

■Theme:

**A university that fosters “global citizens” that can create value**

Since its founding in 1971, Soka University has continued unending reforms and achieved growth directed toward the realization of the “founding principles” indicated by founder Dr. Daisaku Ikeda. In 2014, our initiatives for globalization over the years were recognized, and our university was selected for the Top Global University Project of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Directed toward 2023, which is the final year of the project, our university is aiming to create a campus where diverse values can gather by accepting foreign students and promoting studying abroad for Japanese students.

On the other hand, regarding the social environment surrounding our university, the population of 18 year-old people in Japan has been declining over a long period of time and is expected to fall below 1 million in 2031. In addition, as a result of the advancements in AI and IoT, industrial structure will drastically change, and institutions of higher education are now required to develop creativity, cooperativity with others, and advanced expertise in their students. Moreover, in a highly informed society, we are entering into an era in which the boundaries between nations and regions are easily passed, and issues in economics, education, and the environment are expanding on a global scale.

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the “SDGs,”<sup>i</sup> which are targets for achieving sustainable development aimed at 2030, and is working under the principle of “no one will be left behind,” so as to end poverty, protect the environment, and establish a society in which all people can enjoy peace and prosperity. Our university, which sets “peace” as one of its founding principles, joined in 2014 the United Nations Academic Impact, which connects the United Nations and universities around the world, and while working together with the United Nations, our university is conducting activities related to education, research, and contributions to society, in order to help create the society aimed for in the SDGs.

Behind these activities at our university is the vision of “Be a creative individual” as called for by the founder. Creative individuals are persons that can “create the value needed by society, and that can provide or return sound value,” and in the present day, we believe that such persons are “global citizens that can create value.” Specifically, we intend to confirm that it is our mission to foster “global citizens” that can sincerely face the global issues espoused in the SDGs and that can create new value toward realizing the goal of “peace.”

The “global citizens that can create value,” which forms the basis of the “New Grand Design” directed toward the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Soka education in 2030, are persons that start from the hope that “any difficult issue can be solved as long as it is caused by people”<sup>ii</sup> in regard to global issues, including poverty, the environment, education, or conflict, and that are equipped with the ability to open the way forward to the future in cooperation with others.

The following are three pillars of the plan.

1. Including the enhancement of programs related to “global citizenship education” centered on the fields of peace, the environment, development, and human rights, improve the education and research environment for fostering the ability to create a sustainable society, and aim to become a hub for educating global citizens that can create value.
2. Promote, as a university, research that will contribute to the realization of “peace,” as well as form a network with universities and researchers so as to play a leading role in the achievement of the SDGs.
3. Create a campus where people with diverse values, such as foreign students and adult students, can gather and coexist.

Based on the above three points, strategies will be formulated for “education,” “research,” “globalization,” “contributions to society/coordination with stakeholders,” and “organizational management.”

■ Notes:

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<sup>i</sup> International goals through 2030 as stated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the United Nations summit in 2015; the agenda consists of 17 goals and 169 targets for realizing a sustainable society.

<sup>ii</sup> Peace proposal on the 44<sup>th</sup> SGI Day: “Toward a New Era of Peace and Disarmament” (January 26, 2019)