



SDGs & Sustainability Report 2022-2023 -English edition-

Sophia School Corporation Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion

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Sophia University SDGs&Sustainability
<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/>



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SOPHIA Fund for the Future Support for SDGs & sustainability promotion

Since its foundation, Sophia University has been committed to promoting sustainability based on the Catholic spirit of "for Others, with Others," which indeed coincides with the philosophy of "leaving no one behind," as stipulated in the SDGs.

The funds raised during this campaign, targeted primarily at promoting sustainability and achieving the SDGs as well as at supporting ecology, people with a disability, LGBT and gender equality, human rights, health (physical and mental), disaster preparedness, and the like, will be spent on a range of on- and off-campus awareness raising activities, supporting the implementation of such projects, and revamping on-campus facilities with universal design. Support for projects planned by student staffers of the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion is also included in the spending.

https://giving-sophia.jp/donate_en/support-for-sdgs-sustainability-promotion/



This booklet uses recycled paper and vegetable ink.



上智大学
SOPHIA UNIVERSITY



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President's Message

**Yoshiaki Terumichi,
President, Sophia University**



As society accelerates its efforts to achieve sustainability, the way we view sustainability also seems to be diversifying. We talk about the sustainability of the Earth, human society, organizations, as well as individuals. When you give this careful thought, it is not too much to say that we are already moribund, given that we need to discuss the sustainability of our planet and of human society. If we cannot make sustainability definitive, it will mark the “end”. The end of what? --The “Earth”, human society, organizations, or individuals? Human response to this urgent situation, from which we are tempted to turn our eyes away and cover our ears, is too slow. Indeed, our awareness has changed. However, what we need to change is the outcome, and if we continue to be unsure about the consequences, the “end” will, after all, come.

Now let us look again at sustainability. Would it be correct to say that “the global environment will recover from its critical state, and human society will be sustained?” We tend to think that the recovery of the global environment is key to the sustainability of human society. However, the sustainability of human society does not depend on the global environment alone. Intensive discussion and effort are needed to create a “sustainable society” in which people from all walks of life can live in comfort. Human society must be sustainable in terms of both the global environment that envelops it and social justice. Today, there is a loud call for sustainability; however, I feel that we have not yet acknowledged the magnitude of the challenge we face, given that the sustainability of global society (>human society) must be achieved from both aspects.

Sophia University's sustainability efforts have maintained a strong awareness of both aspects. Of course, at present, we have yet to achieve our goals. However, we are confident that by continuing our efforts with an awareness of both aspects, we will be able to make significant progress and accelerate our efforts in the near future. The challenge is to reach that “near future” as soon as possible. I hope that all members of Sophia University, including students, staff, and faculty, will incessantly take the next step and then continue taking further steps forward, so that we can show the world Sophia Quality in a campus rich in sustainability.

Message from the Director of the Office of Sustainability Promotion

Juro Otsuka,
Director, Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion
Trustee for General Affairs



The “SDGs & Sustainability Report” presents the outcomes of Sophia University’s efforts in conducting research and education, as well as taking social action on issues of immediate and global concern, to share them widely within and beyond the University, and to confirm the future direction of Sophia University. Each of the initiatives described in this report can be found to reflect at least one of the following three perspectives:

The first perspective is “Others”. This term, which is found in Sophia University’s educational philosophy “For Others, With Others,” was used in a speech delivered by Father Pedro Arrupe, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, in 1973 at an alumni convention of Jesuit Schools. This year marks exactly 50 years since then. Father Arrupe stated that the goal of Jesuit schools is to nurture “Men for Others,” and that Jesuit education must respond to the demands of the world’s call for justice. This attitude of seeking justice and fairness with a focus on “Others,” that is, the poor, the marginalized, and those whose human dignity has been violated, is an approach that Sophia University, as a Jesuit school, has inherited from its past.

The second perspective is “the self”. This means thinking about what our social responsibility is today. We are urged to have ownership of the various social issues that are occurring around us, such as environmental destruction, poverty, social disparities, etc., and to transform our mindsets to address these challenges as our own. Each of the schools established by Sophia School Corporation offers education for this purpose and continues to pursue research and social action based on this sense of ownership. You will see that the work of Sophia University’s student employees, who have been receiving attention from both within and outside the university, as well as the concrete efforts of faculty, staff, and students, foster this kind of mindset or have emerged from it.

The third perspective is “future generations”. We look out to the future and ask ourselves how we can live today for the future. By pursuing research and education and engaging in social action today, we are investing in the future. This is associated with the Jesuit spirit of Magis (not being satisfied with the status quo and striving for something better). Sophia University has launched a new Long-Range Plan (Grand Layout 3.0), which also states our commitment to creating a sustainable future. We aim to achieve our goals in 2030, the same target year as the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, eight years is a short period of time. Yet, there is no end to Magis, which seeks to strive for the better.

We hope to continue to possess these perspectives and contribute to creating a better future.

Sophia School Corporation Declaration on Promoting Sustainability

Sophia School Corporation has been committed to human education based on “Christian Humanism”, where each student, faculty and staff mutually recognizes the dignity of the human personality and basic human rights, and aims to be a person who serves the development of the world with responsible behavior and a humble spirit. Never taking a bystander attitude, each school is committed to nurturing individuals who strive to solve global-scale problems through dialogue.

When Pope Francis visited Sophia University in 2015, he delivered the message that in the spirit of his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, “*this university should be a center not only of intellectual formation, but also a place where a better society and a more hope-filled future can take shape*” and that “*love for nature should here find expression in a sapient and foresighted concern for the protection of the earth, our common home.*” Committed to the educational spirit of “For Others, With Others” and the seven goals presented in *Laudato Si'*, Sophia School Corporation will contribute to solving social issues, creating value, and protecting and preserving the environment through its research and education activities.

Sophia University has signed its commitment to Pope Francis’ “7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology”. In order to achieve the goals of *Laudato Si'*, members of signatory universities are expected to learn, practice, and share, with the broad participation of students, faculty, staff, and all relevant stakeholders.

Laudato Si' Goals - LSGs **Measuring Integral Ecology in the spirit of Laudato Si'**

1. Response to the Cry of the Earth (greater use of clean renewable energy and reducing fossil fuels in order to achieve carbon neutrality, efforts to protect and promote biodiversity, guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.)
2. Response to the Cry of the Poor (defence of human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, etc.)
3. Ecological Economics (sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, investment in renewable energy, etc.)
4. Adoption of Simple Lifestyles (sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoid single use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet and reduce meat consumption, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation, etc.)
5. Ecological Education (re-think and re-design educational curricula and

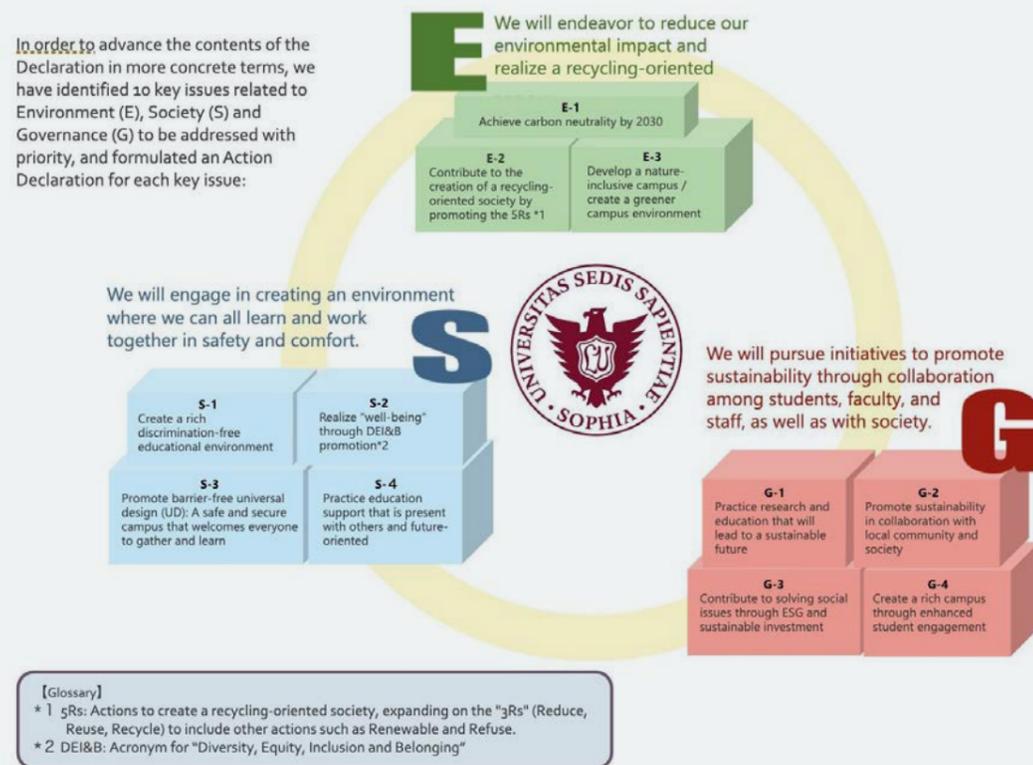
educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers and leaders of education etc.)

6. Ecological Spirituality (recover a religious vision of God’s creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude, promote creation-centred liturgical celebrations, develop ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats, formation, etc.)
7. Emphasis on Community involvement and participatory action to care for creation at the local, regional, national and international levels (promote advocacy and people’s campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory and neighbourhood ecosystems, etc.)

<https://www.laudatosi.org/laudato-si/laudato-si-goals/>

In order to advance the contents of the Declaration in more concrete terms, we have identified 10 key issues related to Environment (E), Society (S) and Governance (G) to be addressed with priority, and formulated an Action Declaration for each key issue:

We will endeavor to reduce our environmental impact and realize a recycling-oriented society.



- E-1 Achieve carbon neutrality by 2030
- E-2 Contribute to the creation of a recycling-oriented society by promoting the 5Rs *1
- E-3 Develop a nature-inclusive campus / create a greener campus environment

We will engage in creating an environment where we can all learn and work together in safety and comfort.

- S-1 Create a rich discrimination-free educational environment
- S-2 Realize “well-being” through DEI&B promotion *2
- S-3 Promote barrier-free universal design (UD): A safe and secure campus that welcomes everyone to gather and learn
- S-4 Practice education support that is present with others and future-oriented

We will pursue initiatives to promote sustainability through collaboration among students, faculty, and staff, as well as with society.

- G-1 Practice research and education that will lead to a sustainable future
- G-2 Promote sustainability in collaboration with local community and society
- G-3 Contribute to solving social issues through ESG and sustainable investment
- G-4 Create a rich campus through enhanced student engagement



[Glossary]

- *1 5Rs: Actions to create a recycling-oriented society, expanding on the “3Rs” (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) to include other actions such as Renewable and Refuse.
- *2 DEI&B: Acronym for “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging”



SACRU (The Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities)

The Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities (SACRU) is a global network of Catholic research universities dedicated to research and teaching excellence, engagement and global collaboration informed by Catholic social teaching. Advancing world leading knowledge and higher education for the common good through SACRU collaborations will be the mission of SACRU. The vision of SACRU will be to reinforce the link between faith and reason in the digital age, enhance research for the common good, promote global education, develop digital transformation, accelerate interdisciplinarity in education and research, and contribute to knowledge and technological transfer through various global academic engagement activities and initiatives. The faculty members of Sophia University have actively engaged in the various academic engagement and publishing activities across academic disciplines.



Australian Catholic University	(Australia)
Boston College	(USA)
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile	(Chile)
Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro	(Brazil)
Sophia University	(Japan)
Universidade Católica Portuguesa	(Portugal)
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	(Italy)
Universitat Ramon Llull	(Spain)

<https://www.sacru-alliance.net/>

SACRU and Sophia

**Faculty of Human Sciences, Department of Education, Maria Manzon,
Associate Professor**

SACRU research activity is focused on challenging topics with a high impact on society and academic reputation. Research collaboration across SACRU universities is promoted, facilitated and encouraged through transdisciplinary Working Groups. To date, there are seven Working Groups, namely:

- 1) Vulnerability and Health Care;
- 2) Catholic Identity and Laudato Si': The Common Home and Social Justice;
- 3) Internationalization and the Inter-University Digital Campus;
- 4) Family Life;
- 5) Artificial Intelligence, Agency and the Human Person;
- 6) Best Science for a Nourished Planet; and
- 7) Gender Equity in the University.

Sophia University actively participates in SACRU and some faculty members

contribute to its various Working Groups.

This article will introduce the report "Laudato Si' in Action within SACRU" (SACRU, 2023), which showcases initiatives across SACRU universities to integrate Laudato Si' in their education, research, campus life and public outreach. The report is a collaborative effort of Working Group 2 (WG2) – Catholic Identity and Laudato Si': The Common Home and Social Justice – and their university community members. WG2 reflects on the Catholic identity of SACRU universities, of which the principles of Laudato Si' (LS) to care for the Common Home and its inhabitants is one dimension.

Concretely, WG2's aims are three-fold:

1. Create evidence on how Laudato Si' is integrated in our campus life.
2. Strengthen the role of our universities in research and public engagement, thus promoting Laudato Si' principles outside the university.
3. Establish a dialogue with secular universities.

The Laudato Si' SACRU report (2023) is an initial response to WG2's first aim. Prior to discussing the report, we briefly introduce Laudato Si', its relevance to sustainability, and some responses from Sophia.

Laudato Si' and Sophia

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, a social encyclical addressed to all global citizens – Catholic believers or not – to urgently appeal "to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development" (LS, no.13), in order "to address the ecological crises that affect all people, but most especially the poor" (SACRU, 2023: 18). The Pope emphasized that "Whether believers or not, we are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone" (LS, no.93). He thus calls for ecological education to establish a new covenant between humanity and the natural world (LS, no. 209).

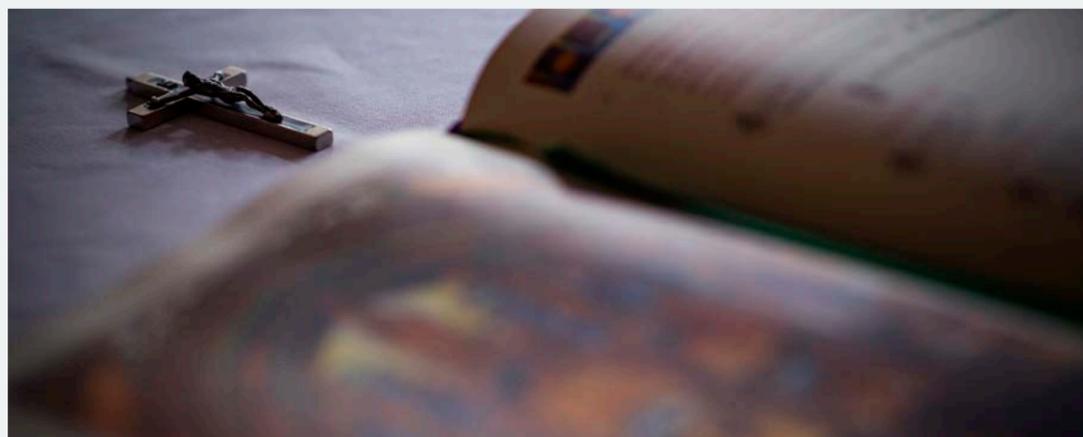
Laudato Si' offers a profound explanation of the roots of our socio-ecological crises, including climate change, pollution, fresh water distribution, biodiversity loss, the decline in the quality of human life and society, and inequality. The roots of the crises lie in "our throwaway culture, technocratic paradigms, compulsive consumerism, and misguided anthropocentrism" (SACRU, 2023: 18). In turn, Pope Francis proposes an "Integral Ecological lens to understand the interconnectedness between people, policies, and the environment, a dialogue on new economic policies at every scale of government, and improved dialogue between religion and science. Ultimately Laudato Si' calls for a deep and lasting ecological conversion within each of us to live in balance with our ecosystem and our neighbors" (SACRU 2023: 18). In this regard, Catholic universities play an important role in fostering the ecological conversion of its students, faculty and staff, and the wider communities which they serve. Pope Francis thus dedicates an entire chapter to ecological education and spirituality. It commences as follows:

Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal (LS, no. 202).

During his visit to Sophia University in November 2019, Pope Francis encouraged the Sophia community to promote a new “episteme” of a “more humane, more just and ecologically responsible education”. Among the various initiatives in this direction was the establishment of the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion Office in 2020. It gave a renewed impetus to the sustainability dimension in teaching and learning, research, and campus life, by counting on student staff to encourage faculty, staff, and students to share ideas across disciplines and create new value. It also has a dedicated website as a communication platform that integrates all sustainability-related initiatives at Sophia.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/>

Another initiative was an Innovation Grant funded teacher-staff collaborative research project entitled “Collaborating towards an ecologically responsible education at Sophia” (2020/21) undertaken by Maria Manzon (Education), Michael Polito (then with CGED), Midori Nakajima (Academic Affairs), and Mayuko Sakura and Christian Mukadi (Catholic Jesuit Center). The project aimed to obtain baseline knowledge of Sophia faculty members’ engagement with global sustainability issues and Laudato Si’ through their teaching, research, campus life, and public outreach, and identify areas for improvement. In October 2021, they conducted an online survey of full-time faculty members followed up by focused group discussions. Student helpers also assisted in data collection on sustainability-related courses, research, and student clubs. Relevant information was included in the Laudato Si’ SACRU Report (2023) described below.



Laudato Si’ SACRU Report

In order to answer the call of Pope Francis for a profound ecological conversion through education, the SACRU Working Group 2 (WG2) conducted a preliminary internal assessment of its universities identifying how Laudato Si’ is integrated in its education, research, campus life and public outreach activities. In January 2023, it published the Laudato Si’ in Action within SACRU, which showcases in 92 pages current campus initiatives that are being developed across SACRU universities.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/3491/>



This document also presents the series of webinars that were developed jointly combining efforts across the 8 universities of SACRU. A copy of the report was handed personally to Pope Francis by Sophia’s Professor Miki Sugimura last March 2023 during a private audience at the Vatican for participants in the conference “More Women’s Leadership for a Better World. Care as a Driver for our Common Home” co-organized by SACRU and Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation.

Data for this report originated from the contributions of members of the SACRU WG2 and their colleagues at their respective institutions who provided information on academic programs, courses, research, campus life and public outreach for their universities. SACRU WG2 is currently developing a survey which will be distributed to administrators, faculty, staff and student organization leaders of each SACRU institution to capture more detailed information about the different ways member universities are engaging with Laudato Si’.

The goal of this research report is to participate in the global dialogue on integral ecology, socially just economic policies, and the common good by illustrating examples of how SACRU universities put into action the principles of Laudato Si’. Individually each university can do more to engage with Laudato Si’ and collectively we can learn from each another to advance this dialogue and action to build a path towards care of our common home and intragenerational social and ecological justice (SACRU 2023: 19). We hope that this report will serve to inspire the Sophia community on the ways in which Laudato Si’ can introduce a deeper discourse and an integral approach to an ecologically responsible education for sustainable futures.

References

- Pope Francis (2015). Encyclical letter Laudato Si’: On Care for our Common Home. Vatican.
- SACRU (2023). Laudato Si in Action within SACRU. Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities.

The Ignatian Year

The Society of Jesus established an Ignatian Year (May 20, 2021 to July 31, 2022) to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the conversion of St. Ignatius of Loyola, one of its founders, as he recovered from an injury gained during the Battle of Pamplona. It is an opportunity for the Ignatian family, which includes all members of the Jesuits from all over the world, to use the life, spirit, and spiritual teachings of St. Ignatius to experience an ongoing conversion so that they can “see all things new in Christ.” The Sophia School Corporation Catholic Jesuit Center, which is linked to the Jesuits missions, carried out various activities, including holding a Mass commemorating the Ignatian Year (July 31), launching the St. Ignatius Channel on the center’s official YouTube channel, publishing a booklet titled The Life and Spirit of St. Ignatius, holding the commemorative exhibitions Walking Together With St. Ignatius (Building No. 2, 1F) and The Spiritual Teachings of St. Ignatius (Building No. 6, 1F), holding the commemorative symposium Seeing Things Anew in Christ – The Conversion of St. Ignatius of Loyola and Its Meaning for Modern Times (October 9, hosted by the Faculty of Theology) with Professor José García de Castro Valdés of Comillas Pontifical University as lecturer, organizing a spiritual retreat for students, and participating in an Ignatian Year Film Contest hosted by the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU) and the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Asia Pacific (AJCU-AP). In addition to this, it also created commemorative goods, including prayer cards, guidebooks and tote bags.



International Symposium “SOPHIA IGNATIAN YEAR SYMPOSIUM” was held

The period from May 20, 2021 to July 31, 2022 has been designated as the “Year of Ignatius” with events celebrating the Ignatian Year throughout the world. On July 5, SOPHIA IGNATIAN YEAR SYMPOSIUM was held at our university, an international symposium on the theme of SDGs, in collaboration with Jesuit universities throughout East and Southeast Asia.



The participants included the president of The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Asia Pacific (AJCU-AP), as well as the team consisted of the presidents, vice presidents, and students from Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines), Fu-Jen Catholic University (Taiwan), Sanata Dharma University (Indonesia), Sogang University (South Korea), and Sophia University (Japan). The venue took place at the auditorium of Building No. 10 on the Yotsuya Campus, with participants from overseas and outside participating via online public viewing format.



The symposium opened with welcome remarks delivered by Trustee for Global Academic Affairs, Professor John Joseph Puthenkalam, Director of Global Affairs, and Dr. Tsutomu Sakuma, Chancellor of Sophia University, both of whom hoped this valuable opportunity would provide an opportunity for mutual collaboration among the Jesuit universities and for learning more about each other’s activities.

The first part of the symposium, consisting of two sessions, was moderated by Vice President for Global Academic affairs, Professor Tetsuro Morishita with presentations made by the presidents of the AJCU-AP and representatives of other universities. From Sophia, President Yoshiaki Terumichi gave a presentation titled “Sophia University and Sustainability”, to introduce the activities of the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion established in 2021 in response to Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si” on the theme of the environment, as well as related research institutes and other related activities at the University.

The second part of the program was conducted as a student session. Moderated by FLA Professor Takeshi Ito, student teams from each university gave an eight-minute presentation on their respective activities. They introduced their unique learning experiences, and activities related to indigenous communities, sustainable approaches to climate change, and their day-to-day small efforts. Our student team presented their recent activities as KASA Sustainability, which included a campus vegetable garden and the creation of a map to show locations on campus where sustainable services are provided. In the latter half of the program, a lively discussion unfolded, with participants sharing the challenges associated with SDG promotion activities on their campuses and Q&A sessions for universities that are engaged in unique initiatives.

In the end, the participants exchanged contact information. The three-hour symposium ended with a promise to share updates on their activities in the future.



School Corporation •
University-wide Initiatives



Sophia University × United Nations

Sophia University United Nations Weeks

Sophia University UN Weeks, started in 2014 based on the idea “to consider the world and our future through the work of the UN,” is now approaching its 20th anniversary. We plan many events both in person and online in a HyFlex format in order to reach out to a wider audience.

We will welcome a diverse group of internationally renowned guests to cover a broad range of topics, including AI, humanitarian aid, education, as well as the environment. High school / college students as well as working adults are welcome to join anytime that works the best.



<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/aboutsophia/global/weeks/unweeks/>

Sophia University United Nations Weeks October 2022 (October 11 to 26)

Sophia UN Weeks started in 2014 to consider our world and future through the work of the UN. We are pleased to announce that the 18th UN Weeks will be hosted online with our hope to make the event more accessible to a wider audience (some events limited to Sophia University community members).

The topics to be discussed are significant global issues surrounding Ukraine and Afghanistan, as well as humanitarian support, the SDGs, and more. Join us as we bring the world closer together with a diverse range of guests working on the front lines of international organizations. Career seminars and sessions are also highly recommended for those who are interested in working for international organizations.

- October 11 Symposium “Impact of Economic Sanctions : The cases of the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN)”
- October 12 Symposium “Humanitarian Crisis and Support for Afghanistan: Agriculture, Private Sectors, and Economy”
- October 17 UNDP/UNV Career Seminar “United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme: Their Role and Career Paths”
- October 18 Symposium “Interlinkages between Paris Agreement and SDGs : Global and Local Initiatives”
- October 22 Symposium “How Can We End the War in Ukraine?”
- October 26 Symposium “Ukraine Refugee Crisis and the Future of Global Governance for Refugee Protection – A Conversation with the UNHCR members –”



<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/aboutsophia/global/weeks/unweeks/unweeks-202210/>

Sophia University United Nations Weeks June 2023 (June 1 to 24)

Sophia University’s UN Weeks, launched in 2014 with the concept of “Thinking about the world and our future through the works of the United Nations,” is now in its 19th round. After the online holding due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s event has greatly increased the number of high-flex events, in-person as well as online. We have prepared 8 events with a wide range of themes for high school and college students as well as working adults. We look forward to your attendance.



- June 3 (Sat.) 15:00~17:00 <Hyflex>
Symposium: “Peace!” from NAGASAKI to the World -Message from Dr. Takashi Nagai, A-bomb survivor, and his wife Midori
- June 8 (Thu.) 18:00~19:30 <Hyflex>
Symposium: Midpoint Review of Progress in SDGs and Further Challenges
- June 14 (Wed.) 18:00~21:00 <Hyflex>
Symposium: How can Japan, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the United Nations work together to advance their support for Afghanistan?
- June 23 (Fri.) 18:00~19:30 <Hyflex>
Panel Session: Youth Recommendations for the Future of Peace in Northeast Asia
- June 24 (Sat.) 15:30~17:30 <Hyflex>
Symposium: Learning Community towards Sustainable Futures

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/aboutsophia/global/weeks/unweeks/unweeks-202306/>

Sophia University United Nations Weeks October 2023 (October 7 to 24)

Sophia University UN Weeks, started in 2014 based on the idea “to consider the world and our future through the work of the UN,” is now approaching its 20th anniversary. We plan many events both in person and online in a HyFlex format in order to reach out to a wider audience. We will welcomed a diverse group of internationally renowned guests to cover a broad range of topics, including AI, humanitarian aid, education, as well as the environment. High school / college students as well as working adults are welcome to join anytime that works the best.

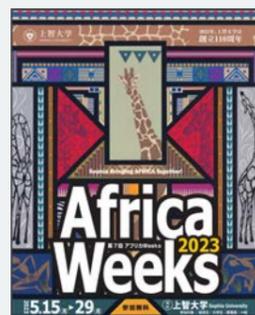


- October 7 (Sat) 17:30~19:00<HyFlex>
Symposium “Life of Palestine Refugee Students in the Gaza Strip: Japan-UNRWA 70th Anniversary of Partnership”
- October 10 (Tue) 18:00-19:30 <HyFlex>
Lecture “Special Talk Session with Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University (Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations)”
- October 21 (Sat) 17:00-19:00 <HyFlex>
Symposium “Exploring the New Direction of Equity and Inclusion towards Transforming Education”
- October 23 (Mon) 15:00-17:00 <Online>
Symposium “Transforming global food system for revitalizing actions for SDGs”
- October 24 (Tue) 18:00-19:30 <HyFlex>
Symposium “The Role of the United Nations in East Timor”
- [Post Event] November 11 (Sat) 13:30-16:30 <HyFlex>
Symposium “Where is Japan’s official development assistance heading?-In response to the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter”

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/article/news/announcement/unweeksoctober2023_en/

Sophia University Africa Weeks 2023 (May 15 – May 29, 2023)

Sophia University will hold “Africa Weeks” as an initiative to promote understanding of the African region and deepen cooperation together with those who are deeply involved there. We offer a variety of programs such as lectures, symposiums, and student projects.



Program (May 15 – May 29, 2023)

- May 15 Building Schools in Slums in Africa – Smiles of Children Sparkle of Life
- May 20 Youth Conference Let’s Talk with Researchers from African Regions
- May 22 Do you know Lesotho, the Kingdom of the Sky?
- May 23 Making Prosthetic Legs in Rwanda – Working Toward Restoration
- May 25 Introducing Sophia University Africa Studies

[Student Projects]

- (1)African Workshop – Africa Seen Through Coffee (May 26)
- (2)Magazine Project
- (3)Library Exhibit (May 15-June 23)

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/aboutsophia/global/weeks/africa-weeks/>

United Nations Global Compact

The United Nations Global Compact (hereafter UNGC) was announced by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in an address to the World Economic Forum in 1999, and was officially launched at UN Headquarters in New York City on 26 July 2000. It is an international framework under which business sectors and non-business organizations are expected to take responsible and creative leads for the society toward the sustainable development.



At present more than 13800 entities in 161 countries and regions have signed up for UNGC and conducting the Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption, and striving after the SDGs.

Sophia University became a signatory member of UNGC in May 2015 and also affiliated with the Global Comact Network Japan (GCNJ), the local area network. Since then Sophia has been jointly hosting a series of symposiums with GCNJ during the UN Weeks in collaboration with the member companies and UN organizations.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/657/>

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/>

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/participants/58211#cop>

<https://www.ungcjin.org/>

Sophia University joined the UNU SDG-Universities Platform

The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) established the UNU SDG-Universities Platform (SDG-UP) in 2020 to provide a platform for collaboration by Japanese universities that are actively engaged in achieving the SDGs. Sophia University has joined this platform.



At a public symposium held on March 29, 2023, Sophia University’s Professor and Vice President for Global Academic Affairs Tetsuro Morishita, Professor Miki Sugimura, and Head of the Office of Institutional Research Yoshiharu Aioi appeared on stage. Also, Professor Masafumi Hikima (Director, Sophia School Corporation) participated in the development of a cross-university online SDG class project titled Introduction to the UN SDGs.

<https://ias.unu.edu/jp/sdg-up>

<https://ias.unu.edu/jp/events/archive/symposium/transformation-of-behavior-at-universities-through-efforts-to-achieve-the-sdgs.html#overview>

Responsible and SDGs-related Investments



The investment policy of Sophia School Corporation is closely linked with our founding mission and educational philosophy, typically described by “Sophia bringing the world together” and “For others, With others”. This mission must be the basis of all the activities of Sophia that are not limited to education and academic research but it also lays the foundation of our basic policy of financial and investment management activities as well.

As a responsible asset owner, we are committed to contributing to the global sustainability issues as represented by SDGs.

History of Commitment to ESG

	Joined United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)	2015
	Signatory to the UN-PRI	2016
	Revision of Investment Guidelines Established proxy voting policy	2017
	Endorsed the TCFD	2018
	Signing "Investor Statement on Deforestation and Forest Fires in Amazon"	2019
	Participated in "Climate Action 100+"	2020
	Signing "Global Investor Statement to Governments on the Climate Crisis"	2021
	Acceptance of Japan's Stewardship Code	2022
	Participation in PRI Advance	2023
	Revised Investment Guidelines Revised Voting Policy	

Results of the 2023 PRI Assessment

Sophia signed the United Nation's Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) in 2015. We have been committed to ESG investing since signing the PRI, with the belief that considering ESG factors is vital in achieving both superior long-term investment performance and positive impact toward sustainable society. Sophia has achieved the highest scores for all the assessment categories in 2023.

Star score	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	
★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)	★★★★★ (Five stars)

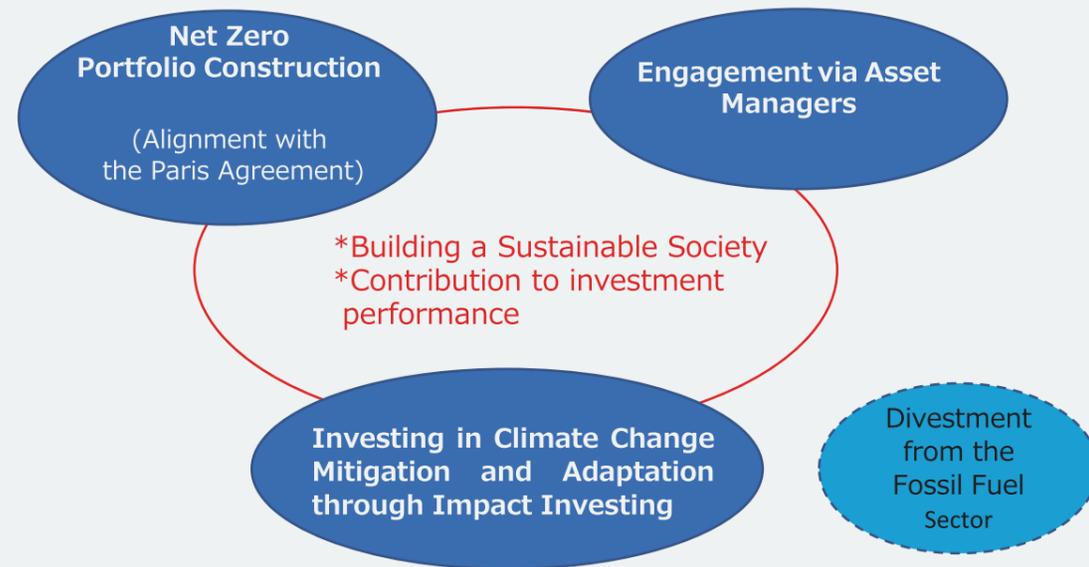
ESG Investment Cases

 Environmental  Social

-  Investment in Global Sustainability Fund <Sustainability theme oriented active investment>
-  Joint investment in Microfinance Fund with Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) <Bond for social impact investment>
-  Investment in Global Green Bond Fund <Green and Impact Bond Investment>
-  Investment in Social bonds issued by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) <Bond for social impact investment>
-  Investment in Japanese Equity ESG Active Fund <Integration, Proxy Voting>
-  Investment in Venture Capital Fund aimed at improving livelihoods in deprived area (Aavishkaar, India) <Impact Investment>
-  Investment in UK offshore wind power fund <Sustainability theme>
-  Investment in African Development Bank 'Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa' Bond <Theme-type Bond Investment>
-  Investment in the fund actively contributes to the achievement of the SDGs <Impact investment>
-  Investment in Private Real Estate Fund acquiring green building certifications <Sustainability theme>
-  Investment in JICA COVID-19 Response Social Bond <Bond for social impact investment>
-  Invest in funds that investing in credits and striving to keep the global temperature rise to well below 2°C <Sustainability theme>
-  Investing in Sustainable Climate Bond Fund <Sustainability theme, Engagement>
-  Investment in JICA Gender Bond <Bond for social impact investment>
-  Investing in Climate Finance Partnership Strategies in Emerging Countries <Sustainability theme>
-  Investment in limited partnerships (Domestic renewable energy) <Sustainability theme>
-  MSCI Climate Paris Aligned Index ETF <Climate Change Related Smart Beta>
-  Investment in JICA Peacebuilding Bond <Bond for social impact investment>
-  Investment in JBIC Green Bond <Bond for social impact investment>
-  Investment in Clean Energy Fund <Sustainability theme>
-  Investment in IBRD Sustainable Bond <Bond for social impact investment>
-  Investment in ADB Water Bond <Bond for social impact investment>

Responsible Investment Approach (Climate Change Issues)

Sophia University has three pillars of responsible investment initiatives: 1) building a net-zero portfolio, 2) investing in climate change mitigation and adaptation through impact investing, and 3) engagement via investment managers.



Highlights of Impact Investments in “Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation”

Mitigation (Reducing the degree of greenhouse-gas-emissions)

Infrastructure (Diffusion of renewable energy)



Investment in Green Bonds and Sustainable Bonds



Global Equity (MSCI Climate Paris Aligned Index ETF)

Global Fixed Income

Certified green building real estate

Adaptation (Adjusting to effects of climate change)

Global strategy for Agricultural Land



Venture capital (Impact Investment)



Bond for social impact investment



Climate Change Initiatives and Financial Disclosure (Compliance with TCFD)



Sophia School Corporation has expressed its support for the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD), established by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) in February 2019. As a responsible asset owner, Sophia School Corporation is committed to encouraging companies and financial institutions to fully disclose climate change-related information as recommended by the TCFD and to engage in effective dialogue with investors.

Sophia School Corporation believes that balancing business activities with the realization of a sustainable global environment will lead to the creation of new opportunities and will therefore enhance its disclosure of information on its efforts to address climate change issues, based on the framework of the TCFD recommendations.

Governance to address climate change issues

【Policy】

Sophia School Corporation recognizes that while climate change, which has a significant impact on the global environment, is a risk to our institution, it is an important issue that will create new opportunities for research and education. Committed to our educational philosophy of “For Others, With Others” and the seven goals of Laudato Si’, Sophia School Corporation will contribute to solving social problems, creating value, and protecting and conserving the environment through research, education, and technology.

In its Long-Range Plan (GL3.0), Sophia School Corporation has set the goals of achieving carbon neutrality, GX (Green Transformation), SX (Sustainability Transformation), etc. in 2030, as part of “developing inclusive and sustainable school and work environments (facilities and equipment, etc.).”

In its investment policy, Sophia School Corporation clearly states that it will comply with the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and engage in ESG investment. It has announced this on its website under “Sophia University’s Approach to Responsible Investment”.

【Administrative framework】

Given the need for the entire organization to work together to address climate change, the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion and the Environmental Improvement Group, as well as the General Affairs Bureau and the Finance Bureau, which are in charge of risk management, work cross-sectionally to study and discuss how education and research activities should be conducted to realize a decarbonized society.

Issues for consideration are submitted to and reported to the Board of Trustees and other internal committees, which deliberate on the status of measures and information disclosure related to environmental issues, including climate change.

The Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion also employs student staff to discuss and take action with students toward creating a sustainable campus.

Sophia School Corporation's efforts in promoting sustainability in research and education, corporate management, and social outreach are published in the "SDGs and Sustainability Report."

Strategies to Address Climate Change Issues

【Opportunities】

Sophia University's basic philosophy is to contribute to solving social issues related to poverty, environment, education, and ethics, which threaten human dignity. The solution of social issues will lead to the "salvation" of each individual ("leaving no one behind") and the building of a better world. Sophia University's research and education activities are guided by this founding spirit and educational philosophy.

Sophia University is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency by shifting the electricity used on campus to renewable energy sources and investing in renewable energy projects, thereby contributing to the realization of a decarbonized society.

【Risks】

Sophia School Corporation must address both the direct impact on its business activities and the indirect impact on the assets in which it invests.

<Physical Risk>

Physical risk is assumed to include damage to Sophia School Corporation's assets due to natural disasters such as typhoons and floods, impacts on research and education activities due to the suspension of infrastructure functions caused by disasters, and increases in utility costs due to extreme heat. Increases in the financial aid provided to students affected in the event of major disasters are also assumed.

<Transition Risk>

Transition risk is assumed to be the risk that a school corporation's operations will be affected by stricter climate-related regulations, such as carbon emission caps and increased carbon taxes.

Strategy to Address Climate Change Issues (Portfolio Climate Risk Analysis)

As an asset owner, Sophia School Corporation is responsible for the GHG emissions of its portfolio companies through its investments; and therefore, it is important for the School Corporation to conduct climate risk analysis at the portfolio level and to formulate a policy to address climate change issues. We conducted a Paris Agreement compatibility analysis of invested assets with the aim of building a net-zero portfolio. The main points are as follows:

【Paris Agreement Compliance Analysis of Invested Assets (Key Points)】

The Climate Paris Aligned Equity Index Fund (Global Equity Fund) and the Integration Fund (Japanese Equity Fund), both of which Sophia School Corporation invests in, exhibit significantly lower carbon emissions compared to their benchmarks.

The GHG transition pathway of the Global Equity Fund shows that actual emissions have been below emission levels consistent with the 2°C target since 2018, confirming that the selection of companies is in line with the Paris Agreement.

The transition path of the Japan Equity Fund shows that actual emissions have been above emission levels consistent with the 2°C target, but the discrepancy between the two funds is not so significant compared to the benchmark.

Trucost data can confirm the size of the gap between the carbon emissions of individual companies and emissions consistent with the 2°C target ⇒Companies with large gaps can be engaged through asset management companies.

Unrealized carbon costs (UCC) of both global and Japanese equity funds show significant reductions in future carbon costs compared to the benchmark.

An analysis was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of portfolio reconfiguration by comparing the common holdings in the 2022 and 2023 portfolios and the new holdings in the 2023 portfolio.

The results of the analysis showed that the deviation rate of the new holdings in the 2023 portfolio was consistently lower than that of the 2022 portfolio, indicating that the portfolio rebalancing was effective in incorporating holdings with a high contribution to carbon emission reductions.

Risk Management for Addressing Climate Change Issues

Sophia School Corporation engages in risk management as one of its highest priorities in order to realize its founding spirit and fulfill its social responsibilities. Sophia School Corporation has established a framework for promptly detecting and accurately responding to new risks that may arise as a result of changes in the environment surrounding the School Corporation.

<Risk Management Framework>

Chancellor: Chief executive officer in charge of the School Corporation's risk management

Trustee for General Affairs (Chairman of the Risk Management Committee): Oversees various matters related to risk management and promotes risk management activities in an organized and well-planned manner.

Risk Management Committee: Promotes risk management activities in accordance with the PDCA cycle

Subcommittees: Working groups that formulate, review, and implement specific measures for each risk.

Indicators and Targets for Addressing Climate Change Issues

【Actual CO₂ emissions】

See page 20 of Report.

【Target】

Sophia School Corporation has completed its transition to renewable energy sources for almost 100% of the electricity used on its main campuses. Decarbonizing the electricity used at the remaining welfare facilities is also under consideration as the Long-Range Plan toward 2030 (GL3.0) sets out the goal of “achieving carbon neutrality”.



Environmental Footprint of Sophia School Corporation (Higher Education Division)

1. Energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions volumes – Initiatives toward carbon neutrality

The main campuses of Sophia School Corporation’s Higher Education Division are the Yotsuya Campus, Mejiro Seibo Campus, and Hadano Campus. At the Yotsuya Campus, students from all of Sophia University’s faculties and graduate schools take classes and carry out research activities. The Mejiro Seibo Campus is used by some of the students of the Department of Nursing at Sophia University’s Faculty of Human Sciences while the Hadano Campus is home to the Sophia University Junior College Division. The Yotsuya Campus is responsible for 94.3% of total energy consumption*1 by Sophia School Corporation. (Fig. 1)

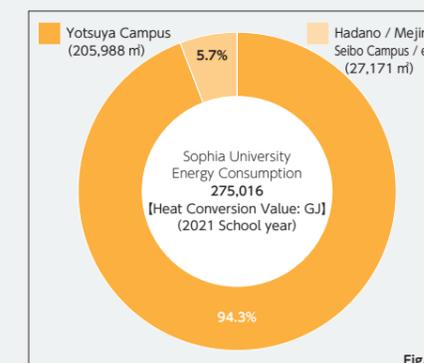


Fig. 1

Looking at energy consumption by type of energy, electricity accounts for 77.5% and natural gas (LNG*2) for 22.4%. Fuels (heavy fuel oil, etc.) are consumed, primarily in space heating on the Hadano Campus, but the proportion of overall energy consumption is extremely small. (Fig. 2)

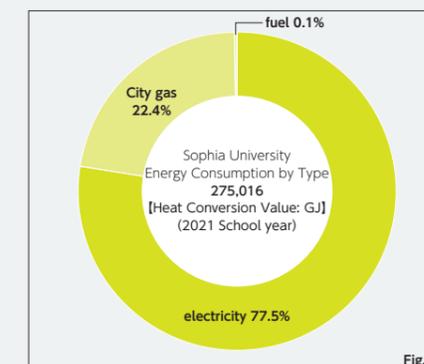


Fig. 2

Regarding carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted by Sophia School Corporation, emissions were generated through use of water supply and sewerage and through waste disposal, in addition to energy consumption. The CO₂ emissions volumes generated by these have been estimated based on volumes from academic year 2021. In academic year 2021, Sophia School Corporation emitted 12,881 tons of CO₂, with electricity consumption accounting for 74.8% and natural gas (LNG) consumption for 23.9%. (Fig. 3)

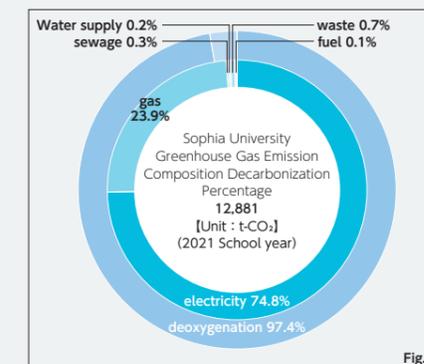


Fig. 3

*1. Energy consumption for academic year 2021

*2. Liquid natural gas

*3. LNG for which carbon credits have been used to offset greenhouse gas emissions produced during processes from extraction through to combustion of natural gas, meaning that usage is not counted toward CO₂ emissions totals

*4. Student dormitories, etc.

From academic year 2020 to academic year 2021, Sophia School Corporation switched to substantial renewable energy for 100% of the

electricity consumed by its main campuses.

Also, in academic year 2021, the natural gas used on the Yotsuya and Mejiro Seibo Campuses was switched to carbon neutral LNG*3. These efforts mean that with the exception of certain facilities*4, the Corporation has effectively nullified CO₂ emissions derived from electricity and natural gas consumption, considerably reducing its CO₂ emissions (97.4% reduction).

On the other hand, in the current academic year, as classes since April have been, in principle, conducted face to face, energy consumption has exceeded volumes recorded before the COVID-19 pandemic. We consider reducing unnecessary electricity usage to be an important issue for reducing our environmental footprint. Also, as 100% of electricity is from substantial renewable energy sources, factors such as a rise in environmental value in the future may ultimately lead to a rise in the per-unit cost of electricity. Considering this, promoting energy saving is also an important issue from a cost perspective.

Sophia School Corporation's total annual energy consumption exceeds the standard stipulated in the Act on Rationalizing Energy Use and it has been designated as a specified business operator under said act as an entity particularly required to promote the rationalization of energy use. Accordingly, each year it reports information including energy consumption volumes and plans to reduce consumption to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's Agency for Natural Resources and Energy and to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

2. Waste Disposal and Emissions Level

Waste disposal is classified according to its properties, type, and discharger, and is regulated by various laws and ordinances for the prevention of environmental pollution and effective use of resources.

Sophia University is responsible for the collection, transportation, and disposal of industrial waste generated by Sophia University. Therefore, Sophia University contracts the collection, transportation, and disposal of waste to a business operator licensed under the relevant laws and regulations.

In addition, by using electronic industrial waste manifests, we can share information among the three parties of "waste generator", "waste collector", and "waste disposer" to improve the efficiency of information transmission and to grasp the type and amount of waste, and the flow of waste from discharge to collection, transportation, and final disposal.

The Yotsuya Campus generated about 6 million tons of waste per year before the Corona Disaster, and Fig. 5 shows the change in the amount of waste generated from FY 2017 to FY 2021. Due in part to the Corona Disaster, it is difficult to read trends in waste emissions, but the reuse rate of combustible waste has

improved dramatically since FY2020 due to efforts to reuse paper, and the rate of noncombustible waste has also maintained a high level. (Fig. 6: Trends in Waste Reuse Rates)

In accordance with the intent of the Law for Recycling of Small Home Appliances, Sophia University began to reuse and recycle computer equipment in FY2022. In addition, recycling of paper, PET bottles, cans, bottles, etc. is also promoted. The proper separation of waste, reduction of emissions, and promotion of recycling will reduce environmental pollution caused by waste, as well as greenhouse gas emissions from the incineration of waste. We need to be aware of SDG12 "Responsible Consumption and Production".

Figure 5 Change in Waste Discharge Amount

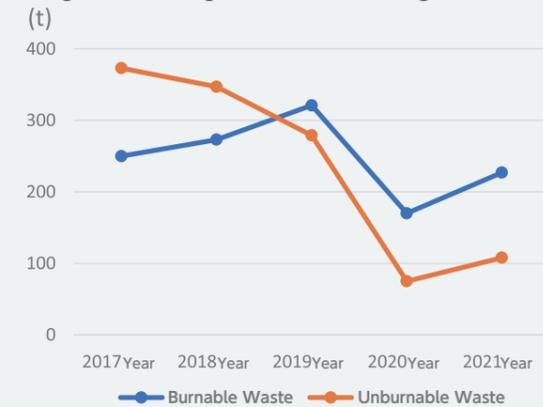
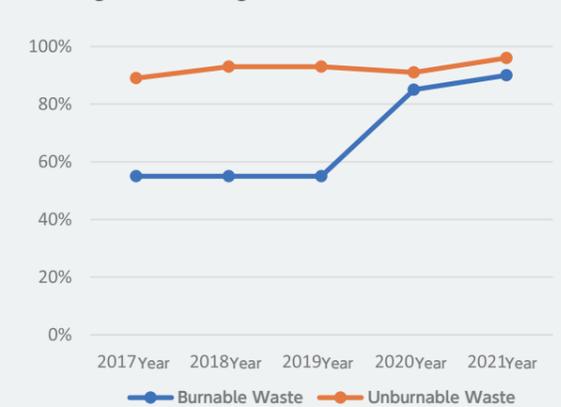


Figure 6 Change in Waste Reuse Rate



SPSF (Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures)

A six-department coordinated English course for sustainable futures

The Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures (SPSF) started in stages from AY2020, with the concept of “Top Global University Project”, and by AY2022, all six departments had participated, and the number of students exceeded 150; in September 2024, the first cohort will graduate as early as the first.



SPSF provides students with a broad understanding of the world’s diversity and teaches them the practical skills needed to contribute to building sustainable futures for others, with others. The students will learn about sustainability issues on a global and local scale and will collaborate with their peers and professors both on and off campus in order to determine how to achieve a sustainable future.

Obtaining a degree is part of the process of becoming a change agent, but it is not the ultimate objective in life nor in SPSF. As the circumstances and environment surrounding problems around the world continue to change, it becomes increasingly necessary to learn and adapt in order to build sustainable futures. To this end, the knowledge and expertise, the understanding of multiple perspectives, and the problem-solving competency cultivated at SPSF will form the foundation of the students’ lifelong journey.

SPSF Six Departments

- Department of Journalism, Faculty of Humanities
- Department of Education, Faculty of Human Sciences
- Department of Sociology, Faculty of Human Sciences
- Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics
- Department of Management, Faculty of Economics
- Department of Global Studies, Faculty of Global Studies



- Concept
 - ✓ Enhancing your expertise in your department
 - ✓ Broadening your horizons with global and local approaches
 - ✓ Aiming to build a sustainable future together with peers
- Features
 - ✓ Interdisciplinary approach
 - ✓ All courses conducted in English
 - ✓ Offering Bachelor’s degrees in specialized fields of study



- B.A. in Area Studies
- B.A. in Economics
- B.A. in Education
- B.A. in International Relations
- B.A. in Journalism
- B.A. in Management
- B.A. in Sociology

Curriculum

	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4	
	Autumn	Spring	Autumn	Spring	Autumn	Spring	Autumn	Spring
SPSF Common Core	Theme-based First-Year Lecture in/about SF Academic Skills Academic Writing 1 Academic Skills Academic Presentations	Academic Skills Academic Writing 2 Academic Skills Critical Thinking & Discussion			Theme-based Third-Year Seminar for SF			
Specialized Education <small>of the selected fields of study</small>	Courses offered by Dept. of Economics Courses offered by Dept. of Education Courses offered by Dept. of Global Studies Courses offered by Dept. of Journalism Courses offered by Dept. of Management Courses offered by Dept. of Sociology Foreign language courses taught in English			Interdisciplinary Learning			Bachelor's thesis	Bachelor's thesis
General Studies	Compulsory & elective courses including foreign language courses taught in Japanese							
Others			Internships Study Abroad Social Engagement Programs Off-Campus Programs / Life Event					

The SPSF curriculum consists of the SPSF Common Core (lectures and seminars on sustainable futures), Academic skills (basic studies to strengthen learning skills in English, including writing, critical thinking, discussion and presentation), Specialized Education and University-wide courses.

<https://spsf.sophia.ac.jp/>



Sophia University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GENV)

Developing global human resources to tackle global environmental issues toward the realization of the SDGs

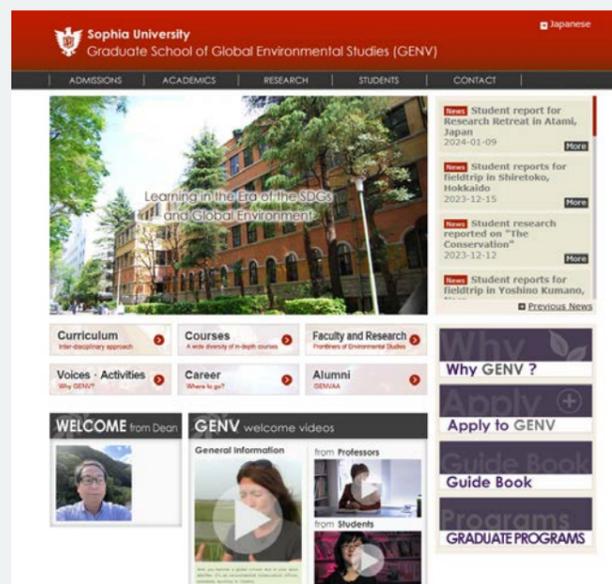
Human's daily lives and business activities contributes to environmental problems we face today such as global warming, waste problems, chemical, air and water pollution, and the decline of natural capital and biodiversity.

To address these environmental issues, in line with the SDGs (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals), we need to further improve environmental education and ESD (Education for Sustainability) to transform human activities and create a society that can realize new economic development (sustainable society) while protecting a healthy and bountiful environment.

To this end, Sophia University has established the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GENV), which integrates social and natural sciences to conduct more advanced research and education. The faculty consists of domestic and international experts in diverse fields such as law, economics, policy studies, business administration, sociology, and science and engineering, and part-time lecturers are asked to be leading researchers in environmental studies in Japan today.

In addition to the Japanese-language course, the program offers an International Environmental Studies Course, which can be taken only in English, and accepts many international students from Asia, Africa, South America, Europe, and the United States. Thus, at the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, students can receive a high standard of education and guidance from a global perspective according to their own problems and interests.

<https://www.genv.sophia.ac.jp/english/>



THE Impact Rankings 2023

Sophia University ranked 41st globally for SDG 14 “Life Below Water” in the THE Impact Rankings 2023.

The THE Impact Rankings 2023 is the fifth edition since it was launched in 2019 by Times Higher Education, a British magazine specializing in reporting news and issues related to higher education. It assesses and ranks universities against the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using carefully calibrated indicators across four areas: research, stewardship, outreach and teaching.

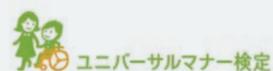


This year, it received entries from more than 1,700 schools around the world. Sophia University ranked 41st globally for SDG 14 “Life Below Water.”

	2022	2023
SDG 1 : No Poverty	201-300th (out of 769 institutions)	201-300th (out of 876 institutions)
SDG 5 : Gender Equality		401-600th (out of 1,081 institutions)
SDG 6 : Clean Water and Sanitation	201-300 (out of 634 institutions)	101-200 (out of 702 institutions)
SDG 10 : Reduced Inequalities	301-400th (out of 706 institutions)	401-600th (out of 901 institutions)
SDG 13 : Climate Action	101-200 (out of 674 institutions)	101-200 (out of 735 institutions)
SDG 14 : Life Below Water	101-200th (out of 452 institutions)	41st (out of 504 institutions)
SDG 16 : Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	401-600 (out of 809 institutions)	301-400 (out of 910 institutions)
SDG 17 : Partnerships for the Goals	101-200th (of 1,441 institutions)	101-200th (of 1,625 institutions)
Overall Ranking	401-600 (out of 1,410 institutions)	401-600 (out of 1,591 institutions)

Working to Realize an Inclusive Society By Having All New Students Take the Universal Manners Test Level 3

About 3,000 new students who enrolled in academic year 2022 have taken an e-learning course on Level 3 of the Universal Manners Test. The test is administered



by Mirairo Inc., which created and provided a course specifically for new Sophia University students in an on-demand format. In the course, students learn the fundamentals of interacting with elderly and disabled people and how to reach out to them, and also consider their own behavior in various scenarios involving other people. Nearly 90% of the new students successfully completed the course and acquired Level 3 certification. The results of a survey showed a high level of satisfaction at 98% and many students answered that they had learned something new or gained a new perspective.

There were also many responses along the line of “I was very grateful to be able to take this test as part of a university program.” Other feedback included, “I learned that the world is full of people I did not realize needed help. I will try and be conscious of these people in my everyday life so I can be of assistance.” The new students were able to gain a new awareness as a step forward toward realizing a more inclusive society.

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/article/news/info/press0216um/>

Conclusion of a Comprehensive Collaborative Agreement with Sado City, Niigata Prefecture, Concerning Promotion of Natural Environmental Conservation and the SDGs

On September 1, 2022, Sophia University concluded a comprehensive collaboration agreement with Sado City in Niigata Prefecture with the aim of promoting natural environmental conservation and the SDGs on a regional scale, as well as human resource development and the fostering of international relations. On the same day, President Yoshiaki



Terumichi and others visited the main building of Sado City's city hall for the signing ceremony and formed a consensus with Mayor Ryugo Watanabe to engage in regional revitalization initiatives that utilize the knowledge of both the university and the city with the aim of realizing a prosperous society in the future.

President Terumichi spoke of his expectations regarding the agreement, saying, “I expect this collaborative project with Sado City to become a pioneering case study of initiatives for island regions and island countries. We will do our best to become a leader in education and research activities.”

The relationship between the university and Sado City started with fieldwork activities on the island by Professor Guangwei Huang of the Sophia University

Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies.

Sado City has developed a unique approach to implementing sustainable development measures and it is currently advancing initiatives that balance environmental conservation, such as protection of the Japanese crested ibis, with regional economic revitalization, such as the registration of the Sado Gold Mine as a World Heritage Site. The City will advance the collaborative project in the sustainability field together with a Professor Huang-led team from Sophia University that has a long track record of tackling issues in the field, such as marine environmental conservation, population issues, and energy issues.

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/article/news/announcement/press0907sadoshi/>

Conclusion of a Collaboration Agreement with Shimoda City, Shizuoka Prefecture, Aimed at Promoting the SDGs

On August 8, 2023, Sophia University concluded a collaboration agreement with Shimoda City in Shizuoka Prefecture with the aim of developing human resources who can flourish in international society and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the same day, President Yoshiaki Terumichi and others visited Shimoda City Community Hall to witness the signing of the agreement together with Shimoda City Mayor Shoichiro Matsuki. Going forward, both parties will combine their respective knowledge with the aim of creating a sustainable and prosperous society.

President Terumichi spoke of his expectations regarding the agreement, saying, “An environment where a university can do joint research together with local government that governs the actual field is of great significance for Sophia University as we pursue our mission to lead society toward a better future. The knowledge acquired from this research will be used to benefit the community and I look forward to seeing specific applications emerge.” Shimoda City will leverage its internationality to develop human resources who can flourish in international society and engage in the development of an appealing and sustainable city that can hold its head up high at a global level. A research station for the Sophia University Island Sustainability Institute, which advances international research on island regions in Japan and island countries, has been established within the city, and Shimoda City and Sophia University have already conducted many academic exchanges and collaborations. Going forward, a team that includes Professor Anne McDonald of the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, who also belongs to the institute, will advance initiatives that aim to balance conservation of the natural marine environment with regional revitalization.

The Sophia University Island Sustainability Institute mainly comprises faculty from the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies and it is already engaged in various industry-government-academia research activities in collaboration with local governments in Japan, industry organizations, international organizations, and overseas companies.



Conclusion of a Collaboration Agreement with Ama Town, Shimane Prefecture

In April 2023, Sophia University concluded a collaboration agreement with Ama Town in Oki District, Shimane Prefecture with the aim of contributing to the achievement of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ama Town is located on one of the Oki Islands, a group of islands in the Sea of Japan about 60km from the Shimane Peninsula. The island is self-sufficient, with activity comprising a fifty-fifty split between agriculture and fishing, as it is blessed with bountiful seas as the result of the warm Tsushima Current and plentiful spring water from one of Japan’s 100 best springs (Tengawa no Mizu Spring). In olden times it was positioned as a Miketsu-Kuni (a place that provided food for the emperor and important shrines) due to its treasure trove of sea foods, and a wooden strip excavated from the remains of Heijo Palace listed offerings that included dried abalone from Ama (excerpt from the Ama Town website).

In order to overcome challenges such as serious population decline, since the early 2000’s, the town has been engaged in creative region-building initiatives and today it is known as a regional revitalization success story, having attracted a surprising number of young people to move to the town despite it being on a remote island.

Professor Rokuro Tabuchi of the Department of Sociology, who also serves as vice-director of Sophia University Island Sustainability Institute, has been carrying out research activities in the town and has continuously held fieldwork trips for his seminars and classes on the island. Shimane Prefectural Oki-Dozen Senior High School, which is located in Ama Town, has also been a designated school of the Department of Sociology since 2014, and students from the high school regularly enter the university.

Regarding the background to the agreement, the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC), which is engaged in a number of collaborative projects with Sophia University and supports Sophia University students studying overseas, and which has also already developed a relationship with Ama Town, stated its strong desire to collaborate with the university and the town to develop

various programs. There was also a similar request from the town. Therefore, at the end of March Professor Anne McDonald of the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, who is also director of the Sophia University Island Sustainability Institute, Professor Rokuro Tabuchi of the Department of Sociology, who also serves as vice-director of the institute, Assistant to School President Yoshihiko Miwa, and APIC President Peter Yoshiyasu Sato visited the town and discussed the potential for future collaboration with Ama Town’s Mayor Kazuhiko Oe, Assistant Mayor Misao Yoshimoto, and members of the relevant town hall bureaus. This discussion verified the feasibility of various academic collaborations and a university-wide student exchange program, leading to the conclusion of a collaboration agreement similar to ones made with other regional public organizations.



Holding a Symposium on Diversity

Sophia University and Doshisha University were selected under the FY2021 Science & Technology Promotional Adjustment Funds MEXT “Initiative for the Implementation of the Diversity Research Environment (Survey and Analysis)” and accordingly, they have been analyzing the issues facing private universities in Japan, researching advanced overseas cases, and building a model for solving the issues identified. In the 2022 academic year, the final year of the project, the universities jointly held two symposiums in order to proactively share the project results. A symposium held on December 17, 2021, titled “The Present and Future of Female Researchers”, provided an interim report of the project’s progress and welcomed female leaders from private universities and the private sector for an exchange of opinions on the present state and future of women’s empowerment.



It was attended by over 150 people from both inside and outside the universities. A symposium held on March 8, 2022, titled Diversity Promotion Model for Private Universities – Learning from Advanced Overseas Cases, presented examples of good practice for Japanese private universities gained from research of cases in the US, Germany, and Thailand and introduced a promotion model for both universities. Also, in addition to the keynote lecture on initiatives by European universities, there was a dynamic discussion between the presidents of four private universities (Sophia University, Doshisha University, Komazawa University, and Ritsumeikan University) about how to leverage diversity possessed by private universities and how diversity promotion should be carried out. The symposium was attended by around 240 people and many of the attendees voiced their excitement to see the final research report. The project plans to reflect the findings gained from the symposiums into a diversity promotion model that includes support for female researchers and this will be announced in the future.

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/article/news/topics/230308_diversity/

Building No. 15 and Campus Environment Improvement Work (Exterior Refurbishment)

In order to realize the SDGs and reduce the university's environmental footprint, Yotsuya Campus Building No. 15, a three-story wooden structure, has undergone work to make it structurally fireproof. This work started in spring 2021 and was completed in June 2022. The classrooms on the second and third floor have mainly been used for Professional Studies courses aimed at working adults. The exterior has been covered with a wooden lattice comprised of timber elements of differing thickness, representing four concepts connected to the founding philosophy of Sophia University: Diversity, interaction with others, truth, and tradition. It is also an example of local production for local consumption as it is made of cedar sourced from the Tama region of Tokyo.



Also, regarding work to improve the Yotsuya Campus learning environment (exterior refurbishment), construction has been completed on the main street running east to west, the public area in front of Building No. 1, the main street running from the center to the south, and the front of the library. The main street, which begins at the recently redesigned main gate, has been renewed using interlocking paving blocks that have improved both its appearance and environmental performance. A giant relief of the Sophia University emblem has also been realized on the surface of the central section of the main street. A stepped terraced seating area, named S-TERRASSE, has been built in front of Building No. 1 and the statue of Father Hermann Hoffmann, the university's first president, has been moved to a spot in the center of this terrace.

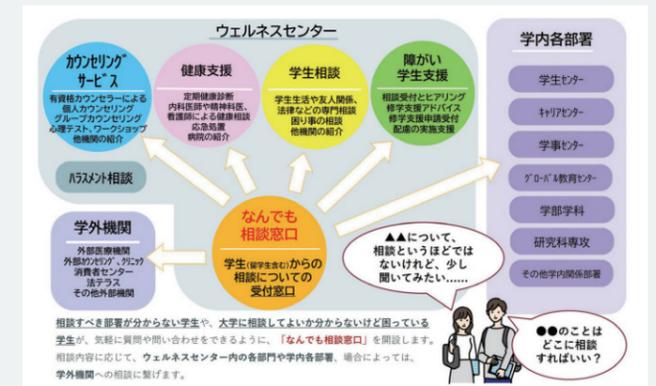


The rooftop area above Building No. 9's Active Commons (No. 9 Garden) has also been renewed to become an open space centered around a lawn, offering excellent views.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3675/>

Establishment of a Health and Wellbeing Center

In April 2022, a new Health and Wellbeing Center was established in the Student Office. This new center brings together and enhances the services of the former Health Center and Counselling Center as well as the student disability support services and consultation services previously found in the Center for Student Affairs to build a student support framework that coordinates the expertise of professionals including doctors, counsellors, and advisors with administrative staff who have experience in each department of the university to provide support focused on the four areas of health support, counselling services, student consultation, and support for students with disabilities.



In addition to the psychological and physical health consultation services previously available, it also provides "consultation on anything" as a first stop for students who do not know where else to go. This service supports students who have worries and questions by first of all providing a place where they can talk comfortably, and then, depending on the question or matter at hand, connects them with student consultation services or with doctors or counsellors within the center, or if necessary, liaises with departments within the university or with external counselling providers.

Also, in September 2022, a lecture on faculty development was held (jointly with the Sophia University FD Committee) regarding reasonable accommodation in accordance with revisions to the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities in order to deepen the understanding of support for students with disabilities among university staff. The university is also engaged in awareness raising and providing specialist consultations targeting students, including holding a seminar on consumer troubleshooting (January) and a free legal consultation event (March). Going forward, we will aim to provide a safe, secure campus with an environment in which consultation and advice is freely accessible in order to enable students to participate in school activities in full physical and mental health.

<https://piloti.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/soudan/healthcare/service/>

Accepting Exchange Students from Ukraine

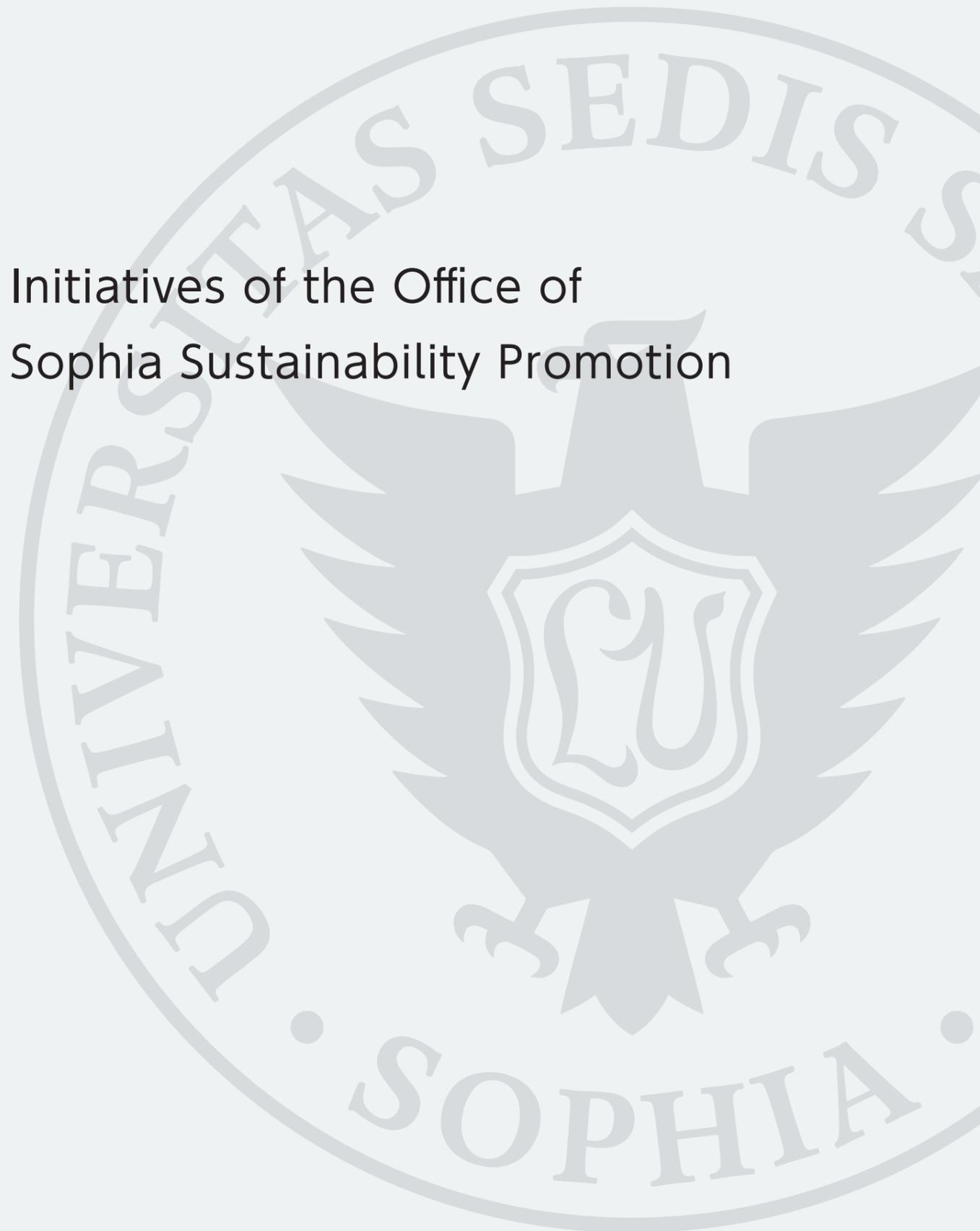
Sophia University, in collaboration with Pathway Japan (PJ) and the Japan ICU Foundation (JICUF), has decided to accept students from Ukraine who have evacuated following the armed invasion by Russian forces and who wish to continue their studies in Japan. Currently, 10 non-degree students are enrolled at the university.



The first eight students started taking Summer Session classes from July 2022 and another two began taking fall semester classes in September. In addition to economic support covering their journey to Japan, accommodation, and other living expenses, as well as an exemption from tuition fees, the students are being provided with help to adjust to living in Japan. The 10 students can take classes as exchange students through to the spring semester of academic year 2023 and if they then wish to continue studying at Sophia, they will be able to transfer or take the entrance exam and be provided with any support that they need as students so that they can continue to study as fully enrolled members of Sophia University. The university hopes to fulfill its social responsibility as a higher education institution by taking in these evacuee students from Ukraine as an initiative that embodies its educational spirit of “For others, With others.”

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/article/news/info/20220518press_ukraine/

Initiatives of the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion



Initiatives of the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion

About the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion

The Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion was established in July 2021 through collaboration by all of the educational institutions affiliated with Sophia School Corporation, including junior colleges, high schools, and junior high schools. In order to fulfill the university's social responsibilities, it strives every day to actively engage the four Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) of the Society of Jesus as a whole and the globally pursued Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) advocated by the UN. It does this by further encouraging collaboration, coordination, and information sharing related to sustainability-focused research and education, activities by extracurricular groups, and social contribution activities within the university. The Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion operates the student staff system, a new initiative being pioneered by Sophia University. Students are recruited to serve as staff and they fulfill these roles while balancing their duties with their studies.

About Student Staff

Student staff members leverage their student perspectives, ingenuity, and creativity to carry out activities under three themes: Improving the campus environment, planning and organizing events, and disseminating information. They use free time between classes to serve as part-time staff for about 10 hours per week. They also have the opportunity to experience a wide range of duties including administrative support for full-time staff, promotion of the office's activities, information gathering, and organizational design.

<Campus Team: Five members>

1) Realizing universal campus design

Team members are utilizing their perspectives as students with the aim of realizing an inclusive campus where everyone feels comfortable and safe.

2) Shrinking environmental footprints

Team members are working toward a sustainable, recycling-based society through initiatives such as increasing the number of water servers, establishing a "bring your own container" system, considering the introduction of reusable containers, and raising awareness about saving energy.

<Planning Team: Five members>

1) Planning sustainability-focused events

Team members plan and execute on-campus events that showcase sustainability from a variety of perspectives with the aim of raising understanding and awareness regarding the SDGs among students and faculty.

2) Planning industry-academia and community partnerships

Since the establishment of the office, it has collaborated with partners including various companies and international organizations, and it uses the connections available to a university with a storied history to plan events from a macro perspective.

<Communications Team: Four members>

1) Reporting on activities and initiatives

Team members plan and manage reports regarding a wide range of student organizations, faculty, and individual students and then share these through channels such as the university's official website and the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion official Instagram account.

2) Disseminating event information

Team members promote planned events through channels such as Loyola and the official LINE account to ensure many people know about them.

*Member information current as of August 2023.



Campus Team

This team works on matters related to the campus environment. Our goal is to create a safe and comfortable campus not only for students but also for all visitors to Sophia University.

Rooftop Garden Completed Above Building No. 9's Active Commons

Student Staff: Shoji, Yamamoto, Hashino, Kori, Nakai

Work to renovate the Yotsuya Campus is progressing and following on from the main gate with a new design, the S-TERRASSE plaza area in front of Building No. 1, and the eagle emblem depicted in the center of the campus' main street, all of which were completed in 2022, spring 2023 saw the completion of a rooftop terrace directly above Building No. 9's Active Commons, adding to the renewal of the campus' scenery.

The rooftop garden is interspersed with elements related to the SDGs and sustainability and it comprises three areas, namely a pergola surrounded by greenery, a lawned area with a broad square lawn, and a decked area. This provides an outdoor space where students can take a break between classes, encouraging interactions.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3989/>



Creation of a Map Showing All Water Servers

Student Staff: Shoji, Yamamoto, Hashino, Kori, Nakai

Sophia University has installed 14 water servers across campus to ensure universal access to safe water and to help eliminate plastic use. As people become more health-conscious and environmentally aware, these servers are becoming increasingly popular, to the point that long lines are forming during breaks between classes.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4129/>





Make Your Dream Into a Career – A Career Design Event That Considers the Most Familiar Social Issues

Student Staff: Shoji, Yamamoto, Hashino, Kori, Nakai

Over two days, May 14 and 20, 2023, a career design event was held to raise the awareness and interest of students in social issues and to encourage them to consider how they want to work in the future. It featured Kou Nagato, a lawyer and former student of the Faculty of Law's Department of Legal Studies of the Global Environment. This time, the event focused on the issue of waste and included an observation tour of a waste disposal facility and a networking session with employees of companies that contribute to the social good, giving students an opportunity to consider their career direction.



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/information/4001/>
<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/information/4101/>



Gardening Workshop

Student Staff: Shoji, Yamamoto, Hashino, Kori, Nakai

A total of five workshops for growing flowers and vegetables were held using raised garden beds, which are universal design flower beds, in the rooftop garden above Building No. 9's Active Commons (known as the No. 9 garden). Participants received advice from staff from Green Wise Co., Ltd., the company that looks after the rooftop garden of Mark Is Minatomirai among others, and were able to learn about the plant cultivation cycle, from planting through to harvesting and usage. Some participant gathered as group during the summer vacation and used the herbs grown for an italian food party.



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/information/3966/>



Creation of a Reels Video Showing How to Sort Waste

Student Staff: Shoji, Yamamoto

The office has created a video explaining how to properly sort some of the waste that is often generated during campus life. Recently, there have been many instances around campus where waste has not been sorted or disposed of correctly, such as waste plastic being disposed of in bins designated only for burnable waste and PET bottles not being separated. Therefore, the office decided to raise awareness of sorting waste correctly by creating a Reels video and sharing it through the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion's official Instagram account.



<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Co3Zcj5h4Tt/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>



Planning Team

We plan and organize events related to sustainability promotion. In addition to planning and implementing student-led events to promote sustainability, we are also active in industry-academia and community partnerships.

Special Anniversary Event Program: Before You Say "Your Japanese is Good!" – Considering Microaggressions

Student Staff: Mamori

As part of Sophia University's anniversary celebrations, the Planning Team hosted a Special Anniversary Event Program. Under the concept of "In a modern society where the word diversity has become popularized and various systems are being reformed and enhanced, we also need to update our awareness, speech, behaviors, and values in the same way," the program focused on microaggressions (habitual speech that unintentionally hurts or discriminates against the person you are talking to). The program mainly targeted faculty and students who are unfamiliar with or have limited understanding of the term, and in addition to educating participants about microaggressions, it also aimed to encourage them to consider concrete ways of changing habits in a way that helps them to understand and communicate with conversation partners. It was attended by around 100 members of teaching staff and about 40 students.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3156/>

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/information/3322>



Collaboration Project With Seven & i Holdings Co., Ltd. – Kenja no Recipe: Intelligent Breakfast Edition

Student Staff: Bivanwila

The Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion recruited around 30 students to be members of a project in which they developed recipes for delicious, sustainable breakfasts from a student perspective together with Seven & i Holdings Co., Ltd. Using breakfast, a familiar matter for university students, as a starting point, the project aims to encourage students to consider sustainability issues such as food loss as something that concerns them and to encourage even just one more student to start eating healthy breakfasts. The results of an awareness survey on the topic of breakfast carried out among Sophia University students showed that there are some problems such as a tendency among students to skip breakfast, despite it being essential for spending a day in a healthy and active manner. Furthermore, the project also incorporated an SDG perspective by looking at ways to reduce food loss.



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3615/>



SDGs Idea Contest Held For Four Schools

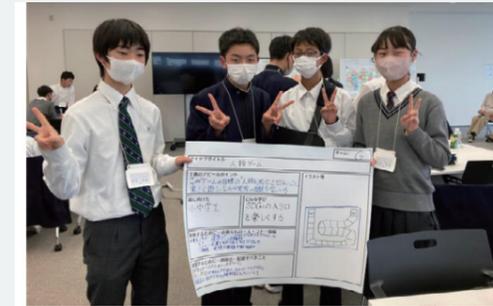
Student Staff: Matsumoto

An SDGs Idea Contest was held at Yotsuya Campus for students of the four junior high and high schools established by Sophia School Corporation (Eiko Gakuen, Kanagawa Prefecture; Rokko Junior/Senior High School, Hyogo Prefecture; Hiroshima Gakuin Junior and Senior High School, Hiroshima Prefecture; Sophia-Fukuoka Junior-Senior High School, Fukuoka Prefecture) as a venue for cultivating the generation who will lead society in the future. In addition to 31 students from the four schools who passed the initial screening, 11 Sophia University students serving as student staff from the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion who were in charge of the planning and operation of the contest also participated in the contest. It was the first opportunity for junior high and high school students and student staff who harbor the same aspirations to tackle the international issue of promoting sustainability to assemble together. In his opening address, Sali Augustine, who was the Director of Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion at the time and chief judge of the contest, said, "This opportunity for students to meet for the first time and collaborate on tackling issues is truly the embodiment of the UAPs. The planning and operation of the contest was carried out by the Planning Team and participants were divided into eight teams of five comprising one student staff member and four junior high and high school students from different schools and school years. They engaged in various groupwork activities under the theme of "Recruiting people to create a sustainable future together! Considering ideas for the future of learning through teamwork." First of all, they used a map containing a wide range of social issues to categorize the 17 SDGs into goals they had an interest in and goals they were less familiar with. This was a chance for students to visualize how well they understood sustainability overall. Then they carried out brainstorming, writing down matters and times that excited them, with the aim of generating ideas to recruit more people to the cause. Team members could be seen gathered around worksheets, dynamically sharing their own knowledge and experiences. Finally, each team decided on and polished up one idea and considered the personnel and other considerations needed to realize it. In the time remaining, all the teams fleshed out their ideas.

One group used Hakata Station as a local venue for the idea presentations. Another group presented ideas inspired by theme parks that were brimming with originality from a school student perspective, and the winning idea was The Game of Humanity, an educational board game that uses sustainability as its main theme.

The students were able to have fun interacting with each other while addressing issues, making it an experience with significance for the future. A second-year junior high school student from the winning team shared their thoughts, saying, "I learned that accepting differing opinions led to the creation of better ideas. By talking together, as people of different ages and from different environments, we were able come up with completely unexpected ideas. It was fun." Ms. Yamamoto (fourth year, Faculty of Global Studies), a student staff member who was in the same team, reflected on the contest, saying, "I was witness to an incredible experience where team members earnestly exchanged and contested opinions and eventually settled on an idea that reflected the team. Even as a university student, I also learned a lot."

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/article/news/topics/20230321chuukouaideakontesuto/>



The Sustainable Campus Forum – Can a University Become a Farm? Joint Event by the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion and KASA Sustainability

Student Staff: Takeuchi

On June 23, 2023, the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion and KASA Sustainability, an extracurricular organization, jointly held the Sustainable Campus Forum. The aim of the event was to provide an open forum where students and teaching staff could freely share their thoughts about sustainability concerning the Yotsuya Campus. This was the fourth time the forum has been held and this time, the main theme was "Can a University Become a Farm?" The section for discussion between participants led to an interesting exchange of opinions that explored how the university, as an educational institution, could also function as a farm that supports coexistence with a diverse range of plant life. This produced many ideas, raising interest in sustainability on campus.



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/information/4461/>

Open Campus 2023

Student Staff: Yoshida

A Sophia x Sustainability Student Talk Session and Sophia x Sustainability Quiz were held as part of Sophia University's Open Campus on August 1 and 2, 2023. The talk session brought together Sophia University students who are working to solve social issues. The Quiz was a quiz competition that enabled participants to get a real sense of sustainability efforts at the university. There was a lively atmosphere and feedback from participants included, "I was able to learn various things from a student perspective," and "I learned the specifics of SDG initiatives."



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/information/4469/>

Communications Team

Manages and provides information on sustainability initiatives at Sophia University and Sophia School Corporation.



SDGs & Sustainability Report 2021-2022 (English Edition)

Student Staff OH, Harada, Kim, Ashizawa

Sophia University published SDGs & Sustainability Report focusing on our efforts in AY2021-2022. Student staff from Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion interviewed and wrote articles about the student organization's initiatives.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/3716/>



Exhibition at SDGs Week EXPO 2022: EcoPro 2022

Student Staff: OH, Harada, Kim, Ashizawa

The Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion and Institute for Studies of the Global Environment of Sophia School Corporation exhibited at SDGs Week EXPO 2022: EcoPro 2022, which was held at Tokyo Big Sight from December 7 to 9, 2022. At the event, the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion set up a booth next to the Institute for Studies of the Global Environment in the section for universities and educational institutions. Student staff members manned the booth in shifts to tell visitors about the office's activities and systems, including the positioning of the office and the student staff system.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/information/3440/>



Supporting the Fifth Japan-Mexico Rectors' Summit

Student Staff: Ashizawa, Kim, Harada

On October 6 to 7, 2022, Sophia University hosted the 5th Japan-Mexico Rectors' Summit. The summit serves as a venue for higher education institutes from Japan and Mexico to build friendly relationships and hold discussions with a view to future development. It has been held once every two years since 2011 with universities from both countries taking turns to serve as hosts. The main theme of the fifth summit was "Universities and Global Risks" and participants discussed the social role of universities in regard to various global issues. The summit was attended by a total of around 80 people, including leadership figures from 24 universities and institutions in Japan and 18 in Mexico. Student staff from the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion also participated in hosting duties. Student staff created furoshiki clothes made from recycled PET bottles, which were presented to attendees as a commemorative gift, and then held a demonstration of how to wrap them. The attendees from Mexico showed a great interest in the furoshiki, which are Japan's traditional eco-bag, and showed delighted at receiving them.



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3389/>

Sophia University Students' Awareness on "SDGs & Sustainability Survey 2022" was conducted.

Student Staff: OH, Harada, Ashizawa, Kim

In January 2023, an awareness survey was conducted to determine the level of interest and awareness of Sophia University students regarding the SDGs and sustainability, with the aim of "understanding the level of interest and awareness of Sophia University students" and "referring to future efforts of the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion". The survey was conducted over a 21-day period from January 11, 2023 to January 31, 2023, using a web-based questionnaire (Microsoft Forms), and analysis was conducted by student staff of the Communications Team, Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion.

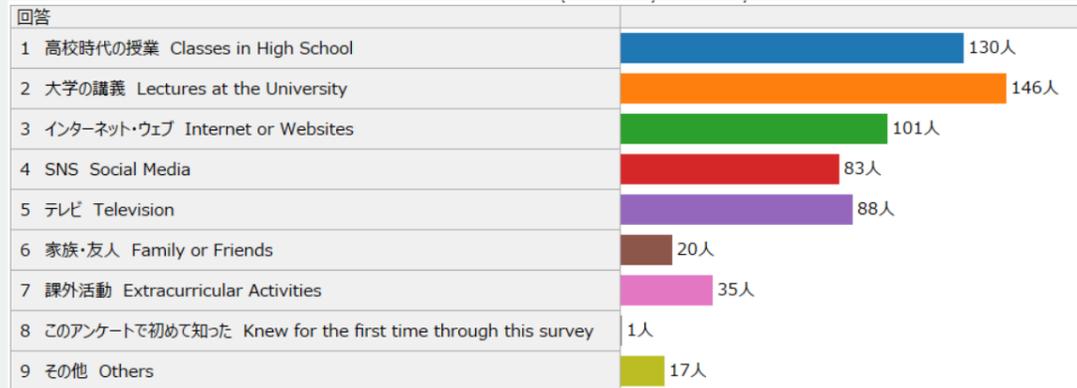
(The number of respondents)
Freshman: 67 (21%)
Sophomore: 47 (17%)
Junior: 60 (21%)
Senior: 79 (28%)
Graduate Student: 37 (13%)
Total: 284 (100%)



The survey asked a total of 15 questions, and approximately 70% of respondents answered the open-ended questions.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/3881/>

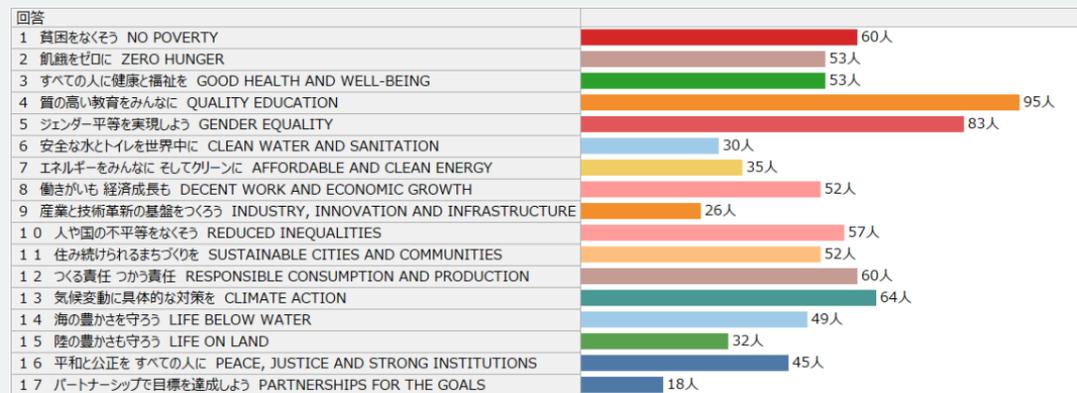
Q6) How did you come to know about the SDGs ? (Multiple choices allowed)



The most common reason for knowing about the SDGs was “Lectures at the University”, followed by “Classes in High School”, indicating that educational institutions have the strongest influence in raising awareness of the SDGs. The percentages for “Internet”, “TV”, and “SNS” were also high, in that order, indicating that the influence of the media is equally strong.

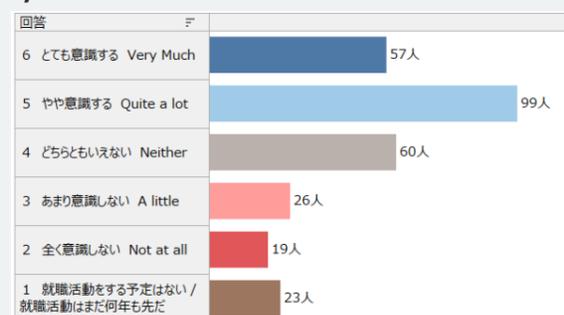
Q11) What SDG goals would you like to work on in the future? (Multiple selections allowed)

Regarding SDG goals they would like to work on in the future, Goal4“Quality education” was very high, and Goal 5“Gender equality” followed. On the other hand, Goal17, “Partnerships for the goals”, was the lowest. It is evident that the respondents’ interest in each of the items examined in Q7 is consistent with their hopes for the future. We believe that perhaps it is difficult for students to understand what Goal17 is specifically aimed at.

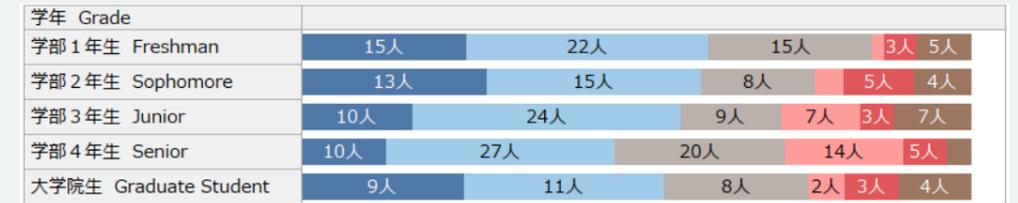


Q15) In your job hunting, are you aware of the SDGs and sustainability initiatives when selecting a company?

In regards to job-hunting, when asked if they are aware of the SDGs and sustainability initiatives when selecting a company, the majority of students answered “Yes”. This occurred to us that students place more importance on the SDGs in their job search than in their higher education.



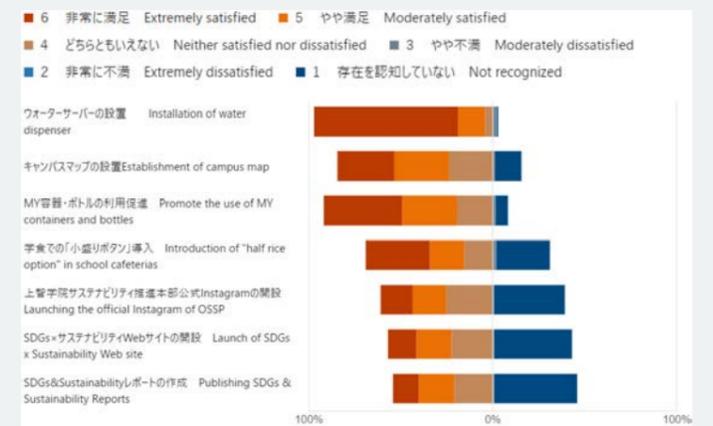
The result of analysis show no large differences among grades, however, “Freshman” had the highest awareness, while “Senior” had the lowest awareness. For the Senior, the period during which the survey was conducted was six months after they had completed their job search, and for some, more than a year had passed since they began their job search, suggesting that as they proceeded with their job search, their focus on SDGs which they may have initially been aware of may have faded away.



6 とても意識する Very Much
 5 やや意識する Quite a lot
 4 どちらともいえない Neither
 3 あまり意識しない A little
 2 全く意識しない Not at all
 1 就職活動をする予定はない / 就職活動はまだ何年も先だ

Q18) Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the initiatives implemented by OSSP. (Excerpts from some initiatives)

Regarding satisfaction with the initiatives implemented by the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion, the “water server installation” and “promotion of MY Bottle” initiatives received the highest satisfaction and recognition.

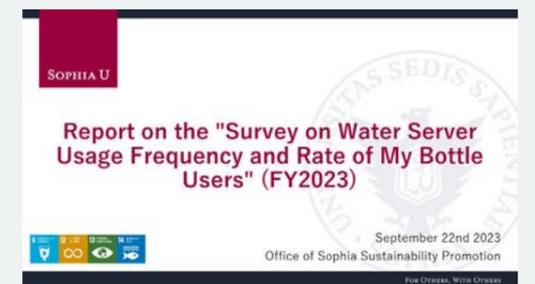


The initiatives that have an impact on students’ eating habits on campus (water server installation, promotion of the use of MY containers and bottles, and introduction of the small portion button in the cafeteria) are considered to have a high satisfaction and recognition ratings.

Survey on Water Server Usage Frequency and Rate of MyBottle Users (FY2023) was conducted

Student Staff: Harada

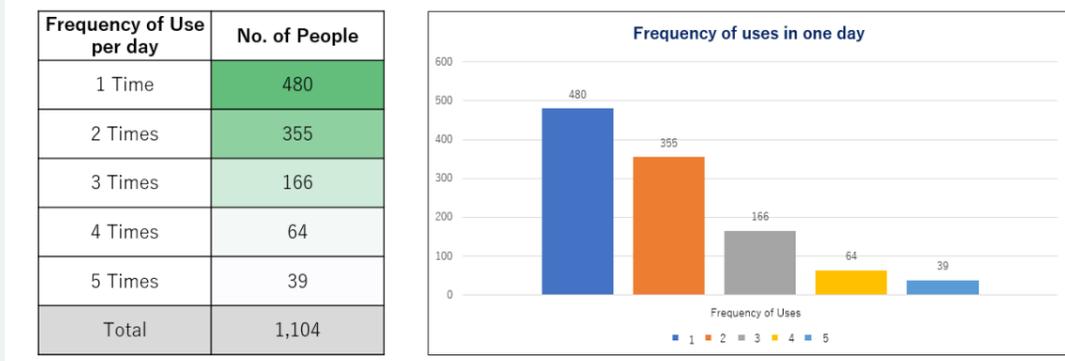
Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion has installed water servers on campus since 2021 to promote equal access to safe water and de-plasticization through the use of “My Bottle” to achieve SDG 6, 12, 13, and 14. The Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion conducted a survey to understand the current status of water servers, to promote the use of “My Bottle” and to improve the management of water servers in the future.



●Number of times used per day

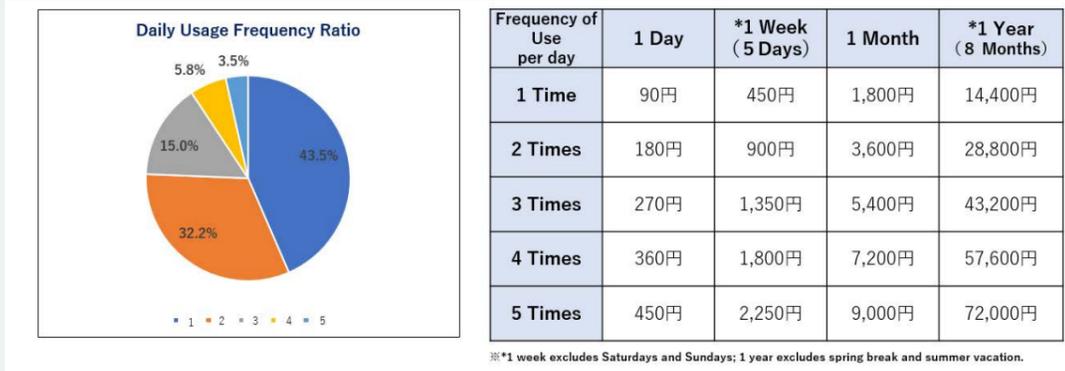
From June 12 to June 16, from 12:30 to 13:30, 1,104 students who used the water servers in the central area of Building No. 2 and pilotis of Building No. 11 – where the number of users was expected to be highest, were asked about the number of times they used the water server daily.

The majority of students, 480, indicate they use the water server once a day, followed by 355 students who uses it twice a day, and 166 who uses it three times a day.



Daily Usage Frequency Ratio and Savings Estimations through MyBottle Usage

Looking at the percentages, 43.5% of the students drink water once a day, 32.2% twice a day, and 24.3% three or more times a day. Assuming that students who bring their own water bottles can save the cost of purchasing a bottled water (90 yen) per water refill, simple calculations show the students who use the water server once per day can save 90 yen a day, 450 yen a week, 1,800 yen a month, or 14,400 yen a year.



Percentage of users bringing their MyBottles

From June 12 to June 16, from 12:30 to 13:30, 1,104 students who used the water servers in the central area of Building No. 2 and pilotis of Building No. 11 – where the number of users was expected to be highest, were measured about the number of people who uses their own water bottle.

On most days of the week, more than 50% of the respondents used their MyBottles. Other days, the number of users refilled with empty bottles (repeated use), which is thought to be contributing to the reduction of plastic bottle waste.

Bld.2 Central Side					Bld.11 (Left & Right)				
Day	MyBottle Users	PET Bottle Users	Total	Percentage of MyBottle Users	Day	MyBottle Users	PET Bottle Users	Total	Percentage of MyBottle Users
Monday	25	59	84	29.8%	Monday	52	64	116	44.8%
Tuesday	98	51	149	65.8%	Tuesday	108	73	181	59.7%
Wednesday	38	63	101	37.6%	Wednesday	50	34	84	59.5%
Thursday	65	45	110	59.1%	Thursday	64	44	108	59.3%
Friday	68	51	119	57.1%	Friday	68	36	104	65.4%
Total	294	269	563	52.2%	Total	342	251	593	57.7%

Survey on Water Server Usage Frequency and Rate of MyBottle Users (FY2023)

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/4568/>



Student Staff Participated in the Creation and Editing of Role Model Series XII Sophia Diversity: Sophia's Women Leadership

Each year since the launch of the Sophia University Project to Support Women Researchers in a Global Society (academic years 2009-2011), the Office for the Promotion of Diversity, Sophia School Corporation, has published a collection of role models. Originally the theme of the collection was women in research, but later it expanded to include men being involved in childcare, minorities, and research supporter systems. Since academic year 2017, when the office was renamed the Office for the Promotion of Diversity, the theme has been broadened to incorporate diverse perspectives under the title Sophia Diversity and role models have been selected from among current students, faculty members, and graduates.

This year's role model collection was the 12th in the series and as a new trial initiative, three student staff members from the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion, Sophia School Corporation participated in its creation and editing. This year's theme was selected as Sophia's Women Leadership and contributions were solicited from 11 leaders currently active both inside and outside the university. It also honored the university's former Professor Emeritus, the late Dr. Sadako Ogata. The front and back covers of the 12th role model collection feature mimosa as a motif, as it is the symbol of International Women's Day held on March 8 each year. International Women's Day originated from a labor rights movement that spanned all of North America and Europe in the early 20th century. It was formally adopted by the UN in 1975, which was International Women's Year. The UN has positioned this day as a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. The idea of using mimosa as a symbol for International Women's Day comes from Italy, where the flower starts to bloom around that period.



https://danjokyodo-sophia.jp/keihatsu/digitalcatalog/role_model_12th/#page=1



Efforts for SDGs



GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Student Organization, Sophia Sustainable Coffee Movement (SSCM)

Sophia Sustainable Coffee Movement (SSCM) is a group that considers ways to make coffee sustainable under the motto "Delicious, forever." We aim to create a fun and sustainable future for coffee through activities including 1) holding study sessions and seminars related to coffee, 2) holding practice sessions and seminars on making drip coffee, 3) touring cafes, 4) exhibiting a booth at the Sophia Festival, 5) participating in and hosting events, and 6) holding an overnight trip. Coffee is consumed all over the world and trading volumes are growing year on year, but a variety of issues are mounting around the coffee industry, including environmental problems, inequality, and poverty. We use coffee as a familiar entry point for considering the world and the future to share a wide range of values so that we can build a fun and sustainable future for coffee.



<https://sophia-coffee.studio.site/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/coffee_sophia/

X: <https://twitter.com/SophiaSCM?s=20>

Student Organization, wel-bee (welfare-focused media for students, by students)

wel-bee is a group that communicates information on welfare. It was established in 2010 by former students from the Department of Social Services. It carries out activities under the goal of "providing fun, stylish welfare proposals that capture the attention of students who previously had no interest in welfare and encourage action." These activities are focused on three channels: an online magazine, a free newspaper, and social media. The target readership, students who have no interest in welfare, is extremely broad, so articles cover a wide range of topics from a student perspective with the aim of fostering an interest in these students. All activities concerning the free newspaper, from fund-raising through to design and publication, are carried out by students. The group's communication activities aim to make people realize that welfare is something that concerns everyone and to inspire action.



<https://wel-bee.com/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/wel_bee8/

X: https://twitter.com/welbee_8



GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Support for Disaster Victims in Japan and Overseas Through Pan Akimoto's Kyu-Can-Cho Jr. Emergency Food: A Portion of the Proceeds to be Donated to the SOPHIA Fund for the Future

In 2013, Sophia University launched a collaboration with Pan Akimoto Co., Ltd. as a project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the university. Pan Akimoto has developed canned bread as an emergency food that can be stockpiled and is soft and delicious. This is delivered to disaster victims in Japan and overseas through the Kyu-Can-Cho Project.

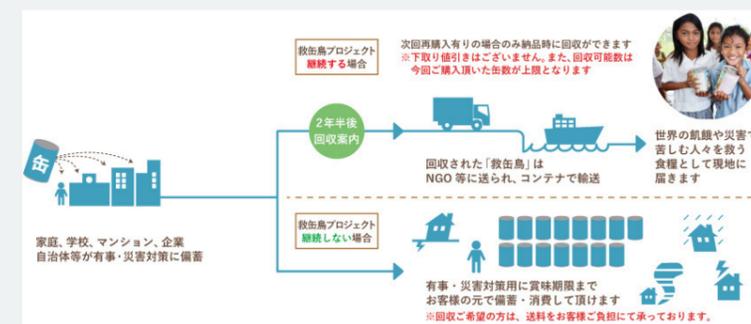


Students from the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion's Communications Team conducted an interview with Senior Managing Director Nobuhiko Akimoto (position current as of March 2023) in which he discussed the details of the project and the Kyu-Can-Cho Project's origin story.



Pan Akimoto is a bakery founded in 1947 based on the desire of its first president to work with food products fostered while experiencing food shortages in the period following World War II. It began developing canned bread products following the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995, as the company had many connections in the Kobe area and wanted to deliver bread products to people affected by disasters.

At that time, they received a request from an elderly lady to "create a bread that is delicious and soft like sweet bread products but that also has the preservability of dried bread." As they searched for a way to achieve this, they realized that if they put the bread dough in a can and then baked each can in an oven, the cans would be sterilized. Experiments were successful and after patenting the production method in Japan, the US, China, and Taiwan, the canned bread concept was fully realized. The Kyu-Can-Cho Project was started on September 9, 2009 (which can be read as 999 numerically), as a project that can participate in global famine relief activities by providing emergency food. The project was inspired by events following the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake, when people in the stricken area were running out of food and desperately sought food aid, no matter how old, while local governments in Japan were trying to find ways to replenish their canned food stock and dispose of old cans.



Although unintentionally, Pan Akimoto's business is also linked to the SDGs, and it aims to be mutually beneficial to all stakeholders by benefitting customers, the bakery itself, and society. Going forward, it will work to further raise the penetration of the Kyu-Can-Cho Project by increasing the number of companies that stock Kyu-Can-Cho, and if the limit for storing these cans is exceeded, many cans can be sent to people around the world who need them. Sophia School Corporation's Office for Community & Alumni Relations, Bureau of General Affairs is selling cans of Kyu-Can-Cho Jr. featuring original Sophia University branding. A portion of the proceeds raised will be donated to the SOPHIA Fund for the Future and will be used to support students enrolled at Sophia University who have been affected by large-scale disasters, including educational support, tuition fees reductions or exemptions, stopgap emergency payments, and support for living expenses.



*Original Sophia University branded Kyu-Can-Cho Jr. cans can be ordered via email.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3757/>

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3765/>

https://www.panakimoto.com/products_pancan/

https://www.panakimoto.com/products_kyucancho/

Student Organization, TABLE FOR TWO Sophia

TABLE FOR TWO (TFT) is a Japanese non-profit organization dedicated to solving the problem of food imbalance between developing and developed countries.

Today, the problem of food inequality is becoming a growing concern due to the increasing rates of hunger in developing countries and obesity in industrialized countries.



The group has developed a healthy menu for the Sophia University cafeteria. For every meal purchased from the TFT menu sold in the cafeteria, 20 yen is donated to six developing countries, including Africa and the Philippines, through TABLE FOR TWO to provide one meal for a child in need. This activity will enable children in developing countries to enjoy a healthy diet, alleviating hunger in the world which helps to achieve Goal 2 of the SDGs.

In July 2023, they collaborated the TFT menu was sold at the Yotsuya Campus Cafeteria. A total of 638 servings, amounting to 12,760 yen, were donated through TFT for school meal expenses in the countries the group provides support!

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4305/>

<https://tftsophia.wixsite.com/tftsophia>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tftsophia/?hl=ja>

X: https://twitter.com/tft_sophia



Youth and Agriculture in Japan

Takeshi Ito, Professor

Faculty of Liberal Arts, Department of Liberal Arts

The Youth and Agriculture project explores the complex interaction of factors and structural layers affecting the encouragement and retention of youth farmers and new entrants in rural agriculture in different parts of Asia.

Globally, young people are increasingly turning away from agriculture and rural futures. Who will be farmers in the future? This issue intersects several critical areas: post-pandemic recovery, climate change, structural mass youth unemployment, younger generation's reluctance to engage in agricultural industries, food insecurity, agricultural decline and poverty. Existing literature has largely failed to offer nuanced understandings of the complex relationships between young people and agriculture in different parts of rural Asia, as well as the interaction of new and pre-existing factors complicating their engagement with rural lifestyles.

Drawing on evidence generated from comparative field studies in rural Indonesia, Japan and Nepal, this research project examines why young people leave agriculture and rural areas amidst rising youth unemployment and declining rural agriculture. In Japan, the research explores pockets of emerging agroecological movements and successful support systems for newcomer farmers and organic farmers in the Japanese countryside.

These groups are vital to the revitalization of the Japanese countryside, yet experience a higher rate of difficulty integrating into traditional agricultural settings or sustaining rural agricultural production despite attempts by the local and national government to bolster new entrants and climate-aware agriculture. Insights from the project aims at creating nuanced and theoretical understandings of organic farmers's sectoral, spatial, and temporal engagements in Japan, as well as potential policy insights for tackling this issue.



This project is a collaboration with Dr. Ramesh Sunam from the Waseda Institute of Advanced Study, Waseda University.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4409/>

GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Research on a Psychoanalytic Approach to Psychological Distress

Soh Agatsuma, Professor

Faculty of Human Sciences, Department of Psychology

[Abstract]

Psychoanalysis is a longstanding treatment method although both the theory and practice have changed significantly since it was originally introduced by Sigmund Freud. There are various approaches to psychoanalysis. The prevalent approaches are ego psychology and object relations theory. I am interested in taking a perspective that incorporates various of these approaches. This kind of perspective is called relational psychoanalysis. It is notable for not only focusing on the internal aspect of relationships but also the real aspects. Another characteristic is that rather than fixating on a single model of the psyche, clinical practice is carried out while keeping multiple models in mind. To date, I have carried out theoretical research and clinical studies on psychoanalysis, exploring areas such as temporality, neutrality, self-disclosure, and technique.

<http://www.iwasaki-ap.co.jp/book/b378525.html>

<http://www.iwasaki-ap.co.jp/book/b253460.html>

<http://www.iwasaki-ap.co.jp/book/b195903.html>

<https://www.kongoshuppan.co.jp/book/b515041.html>

<https://www.seishinshobo.co.jp/book/b252459.html>

Institute of Inclusive Community (IIC)

Mitsuru Hisata, Director

The Institute of Inclusive Community (IIC) was established in April 2020 based on the philosophy of “Walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice,” one of the four Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus advocated by Fr. Arturo Sosa Abascal, S.J., the 31st General of the Society of Jesus, and approved by the Pope. Our goal is to clarify the issues that we should be engaging as researchers, teachers, and educational practitioners in regard to people who have become outcasts or had their human dignity violated due to differences in race or culture, or because of disability, not only in Japan, but in countries and regions all over the world, as well as to become a hub for sharing solutions to these issues globally.



Since our establishment, we have held a number of public symposiums. Some examples include Considering Schooling for Children Who Need Constant Medical Care (August 27, 2022), Culture and Mental Health - Comparing Japan and Indonesia (November 4, 2022), and Considering Support for Children With Disabled Siblings (November 12, 2022).

Considering what kind of advice and support activities specialists can provide to enable children in need of constant medical care and children with disabled siblings to receive the same high quality education as other children is one of our highest priorities. Therefore, in addition to supporting children with disabilities and their families, we also put our energies into research and accompanying practical activities targeting children with disabled siblings, who can often get overlooked. An example of this kind of activity is our summer camps for children with disabled siblings. Below is an outline of the camp we held in August 2023.

Nine elementary school students who have siblings with disabilities and 15 Sophia University students boarded a bus near the Yotsuya Campus' North Gate which took them to an accommodation facility in the north of Tochigi Prefecture. Over two days and one night, they enjoyed playing in the water, a campfire, and other recreational activities. They were also accompanied by the group leader and two nurses who looked after the health of the children and students. The distinguishing characteristics of the camp were as follows.



- 1) Child-centered principle: Students always accompany the children and do their best to fulfill each child's wishes.
- 2) Buddy system: Each child is paired with at least one student and given constant, individual attention.
- 3) The only rule is there are no rules: Rules and restrictions are kept to the bare minimum and activities focus on giving the children agency.
- 4) Pick-up and drop-off: There are many cases where the households of children with disabled siblings contain a child with a disability severe enough that their guardian is unable to leave the house. In such cases, the students will take the children home after the camp ends.

These characteristics resulted in an event that was the exact opposite of a regular summer camp, where a group of multiple children are assigned one leader who supervises all of them, activities have to be carried out at set times determined by a schedule, and an emphasis is put on behavior and attitude that is in line with the rules. However, they are extremely meaningful for children with disabled siblings whose daily lives are restricted in various ways and who often lack agency. One challenge we are engaging as an institute is to scientifically verify the effects of this kind of support activity.

<https://www.inclusivecommunity202041.com/>

Research on Individual Differences in Perception and Cognition

Souta Hidaka, Professor

Faculty of Human Sciences, Department of Psychology

【Abstract】

As individuals, each of us have different perceptual and cognitive processes and mechanisms. Some of these can be experienced in our daily lives, such as the way we perceive colors differently to other people or differences in the extent to which we are bothered by noises. Idiosyncratic sensory sensitivity is one of the criteria for diagnosing autism spectrum disorder, a developmental disorder, but as the term “spectrum” suggests, everybody is considered to possess these kinds of sensitivity differences. Also, our sensory organs decline with age, making it more difficult to see and hear. It is thought that the older people compensate for this decline by combining multiple types of sensory information. Our research treats tendencies related to developmental disorders and aging as individual variation and investigates the perceptual and cognitive processes and mechanisms behind this variation using a relatively large data set.

【Future prospects】

By clarifying the perceptual and cognitive processes and mechanisms that are and are not specific to tendencies related to developmental disorders and aging, we can understand the individual differences in perceptual and cognitive information processing. Based on this understanding, we will be able to recommend more comfortable lifestyles by mitigating idiosyncratic traits, such as encouraging individuals who tend to be excessively sensitive to sound to wear headphones, earbuds, or earplugs.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4010/>

Research on Factors that Promote Healthy Eating Behaviors

Togawa Taku, Associate Professor

Faculty of Economics, Department of Management

【Abstract】

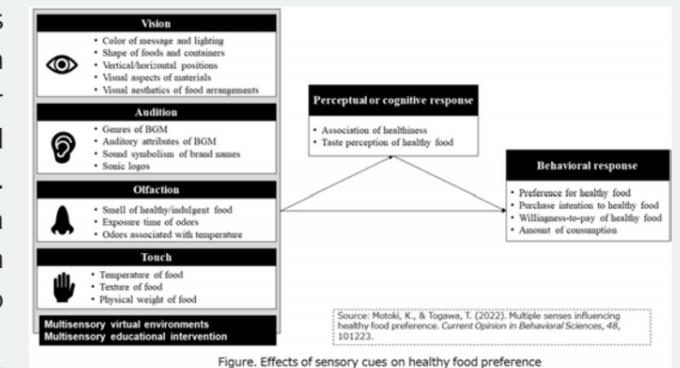
In recent years, there has been a significant interest in issues related to “food” in our society, such as obesity, food waste, and food shortages. Many companies are creating a competitive advantage through strategies that contribute to food safety and health.

Given these circumstances, I

investigate how to promote healthier eating behavior from a marketing perspective. For example, one of my papers shows that the position of product images on food packaging is effective in promoting healthy food choices and reducing food intake. By conducting theoretical and empirical research, I aim to identify marketing-related factors that influence consumers’ eating behavior. Furthermore, in my lectures, I also engage educational activities to enrich student’s knowledge of food consumption by introducing relevant research findings and business cases.

【Future prospects】

In general, consumers tend to believe that healthy foods are not tasty. This “healthy = not tasty” belief can be a disincentive to healthy eating behaviors. Drawing on the literature on sensory marketing, I will examine how to reconcile the trade-off between healthiness and flavor perceptions. Past research has shown that various sensory experiences such as sight and sound influence eating behavior (see figure). In the future, we will attempt to explore new factors to improve flavor perceptions without sacrificing healthiness by focusing on another sensory cue or on new sensory factors that have emerged in our digital society.



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/4026/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0022435919300703>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2352154622001292>

https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/marketing/42/3/42_2023.002/_pdf/-char/ja

GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



“Sekai-Tankyu-bu” (World Exploring Club)- An Online Active Learning Program for High School Students by Sophia Global Education and Discovery Co., Ltd., Sophia’s Overseas-Based Education Company

Since academic year 2020, Sophia Global Education and Discovery Co., Ltd. (Sophia GED), an educational company operated by Sophia School Corporation in Bangkok, Thailand, has been advancing Sekai-Tankyu-bu, an online research and investigation program for high school students that aims to create a bridge between high school and university education.

1. Program overview

A 10-month program in which university faculty members and researchers work closely with high school students to deepen their inquiry-based learning. The program focuses on creating a feeling of elation and excitement and participating high school students choose their own theme from a wide variety of global topics and then investigate and write a paper on it.

It provides students with an opportunity to connect to the wider world, discover their own interests, and to find an individual style of learning that will help them in university and beyond. It is a program developed from a longer-term perspective that creates a bridge between high school and university education by connecting high school students to university through deeper learning with a view to their future.

Program features

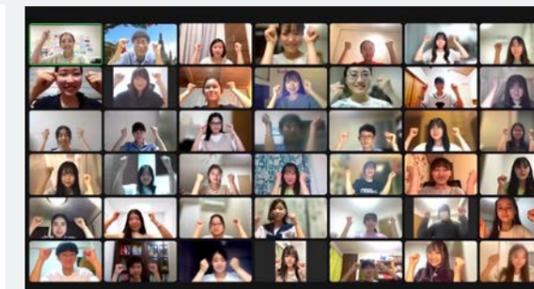
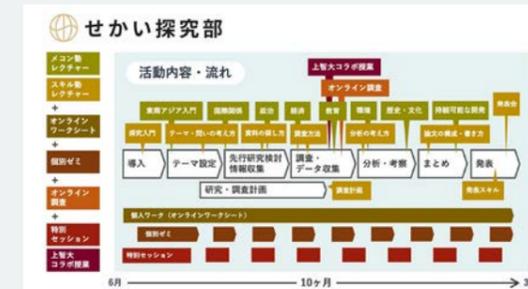
- Provides an experience of the entire research process, from setting questions to writing a paper

Over 10 months, the high school students experience the entire research process, from setting questions through to researching a topic, analyzing their findings, and writing a paper. Themes are varied and can include questions inspired by curiosity about other cultures, interest in the SDGs or social issues, or by the student’s own experiences. By thoroughly investigating a topic that they set themselves, the students broaden their knowledge and interests while also growing their ability to learn in a structured manner.

- Leverages Sophia GED’s strengths as a global center for university-based research and education

Activities aimed at supporting the research by the high school students include group lectures given by university faculty members on research methods and topics concerning international society, regular individual consultations with a university staff member or researcher, guidance on writing papers, the arrangement of surveys in Japan or overseas, and other types of implementation support. We are working with the high school students to carry out practical inquiry-based learning by providing full-scale support that leverages the resources and environments of

the university and its overseas centers and that is entirely online.



2. Future plans

Sophia GED will leverage its position as a university-backed education business company to explore and further develop high school-university bridge education through the implementation of the program. We want to continue working with high school students on initiatives based on such inquiry-based learning to deepen the future learning capabilities of high school students, as well as to enhance the university as a place of learning, by creating various horizontal and vertical connections and then deriving diversified educational opportunities from these connections.



- <https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4423/>
- <https://jp.sophia-ged.com/iblsupportprogram/>
- <https://jp.sophia-ged.com/sekaitankyubu-journal/>



Student Organization, UIF Sophia

The University Innovation Fellows (UIF) is a group of students and faculty from Sophia University who have received design thinking training from Stanford University’s Hasso Plattner Institute of Design (d.school). Its mission is to empower students to become leaders of change by



sparkling their creative confidence and building a culture of collaboration. This is achieved by fostering design thinking, innovation, and a spirit of entrepreneurship Under this mission, UIF Sophia actively engages in activities such as collaborating with organizations both within and outside the university, holding workshops, and planning events.

SDGs x Innovation Sparker is a bilingual idea proposal competition held over two days. It aims to foster creativity and collaboration among students, faculty and staff in order to work towards a sustainable campus. Furthermore, the group also collaborates with secondary and higher education facilities, including Seisen International School and Reitaku University, on youth empowerment and design thinking workshops.

- <https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4512/>
- <https://www.uifsophia.com/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uifsophia/?hl=en>

Translating UNESCO “Futures of Education”

Maruyama Hideki, Professor

Faculty of Global Studies, Department of Global Studies

【Abstract】

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) published the report, titled “Reimagining Our Futures Together: A new social contract for education” in November 2021. This is the latest UNESCO's report.



There have been two UNESCO reports that have had a global influence before this report. The first “Learning to Be,” known as the Faure Report, was published in 1972 and popularized the concept of lifelong learning, which stresses being and becoming oneself throughout one’s life rather than learning to own something. In 1996, the second report “Learning: The Treasure Within” or so-called Delors Report presented the four pillars of learning: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together, and learning to be.

Learning in the twenty-first century is about more than just obtaining knowledge and increasing skills; it is also about learning in the real world, learning to live with others, and learning to be oneself.

This “Futures of Education” report goes a step further, referring to “unlearning,” and emphasizes the importance of learning to live in harmony with nature as part of life on Earth, to cooperate and collaborate with diverse stakeholders, and to participate in society as lifelong learners toward a sustainable future. This report is distinct in that it emphasizes that we construct our own future, the year 2050, unlike the Faure and Delors reports that gave model answers. In other words, this report demonstrates that each of us plays a significant role in shaping the future.

【Future prospects】

After coordinating with UNESCO headquarters, a team of Sophia University students, alumni, volunteer teachers, and volunteer scholars are hard at work on the Japanese translation, which will be published by the University of Tokyo Press in the spring of 2024.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/futures-education>

Comparative and International Education Research for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Asia (Sophia-ESD Project)

This research focuses on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which will play an important role in addressing global issues through the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It started in 2021 as a Sophia University Special Grant for Academic Research project and its objective is to clarify the issues and theoretical significance of ESD educational practices.

The importance of ESD is recognized by the international community, including

UNESCO, and in Japan, it is being emphasized as a way of educating the actors who will realize a sustainable society in a wide range of fields, including the educational guidance field. This project aims to establish a hub for comparative and international education research with three main focuses: 1) Research into ESD educational practices using a participatory approach, 2) research into models for evaluating academic outcomes and programs, and 3) comparative research of the systems and policies supporting ESD activities in Japan and the Asian region.

Case Study 1 - Korea-Japan Teachers’ Network on GCED

Sayaka Matsukura, a graduate student project member who is also an English language teacher at Saitama Prefectural Ina Gakuen Junior High School, served as coordinator for the Korea-Japan Teachers’ Network on GCED hosted by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) which is a UNESCO Category 2 Centre.



This project started in 2021 and activities have been carried out online. In summer 2023, an in-person exchange was held in South Korea. It involved a five-day training program attended by 34 teachers from Japan and South Korea. It was an opportunity for teachers from both countries to learn from each other as they shared practices related to ESD and peace education and participated in environmental conservation activities. Going forward, collaborative lessons have been planned in which the teachers who participated in the event will play a central role, and various classes will be held in each region to strengthen ties between Japan and South Korea.

Case Study 2 - Symposium: Thinking Together About “New Schools”

This symposium was held in July 2023 with Sophia University’s Professor Masamichi Ueno and Department of Education as joint hosts. The event raised questions such as “What would schools and education be like in a sustainable society?” through the screening of a video titled Dreaming School. The movie attracted a great deal of attention from both inside and outside the university, with approximately 900 people applying to view it, both in person and via YouTube. This included students, educators, researchers, guardians, organizations that support and create spaces for children not attending school or suffering from poverty, lawmakers, mass media outlets, and people from the publishing industry.



Based on a series of activities, Sophia University was accredited as a UNESCO Chair on Education for Human Dignity, Peace and Sustainability from February 2024. Miki Sugimura, Professor of Faculty of Human Sciences who has been the Principal Investigator of Sophia-ESD Project is the UNESCO Chairholder.



<https://sciep.org/>



Student Organization, Sophia Sustainable Coffee Movement (SSCM)

The Sophia University Speech Club is an officially recognized intercollegiate club established with goal of creating a venue for debate in Japanese within the university. It holds debates and oratory practices in Japanese. It actively works to bring nationwide competitions to Sophia University and both its efforts for promoting debate and its debaters are highly regarded by a wide range of parties. Around two thirds of its active members only started debating at university, so it aims to show that no prior experience is needed to start debating.



The speech club also has an affinity with the SDG Goal 4 (Quality Education) and this is the club's overarching mission. Also, the themes for debates can be set freely, so by setting SDG-conscious themes, it can also contribute to the achievement of all the goals! For example, debating the theme of illegal fishing will ultimately contribute to achieving Goal 14 (Life Below Water), while debating food security contributes to Goal 2 (Zero Hunger). In this way, debate is an innovative form of education that can support any one of the SDGs. We asked club representative Kento Aoki about club's ambitions. "Our mission going forward is Goal 4 (Quality Education) and we will particularly focus on the part that seeks education for all. We are also planning activities such as sign language debate events and holding debate programs for school students in regional areas."

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3942/>

<https://sophiadebate.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sophiadebateclub/>

X: https://twitter.com/sophia_debate

Student Organization, KASA Sustainability

KASA Sustainability is a study group of undergraduate and graduate students at Sophia University that conducts research and activities on and off campus through field-based learning and research about nature and society, collaborate with local communities, actively participate in regional and international conferences, publish academic papers, and hold workshops.



In collaboration with the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion, they held the Sustainable Campus Forum, a forum for faculty and students to openly discuss how to co-create a sustainable campus and how to participate in campus sustainability initiatives and decision-making.

They also host environmental change workshops on topics related to climate change mitigation, agriculture and environmental change, agriculture and food, and sustainability.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/4327/>

Website: www.kasasustainability.org

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/kasasustainability/?hl=en>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kasasustainability/>

Contact: we@kasasustainability.org



GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

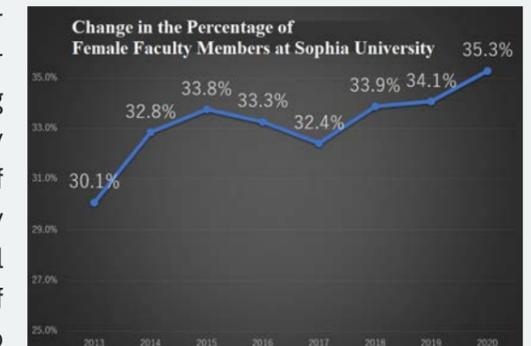
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Change in the Percentage of Female Faculty Members at Sophia University

Sophia University was selected as a recipient of FY 2009 Grant-in-Aid for Human Resource Development in Science and Technology for MEXT's Promoting Role Models to Support Female Researchers program. With this funding, Sophia implemented its Project to Support Women Researchers in a Global Society. The MEXT program promotes the development of a research environment that takes into account the life events and work-life balance of female researchers, supports returning to work following an interruption in research activities or separation from a job, and promotes improvement of research skills and career development.

One aspect of Sophia's Project to Support Women Researchers in a Global Society, the Global Mentoring System, received the Award for Excellence in the Organizational Division of the 3rd Mentoring Awards 2011. The Global Mentoring System invites internationally active researchers to the university to serve as mentors and advisors to make the most of Sophia's "internationality." Furthermore, Sophia University also became the first private university in Japan to receive an "S" rating (the highest possible rating) for MEXT's post-project evaluation, in which the Project to Support Women Researchers in a Global Society was especially praised for its success in increasing the percentage of female researchers in science and engineering fields and the percentage of female graduate students in doctoral program, achieved through open recruitment that was limited to female applicants.

Such achievements have led to a major step forward in the promotion of gender equality at Sophia University, including the Sophia University Gender Equality Declaration (2011), the establishment of the Office for Promotion of Gender Equality (2012) and certification as a general employer that meets the standards of the Act on Advancement of Measures to Support Raising Next-Generation Children (2012), resulting in the creation of a university-wide system for promoting gender equality.



Subsequently, MEXT began its Top Global University Project in FY2014. For this, Sophia set a target of having an overall female faculty percentage of about 35% as of FY2023. With continued efforts to actively recruit female faculty, the university surpassed this target in FY2020.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/3311/>



Free Sanitary Napkin Service OiTr Begins

In May 2022, Sophia University introduced a service to provide free sanitary napkins on campus. The smartphone app OiTr is used at a dispenser to get a free sanitary napkin. The university has been working with students to introduce this service, including the locations of dispensers, based on a survey conducted by the extracurricular activities group Gender Equality for Sophia. He Jiayi, a third-year student in the Department of Management in the Faculty of Economics and a member of Gender Equality for Sophia, notes that “The introduction of OiTr will not only make university life more comfortable for menstruating students, but also help increase awareness of issues such as period poverty and menstrual taboos, including awareness among students who do not menstruate.”



Period poverty, which is difficulty purchasing sanitary products, has been drawing social interest in recent years. Sophia decided to introduce OiTr on the main campus hoping to reduce the mental, physical, and financial burdens associated with menstruation and assist students to have a comfortable campus life. The introduction of OiTr is also an effort to respond to the following (out of 17 total) SDGs: no poverty, good health and well-being, and gender equality. There are plans to gradually introduce OiTr on the Mejiro Seibo Campus and the Hadano Campus.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/3457/>

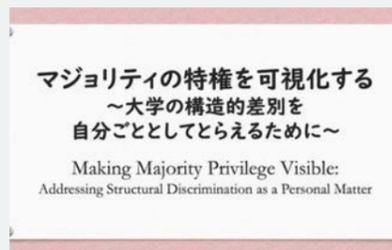
OiTr official website: <https://www.oitr.jp/>



Sophia University Diversity Survey and Analysis Project – Visualizing Majority Privilege to Remove Structural Barriers to Diversity Promotion

As a university that strives for true diversity, we need to start by removing structural inequalities. Although it is important to recognize the unconscious biases we possess as individuals, we also think that getting people to reflect on the privileges they receive as a member of a social majority can help make mechanisms of structural discrimination more visible.

In order to transform the consciousness of many faculty members at the university, particularly people in positions of authority, we have created a video presenting a lecture by Professor Makiko Deguchi of the Faculty of Foreign Studies’ Department of English Studies. The video provides a perspective on majority privilege with the aim of inspiring structural reforms.



●Target:

Faculty members who serve as decision-making officers and in other official positions. In addition to the aforementioned people, the video is also full of ideas for all members of the teaching staff who feel an organizational change in awareness is needed amid growing diversity.

●Video outline (approx. 18 min.)

- Enabling diverse human resources to demonstrate their capabilities
- What is majority privilege? • Being a majority and being a minority
- Three types of discrimination • Mechanisms of privilege
- Intersectionality • Noticing privilege • Ally behaviors

●Example applications for the video

This video demonstrates the importance of taking an organizational approach to visualizing mechanisms of structural discrimination, so please consider using for the following applications.

- Educating personnel tasked with promoting diversity (training for officers and project organizers, etc.)
- Verifying diversity promotion efforts (reviewing processes for making decisions on hiring, salaries and benefits, positions, entrustment of a specialization or job appointment, etc.)
- Formulating diversity promotion measures (deciding on a new policy direction)

<https://dept.sophia.ac.jp/pj/diversity-pj/report/>「マジョリティの特権を可視化する」ダイバー/

Youtube:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cw4hhY9OmQg>

Sophia Diversity Week 2023 (November 25 to December 10, 2023)

The Office for the Promotion of Diversity, Sophia School Corporation, has positioned the period from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day) each year as Sophia Diversity Week, during which it collaborates with staff and students to hold events aimed at realizing a harmonious society that embraces diversity.

The poster for Sophia Diversity Week 2023 lists several events:

- 11月25日(土) 12月10日(日)**: 上智学院ダイバーシティ推進委員会主催の「ダイバーシティへの入口」学生・教職員が参加して共生社会の実現に向けて共に考えるイベントを開催します。
- 12月7日(木) 17:20-19:00**: 6号館1F 101 来学学生・教職員に限る/英語同時通訳あり。西村宏堂さん、富永愛さんと語るダイバーシティ (企画:ダイバーシティ推進部)
- 11月27日(月) 15:30-17:00**: 6号館9F 921 Periodと一緒に考えよう。これからの社会のために「生理の負担」〜同僚と力を共に生かそう〜 (企画:学生実行委員会)
- 11月27日(月) 17:20-19:00**: 6号館4F 404 「じゃあ私も」について考える〜同僚と力を共に生かそう〜 (企画:学生実行委員会)
- 11月29日(水) 11:00-13:00**: 8号館 ダイバーシティ・ダイアログ〜個別に立ち向かう〜 (企画:学生実行委員会)
- 11月30日(木) 17:00-19:00**: 6号館4F 404 私のレンズとあなたのレンズ〜「他者目線」は誰かの「自分目線」〜 (企画:学生実行委員会)
- 12月7日(木)**: やまゆり園事件が問いかける異性社会のあり方。2号館1F 国際学生センター。データでみる上智大学。そのとき、あなたは、何を考えた? (企画:学生実行委員会)
- 12月10日(日)**: サイエンス、いいね! (企画:学生実行委員会)

Seven events were held in 2023, including a special event co-planned by the Office for the Promotion of Diversity and Students for Diversity and four events planned by Students for Diversity.

<https://danjokyodo-sophia.jp/keihatsu/week.html>



Research Clarifying the Actual Situation in Regard to Victims of Sexual Violence, Irrespective of Gender or Sexuality

Azusa Saito, Associate Professor

Faculty of Human Sciences, Department of Psychology

【Abstract】

Sexual violence has a huge impact on a victim’s physical and mental health, as well as on their life afterwards. The aim of this research is to clarify what sexual violence is and identify what structures are the background to sexual violence from a victim’s perspective. One method to achieve this is to listen to and qualitatively analyze the testimony of victims. Another is to use a survey to quantitatively analyze how much this violence occurs, the processes that initiate it, and what kind of psychological effects it has on victims. To date, most studies investigating sexual violence have focused on women. However, sexual violence can occur regardless of the gender or sexuality of its victim.

Past research has shown that the number of people belonging to sexual minorities who have experienced sexual violence is particularly high. Therefore, this research enlists the assistance of people of various genders and sexual orientations to investigate the factors behind sexual violence, such as the effects of gender norms.

【Future prospects】

By clarifying the processes that initiate sexual violence, the mechanisms behind these, and gender norms, this research hopes to assist in finding a way to realize a society free from sexual violence. The findings of the research will be shared via books and academic articles for uses such as deepening the understanding of society and people involved in the judicial system and making governmental recommendations. In this way it will contribute to making the whole of society safer.

Sophia University joined the 30% Club Japan University Working Group

In June 2021, the University joined the 30% Club Japan University Working Group. Founded in the United Kingdom in 2010, the 30% Club is a global campaign aimed at achieving sustainable corporate growth by increasing the percentage of women in key decision-making bodies in companies. The Japan arm of the organization began its official activities from 2019. The goal of 30% Club Japan is to increase the percentage of female executives in the TOPIX 100 to 30% by 2030.



The 30% Club Japan’s University Working Group undertakes activities that promote gender diversity among universities in order to contribute to achieving gender diversity in a wide range of areas, including education, research, and social contribution.

Many of Sophia’s female graduates are active on the international stage, both in Japan and abroad, and embody the realization of a gender-equal society. As

global citizens transcending nationality and gender, they are putting into practice Sophia’s educational spirit of “for Others, with Others.”

So far, Sophia has established a system to promote diversity and has actively strived to support those with disabilities, foreign nationals, and various other minority groups in order to create a campus environment that fosters true global citizens who have acquired a mutual understanding of diversity. As part of the 30% Club Japan University Working Group, we will collaborate with other universities in the group to further advance Sophia University’s initiatives and contribute to society for the promotion of diversity.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/3315/>

Office for the Promotion of Diversity, Sophia School Corporation

Office for the Promotion of Diversity works on the following 4 issues for our students and faculty and staff members to contribute to the global community: Promoting Gender Equality / Work Life Balance / Minority support / Diversity Mind.



Sophia University declared “Sophia Gender Equality Statement” in January 2011 and has been promoting the importance of Gender Equality and engaging in a wide range of initiatives and actions to transform the mindset of University members. Office for the Gender Equality was established in January 2012 and on April 1, 2017 Sophia reorganized it to the Office for the Promotion of Diversity.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/660/>



GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Building a Model for the Sustainable Use of Water and Land Resources in Oasis Communities in the Western Desert of Egypt, Centered on Community Understanding and Participation

Erina Iwasaki, Professor

Faculty of Foreign Studies, Department of French Studies

【Abstract】

In the Western Desert of Egypt, the advancement of science and technology has made it easier to access subterranean water and the expansion of agricultural land reclaimed from desert has increased irrigation water volumes. As a result, salt accumulation in the downstream parts of oasis water catchment areas is accelerating, and the expansion of drainage lakes and the prevention of further salinization have become urgent issues.

Therefore, this research aims to facilitate the sustainable management of this oasis region into the future by combining scientific evidence with indigenous knowledge and then applying this to the creation of new oasis knowledge that is linked to the sustainable use of water and land. This new knowledge will then be used as a foundation for the formulation and proposal of comprehensive measures for preventing salt accumulation in oases.



The characteristic feature of this research is that it is joint research that integrates both science and the humanities with a focus on community participation, conducted by both researchers and local residents. Specifically, we are building a community participation-based digital platform for 1) building a technological framework for curbing the spread of areas affected by salt accumulation by identifying the dynamics of water and salt over a wide area, 2) implementing empirical studies of technologies for water-saving irrigation at a farm-by-farm level and for cultivating salt-tolerant crops, 3) implementing practical studies of the multi-dimensional values and social mechanisms of water and land use, and 4) sharing and visualizing information related to water and land environments.

【Future prospects】

This research covers the Western Desert of Egypt but the need to curb salt accumulation is an issue shared by arid regions so the results and knowledge obtained can be applied to other oasis communities. By building a comprehensive framework for sustainable water and land use through an entirely closed-system oasis that curbs the spread of salt accumulation, we are aiming to contribute to the future sustainable use of water in arid regions.

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/article/news/release/press20230601_satreps/

https://www.jst.go.jp/global/kadai/r0501_egypt.html



Satoyama Conservation Activities Using Local Traditional Knowledge in the Yato Water Environment

Miki Sugiura, Professor

Center for Global Education and Discovery

【Abstract】

In and around Yato (narrow valleys at the head of local rivers) on the Tama Hills, a valuable natural environment is preserved within the Tokyo metropolitan area. This environment is called “Satoyama”, and has gained attention in recent years as a socioecological system sustained through human activities including agriculture. In particular, paddy field management based on local traditional knowledge is highly valued worldwide for its contribution to sustaining rich biodiversity and mitigating the impact of climate change. Now, “Satoyama”, originating from Japan, has become well-known as a unique concept that indicates a sustainable relationship between environment and human beings.



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/4329/>

MIRAI 2.0: International Collaborative Research Project

MIRAI 2.0 is an international collaborative project in the field of research between 9 Japanese universities and 11 Swedish universities. The main objective of the project is to establish a long-term research collaboration between Japan and Sweden as key countries driving large-scale research conducted worldwide.

The five research areas are Artificial Intelligence, Ageing, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Advisory Group, Materials Science, and Sustainability. The Thematic Expert Group creates cutting-edge knowledge through international collaborative research activities (joint research, research presentations, workshops, seminars, etc.) in these five areas.

The MIRAI 2.0 Research & Development Center, which will be held in Japan in the fall of 2022, is a center of excellence in the field of materials science and sustainability, and is a leader of various MIRAI 2.0 international collaborative research activities as the Japanese Co-Chair of the Thematic Expert Group in each field.



MIRAI 2.0 Research & Innovation Week 2022 (held in person at Kyushu University), which was held on the Japanese side in the fall of 2022, our faculty members presented their research in Parallel Scientific Sessions organized by their Thematic Expert Groups and in Poster Sessions. The faculty members presented their research at Parallel Scientific Sessions organized by their Thematic Expert Groups and at Poster Sessions held as plenary sessions.

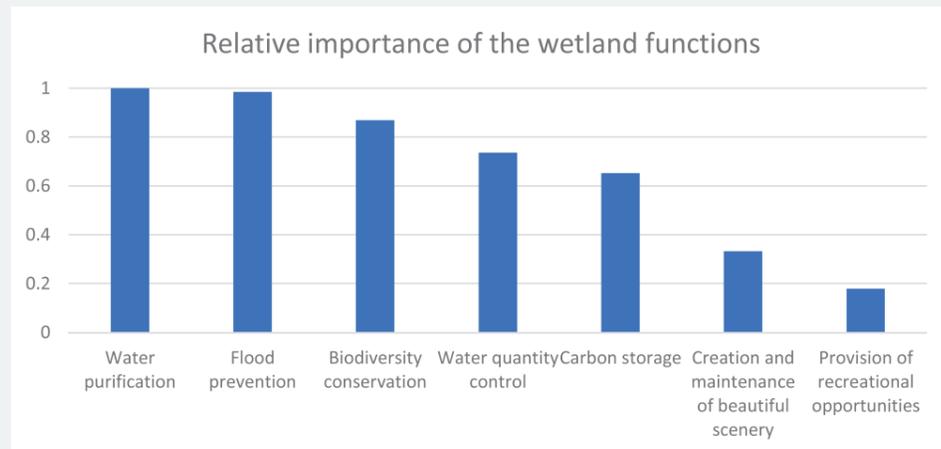
Understanding Public Perceptions of the Functions of Wetlands

Takahiro Tsuge, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

Wetlands provide various benefits to human society through their diverse functions. What are the public perceptions of these functions or ecosystem services of wetlands?

To understand the public perceptions of the importance of the functions of wetlands, an online survey was conducted in February 2020 among men and women aged 20 to 69 nationwide registered with a research firm, and responses were received from 1,674 individuals.

The following figure illustrates the results of the best-worst scaling of the importance of wetland functions. The vertical axis represents the relative importance of the function, with 1 being the most important, and the higher the graph, the more important it is rated. The results of the analysis indicated that the following functions were rated higher in order of importance: “water purification”, “flood prevention”, “biodiversity conservation”, “water quantity control”, “carbon storage”, “creation and maintenance of beautiful scenery”, and “provision of recreational opportunities”. These results show that citizens highly value functions that improve safety and the environment.



Acknowledgments: Photographs provided by Sarobetsu Eco Network, a certified non-profit organization, were used in the survey.



Sado Case

Guangwei Huang, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

Sado Island is rich in fauna and flora, landscape and culture as well, providing an ideal research field for studying the interactions between nature and humans. In 2022, Sophia University signed a comprehensive partnership agreement with Sado City for collaboration toward the Sado's sustainability. Since then, the Institute for Studies of the Global Environment of Sophia University has been conducting various investigations on Sado Island for better understanding its nature and the society. A particular focus is the water environment in Lake Kamo.

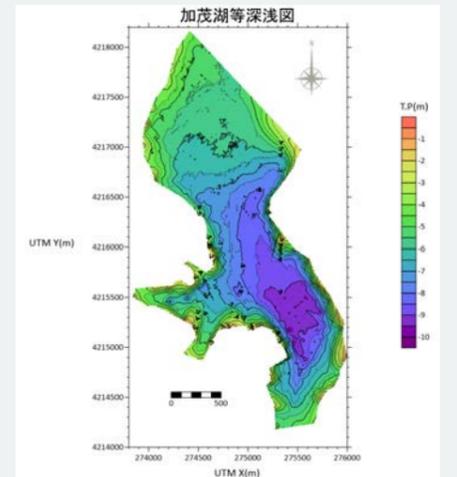


Fig. 1: Depth distribution of Lake Kamo

Lake Kamo, with approximately 17km of circumferences, is the largest lake in Niigata Prefecture and famous for oyster farming in Japan. In the fall of 2009, this lake experienced its first bloom of the dinoflagellate *Heterocapsa circularisquama*. However, water quality studies on Lake Kamo are still limited.

As a first step toward a comprehensive and integrative study of the lake, we conducted a lake morphology survey using ADCP. Figure 1 shows the survey result. Because the last survey was done in 1966, our survey provided new and valuable information regarding the physical attributes of the lake.

Furthermore, water quality survey was conducted in different seasons. Figure 2 shows the change of TOC (Total Organic Carbon) in the lake from the South to North and the distribution of dissolve oxygen saturation along the lake shore. Additionally, surveys of phytoplankton and zooplankton communities, and microplastic in Lake Kamo were also carried out in 2023. These outcomes helped us develop further in-depth research plan, which will be implemented in 2024.



(a) TOC (ppm) in June (b) DO saturation (%) in December

Fig. 2: Some results of the water quality survey in Lake Kamo



GOAL 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

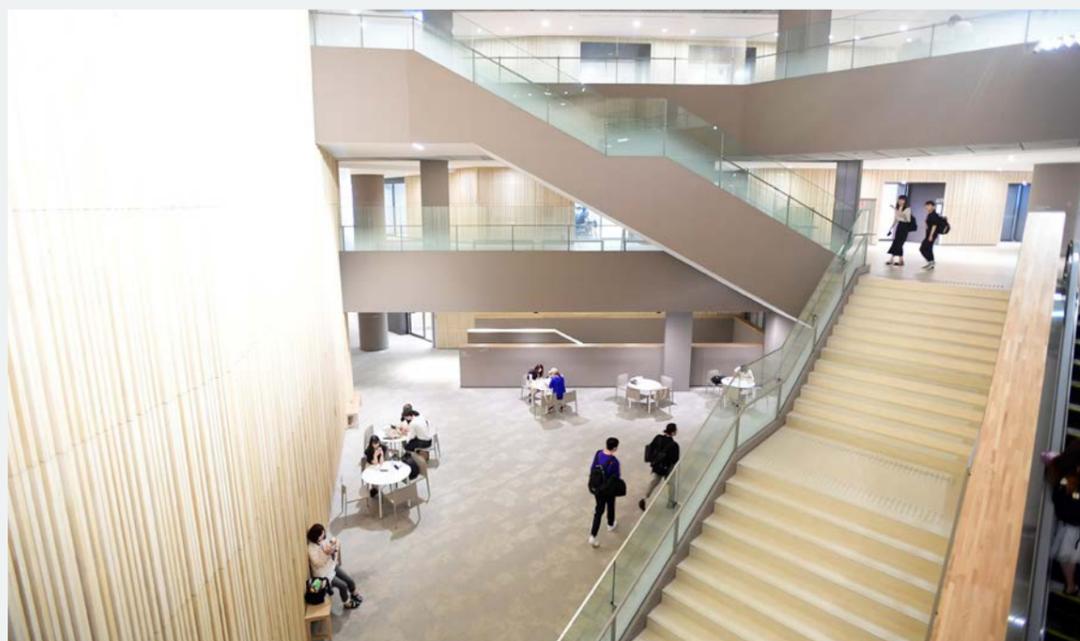


[Summer 2023] Energy Saving Poster Student Initiative Sophia University Office of Environment and Facility Management & Student Organization, +Re:

Sophia University Office of Environment and Facility Management and the student group +Re: collaborated to create electricity-saving awareness posters, which were displayed in various classrooms on the Yotsuya Campus. For this poster, we created a number of pop-ups that speak to the students, as if Sophian-kun, who is also popular among students, were speaking to them. We used nudge and behavioral economics, which are often used in marketing and other fields and are a cross between psychology and economics, to create posters that focus on how to move people subconsciously, rather than just telling them to conserve electricity. Compared to the previous year, the electricity consumption at Yotsuya Campus this May was reduced by - 2.4%, and the lights in empty classrooms seem to be turned off more than before, but it appears that the wasteful use of electricity in large classrooms has not yet improved much. We would like to focus on improving this problem this time, and specifically aim for a 4% reduction this year. I feel that awareness of electricity-saving posters is increasing considerably. On the other hand, we see awareness as being one thing, but actually getting people to take action is another. We will continue to make efforts to change behavior.



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4264/>



Participation in the Renewable Energy University League of Japan

The Renewable Energy University League of Japan was established on June 7, 2021, with the aim of encouraging the use of renewable energy by universities and developing human resources to advance these efforts. All participating universities aim to use renewable energy for 100% of their energy needs and each university is required to set a target and take action so that 100% of the electricity it consumes is generated or procured from renewable sources by a deadline set by the university itself, preferably between 2030 to 2040. As of the end of November 2022, 11 universities had become campus members.



Campus members:

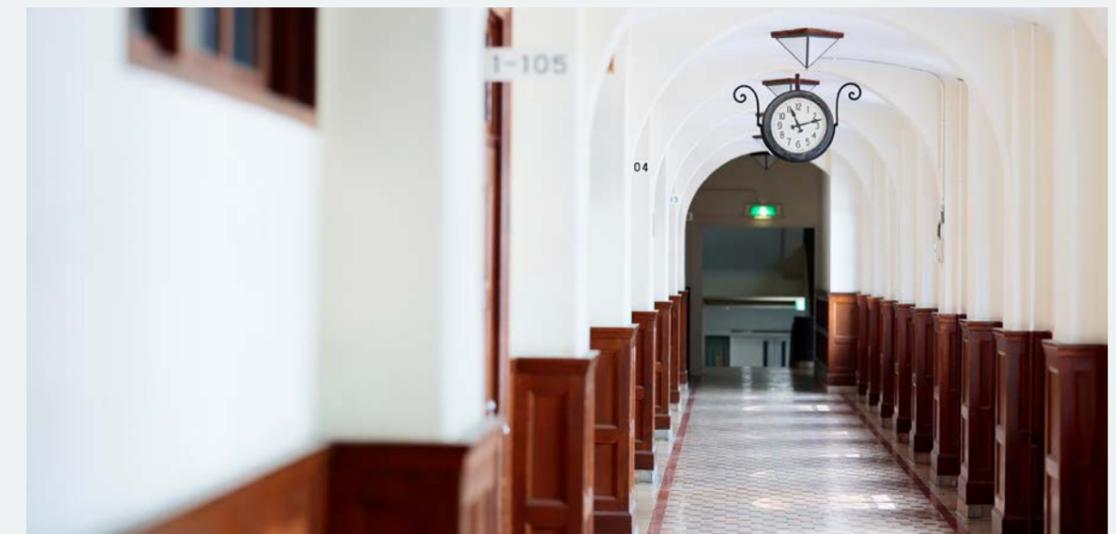
Chiba University of Commerce, Hiroshima University, The University of Nagano, Ritsumeikan University, Ashikaga University, Nagoya University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Sophia University, Chiba University, Wayo Women's University, Keio University (Shonan Fujisawa Campus)

A seminar was held to commemorate the first anniversary of the league's founding on June 16, 2022. Sophia University President Yoshiaki Terumichi, the facilitator of the event, took to the stage and gave a report on the introduction of renewable energy to the university's Yotsuya Campus.

Going forward, the league will work to recruit universities that support its mission, as well as corporate supporters. It also has membership systems for individuals and students, so that individuals with an interest in renewable energy and decarbonized society can also participate in activities.

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/news/PR/press0528renewable-energy.html>

<https://www.re-u-league.org/>





Research on reduction of friction loss in reciprocating sliding contact

Yilmaz Emir, Assistant Professor

Faculty of Science and technology, Department of Engineering and Applied Sciences

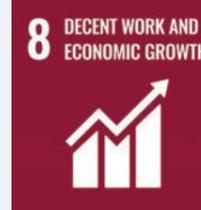
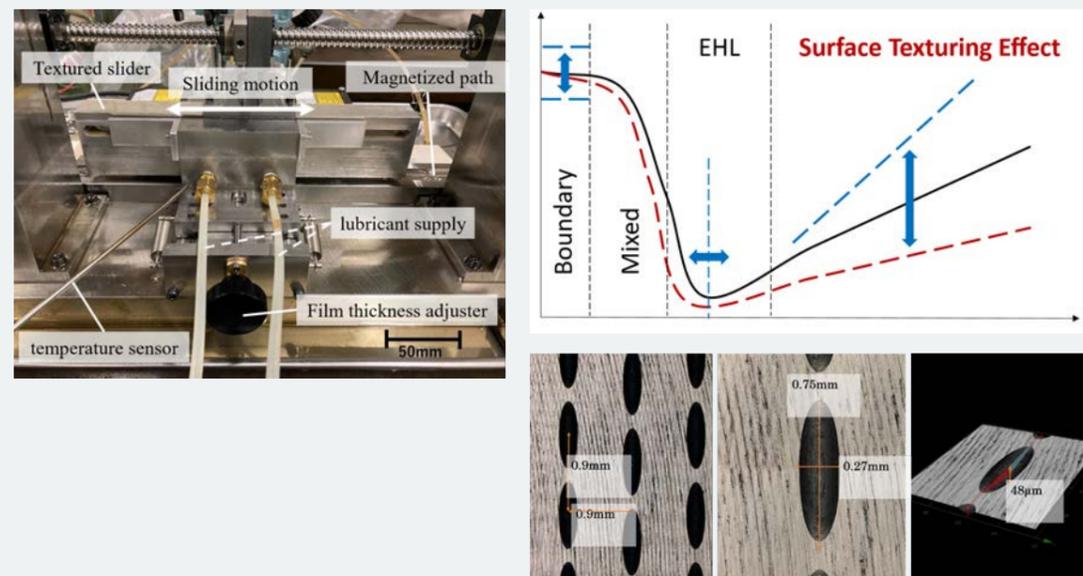
【Abstract】

Energy efficiency is included in SDG 7.3, where it targets global progress on energy efficiency by doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. There are many machine elements with a reciprocating motion. Most of the time, these elements are in contact with each other. These contacts create heat due to friction, which is called heat loss. By lowering the heat dissipation from contact surfaces, reciprocating motion can be achieved more efficiently. In our laboratory we are working on various surface micro-textures that help to reduce these frictional losses. We have built a novel experimental apparatus to measure frictional forces between two parallel surfaces under hydrodynamic lubrication regime.

【Future Prospects】

By creating a general guideline for surface micro-texture parameters (dimensions, orientation, areal density, etc.), we are aiming to lower the energy consumption by lowering frictional losses in reciprocating surfaces. As the internal combustion engine (ICE) technology continues to prosper via carbon-free/neutral fuels (hydrogen, ammonia, e-fuels etc.), rigorous research in power transmission is still vital for further improvement. Frictional losses account for about 10% of the total mechanical losses in conventional ICEs, whereas the piston-liner interface accounts of 50% of these losses. A proper guideline for surface micro-textures would increase the overall efficiency, enabling lowered fuel consumption and increased mileage.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4488/>



GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Workstyle Reform Project (April 2022 to Present) – Cross-Departmental Projects to Promote Workstyle Reform and Install Multifunction Office Devices University-Wide

In April 2020, Sophia University established the Workstyle Reform Project, a university-wide cross-departmental project led by young and mid-level employees, which began planning activities with a focus on the future.

Following a proposal from the project team, in December 2020, Sophia School Corporation formulated a Declaration of Commitment to Employee Workstyle Reforms as a boost to the advancement of future initiatives. Also, to turn this declaration into concrete action, it formulated 14 initiatives for advancing workstyle reforms within the university.

Examples of the main initiatives

- 1) Introduce online approval methods
- 2) Project will visit all departments and share the status of activities through a collection of good practices
- 3) Carry out networking events and awareness raising activities (online and face to face) to deepen communication between faculty members, and events to foster dialogue between officers and faculty members. Consider and research working environments that make communication more dynamic.
- 4) Disseminate information through regular newsletters and briefings, etc.
- 5) Analyze and reform operations and consider specific measures for increasing operational efficiency

Going forward, staff will work together to launch daily improvement activities and to embody the university's founding spirit with the aim of promoting education and research activities that seek to benefit students and society, realize diverse workstyles for employees, and raise morale and job satisfaction.

Multifunction Office Device Project (August 2022 to September 2023)

The Multifunction Office Device Project was a cross-departmental project that aimed to realize paperless work environments and make equipment management operations more efficient by combining and optimizing the functions of output equipment. It started by trialing the latest multifunction office devices that combine the functions of various devices that had been installed on a standalone basis, such as printers, photocopiers, fax machines, and scanners. In academic year 2022, these were installed in areas used by administrative employees and in academic year 2023, the university-wide installation of multifunction office devices was completed through installation in areas used by faculty and students.



Courtesy of Fujifilm Business Innovation Japan Corporation

GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

The main advantages envisioned by the project are as follows.

- 1) Reduced environmental footprint (energy-saving operation, reduced carbon dioxide emissions, etc.: electricity consumption halved, reduction in plastic waste due to the elimination of 20,000 prepaid cards issued annually)
- 2) Further encouragement of paperless operations as output levels can be monitored collectively, raised awareness of paperless working (paper use will be reduced as a result of approximately 10% of photocopying use switching to scanning, and about a third of fax use being converted to paperless methods)
- 3) More effective use of space and creation of an environment where work is not restricted by location
- 4) Reduction in management and procurement costs through the unification of management methods
- 5) Simplified operations and reduced costs as various users and usage applications are operated through a single system

These activities were carried out with support from Sophia Campus Support Co., Ltd. and FUJIFILM Business Innovation Japan Corp. We will continue to advance activities that are not restricted by previous practices and that incorporate workstyle reform and SDG perspectives.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/2954/>



A platform for structural analysis and design for RNA-targeted drug discovery

Jiro Kondo, Professor

Faculty of Science and Technology, Department of Materials and Life Sciences

[Abstract]

Pharmaceuticals have been designed to target proteins that are the cause of diseases so far. However, recently, various types of ribonucleic acids (RNAs), including messenger RNAs, which serve as blueprints for proteins, and non-coding RNAs, which regulate the amount of protein synthesis, have attracted attention as new targets for drug discovery.

We have established the Sophia RNA-targeted Drug Design Unit within the Faculty of Science and Technology as a research hub for RNA-targeted drug discovery in Japan that supports pharmaceutical R&D by Japanese pharma companies and academics using our unique structural analysis and design technologies.

[Future prospects]

The Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) operates the Basis for Supporting Innovative Drug Discovery and Life Science Research platform (BINDS), which comprises 30 Japanese universities and research institutions, and our research unit is positioned as its research hub for RNA-targeted drug discovery. We work closely with the other institutes that make up the BINDS platform to ensure seamless drug discovery in normal times and rapid drug discovery in emergencies, such as pandemics.

Student Organization, Hult Prize Sophia

In 2022, Hult Prize Sophia University held “The Hult Prize OnCampus program” business contest. The Hult Prize Foundation Competition is a global competition where university students develop their own social venture that tackles a different social theme each year.



The Hult Prize 2023 challenge ‘Redesigning Fashion’ aims to combat sustainability issues in the fashion industry. The Hult Prize competition is unique in the way for those who have little knowledge of the fashion industry and/or business to explore ideas and challenge themselves. On the final pitch day at Sophia University Hult Prize OnCampus round, thirteen groups presented their unique social venture.

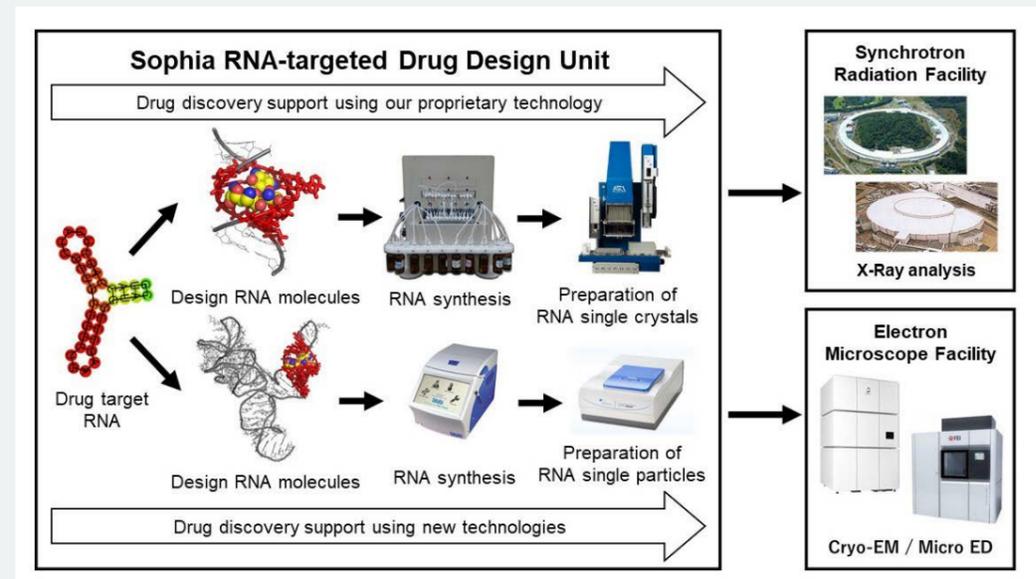


The first place was awarded to team ‘Looply’, proposing the business idea that tackles fashion waste by up-cycling disposed clothing into textile paper shopping bags. Being selected by Hult Prize Foundation as 1 of 500 startups globally to proceed into the regional competition, in June 2023, Looply pitched their social enterprise to the Asia-Pacific round at Ming Chuan University in Taipei, Taiwan.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4450/>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/hultprizesophiauni/?hl=en>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063637434599>



GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries



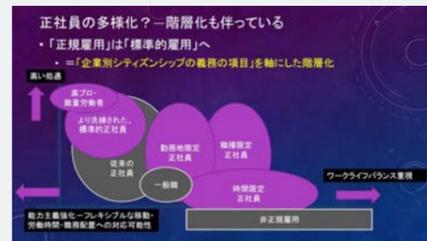
Research on Employment Relations and Social Inequality

Jun Imai, Professor

Faculty of Human Sciences, Department of Sociology

【Abstract】

The aim of this research is to use the concept of “industrial citizenship” to explain structural inequality in Japanese society and the mechanisms that reproduce this inequality. It is impossible to explain structural inequality in Japan just using the common Western concept of “class,” as employment patterns, the size of companies, and gender are important variables in regard to status. This research asserts that a form of industrial citizenship that is unique to Japanese society is behind the formation and reproduction of this distinct type of inequality. The original concept presented by T. H. Marshall (1950) shows employment relations unique to modern society formed through interaction between workers, employers, and the state and it ultimately focuses on the building of social relationships comprising norms of rights and obligations established between workers and employers within specific employment patterns, or in other words, their social positions. In Japanese society, a more suitable name would be “company citizenship” as the positioning of regular salaried employment by individual companies is established based on the rights of seniority wage and corporate welfare and the obligation to fulfill the various demands of the company in terms of flexibility (flexibility in regard to overtime, job rotation, and relocation).



This research asserts that despite the reforms to the labor market over the last few decades, the recognized frameworks and behaviors of workers, employers, and the state have been trapped by this citizenship as the norm. Accordingly, there has been an increase in non-regular categories of employment, the concept of equal pay for equal work now exists in name only, and the formation of limited regular employment systems with the aim of equality and diversity ironically created, a hierarchy within regular employees.

Put simply, industrial citizenship is the recognition and sense of equality and fairness that we expect within an industrial society centered on employment. In Japanese society, this sense has developed as the thought that to be a decent worker who contributes to the company, or in other words, to be a worker who deserves the rights of seniority wage, lifetime employment, and corporate welfare, means not only fulfilling demands in terms of job allocation and rotation, but also demands for overtime work and job relocation that involves regional transfer. A person who accepts these rights and obligations as norms is suitable for a regular employee position and a career as a regular employee means long-term competition with

coworkers who share this same sense of position. This sense of citizenship justifies seeing people who do not share these norms as being lower in status and therefore not deserving of the same rights. The current legislation that is believed to correct the disparity between regular and non-regular employment in our society was made without critically grasping this sense. Ironically, it has ended up justifying this inequality and exclusionism. For example, if a non-regular employee receives lower pay for almost the same work as a regular employee, the explanation will be that “They do not have a responsibility to the organization,” (i.e. they do not share the constant possibility of overtime or relocation faced by a regular employee) and current legislation confirms this. It has just enshrined the existing disparity between what is considered regular and non-regular into law, based on extant concepts of equality and fairness, and justified it, showing that there has been virtually no progress made on correcting the disparity and exclusionism.

【Future prospects】

This research has led to the publication of a book: Employment Relations and Social Inequalities: Social Structural Changes Shaped by the Development of Industrial Citizenship (Yuhikaku Publishing). In this book, I point out that going forward, the willingness to accept transfers in line with a company’s demands will become the standard used to sort employees into a hierarchy. Under this logic, many companies’ current efforts to diversify their regular employee will actually end up stratifying this workforce. Going forward, research will focus on where movement to stop this trend will originate.



Student Organization, Bridge ~a small step for others by gen Z~

Bridge was established in response to a 2021 coup d'etat in Myanmar. The establishment took place one year after the coup, when awareness in Japan had faded, so people around the university have been kept aware of what is happening in Myanmar. Specifically, it carries out four main activities: Japanese classes, street fund raising, signature petitions, and volunteer activities. There are a lot of



people in Myanmar who want to study Japanese, but they are currently unable to because Japanese language schools are forbidden. Bridge provides these people with educational opportunities through online Japanese language classes. It also collaborates with people from Myanmar living in Japan on fund raising activities and cooperates on campaigns for collecting signatures for petitions with companies connected to the Japanese government and people from Myanmar as joint signatories. It also carries out volunteer activities with a Myanmar restaurant that donates a portion of its profits to Myanmar. In the future, it plans to have a booth at the Sophia Festival and hold public seminars with other organizations.

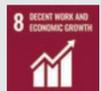
<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3416/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/bridge_sophia/

X: https://twitter.com/bridge_genz

GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Seminar in Sustainable Societies

CAROLA HOMMERICH, Professor
Faculty of Human Sciences, Department of Sociology

In this class, we think about sustainable development from a sociological point of view. Placing a spotlight on the relationship between modern society and individual well-being, we read a broad range of literature that provides us with a solid foundation for discussions on whether our current lifestyle and societal system are sustainable and where problem areas lie.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/3903/>

Student Organization, Looply

In November last year, four students launched a project titled “Looply” with the mission to combat waste in the fashion industry. Under the name Looply,-derived from the idea to recycle textiles that have once been worn instead of throwing them away-Ewan, Jessica, Lyna, and Poonya set off on their journey as one of the dozens of teams participating in the Hult Prize. The Hult Prize is a global business competition that challenges university students around the world to solve the planet’s most pressing issues through social entrepreneurship and by doing so, help achieve the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



A month later, the four bright students competed in the university qualifier round hosted at Sophia University. After receiving critical acclaim from five judges including Mymizu Co-founder Robin Lewis, Rise Japan Co-founder Tomohiro Loeer, Japan’s Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) representative Fiona Matsumoto, Ecovadis Japan representative Akiko Nemoto and AWL representative Mina Tsuchida, the four students began on the next chapter of their story: competing in the Asia-Pacific Regional Competition hosted at Ming Chuan University in Taipei, Taiwan. So what was their idea which led them here?

Turning clothing waste into textile paper bags. Looply’s new idea addresses the increasingly relevant issue of textile waste accumulating in landfills by upcycling this waste into a material used to make paper bags. By using a sustainable alternative to the common packaging material, Looply’s paper bags will decrease the number of trees being cut down worldwide, reducing CO₂ levels. Coming from three different continents and four different countries, Looply also tackles the energy problem: by recycling clothing waste into a new material, Looply’s bags will effectively extend the product life of textiles produced, making the highly wasteful fast fashion industry more energy efficient.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/3913/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/looply/>

GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



KAITORI OKOKU - Turning Unwanted Items into Sophia’s Fund Contributions

Sophia School Corporation has concluded a business partnership with KAITORI OKOKU Co., Ltd. in academic year 2022 to build a framework in which the donation of items is turned into contributions to the SOPHIA Fund for the Future. This was established through KAITORI OKOKU’s Monodone project. Monodone is a project where a user has their unwanted items, such as clothes, sundry goods, gift vouchers, and other miscellaneous goods, collected by the company and then donates the sum of the appraisal to an organization of their choice. As the global environment approaches a crisis situation due to mass production and mass consumption, it is essential that companies and other organizations advance initiatives that will realize a circular economy. However, in actual fact, approximately 70% of people have never used a reused item, so KAITORI OKOKU is working to raise social awareness of item donation culture.



It is collaborating with charitable organizations, including universities, the Red Cross Society, and the Ashinaga Foundation, in order to further spread the idea of donating unwanted items before the global environment reaches a point that it becomes unlivable for our children and grandchildren. It is hoped that this movement will engage regular business companies and lead toward a circular society through initiatives such as finding ways to avoid the production of unneeded items and developing new business models that reuse items.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3855/>

<https://www.okoku.jp/>

お申し込み前に必ずご確認ください

- モノによる寄付が可能なお品物
https://monodone.com/donation_items/
- よくある質問
<https://www.monodone.com/faq/>

※ご利用いただくには、事前にWEBサイト上での会員登録が必要となります。

査定額が SOPHIA 未来募金への寄付につながります。
「使途：グローバルキャンパスの創成とサステナビリティ推進に関わる支援」
申込方法など、詳細は SOPHIA 未来募金 WEB サイト・QR コード先をご参照ください。

買取王国
協力：株式会社買取王国

Ringrow Co., Ltd. - Turning Unneeded PCs and Smartphones into Sophia's Fund Contributions

In academic year 2022, Sophia School Corporation concluded a business partnership with Ringrow Co., Ltd. and launched a new initiative in which unneeded IT devices, such as PCs and smartphones, donated to the company are then returned as contributions to the SOPHIA Fund for the Future in the form of "Reuse Funds". When an individual donates a device, its data is completely erased and then its parts are removed for reuse in new devices, so this donation system is not only beneficial for the environment but also ensures there are no concerns about data leaks.

The donated PCs and other devices are first transported to Shugakko, which are schools opened by the company using closed former schools in regional areas. Next, the condition of the device is checked and all data is carefully erased. Any devices that are still functioning enough to be useable are appraised and then sold as second-hand items. The amount to be donated is determined at the same time as the appraisal price. Furthermore, devices that are no longer functional are dismantled and any useable parts are offered for sale or sold to metal recycling companies as recyclable metals to ensure as little waste as possible.



Ringrow also handles HaguKuma ("Hug Bear"), in which the PCs it sells second-hand are shipped inside a large stuffed bear instead of a regular packing box, based on the concept of "an innovative PC box that will not get thrown away". Conventionally, PCs are shipped in specially designed stylish solid boxes, but in most cases, these boxes are thrown almost immediately after purchase. As a company that focuses strongly on reuse, Ringrow decided to address this issue by coming up with a PC case that can be reused and that generates zero waste.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3847/>
 Official Website: <https://www.ringrow.co.jp/>

Student Organization, Sophia University Sailing Team

The Sophia University Sailing Team was established in 1963. Based in Enoshima Yacht Harbor, it also holds activities along the Morito Coast in Hayama, where tournaments are held. It participates in tournaments for two-person International 470 Class yachts.



The person responsible for the accounts of the sailing team's Old Boys' Association is participating in activities as an old girl and upcycling boat sails into purses and bags. Sails that stretch or break during races or practices on the sea are no longer fit for use on sailboats. They are made of a polyester-fiber fabric called Dacron which, despite not being completely waterproof, dries very quickly and is also very light, making it an excellent material for bags.



The boats and sails used in team activities are purchased using team funds, donations from former members, and support from the university, so this kind of upcycling activities keeps members conscious of the importance of looking after equipment.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4091/>
 Website: <https://sophia-sailing.jimdosite.com/>
 Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/sophia_yachtclub/
 X: <https://twitter.com/sophiayacht>

Creation of a Map Showing iKasa Umbrella-Sharing Service Locations

In the Yotsuya Campus, we have installed umbrella stands for the iKasa umbrella sharing service operated by Nature Innovation Group Inc. It is said that at present, 80 million vinyl umbrellas are thrown away in Japan each year, so the iKasa service contributes to reducing this waste. iKasa stands have been installed at the stations of JR and other private rail operators around the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, and users who have downloaded the service's apps can borrow an umbrella from any stand and then return it to a stand of their choice.



Four stands have been installed within the Yotsuya Campus and a map has been made showing where these are, as well as other rental locations.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/1336/>
<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4114/>



GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

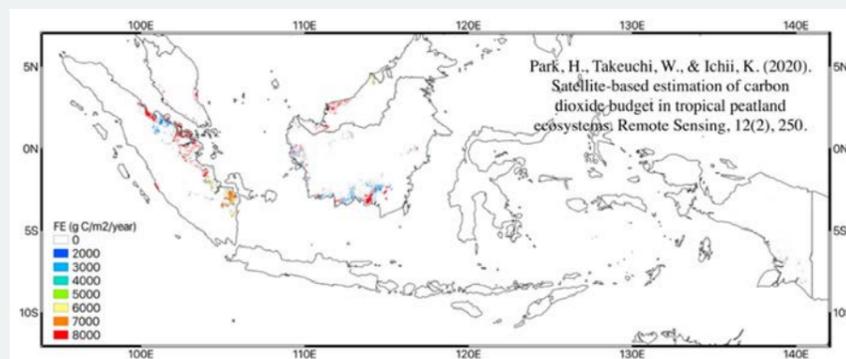


Estimation of carbon emission from biomass burning by using satellite remote sensing

Haemi Park, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

[Abstract]

Forest fires are globally increased involving destruction of biomes and air pollutions. Fires, as a major cause of habitat disturbance, need to be grasped and managed appropriately for achieving sustainable society. Satellite-based remote sensing technique is a useful tool for figuring out about fire phenomena by using various sensors that capture infra-red wavelengths. Furthermore, satellite imagery provides land surface conditions in wide area simultaneously. Temporal data accumulation of satellite observation is also essential to analyze long term environmental changes regarding climate change. Fire information from satellite-based remote sensing records the location of fire event, the time, and the fire severity, as well. If we compare before and after of land cover change due to fires, loss of biomass and emitted greenhouse gases (e.g., CO₂, CH₄, CO, etc.) can be assessed quantitatively.



[Future prospect]

Forest fire is one of the representative human activities, and a typical disturbance on terrestrial ecosystem. This study can provide land cover change information as evidence of human activity to government or policy makers, for examples, agricultural land conversion, urbanization, illegal logging and so on.

Satellite-Based Estimation of Carbon Dioxide Budget in Tropical Peatland Ecosystems, Remote Sens. 2020, 12(2), 250

<https://www.mdpi.com/614988>

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/3958/>



Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from municipal solid waste in Sub-Saharan Africa via sustainable waste management: An economic benefit assessment

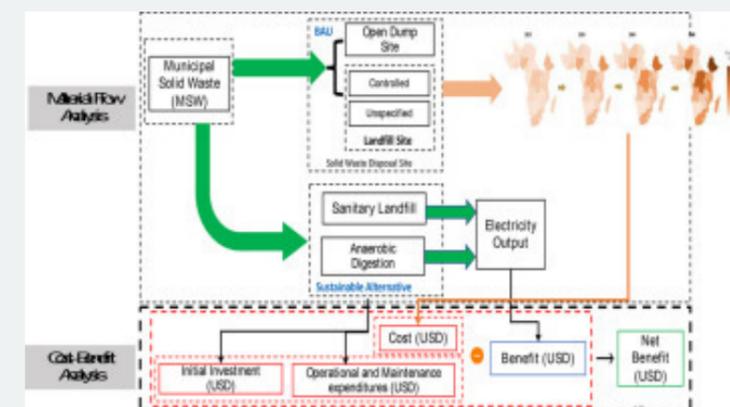
Xuepeng Qian, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

Municipal solid waste (MSW) management is a major challenge for cities worldwide, particularly in Africa. This study used an emission-reduction framework to assess the economic benefit of sustainable MSW management in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) over a 60-year period (2000–2060). Two waste-to-energy (WTE) methods, sanitary landfills and anaerobic digestion, were used to assess the potential electricity generation from MSW under four waste collection scenarios. The assessment was compared to the potential economic damage from cumulative methane (CH₄) emissions under business-as-usual waste management practices for the same period. The results show that energy recovery from current MSW generation forecasts can contribute to 100–245 kWh per capita electricity generation between 2025 and 2060, depending on the WTE technology employed. The net present value (NPV) of WTE technologies is less than half the dollar cost of the potential economic damage from methane emissions. These results have significant policy implications for increasing access to sustainable and clean energy in SSA countries. Given that the current average per capita electricity generation in SSA is 158 kWh and that several countries in the area are experiencing energy problems, MSW electricity generation offers untapped economic development prospects. These findings highlight the economic advantages of effective waste management in SSA to mitigate future environmental and climate change consequences of greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, this study underscores the need for stakeholders to develop cost-effective and sustainable waste management strategies to avoid possible future economic and environmental damage in SSA.

Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from municipal solid waste in Sub-Saharan Africa via sustainable waste management: An economic benefit assessment, Resources, Conservation & Recycling Advances, Volume 20, 2023, 200192

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rcradv.2023.200192>

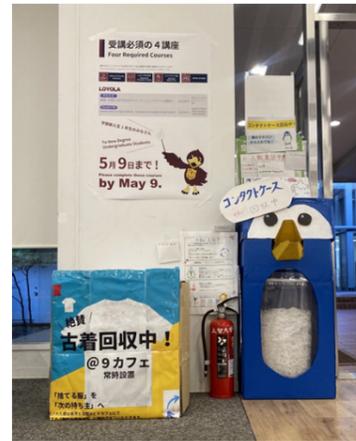
<https://theconversation.com/from-trash-to-power-how-to-harness-energy-from-africas-garbage-dumps-and-save-billions-in-future-damage-219052>





Student Organization, +Re:

+RE: is a group that advocates practice of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) within daily life in order to contribute to a sustainable future. In a world overflowing with single-use products, we are consuming huge volumes of resources and the impact on the global environment, including worsening global warming, is immeasurable. By practicing the 3Rs, +RE: aims to conserve resources while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including the CO₂ emitted when burning garbage. In addition to previous activities such as collecting empty contact lens cases and used toothbrushes, it has also started collecting used clothes. The collected clothes are then made available for free for about five days each month.



In addition to this, the group also makes indoor posters to encourage electricity saving efforts.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/1347/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/purari_for_sophia

Student Organization, CocoEco Japan

CocoEco is a non-profit organization with a purpose to spread environmental awareness and inform people about how to contribute to helping the environment in Japanese society. They believe that acknowledging environmental issues is not enough. It is important that people educate themselves about these issues so that together everyone can do their part in saving our planet from the intensifying climate crisis.

Through their media platform, they disseminate informative content covering a diverse array of sustainability topics. These encompass everything from the impacts of fast fashion and the meat industry to introductions of eco-friendly consumer goods and services like sustainable swimwear, thrift stores, and recycling centers. They also engage in conversations about emerging environmental trends and policy matters,

such as the “deinfluencing” movement on social media, where users scrutinize specific products and propose alternatives, the 2020 plastic bag charge regulation implemented in Japan and more.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4432/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CdlnPBdpLK9/?img_index=1



GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Island Sustainability Institute (ISI)

Sophia University Island Sustainability Institute (ISI) has experience and expertise in field-based socio-ecological production systems focusing on resilience, vulnerability and adaptive capacities-related data collection, policy design and implementation projects in the Asia-Pacific region.



Additionally, ISI is involved in analysing context and place-specific biodiversity (i.e. protected areas, nature-based solutions) and climate change related adaptation policy in small-scale farming and fisheries communities. Empowering communities is a central tenet of ISI work. ISI is actively involved in gender-related projects and research, specifically looking at the role of women in small-scale agriculture, agroforestry and fisheries in island contexts.

Specific key examples of ISI work related to SDGs 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15 and 17 include:

- Republic of the Marshall Islands Food Systems Pathway development under the UNDP Food Systems Summit 2021

ISI (then Island Sustainability Unit) coordinated and facilitated the national dialogues to support the RMI preparations for the UNDP Food Systems Summit 2021. ISI then developed the RMI National Food Systems Transformation Pathway; the national policy document guiding food systems transformation in the RMI. This document identifies the need to develop diverse and sustainable blue food production and is a major driver for the proposed project. ISI has since worked with RMI to identify partners in Japan to design a 3 year blue foods partnership research and capacity building project focusing on small-scale aquaculture, community empowerment and environmental literacy to commence in April 2024.

- FAO Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems program
Our team worked with the FAO Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems program) and the Japanese government Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in employing the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF) as a holistic approach and tool to guide resource management policy for small-scale farming and fisheries communities.

- Federated States of Micronesia Protected Areas Network Operations Manual
ISI wrote the FMS Protected Areas Network Operations Manual for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM PAN OM). Work included desk research related to protected area governance and policy from the global to regional, national and local state levels for the Federated States of Micronesia as part of UNDP



Ridge-to-Reef Programme. All of the consultations with the 4 state governments (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae) and relevant stakeholders and the desk research produced the PAN Operations Manual.

• UN IFAD Small Island Food and Water Project (SIFWaP)

This is an ongoing project with IFAD Pacific Region office. ISI has been involved in project pre-launching work since 2022. SIFWaP focuses on farming and water projects in RMI, FSM, Kiribati and Vanuatu-4 SIDS identified by the World Bank as among the most vulnerable in the world, particularly from an environmental perspective. ISI co-organized, coordinated and moderated the pre-launch national workshops for all 4 countries. ISI also produced the Monitoring and Evaluation Guideline and Impact Assessment Concept Note. ISI has played an active role in inception workshops with all 4 countries and is now transitioning into implementation from spring of 2024.

• UNDP FIJI REGIONAL OFFICE: GEF-8 Concept Paper

ISI was asked by UNDP to coordinate and lead UNDP and country consultations with the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, with additional input provided by the UNDP representative in the Solomon Islands. In addition to country consultations, desk research was also carried out to understand the environmental priorities of ten Pacific SIDS to support the UNDP development of a project concept note to attract funding under GEF-8.

• Pohnpei State Climate Change Policy

ISI worked with Pohnpei State of the Federated States of Micronesia and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). ISI wrote the government policy paper and one key part of it was the parts identifying potentials for integration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into climate policy for the state. This has since become legislation in Pohnpei State.

• Shimoda City Japan SDGs and Glocalism Working Groups

In 2022, ISI was asked by Shimoda City government (Shizuoka prefecture) to act as moderator, facilitator and co-organizer of monthly meetings from July 2022 to present. In June 2023 ISI presented the findings and policy proposal to Shimoda City government. Since July 2023 ISI has led a project team to develop eco-tourism, payment for ecosystem services schemes related to marine socio-ecological production systems and marine conservation and sustainability use, and satoyama / satoumi integrated policy design and environmental educational activities.

• Measuring Climate Policy Commitments of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to Nature-based Solutions

Partnering with Javeriana University, Aruba University, University of the West Indies, The Nature Conservancy and Micronesia Conservation Trust, ISI initiated and is leading a research project on nature-based solutions (NbS) for Islands States and Territories. The key aim of this research is to understand the levels of

commitment to NbS as a meaningful approach to climate adaptation, mitigation and disaster management amongst SIDS as reflected in their integration into national climate policies.

The objectives to achieve this aim are:

1. Develop an NbS policy scorecard that can be used to evaluate the depth of integration of commitment to NbS for climate action by SIDS as detailed in their climate policies and legislation.
2. Apply the scorecard to those climate-specific policies and legislation from all SIDS to identify:
 - a. Which countries demonstrate the greatest commitment to NbS for climate
 - b. Which countries would benefit from expanding their commitment
 - c. Which facets of NbS for climate are the highest and lowest scoring.
3. Build a baseline of data for all SIDS, identifying areas for increased commitment to integration of NbS.

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/research/activities/kenkyukikan/island-sustainability/>



Student Organization, Green Sophia

Under the philosophy of “Learn with us, act with Green Sophia, inspire others”, Green Sophia carries out activities that aim to encourage 100 people to take a single step rather than a single person taking 100 steps. Specific activities include cleaning up beaches and parks, vegan cooking activities, and visits to ecologically friendly stores. Recently it has also held events such as a taste test of plant-based milks and screenings of movies concerning environmental issues. It is also focusing on sharing information through social media with the hope it can make even just one person a little more aware of environmental issues. It believes that fun is an important part of tackling environmental issues and that psychological sustainability is also essential. This enables it to carry out enjoyable activities that do not ask too much of participants.



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/860/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/greensophia_insta/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCooYbMtDP6rLzB2QmN1xMsw/about>

GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Exhibition Activities That Contribute to the Preservation of Regional Nature, History, and Culture

Yuka Mizutani, Professor
Center for Global Education and Discovery

【Abstract】

As the world globalizes, it is becoming increasingly important to preserve and revitalize the unique nature, history, and culture of regions. This research focuses on regional nature, history, and culture, primarily of the Kerama Islands, a marine region in Okinawa Prefecture, and it involves exhibition activities that incorporate SDG-related topics. This project is being implemented with cooperation from Diving School FAMILLE Okinawa(Naha, Okinawa Prefecture). The school provides diving tours of the seas around the Kerama Islands and the southwest of part of Okinawa Island, as well as training to acquire a scuba diving license and marine education support to educational institutions. I am a cultural anthropologist and I am implementing the exhibition activities in coordination with the diving school's staff with the aim of widely sharing information on the ocean environment and Okinawa's history and culture and SDGs-related information with school students, tourists, and others in an enjoyable and sustainable manner.



【Future prospects】

We think that this exhibition will encourage students, tourists, and others to visit the region's museums and historical sites to raise their interest in Okinawa's unique nature, history, and culture. Through the practical activities involved in this research, we will also explore ways that a university in Tokyo can collaborate with companies and organizations in regional areas of Japan.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/efforts/4202/>

<https://researchmap.jp/setting/yukamizutani/研究ブログ>

GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Student Organization, SEAS – Southeast Asian Society Club

SEAS (Southeast Asian Society) promotes Southeast Asian culture through cultural exchange and fundraising as its main activities.

SEAS aims to deepen understanding of Southeast Asian (SEA) culture by organizing events and fairs to enjoy SEA food, music, and movies. SEAS also donates proceeds from its events to aid organizations in Myanmar. The number of internally displaced people in Myanmar due to the military coup has reached approximately 1,704,000 as of March 2023, and SEAS has been active in on-campus fundraising, donating Ks 1,674,000 in the form of books, food, and snacks to schools in displaced camps in Kayah State, the most affected area. (As of July 2022)



<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/4066/>

Student Organization, Sophia Refugee Support Group(SRSG)

Sophia Refugee Support Group (SRSG) is a student-led volunteer group based in Sophia University founded in 2017. SRSG is formed from a research project called "Refugee Voices Japan" from Professor David H. Slater's "Digital Oral Narratives" course in which students interviewed and learned about the experiences of refugees living in Japan.



SRSG holds monthly "refugee cafe" social gatherings, and in cooperation with Second Harvest Japan, they provide food to meet the dietary restrictions of each family and also deliver personalized sanitary products. Thus far, 900 and 150 boxes have been delivered. Additionally, they also provide Japanese language and job-hunting support in partnership with companies such as HAYS and Marsh Japan.

SRSG continues to encourage the Japanese public to recognize, learn, support, and further spread awareness of the refugee reality.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/4320/>



Sophia Institute of Human Security (SIHS)

Sophia Institute for Human Security (SIHS) was established for the purpose of researching human security through social science. It was launched as a “Private University Research Branding Project” subsidized by the MEXT, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in December 2017 in Project Research Division Research Unit at Sophia University. In July 2022, the institute received the ORION fund and switched to Affiliated Research Organizations.



【Activities】

SIHS considers poverty, environment, medical care, immigrants and refugees, and peacebuilding as the five important human security issues in an international society. We will work on the realization of human security through academic research by becoming an international center of excellence that designs effective policies and institutions to solve these problems using social science research methods. Our research division consists of five units: poverty, environment, health and medical care, immigrants and refugees, and peacebuilding. The developing regions of Africa, Southeast Asia and South Asia are our main research fields. The following are the basic policies which SIHS considers essential to realize human security:

- To tackle the realization of human security through the research results of social science.
- To promote research based on local circumstances and problems while working in collaboration with local researchers.

<https://dept.sophia.ac.jp/is/sihs/eng/>

SDGs, Peace, and Water - The Most Important Things for Humanity

Daisaku Higashi, Professor
Center for Global Education and Discovery

I have been conducting field research on mediation during armed conflicts (peace negotiations) and post-conflict peacebuilding. As a result, I had many opportunities to visit countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, and East Timor as a UN official, academic researcher, and an expert assigned by Japanese Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Based on these experiences, I am convinced that the most important things for human being are “peace and water”, although we do not realize how important they are when we have enough of them.

In February 2023, I published a book titled “How to End the War in Ukraine? Limitations and Possibilities of Peace Mediation” published from Iwanami Shinsho publisher. To do research for this book, in August 2022, I conducted

field research and delivered lectures in countries including Saudi Arabia, which is a bigger producer of oil than Russia, and Turkey, which has been acting as a mediator between Russia and Ukraine. After these visits, I spent about two weeks conducting field research in Moldova, a neighboring country to Ukraine.

In Moldova, I talked with high ranked government officials, including the Deputy Prime Ministers, the Minister of Health, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, who told me about the Moldovan government’s concern that it may be the next country to be invaded by Russia after Ukraine. I also visited a refugee center for Ukrainians who had fled into Moldova several times and I interviewed 13 Ukraine refugees for about an hour and a half each.

The refugees passionately responded to my interviews. Out of the 13 people I talked to, more than half had received severe psychological damage. When the conflict first started, they were subjected to aerial attacks almost every night for over a week and had to face the prospect of death on a daily basis. They fled to Moldova in fear for their lives. As a result, most of them are now struggling with difficulties such as flashbacks, hysteria, insomnia, inability to eat; some of school age refugees are unable to attend school due to the mental hardship. It was heartbreaking to see innocent people are pushed to the corner by war. In my book, I described how two Japanese NGOs have been providing support to Ukrainian refugees from the very first stage of the conflict. And I proposed that these NGOs can cooperate with experts in psychological care who have experience caring for people affected by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami to provide psychological support for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova. I also proposed that these cares and support could be summarized in an English report in the future; the report could be utilized to share precious knowledges and experiences in Moldova with eight million Ukraine refugees who are suffering from mental problems around the world.

When talking with the Ukrainian refugees, the final thing I asked them was, “What do you need the most?” The sincere reply was, “I hope peace to be restored as soon as possible. We want peace so we can return to our hometowns. That is the most important.” We cannot recognize the importance of peace until peace is taken away. The same can be said for Afghanistan, which came under the full control of the Taliban after U.S. forces withdrew in August 2021. Al-Qaeda perpetrated the 9/11 attacks in 2001. Al-Qaeda had a base in Afghanistan at the time, so the U.S. attacked the country on the premise that the Taliban government was sanctioning Al-Qaeda. The U.S. goal was to overthrow the Taliban government and create a democratic one. However, this new government was viewed by many Afghan people as extremely corrupt; Afghan people also felt that if the Taliban were to return after the withdrawal of the U.S. military, the government officials would soon flee overseas. To put it simply, it was seen as a U.S. puppet regime.

After 20 years of exhausting fighting, the U.S. government negotiated directly with the Taliban and in 2021, and US agreed to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan under the conditions that the Taliban would not sanction international terrorist groups, including Al-Qaeda. Then, two weeks before the US withdrawal was fully completed,

the Taliban re-seized control of the entire country. Directly after this, the U.S. imposed financial sanctions on Afghanistan. Specifically, it froze about one-trillion-yen's worth of assets held by Afghanistan's central bank in the U.S. and prohibited, in principle, money transfers to the country, with the exception of transfers for the purpose of humanitarian aid. (However, despite this exclusion, it is difficult for private sector banks to determine what counts as humanitarian aid, so in reality, almost all transfers had been stopped.) Nearly all financial transactions in Afghanistan were carried out in U.S. dollars, so these sanctions have paralyzed the banking system, pushing people into severe poverty. Against this background, since October 2021, the UN has issued a series of warnings that 70% of the country's population of around 40 million are suffering extreme poverty and six million people could starve to death.

Knowing about these desperate circumstances, I shared this terrible situation with Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, a member of the House of Representatives who I have worked with on various projects over the last 20 years, and who is also president of the non-partisan working group, called the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF). Ms. Kamikawa quickly decided to host a meeting and on December 8, 2021, I delivered a lecture titled "Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan and the Role of Japan". In this talk, I outlined five proposals, including expanding humanitarian aid, supporting Japanese NGOs, supporting agriculture and education as a part of humanitarian aid, and persuading the U.S. to lift its sanctions on Afghanistan, exerting behind the scenes. Then, toward the end of December, Ms. Kamikawa and JPPF Secretary-General Hitoshi Kikawada (who is Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives) presented my five proposals to Mr. Yoshimasa Hayashi, who was Minister for Foreign Affairs at the time, as the recommendations of the JPPF.

In August 2022, an "Afghanistan Project Team" was established within the JPPF to sustain political support for suffering Afghan people. I was also the first person invited to give a lecture on the subject. Following this event, I was given an opportunity to speak about Afghanistan at the headquarters of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), an international organization comprising about 59 countries, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Here I met Ambassador Tarig Ali Bakheet, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of OIC to Afghanistan, who hosted my lecture in Jeddah in Sep 2022. In February 2023, I returned to Afghanistan for the first time in 12 years as a UN peacebuilding consultant, where I gave lectures and continued to maintain dialogue with UN leadership about expanding the late Dr. Tetsu Nakamura's miraculous irrigation project across the entire country through cooperation between Japan, the UN, the OIC, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB, a bank with close ties to the OIC) and Peace Japan Medical Service (PMS) which was founded by Dr. Tetsu Nakamura. In March in 2023, I returned to Saudi Arabia, where I delivered a lecture at the IsDB and reached an understanding regarding future cooperation.

Then, in June 2023, Sophia University provided funding to invite OIC Ambassador Tarig and Mohammad Alsaati, Special Advisor to the President of the IsDB (who is also responsible for trust funds related to humanitarian aid to Afghanistan), to Japan and hosted three days of intensive workshops and a large symposium. In various workshops, I facilitated face-to-face conversations with members of the

OIC, IsDB, PMS, JICA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and other Japanese NGOs. In each session, we spent several hours thoroughly discussing how the OIC and IsDB could cooperate with Japanese NGOs, as well as how the PMS, OIC, IsDB, JICA, and Japanese government could collaborate together. As the three days of workshops came to a close, the relationships of trust between participants had become stronger; four Japanese NGOs that are still active in Afghanistan (Peace Japan Medical Services, the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan, Peace Winds Japan, and Karez Health and Educational Services), agreed with the OIC, and the IsDB to seek for future cooperation.

Sophia University hosted all of these events and I think the university played a very significant role in facilitating discussions on expanding the irrigation projects by PMS to other parts of Afghanistan, empowering Afghan people facing severe poverty and famine. In July 2023, Prime Minister Kishida visited Saudi Arabia and met with Secretary General of the OIC. They agreed that Japan will cooperate further with the OIC to support Afghanistan. Furthermore, in September, Ms. Kamikawa was appointed as Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs. I believe that this process demonstrates that Sophia University's activities have helped to enhance cooperation by the Japanese government, Japanese NGOs, OIC, and IsDB, on alleviating famine in Afghanistan.

Another important factor in saving the Afghan people from famine, in addition to lifting sanctions, will be access to water. Over the last 20 years, Peace Japan Medical Services have been using traditional Japanese methods to irrigate about 24,000 hectares of land that had become dried out and desertified due to global warming and drought. This irrigation enabled agriculture to recover and currently supports the livelihoods of about one million Afghan farmers. Wherever I went in Afghanistan, people remembered Dr. Nakamura and were still grateful for his efforts.

If Sophia University can help build relationships between Peace Japan Medical Services and various other parties, we will be able to deploy its irrigation system throughout Afghanistan, as well as in other parts of the Middle East and Africa where the land is drying out due to global warming, providing access to new sources of water to hundreds of millions of people. I think this would contribute to realizing the SDG value of "Leave no one behind", by providing "peace and water" which are vital for sustaining humanity.

This photograph is taken after a meeting on June 14, 2023, with Ms. Yoko Kamikawa (President of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population), Tarig Ali Bakheet (the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of OIC to Afghanistan), Mohammad Alsaati (Special Advisor to the President of the IsDB), Professor Daisaku Higashi and others.



GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Interview in Resona Biz Action

Resona Biz Action, a website operated by Resona Bank, Limited that publishes information for a corporate audience, visited the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion, Sophia University to conduct interviews. Resona Biz Action shares business information that is of interest to management and employees of companies and one of the main themes it covers is the SDGs. As part of this, it conducted interviews that aim to show the corporate world the perspective that students and educational institutions have of the SDGs and the way they think.



In the interviews, three student staff members and a vice president from Sophia University spoke on topics such as a Generation Z approach to the SDGs. The student staff member discussed how they became interested in the SDGs, the activities of the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion, and how they view SDGs in regard to job hunting.



A clear message was sent to companies, with the members commenting how they pay particular attention to whether a company's business itself is sustainable, whether a company is resilient enough to overcome uncertainty, and whether a company's activities regarding the SDGs are genuine or just for show. The vice president spoke about the role a university should play in fostering an interest in the SDGs in students and the importance of engaging in industry-government-academia initiatives.

He communicated how these initiatives should be approached, with each of industry, government, and academia viewing the SDGs as a shared challenge and bringing together their respective knowledge, insight, and resources to create new value.

The background behind this interview is a collaboration course on the SDGs held at the university and supported by the Resona Group. The university started offering the course in academic year 2022 and it is titled SDGs Challenges and Possibilities: From a Corporate and Investor Perspective. The course aimed to provide the students who will lead the future with skills they will need to solve the actual issues they will face when they join working society and to support them in polishing these skills. During the course, students with broad perspectives participated in many discussions and groupwork activities students with broad perspectives participated in many discussions and groupwork activities with companies concerning SDG engagement and new businesses that help to solve social issues.



Resona recognized that the mentality and enthusiasm of these students had the power to make an impression on the corporate world and offered an interview.

*The Resona Biz Action article (student edition) can be accessed using the URL below or the QR code to the right.

The interview with the vice president can be accessed through a link within the article.

<https://www.resona-biz.jp/sdgs/interview-sdgs-sophiaschoolcorp-studentstaff-04/>



Sophia University Go Beyond x Team Beyond Tokyo Paralympic Experience Program

At Sophia University's Sophia Festival 2022, held from November 1 to 4, 2022, Team Beyond, a Tokyo-based parasports support project, and Go Beyond, a student-led Sophia Olympics & Paralympics Project based at Sophia University, collaborated to provide a parasports experience program. In addition to a wheelchair basketball athlete program, which featured Yasuhiro Jimbo, a former member of Japan's national wheelchair basketball team, as a guest athlete, festival goers could also enjoy experiences such as flying disk, para-athletics (racing wheelchairs), and an alpine skiing experience using VR and other technologies.



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Study Tour to Learn About the SDGs in Tanabe City, Wakayama Prefecture and Become “Connected Minds” – SSIC

At Sophia Student Integration Commons (SSIC), various events, seminars, and workshops are being held with the aim of fostering communication between students. One type of event is study tours, which bring together students from various different backgrounds in order to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture and interactions with fellow students. Tanabe City in Wakayama Prefecture is not only the central region of the Kumano Kodo, an area of ancient pilgrimage routes that has been registered as a World Heritage Site, it is also home to the Minabe-Tanabe Ume System, a sustainable agricultural system that leverages the local environment to produce Japanese ume plums, which has been recognized as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System. In 2022, the city was also selected as an SDGs Future City and a Municipal SDGs Model Project.

The SSIC collaborated with the Tanabe City Tanabe Marketing Office and the Tanabe City Kumano Tourism Bureau and received funding through a Nakajima Foundation grant, which is an assistance program operated by the Japan Student Services Organization to encourage exchange with international students in regional areas of Japan, to hold a Tanabe City Kumano Study Tour involving a visit to Tanabe City.

Students who participated in the study tour said, “All of the people we interacted with were not aiming to just develop their own businesses but to work together to make the entire city prosperous. We could feel their bonds and love for the local area. I really want to visit again.” and “I’ve never been to Wakayama before, but now I feel like I’ve become a “connected mind” and in the future, I’ll always keep an eye out for news about Wakayama or buy products from there in the store.” By actually entering the area, talking with local people, experiencing local industries, and walking around the local area, they developed a deeper understanding of SDG initiatives in the city. In the future, it is expected that they will become a part of the “connected mind*” of Tanabe City and support the SDGs of Tanabe City.

*Connected mind: A term used to describe people who has a diverse connection to a certain area who is not just a tourist, but also not a relocated resident. Regional areas of Japan are facing a shortage of people who can carry out regional revitalization activities due to depopulation and aging populations, so it is hoped that people from outside the region, these connected minds, can help support regional revitalization.



Editor’s Notes

- This is the third year since the establishment of the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion and it feels like engagement related to the SDGs at Sophia is becoming more dynamic each year. Going forward, I hope that we can expand the scope of our sustainability activities beyond the university and into the wider community. (Ken Harada)

- I am honored to have participated once again in the editing of this report. The activities being carried out have increased in both number and scope and it makes me really happy to see awareness of the SDGs and sustainability at Sophia University continuing to grow. (Angela Kim)

- When the report first started, we had to scramble desperately to gather material on campus activities but sustainability activities within the university have continued to flourish year on year and now we worry that we might not be able to fit everything in. Although each individual activity is small, you can really feel the tremendous power created when all these efforts come together. I would like to thank everyone who helped us with the report. (Maki Ashizawa)

- This marks the third sustainability report released by the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion and I am delighted to see that each year the level of SDGs awareness and initiatives of the university as well as student body has become more diverse and vigorous. We hope this reports offers a glimpse into the evolving sustainability ecosystem here at Sophia University. I am enthusiastic about the prospective sustainable impact that Sophia University is poised to make within its campuses and beyond. (Poonyaporn Suthamporn)

