion among students. The course package includes a teaching manual for instructors, related materials and references.

In FY2024, to further promote the course, the WG has developed a curriculum guide and held discussions on improving the content and methods of utilization.

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

#### Course Description

This is a general education course developed by UNU SDG-Universities Platform (SDG-UP), a collaborative effort by universities across Japan that are taking a leading role in SDG implementation. The course aims to provide students with broad knowledge of sustainability issues, and develop their capacity to understand interlinkages between the social, economic, environmental and governance aspects of the SDGs. Students examine the historical background of the SDGs, the current situation in Japan and relevant case studies, and discuss what actions are necessary to achieve the Goals. Through this process, students are encouraged to cultivate a personal transformation towards sustainability.

Session	Theme (University, Institution in charge)	Session Title
1	Course Description / Introduction (Each implementing university)	Overview and Introduction of the Course Objectives and Outline
2	Common Ground (UNU-IAS/Kwansei Gakuin University)	Development Paradigm of the SDGs in Transition: Norms and Implementation Reality
3	Sustainable Development in the International Context (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)	Rethinking the SDGs in the African Context: Food and Peace
4	Sustainable Development in the International Context (International Christian University)	Global Governance of the SDGs
5	Environmental Integrity and Sustainable Development (Hokkaido University)	Climate Science and Ocean Science
6	Environmental Integrity and Sustainable Development (Tokyo City University)	Trends in the SDGs and Carbon Neutrality
7	Economic Sustainability and Responsive Investment (Sophia University)	SDGs and ESG Investment
8	Economic Sustainability and Responsive Investment (Ehime University)	Human-Human, Human-Thing, and Thing-Thing Linkages
9	Diversity and Inclusion (Kwansei Gakuin University)	International Migration and SDGs
10	Gender Equality and Human Rights (Notre Dame Seishin University)	SDGs Goal 5 Practices
11	Public Participation and Transforming Our World (Nara University of Education)	Education for Sustainable Development through World Cultural Heritage
12	Public Participation and Transforming Our World (Tokai University)	Creating Sustainable Future and Citizenship
13	Data Science (The University of Kitakyusyu)	How to Handle United Nations Statistics Database
14	Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) (Nara University of Education)	DRR Education from the perspective of ESD and SDGs
15	Wrap-up and Reflections (Each implementing university)	

#### Comments from students

- "I was moved by the realization that I could take classes from professors at various universities across the country and that there are students nationwide taking the same lectures and thinking about the same questions."
- "I learned that while the SDGs are goals to be achieved globally, there are many initiatives at the organizational level, not just at the national level. By focusing locally, I realized that I could contribute to the SDGs in my surroundings."
- "Before taking this course, I had never deeply thought about or been conscious of the SDGs. I learned that each of the 17 goals contains many targets."
- "This is the best course I have taken this term. I learned about the existence of the SDGs when I was a first-year high school student and have been interested ever since. However, this course was full of new information for me."

### 3 Working Group on University Evaluation and Accountability

Working Group (WG) on University Evaluation and Accountability was established with the perspective that universities are public assets of society and should recognize that their activities require accountability. Universities should utilize external evaluations to visualize educational and research activities, build self-assessment systems to improve management and promote behavioural change.

In FY2024, the WG conducted the following activities. Results of the analysis of the evaluation methods used in THE Impact Rankings 2024 were shared. It was announced that UNU- IAS took on a leadership role as co-chair of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI), and activities of HESI and its Action

Group on the Future of Higher Education and AI were introduced. The WG also discussed issues related to the use of AI in research, including case studies, examples and challenges of using generative AI in university administration.

At the HESI Global Forum held as a side event of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) on 15 July 2024, a representative from Sophia University, a moderating university of the WG, presented on the importance of expanding education for sustainable development (ESD) in higher education and the significance of international collaboration and networking, based on the example of SDG-UP.



2024 HESI Global Forum Photo: Kathleen Ng/McGill University

## 4 Working Group on Sustainable Campus

Working Group (WG) on Sustainable Campus was established in 2023 recognizing that sustainability efforts on campus (including environmental, human rights issues etc.) are important challenges.

During discussions, group members raised the point that in addition to structural aspects, human aspects should also be included, and agreed that the group's focus should not be limited to the physical campus but extend to collaboration with the local community. Based on the four areas indicated by Campus Sustainability Network in Japan (CAS-Net Japan) – Governance, Education and Research, Environment and Energy, and Community – the WG has been sharing and discussing examples from participating universities.

In FY2024, based on a proposal from the WG, SDG-UP invited Prof. Leith Jean Sharp, (Director and Lead Faculty, Executive Education for Sustainability Leadership, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health) as a guest speaker. Prof. Sharp discussed the latest sustainable campus initiatives at Harvard University and introduced the concept of traditional hierarchical networks and adaptive networks at universities. She

emphasized the importance of understanding the characteristics and relationships of both types of networks and connecting them effectively to create synergy.

The WG explored how to integrate the ideas and activities of students who might belong to the adaptive networks into the decision-making processes of hierarchical structures.

Okayama University, moderating university of the WG, attended the annual international conference of the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) and introduced advanced examples of sustainable campus initiatives of the WG participating universities, as well as shared examples of sustainable campus initiatives from overseas universities.

Planned activities of the WG include: (i) participating in domestic and international networks such as ISCN and CAS-Net Japan; (ii) deepening the understanding of the four CAS-Net Japan indicators; (iii) developing a charter of sustainable campus in Japan and presenting it at UN conferences; and (iv) promoting initiatives developed in Japan at symposiums and other events.

### Examples of student activities in four areas\*

#### Governance

- Sophia University: Student Staff

#### Education & Research

- Osaka Medical and Pharmaceutical University: SDGs student group activities by "collife"

#### Environment & Energy

- Ryukoku University : "Ryukoku University Sustainability Days", "Ryukoku Challenge", and "Ryukoku University Student Climate Conference"

#### Community

- Showa University of Music : Junior Music Leader Development Support Program
- Okayama University : "One Yong World x Okayama University", "Okayama Dream Education Initiative with high school students", and "Student Club on Data Science (D.S. Club)"

\* Campus Sustainability Network in Japan

# Other Activities

## 1 Public Symposium

SDG-UP has held annual public symposiums since 2022, 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 and students.

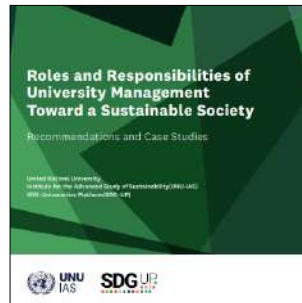
- 30 March 2022, UNU headquarters, Tokyo  
Promoting the SDGs and Thinking about the Future of Universities
- 29 March 2023, UNU headquarters, Tokyo  
Transformation of Behavior at Universities through Efforts to Achieve the SDGs
- 29 March 2024
- 27 March 2025



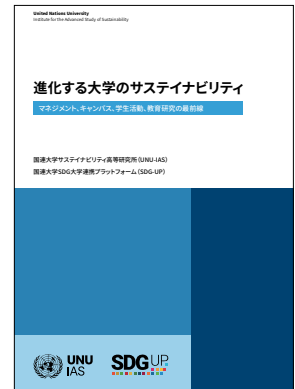
Student presentation, 2025 UNU SDG-UP Public Symposium at UNU

## 2 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 distributed at international conferences, including United Nations events, to raise awareness of SDG-UP and its activities.



Working Group on Management—2023 Outcomes



SDG-UP Annual Report 2023

## 3 Collaboration with Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)

HESI was established at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) as a platform to discuss how the higher education sector can contribute to achieving a sustainable society. Since 2024, UNU has co-chaired HESI in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC), and Sulitest Association (an educational assessment organization based in

France). SDG-UP has been actively engaging with HESI through various initiatives. For example, Sophia University represented SDG-UP at the HESI Global Forum and faculty members from SDG-UP universities participated in the Futures of Higher Education and Artificial Intelligence Action Group.

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

# Ehime University

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More Information	<a href="http://www.ehime-u.ac.jp/about/sdgs/">www.ehime-u.ac.jp/about/sdgs/</a>

## Developing SDGs Leaders for the Post-2030 at Ehime University

Ehime University launched a new mandatory course for all undergraduate students entering in the 2024 academic year. Titled "Beyond SDGs – Toward a Sustainable Future Post-2030", it is an asynchronous online class. This course was originally implemented on a trial basis in 2022 and has since been improved based on student feedback to become an official part of the general education curriculum.

In addition, through the SUIJI (Six University Initiative Japan Indonesia) Service-Learning Program — a collaborative effort of six universities in Japan and Indonesia — Ehime University students visited rural communities in Indonesia, where they engaged in hands-on learning aimed at addressing local sustainability challenges.

Furthermore, the student-led Ehime University SDGs Promotion Office "Daidai", established in February 2024, has officially begun its full-fledged activities. Student-driven initiatives are steadily expanding both on and off campus, including efforts to enhance biodiversity on university grounds and active exchanges with student organizations from other universities.

\* SUIJI Program Website: <https://aac.isc.ehime-u.ac.jp/academic-exchange-with-indonesia/>

\* Launch of "Daidai," Ehime University's Student SDGs Promotion Office: [https://www.ehime-u.ac.jp/tp\\_20240206\\_sdgs/](https://www.ehime-u.ac.jp/tp_20240206_sdgs/)



Founding members of Ehime University's SDGs Student Promotion Office "Daidai"



Japanese and Indonesian students who participated in the SUIJI Service-Learning Program in August 2024



# Hokkaido University

Website  
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[www.global.hokudai.ac.jp/about/publications/](http://www.global.hokudai.ac.jp/about/publications/)

## THE Impact Ranking Award

Hokkaido University (HU) was ranked number one in Japan in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking for five consecutive years since 2020. THE honored HU with a plaque. In 2022, HU was ranked number one in the world in the goal-specific ranking (SDG2).

## Lectures Abroad

For the second year in a row, HU was invited to speak at the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2024. In the speech, HU highlighted not only its own initiatives to achieve the SDGs, but also those of Japanese higher education institutions.

## Hokkaido University Sustainability Declaration

Formulated in August 2024, the Declaration states that HU will promote on-campus unity through sustainability as a common language for every member of the university community, including students, faculty, staff and administration. We aim to cultivate engagement and empathy inside and outside of our university gates, further increasing HU's social impact.



Hokkaido University Sustainability Declaration



Invited speaker at GSDC 2024



Number one in Japan for five consecutive years

# Institute of Science Tokyo

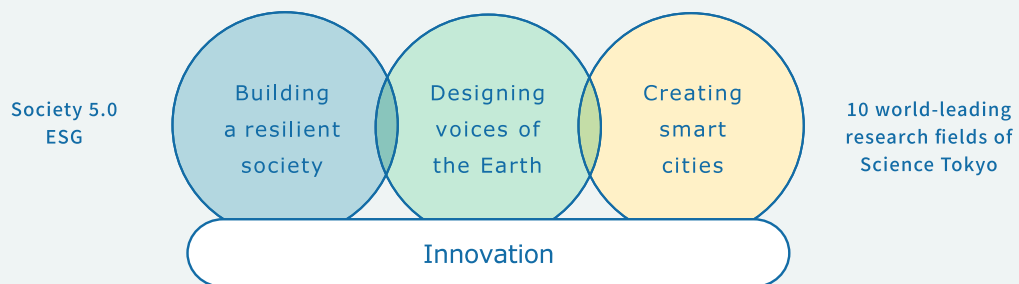
Website	<a href="http://www.isct.ac.jp/ja">www.isct.ac.jp/ja</a>
Contact email	<a href="mailto:evp.global.t@isct.ac.jp">evp.global.t@isct.ac.jp</a>
More Information	<a href="http://www.isct.ac.jp/en/001/about/publications#Publications-02">www.isct.ac.jp/en/001/about/publications#Publications-02</a>

## Institute of Science Tokyo – Sustainable Social Infrastructure (SSI)

SSI is a strategic field of Institute of Science Tokyo that aims to build the next generation social infrastructure to support the safety, security and happiness of each individual in the era of 100-year lives. The goal is to generate 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.

## Science Tokyo SSI Sustainable Social Infrastructure

Development of next-generation social infrastructures that achieve individual happiness by ensuring safety and security for when people live for about 100years



SSI Team Science Tokyo



Collaboration among companies and industries  
 Social implementation of research results

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Website  
 Contact email

[www.keio.ac.jp/en/](http://www.keio.ac.jp/en/)  
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## SDGs Student Conference Activities

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 University 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 a mentoring program to support women’s empowerment and leadership among 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. In addition, the Keio University Student Mentoring Program commenced in 2023.



Final proposal presentation at the SDGs Student Conference 2024



Keio University Student Mentoring Program interim report presentation

# Kwansei Gakuin University

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More Information	<a href="http://ef.kwansei.ac.jp/disclosure/report">ef.kwansei.ac.jp/disclosure/report</a>

## Symposium Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Youth Volunteers Programme

The United Nations Youth Volunteers (UNYV) was originally launched in 2004 following an agreement between Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, making KGU the first university in Asia to establish such a partnership. Over the past 20 years, more than 200 students have participated in this programme and completed five-month assignments at UN agencies focused on research, advocacy and communications. Currently, the programme is implemented in cooperation with three partner universities in Japan – Meiji University, Meiji Gakuin University, and Rikkyo University – with KGU serving as the core institution.

At the symposium held on 30 November 2024, Professor Shunichi Murata, Director of the KGU Youth Volunteer Japan Training Center for the UNYV Programme, was joined by Asako Sakurai, UNV Partnership Development Specialist, to reflect on the evolution of UNYV over the past two decades. Students currently deployed abroad as UNYV participated online to discuss their unique roles as student volunteers, while internationally active UNYV alumni shared insights on how their experiences in the programme shaped their careers. The symposium served as a valuable opportunity to examine the significance of the initiative and explore its future prospects.

Links:  
 Videos featuring KGU's UNYV alumni are available on our YouTube channel, including those from UN Women Timor-Leste ([youtu.be/nKcECRYf1Tc](https://youtu.be/nKcECRYf1Tc)) and the UNV Lao PDR Field Unit ([youtu.be/GpJqTz7KFoU](https://youtu.be/GpJqTz7KFoU)).



Attendees joined a networking event after the symposium

# Nara University of Education

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## 1. Nationwide Development of ESD Teacher Program

Nara University of Education was commissioned by the Japan/UNESCO Partnership in 2015 to establish a series of five training programs. These programs were developed based on the qualities and abilities required for teachers to competently teach education for sustainable development (ESD). Training 1 focuses on promoting understanding of the SDGs, Training 2 covers the learning theory of ESD, Training 3 involves analyzing good practices, Training 4 is a review meeting of ESD unit concept plans created by each participant, and Training 5 is a review meeting of ESD study guidance plans. In addition to face-to-face training sessions held in various locations around Japan, online training sessions are also held with students from the University. The program's unique selling point are the interactive review sessions in Trainings 4 and 5. The ESD Master and ESD Specialist courses have been established as higher qualifications for ESD teachers. In 2024, 81 ESD Teachers, 25 ESD Masters and 11 ESD Specialists were certified. Additionally, 12 of our students were certified as ESD teachers. In FY2024, ESD teachers delivered 84 presentations at workshops and in-school training sessions, and 27 presentations at academic conferences.

## 2. Activities of the UNESCO Club of Nara University of Education

ESD promotes the transformation of values and behavior. The UNESCO Club was founded in 2011 with the objective of instilling in students a comprehensive understanding of ESD and cultivating their role as agents of change for a sustainable society in their future careers. The club has grown to include over 80 members. In FY2024, it supported outdoor activities at 18 elementary and junior high schools, collaborated with Todaiji Temple to support the Terakoya school, and cooperated with the Ogi Museum of Art with Nara Women's University. The club also supported disaster prevention and mitigation learning at Nara Women's Senior High School, among other activities. The outcomes of these endeavors were showcased at the AXA UNESCO Association Activity Report Meeting and Disaster Mitigation Education Forum.



Presentation by UNESCO Clubs on their efforts towards achieving the SDGs



# Notre Dame Seishin University

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www.ndsu.ac.jp/english/index.html  
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## 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.

**NDSU 清心コラボ 2025/4 Report** 清心生なら 学年・学科問わず誰でも参加できます!

ノートルダム清心女子大学では、学年、学部・学科、授業やゼミに関係なくすべての清心生が参加できる社会連携活動（清心コラボ）を、地域連携・SDGs推進センターが中心になって実施しています。全国的にも珍しい取り組みで、1年次からいろいろな活動に参加できますし、他学科の先輩・後輩と仲良くなったり、将来の仕事につなげたりすることもできます。一日だけの活動もありますし、本格的な連携事業の場合も、半年ごとに活動を区切って募集しますので、継続も交代も自由です。連携先は岡山市や総社市、赤磐市、山陽新聞社、天満屋、JAF岡山、湯郷ベル、中国銀行、また商店街やベンチャー企業、国際連合大学など。これからも増えていきますよ。  
**●皆さんへの案内は、「Nサボ」の掲示板や、ヨゼフラウンジ入口の掲示板でしますので、ぜひ確認してくださいね！**  
 ※全学共通科目「国連SDGs入門」（「ディスカッションから社会を考える」）とも連動しているので、よければ受講してみてください。

**安全×おしゃれ（清心+JAF岡山）** JAF：<自転車ヘルメット着用率UPのための活動を清心生いっしょに企画していきたい>というJAFからの依頼（2023年～）にこれまで、のべ8名（6学科1～4年生）が、JAF女性職員、美容院、清心高校、制服メーカーと協力して取組んできました。髪型が崩れる悩みを解決するおしゃれなヘアカタログ作成の活動は全国的にも注目され、山陽新聞、毎日新聞、読売新聞、NHK岡山、RSK等でもとりあげられました。2025年はヘルメットデザインにも取り組み中です！

**女子学生目線で商品を企画！（清心+天満屋）TENAVVA**：<女性・若年層にアピールする新商品を清心生といっしょに企画したい>という天満屋からの依頼（2023年～）に、5学科の1～3年生8名がおにぎりトートバッグの企画に取り組んできました。天満屋から経営や開発に関するレクチャーをうけつつ、半年間、月2回の企画会議に参加する本格的な活動。2025年は4学科6名がビザとプリンを企画中！

**市役所インターンと政策提言（清心+総社市役所）** 総社市：夏休みに1週間、市役所の各部署でインターンシップを実施し、政策提言も行います（人数上限ナシ）。2024年度は5学科の1～3年生12名が参加し、成果報告会では、駅前活性化委や障害者・高齢者支援班、農業と若者をマッチングなどの提言がなされ、今年も2名が優秀政策提言表彰を受けました。本学には公務員志望学生が多く、満足度もとても高いです。1年生もぜひ。

**国連大学・全国12大学との共同授業（国連SDGs入門）** SDG5：毎年、全学科1～4年生100名ほどが受講し修了証も発行されます。2025年は、他大学で同じ授業を受講している学生との交流も

シターのX (Twitter) | Nサボ | ヨゼフラウンジ入口掲示板をぜひご確認ください。お問い合わせ先：地域連携・SDGs推進センター (nrs@m.ndsu.ac.jp)

Leaflet of “Seishin Collabo”

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[www.okayama-u.ac.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.okayama-u.ac.jp/index_e.html)  
[kokusai@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp](mailto:kokusai@adm.okayama-u.ac.jp)

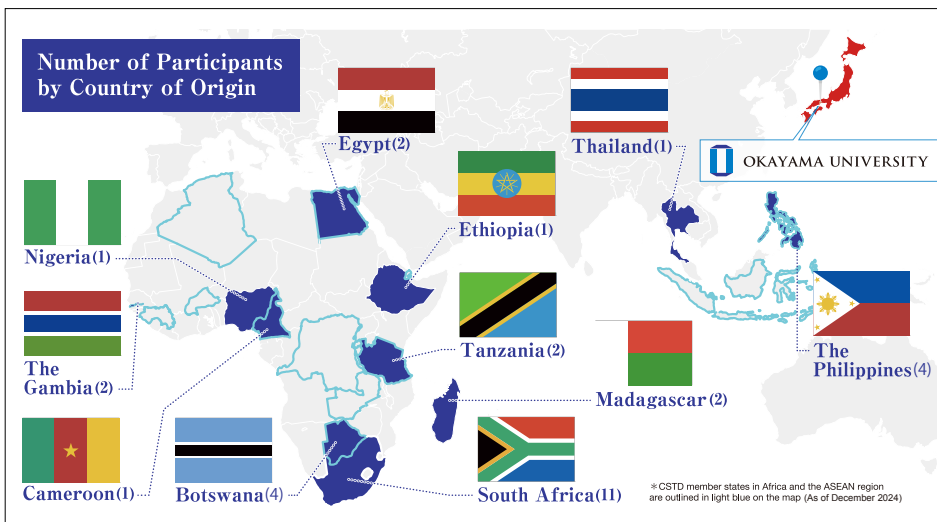
## Supporting Young Scientists in Developing Countries through Direct Collaboration with the United Nations

In 2020, Okayama University and the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) established a comprehensive partnership agreement. We have been implementing two human resource development programmes, the short-term Joint Research and Training Course for Young Female Researchers from Developing Countries, and the long-term Doctoral Degree Program for Young Researchers from Developing Countries. Initially targeting mainly African countries and the ASEAN region, in 2025 we have expanded the programmes to include Latin America and the Caribbean.

We actively recruit young researchers who wish to contribute to achieving the SDGs through government delegations of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) member states, and together, we select outstanding candidates. Leveraging

UNCTAD's international network and our university's strong research capabilities, we jointly conduct these programmes with the aim of effective human resource development.

Upon completing the programme, participants present their research at a session organized by UNCTAD and Okayama University and receive a Certificate of Completion signed by both institutions. The programmes contribute to developing human resources in the field of Science and Technology Innovation to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (STI for SDGs) in the target countries.



# Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University

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 sdg@oist.jp

## Researching Sustainable and Accessible Mobility with Citizen Engagement

Creating sustainable transportation systems in Okinawa, Japan, is difficult due to its rugged terrain and preference for personal car ownership. However, a team of researchers from three European and three Japanese universities, including OIST, have risen to the challenge by setting out to create eco-friendly and economically viable transportation solutions in line with the Okinawa General Bureau of the Cabinet Office's goal to reduce the carbon footprint of the transportation sector in Okinawa.

The project, dubbed SO-SMART (a proactive SOcial-based framework for SMART transportation), aims to create an interactive platform for the discovery, research and improvement of local mobility in the Onna and Ishikawa areas of Okinawa. The project was launched on 5 December 2024 with an ideathon featuring the researchers from the six universities, experts from the prefectural government and local municipalities, business representatives and local residents.

By actively leveraging citizen participation through the entire process – from exploring research directions and co-creating solutions, to implementing community initiatives – the project sets a standard for developing realistic, accessible, and ecologically and economically sustainable transport solutions worldwide.

SDG Target 11.2



Kickoff ideathon on December 5, 2024

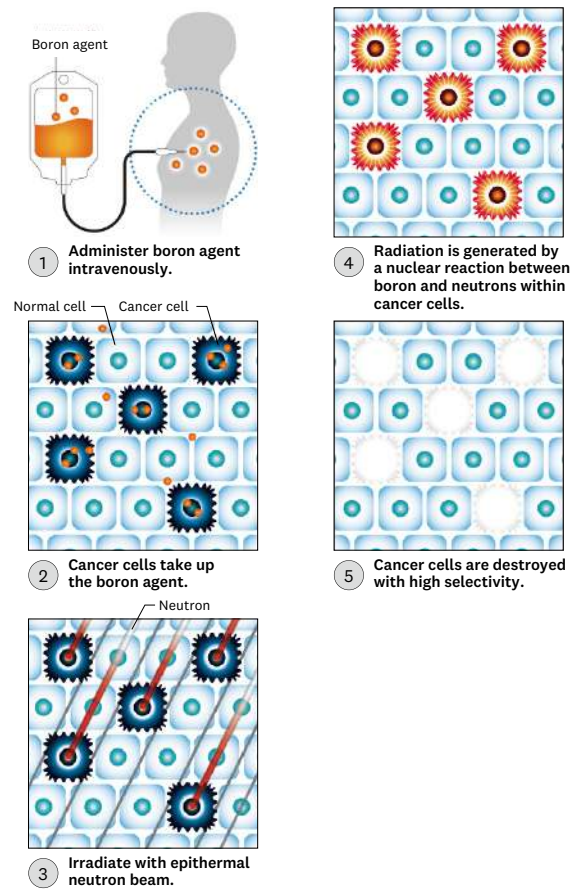


Group session during the ideathon

## Osaka Medical and Pharmaceutical University – Leading the World in Research

The Kansai BNCT Joint Medical Center performs the most boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT) for recurrent head and neck cancer in the world. Since its launch in June 2020, the center has treated 431 cases as of the end of March 2025 (nearly 800 when cases from other facilities are included). 49% of referred patients have undergone BNCT. The efficacy is a CR-rate of 44.4%, PR-rate of 36.1%, and a response rate (CR + PR) of 80.5%. The local maintenance rate for CR cases three years after treatment remains at 85%. For these patients, the results are outstanding and more effective than any other treatment. In 2023, 31 papers (21 in English and 8 in Japanese) were published related to these clinical results and research, as well as 31 lectures and 3 books were presented or issued domestically and internationally. Three staff members received awards for their work on BNCT. Academic exchanges, requests for technical assistance and guest lectures with Asian and European partners are becoming more frequent year by year.

### Mechanism of action of BNCT



Kansai BNCT Medical Center



Boron Neutron Capture Therapy System NeuCure®

# Osaka Metropolitan University

Website  
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[www.omu.ac.jp/sdgs/en/](http://www.omu.ac.jp/sdgs/en/)  
[gr-gkts-sdgs@omu.ac.jp](mailto:gr-gkts-sdgs@omu.ac.jp)

On 18 March 2025, University Public Corporation Osaka, the foundation organization of Osaka Metropolitan University (OMU) and Osaka Metropolitan University College of Technology, signed a comprehensive collaboration agreement with TJ Group Holdings, Inc., which collects woody biomass produced in the city, and uses it to generate and supply electricity. TJ Group Holdings already recycles almost 100% of the woody biomass such as pruning branches and grass clippings generated

in large quantities every year at the OMU Botanical Garden and Nakamozu Campus, and will expand this initiative to other campuses such as Sugimoto Campus. In the future, we would like the entire university to be engaged in this project and promote decarbonization through the use of green electricity generated by biomass power. This initiative is also a valuable example of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and we intend to incorporate it in practical education for students.



Comprehensive Collaboration Agreement signing ceremony attended by student members of the Environmental Report Writing Student Committee

# Ryukoku University

Website [www.ryukoku.ac.jp/english2/sdgs/](http://www.ryukoku.ac.jp/english2/sdgs/)  
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 More Information [www.ryukoku.ac.jp/english2/sdgs/](http://www.ryukoku.ac.jp/english2/sdgs/)

## Ryukoku University Sustainability Days

On 23 September 2024 Ryukoku University Sustainability Days was held at the Fukakusa Campus to promote concrete actions toward achieving sustainability.

The event was part of Kyoto City's initiative Zero Carbon Heritage City Model, which aims to decarbonize the city's lifestyle and cultural activities. The goal of the event was to foster human resources by encouraging behavioral change toward a decarbonized lifestyle, using designated advanced decarbonization areas as a field of practice.

Numerous booths were set up by companies, alumni and students. The event also featured a film screening, a DeLorean Test Drive Experience (allowing participants to sit in the legendary car), and a keynote speech by a representative of a company engaged in recycling technology development for packaging and textiles, as well as efforts to unify recycling systems across different industries.



Flyer for Ryukoku University Sustainability Days

## The 4th Ryukoku University Student Climate Conference 2024

The Ryukoku University Carbon Neutral Declaration was issued in January 2022, positioning the University as a leading institution in the pursuit of carbon neutrality. It sets to achieve this goal by 2039 to coincide with the University's 400th anniversary.

In support of this declaration, the University has held the annual Ryukoku University Student Climate Conference since the 2021 academic year. This initiative provides a platform for students to engage in discussions and contribute to the university's climate governance. For the 2024 academic year, the conference focused on the decarbonization of both the university and the surrounding region, with key themes such as energy, lifestyle, commuting and education guiding two days of student-led dialogue.

The first day of the conference was held on 30 November at the Seta Campus. Students discussed ideas for utilizing the Ryukoku Forest in collaboration with the local community. Through card games and a fieldwork session, participants actively explored approaches to university climate governance.

On 14 December, the second day of the conference took place at the Fukakusa Campus. Building on the discussions from the Seta session, students evaluated and proposed decarbonization initiatives from their own perspectives as members of the university community.



Scenes from Ryukoku University Student Climate Conference

# Showa University of Music

Website [www.tosei-showa-music.ac.jp/english/](http://www.tosei-showa-music.ac.jp/english/)  
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 More Information [www.tosei-showa-music.ac.jp/english/](http://www.tosei-showa-music.ac.jp/english/)

## A New Campus that Deepens Learning

In April 2027, Showa University of Music plans to open the School of Art and Design. With a curriculum that integrates engineering and the arts, the school aims to nurture highly creative individuals who excel in emotion and sensitivity.

A new school building is also planned. This new campus will not only strengthen collaboration between the School of Music and the School of Arts and Engineering, but will also be environmentally friendly, with solar panels installed. The university also aims to deepen engagement with the local community.

We are committed to our mission of connecting music and people to create a sustainable society.  
<https://www.tosei-showa-music.ac.jp/guide/association/>



Regional Collaboration Promotion Activity Brochure



Showa University of Music South Building (April 2025)



Collaborative activities with local communities

# Soka University

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[sokauniv-sdgs@soka.ac.jp](mailto:sokauniv-sdgs@soka.ac.jp)

## 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.

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.

### SDGs Minor Program was Launched in 2023



Discover your potential

SOKA University



# Sophia University

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diversity-sustainability.sophia.ac.jp/en/  
diversity-sustainability-co@sophia.ac.jp

## Introducing Renewable Power Sourced from an Offsite Physical Corporate PPA at Sophia University's Yotsuya Campus

In March 2025, Sophia School Corporation has begun supplying renewable power to its Yotsuya Campus, which accounts for the largest amount of energy consumption at Sophia University, under an offsite physical corporate power purchase agreement (PPA) for solar power.

Under this PPA, the power supply to Sophia University's Yotsuya Campus is provided by a newly constructed solar power plant, increasing

the total amount of renewable energy generated. Furthermore, Sophia University purchases electric power with trackable non-fossil fuel certificates that comply with the reporting standards of the international initiative RE100, which aims for businesses to use 100% renewable power.

This PPA was implemented with special attention to sustainability: the procurement of solar panels took into consideration human rights from the planning stage and there was a requirement that the solar power plant would not be built on cleared forest land.



Renewable Power Sourced from an Offsite Physical Corporate PPA at Sophia University



Inspection to a Solar Power Plant by Student Representatives



Website

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

# Tokyo City University

Website  
 Contact email

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[nishibus@tcu.ac.jp](mailto: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

# The University of Kitakyushu

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More Information

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[chiiki@kitakyu-u.ac.jp](mailto:chiiki@kitakyu-u.ac.jp)  
[www.kitakyu-u.ac.jp/department/education/sdgs/](http://www.kitakyu-u.ac.jp/department/education/sdgs/)

## Interdisciplinary Approach to Human Resource Development that Supports Environmental Sustainability

The University of Kitakyushu (UKK) has adopted four goals: environmental sustainability, regional engagement, global connections and progress through information-based creativity. 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.

In addition, UKK has created a subject Environmental Technology for the Future, available to students on both campuses, to provide

educational opportunities through a fusion of the arts and sciences.

Our university is committed to the interdisciplinary approach necessary to solve environmental problems.

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.

In addition, the university is making efforts to develop human resources for offshore wind energy through the Kitakyushu Offshore Wind Camp x SDGs Offshore Wind Energy Education Programme in cooperation with Kitakyushu City.



Sustainable development (ESD) programme



The Kitakyushu offshore WindCamp x SDGs



At Kitakyushu Environment Museum



Special Lectures on Environment

Website  
Contact email

sdgs.osaka-u.ac.jp/en/  
sdgs-expo2025@office.osaka-u.ac.jp

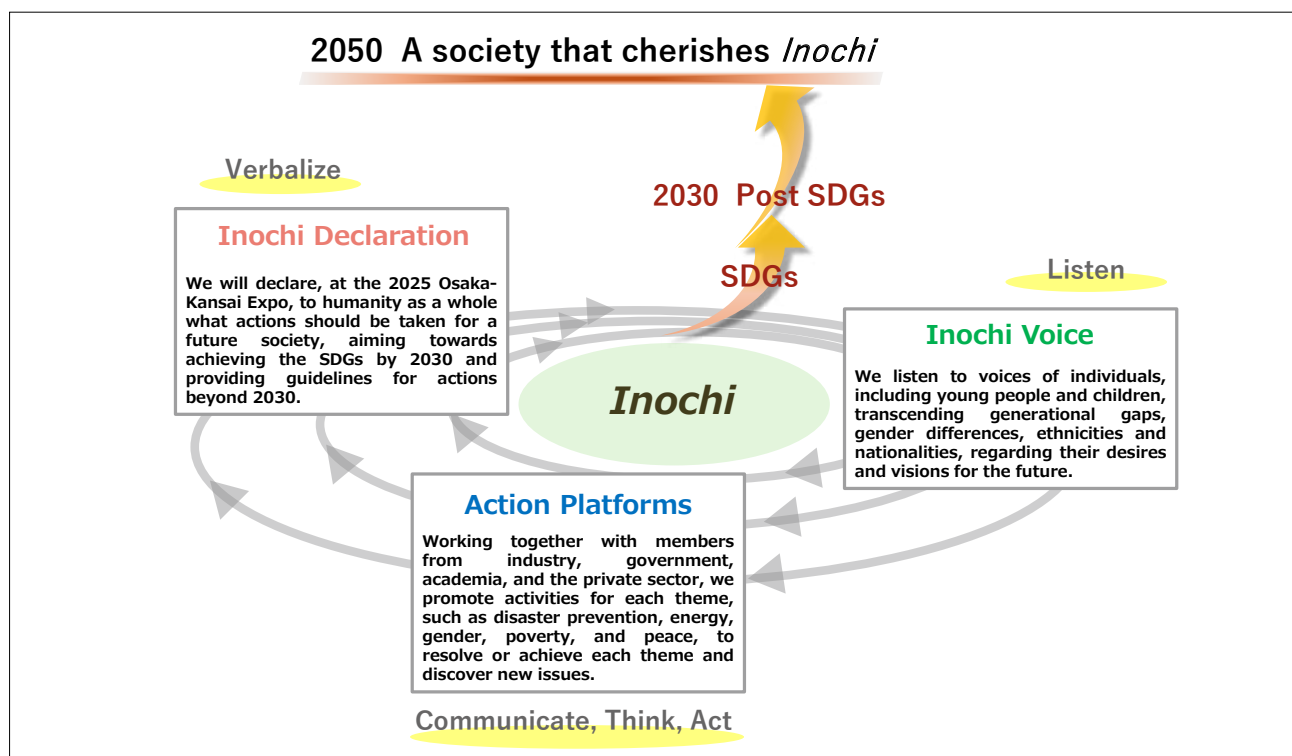
## Inochi Forum and the Inochi Declaration to be shared at Expo 2025

The University of Osaka is implementing the activities of Inochi Forum in collaboration with industry, government, academia, the private sector and citizens to achieve an inclusive society with no one left behind and to realize the vision of "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," the theme of Expo 2025 held in Osaka, Japan.

Inochi Forum aims to promote dialogue and action toward the achievement of the SDGs and beyond. It compiles the thoughts and aspirations of citizens, including youth and children, as the Inochi Voice. Based on these voices, the Forum holds Action Platforms —spaces for discussion, reflection and

action on themes related to the SDGs and +Beyond, with a diverse range of participants from industry, government, academia, the private sector and especially youth.

The voices and action plans that emerge from this process will be compiled into the Inochi Declaration to be disseminated on 11 October at Expo 2025. The Inochi Declaration will serve as a new starting point toward a future society, forming the foundation for concrete actions that will contribute to both achieving the SDGs and addressing challenges in the post-SDGs era.



2050, A society that cherishes Inochi

# University of Tsukuba

Website [www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/](http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/)  
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 More Information [www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/about/integrated-report/](http://www.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/about/integrated-report/)

## Organization for DESIGN THE FUTURE

In 2022 the University of Tsukuba established the Organization for DESIGN THE FUTURE to explore how the university can contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and beyond. Currently, the organization is working on awareness raising, human resource development, regional cooperation, and social implementation in relation to the SDGs and beyond, as well as joint projects with faculty members and students.

## Visualizing CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions in University Cafeterias

How is it possible to reduce invisible CO<sub>2</sub> emissions? In one project, the organization is indicating the carbon footprint of products (CFP) on the university cafeteria's menu, providing students with an experience that leads to awareness, self-initiated action, and lifestyle change, thereby fostering further ideas for creating a sustainable future. In this project, students are taking the lead in examining hypotheses on how to visualize and verify the effects of the project in cooperation with SHiDAX Contract Food Service Corporation (for recipe provision and exhibition) and the Sustainable Management Promotion Organization (SuMPO) (for CFP calculation).



## Embryo Program, a Research Grant for Undergraduate Students

This is an intramural research grant program in which an undergraduate student team is conducting research that aims to solve the problems faced by society today and in the future, and helps to build a healthy future for people, society, and the Earth.

## 私たちが選ぶ食事で未来が変わる。

**01 | 食事の環境負荷を考えよう。**  
 世界の温室効果ガスの約1/3が食事に由来します。



**約30倍**  
 CO<sub>2</sub> > CO<sub>2</sub>  
 \*牛肉と豆類のCFPをタンパク質100gあたりで比較した場合 (Poore and Nemecek, 2018)

**02 | 環境に優しい食事を意識しよう。**  
 CO<sub>2</sub>排出量が少ない食材を選ぶことや、フードロスを削減することで、環境負荷を大きく減らせます。

**03 | メニューのCFPを見て賢く選ばう。**  
 CFPとは、原材料の生産から廃棄まで、製品のライフサイクル全体を通して排出される温室効果ガスをCO<sub>2</sub>に換算したものです。



学食メニューのCO<sub>2</sub>見える化プロジェクト

Visualizing CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Project 2024



UNU SDG-Universities Platform (SDG-UP)

**[SDGs-UP@unu.edu](mailto:SDGs-UP@unu.edu)**

