



SOKA University



Value Creation

SDGs Report 2020



<Message>

Ryohei Tanaka, Vice President, Soka University/ Director, SDGs Promotion Center

It has been about two years, since the inauguration of the Soka University SDGs Promotion Center (below, will be referred to as the Center) in April 2019. This year, our second year, we were able to proceed with some new initiatives, even during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



One initiative is that in the new mid-to-long term plan "Soka University Grand Design 2021-2030", the SDGs became one of the four pillars of the plan along with education, research and diversity. We will promote SDGs throughout the university, fostering experts and assisting with advanced research related to the SDGs. In addition to collaborating with UN agencies, SDGs activities in cooperation with society and the local community, such as support for UNESCO schools, and initiatives toward a sustainable campus are being planned. We will steadily implement these plans by clarifying the goals for each fiscal year.

Next, we focused on awareness-raising activities for global issues. With regards to climate change countermeasures, we issued a "Climate Emergency Declaration" on April 2, 2021. We are the third university in Japan to make this declaration. In July 2020, we held an online opinions exchange with Chiba University of Commerce, which achieved 100% campus renewable energy, and was greatly inspired by their creative and advanced initiatives. In the new fiscal year, we will begin considering an energy plan aimed at achieving 100% renewable energy by 2050. In addition, we will promote carbon neutral initiatives such as the 4Rs and environmental consumption and intend to issue the "Soka University Sustainable Management Declaration."

Furthermore, we also were able to cooperate and communicate with other universities and institutions regarding the SDGs. I was given the opportunity to participate in the SDGs University Collaboration Platform of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, to exchange information with other platform universities and to introduce the university's initiatives as well. In addition, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the university's founding, the event "Value Creation × SDGs" was held online last fall under the theme of "peace and fairness". It was meaningful and created an impression to have a variety of speakers from universities and international organizations in Japan and overseas.

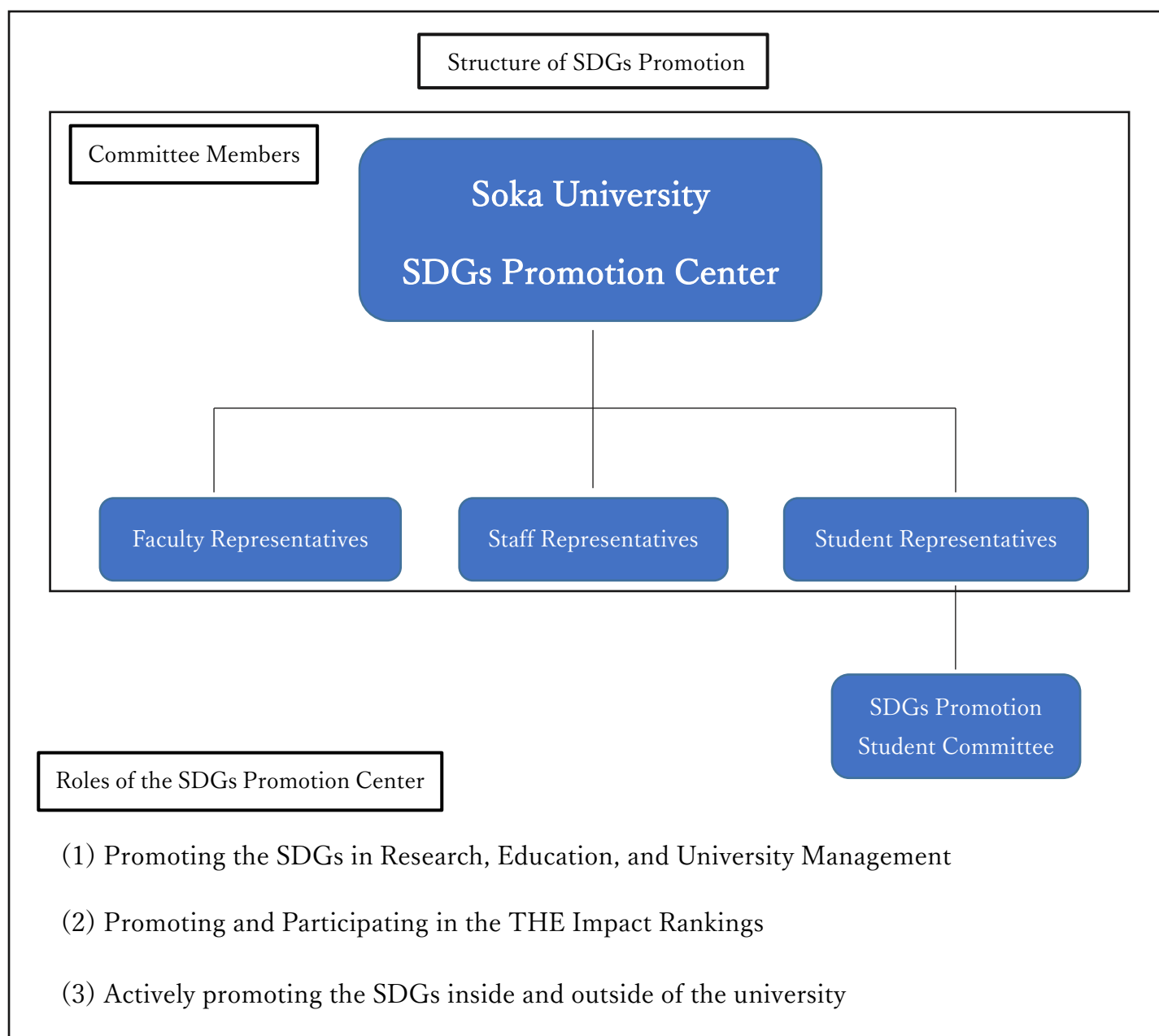
Finally, I would like to touch on the promotion of the SDGs on campus. Student representatives are also included in the center committee, but the committee has students present the project proposals. One of the accepted projects was the My Bottle Promotion Project, which has the aim of reducing plastic bottles. In order to reduce the amount of plastic bottles with a high environmental

impact, water dispensers for refilling bottles were placed throughout the university on a trial basis. The water dispensers have now been official approved for use. Aspire Soka, a student organization, created an exhibition online with the aim of raising awareness to coincide with the "Value Creation × SDGs" event described above.

The impact of the novel coronavirus is expected to continue in the new fiscal year, but the time left to promote the SDGs will continue to decrease. We will continue to take on all possible challenges for a sustainable future under any circumstances.

<Structure and Role of the Soka University SDGs Promotion Center>

The Soka University SDGs Promotion Center, together with representatives from the faculty, staff, and student body, is collaborating with relevant departments to promote the SDGs both inside and outside the university. In AY2020, the SDGs Promotion Student Committee was established under the direction of student representatives. The committee is considering initiatives to promote exchanges among students and the SDGs within the university.



In AY2020, the Center proposed several projects for the new Grand Design. These included holding an online SDGs seminar for plastic reduction, introducing water dispensers, and the discussion of proposals made by students such as the use of renewing sustainable energy.

The “THE Impact Rankings 2019”, the University was in the 101-200th in the world grouping, and was the 4th highest ranked Japanese university in the "THE University Impact Ranking" released in April 2019. In April 2020, “THE University Impact Ranking 2020” we dropped down to the 401-600th in the world grouping due to increased social interest in the SDGs, an increase in the number of schools participating in the rankings, and an increase in the number of evaluation items. In addition, we reviewed THE University Impact Ranking 2019 and began surveying new students in 2020 regarding "First Generation" (the first to enter a higher education institution within the family). This is one of the indicators for contributing to "SDG4: Quality Education for Everyone".

< Environmental Initiatives >

■ PLANE3T Project promotes appropriate technology development, environmental education, and economic education in developing countries



In the private university research branding project “The PLANE3T Project”¹, we proposed a distinctive interdisciplinary research field ‘Plankton Engineering’ for the purpose of building a sustainable recycling-based social system. We are focusing on the biomass commercialization of water plants "Water Hyacinth" that damage ecosystems and fisheries, mainly in Lake Tana, Ethiopia. This research utilizes methane fermentation technology, which is expected to be widely used in developing countries with a view towards low-cost energy saving. Methane gas, which is energy, and nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are extracted from water hyacinth. After that, the extracted nutrients are used for the culture of spirulina, an algae rich in proteins and vitamins. By developing products using cultured spirulina, we are working to solve malnutrition due to protein deficiency.



Fig. 1 Branding image of Soka University

¹ PLANKton Eco-engineering for Environmental and Economic Transformation

■ Research centered on Soka University's Faculty of Science and Engineering was selected for the International Science and Technology Cooperation Program (SATREPS) for Global Issues



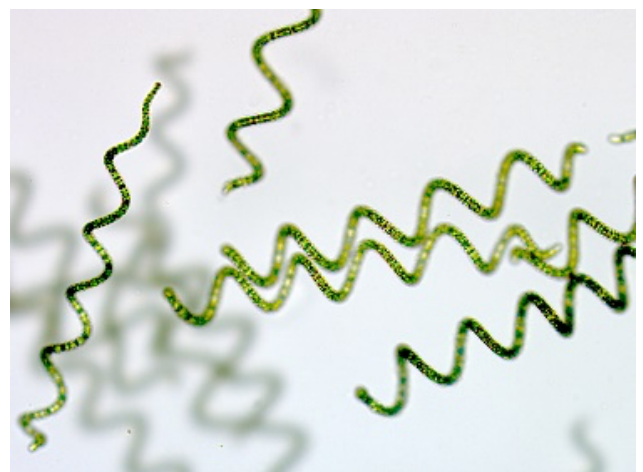
Part of the international joint research project with African countries promoted by Soka University has been selected by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as one of the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) programs. (Representative: Prof. Shinjiro Sato, Faculty of Science and Technology). The theme of the research development issue is "Eco-engineering for Agricultural Revitalization Towards Improvement of Human Nutrition (EARTH): Establishment of Management Methods and Effective Utilization Processes for Overgrown Water Hyacinths Biomass in Lake Tana, Ethiopia, the Headwaters of the Nile". The research period is 5 years, from 2021 to 2025



Water hyacinths spreading over the horizon of Lake

Since 2017, our university has been making efforts to promote the international joint research project "PLANE3T". Many achievements such as the construction of the Spirulina Culture Pond at Bahir Dar University and the co-sponsorship of the International Environmental Education Symposium, contributed to the adoption of this SATREPS project. This is the second STREPS project after STREPS-COSMOS (Representative: Professor Tatsuki Toda, Faculty of Science and Technology). So far, no private university has had two SATREPS projects selected from one faculty, and there are great expectations for the university and the Faculty of Science and Engineering toward its international activities.

In Lake Tana, the largest lake in Ethiopia, which is the target country of this project, the exotic water hyacinth plant covers the surface of the lake making it impossible for boats to travel. This overgrowth is equivalent to the area of Tokyo's 23 wards, which is causing environmental and economic problems. Lake Tana, which is also the source of the Nile River, was originally known as a scenic place with a rich natural environment. To solve these problems, this project will work on restoring Lake Tana to a healthy lake ecosystem and will research and develop methods for harvesting the water hyacinth as well as effectively utilizing the harvested biomass. The obtained biomass will be converted into the nutritious superfood "Spirulina" (picture 2), fertilizers and soil conditioners for producing local agricultural products to improve nutrition for children in Ethiopia, where "hidden hunger" is a growing issue.



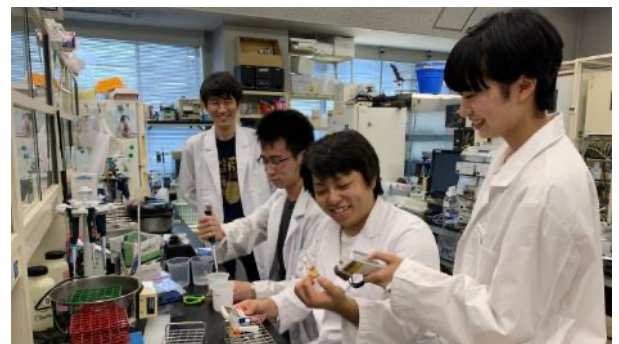
Producing spirulina with nutrients extracted from water

The implementation team of the SATREPS project consists of Soka University, being the lead institution, three other Japanese institutions and corporations; Shiga Prefectural University, Shiga Prefecture Lake Biwa Environmental Science Research Center and Mitsubishi UFJ Research & Consulting, and three institutions and corporations from Ethiopia; Bahir Dar University, Injibara University, and Lake Tana Water Conservation and Development Organization. From Soka University, faculty members and graduate students of the Faculty of Science and Engineering Department of Science and Engineering for Sustainable Innovation and Department of Information Systems Engineering, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Business Administration, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Nursing, and Plankton Engineering Research and Development Center will participate. The name of this joint project is "SATREPS-EARTH (Eco-engineering for Agricultural Revitalization Towards Improvement of Human Nutrition)" and will be divided into 4 research themes.

■University Consortium sponsored by Hachioji Reiwa Maruta Seminar's "Development of Plastic Substitutes Using Hachioji Sake Rice Flour" was selected as a "Student Planning Project Grant" for the 2010 academic year.



Students of the Maruta Shinsaku Seminar in the Department of Science and Engineering for Sustainable Innovation of the Faculty of Science and Engineering are working on regional revitalizing utilizing "Tengaki Seiryō Rice", a specialty of Hachioji City. Since 2016, the Maruta Seminar has been selected for the "Student Planning Project Subsidy" sponsored by the University Consortium Hachioji for the fifth consecutive year and conducts demonstration experiments in collaboration with farmers and companies in the city.



Students of Professor Maruta Seminar

Currently, we are researching the effective use of rice flour; a by-product of the manufacturing process of the local sake "Takao no Tengu". 100% rice flour chocolate brownies are sold at bakeries in Hachioji City, which were developed by applying the properties and structural results of rice flour starch discovered by research seminar students in previous years. In FISCAL 2020, by applying further research, we started a project to develop plastic substitutes, edible spoons, and bioplastiks. We will contribute to solving environmental problems and food loss issues.



Edible Spoon (prototype)

■ "SDGs Webinar" to think about deplasticization was held



An online webinar hosted by Soka University's SDGs Promotion Center was held on October 16, 2020. About 120 people from inside and outside the university participated in the theme of "Thinking about plastic problems - Can you really live a student life without plastic?"

Dr. Ryota Nakajima of the Japan Agency for Marine-Social Research and Technology (JAMSTEC), who is also a graduate of Soka University, gave a keynote speech. Researcher Nakajima noted that annually between 19.25 million and 23.42 million tons of plastic waste, equivalent to more than 300 Tokyo Skytrees, is flowing into water systems such as the sea and rivers. "By 2050, the total amount of plastic in the ocean will be 1 billion tons, exceeding the weight of all fish in the ocean (excluding deep-sea fish). In addition, the plastic floating in the sea is degraded by the sun's heat and ultraviolet rays, and creates microplastics. These microplastics are eaten by coral, zooplankton, fish, shellfish, etc. resulting in bio-accumulation," he said, calling for a shift to a lifestyle that reduces the consumption of disposable plastics in order to solve this problem. In addition to using 'my bags' and 'my bottles' that can be used in student life, we reduced the use of disposable plastics by changing from liquid to solid products, such as the use of bars of soap, and powder laundry detergents.



Dr. Nakajima's Keynote Speech



Panel Discussion

Next, Toshifumi Fukuyasu, Director of Resource Recycling Coordination Division, Resource Recycling Promotion Department, Tokyo Metropolitan Bureau of Environment, speaking on initiatives for plastic resource recycling in Tokyo, gave an example of "installing water dispensers on-campus in a trial to encourage the use of 'my bottles'". This case study was done by students in The Nishiura Seminar Team PLASS, Faculty of Economics. Afterwards, a talk was held between Researcher Nakajima and the students of Team PLASS. Questions were answered by the participants and a lively exchange of ideas took place.

■ Student Proposal to conduct a 'My Bottle' water dispenser trial



With the aim of building a sustainable society from Soka University to solve the problem of marine plastics, the "My Bottle" Water Dispenser was introduced at five locations on the university campus for about a month from September 16, 2020, based on a proposal from students of The Nishiura Seminar Team PLASS, faculty of economics, which is engaged in pet bottle reduction activities at the university.



Water dispenser on the 1st floor of Global Square

Reducing the consumption of plastic bottles using My Bottles will lead to a reduction in plastic waste and will contribute to the "SDG6 Safe Water and Toilets around the World", "SDG13 Climate Change Concrete Measures", and "SDG14 Protect the Richness of the Sea" in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

After conducting the trial, it was decided that from April 2021, water dispensers would be installed in nine locations on campus (Global Square 1st floor and 4th floor, Central Tower 3F, Faculty of Education building 1st floor, Faculty of Science and Engineering building 1st floor, Faculty of Nursing building 1st floor, Central Library 2nd floor, Student Hall 2nd floor, Soka Women's Junior College 1st floor).

■ “Certificate of Appreciation” received from donating 12,586 Tons of CO2 Reduction Credits to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government



In tandem with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's goal of “Zero Emission Tokyo,” Soka University, which serves as one of the Tokyo Cap-and-Trade Program offices, donated 12,586 tons of CO2 reduction credits. In conjunction with this, a certificate of appreciation dated January 4 (Monday), 2021 was presented by Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike.

Based on the Tokyo Metropolitan Environmental Security Ordinance, the Tokyo Cap-and-Trade Program obligates large-scale businesses in Tokyo to reduce their total amount of CO2 emissions. The program is approved to credit excess reduction of CO2 emissions over the obligated amount and to trade the credits among businesses. This time, in donating CO2 reduction credits to Tokyo, four schools participated, among which Soka University donated the second-largest amount of CO2 emission reduction credits.



Letter of Appreciation awarded by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government

With the 50th anniversary of its founding, Soka University is scheduled to announce a new mid-to-long-term plan in which it will promote research that will contribute to the realization of peace and will form a network with universities, institutions, and researchers toward taking a leading role in the achievement of the UN SDGs. In order to promote the SDGs, Soka University will also contribute to achieving greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.



Solar panels on the roof of Global Square

■Inauguration of the Energy Planning Review Subcommittee



In September 2020, Soka University launched the Energy Planning Review Subcommittee on behalf of faculty and staff in preparation for the new Grand Design, which began in fiscal 2021. We are considering the University's long-term energy plan for a carbon-free society.



Global Square: Solar Panel Monitoring System

< Education Initiatives >

■Soka University UNESCO School Project



Soka University's Faculty of Education and Graduate School of Teacher Education joined ASPUnivNet in July 2018 to support applications for membership in UNESCO Associated Schools Network. In fiscal 2019, we provided support for UNESCO Associated Schools Network applications six elementary schools, one junior high school, two high schools, and one junior and senior high school. These schools were in Hachioji City, Itabashi Ward, Kita Ward, Saitama Prefecture, and Gunma Prefecture.

(1) Holding ESD-related study sessions

On June 24, 2020, the UNESCO School Promotion Mini Forum was held online with Dr. Toshio Tejima of the Japanese ESD Society as the lecturer. In addition to faculty, staff, and students, about 80 people from UNESCO schools and teachers from the Kinki and Kyushu regions also participated.

(2) Held an online Joint ESD Forum for Graduate School of Teacher Education and Faculty of Education entitled "High-quality Education for Everyone- UNESCO School Initiatives"

The Joint ESD Forum for Graduate School of Teacher Education and The Faculty of Education was held on December 12, 2020. Prof. Mirai Horie of Ritsumeikan University gave a lecture on "The Way of Thinking and Practice of Education Incorporating International Understanding and SDGs". This was followed by a subcommittee divided into elementary school and high school, with two elementary schools and two high schools (four schools in total) who shared their daily efforts.



■Agreement with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)



In February 2016, the University signed an exchange agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

This agreement provides students with opportunities to learn about 'food security', which is an important factor in achieving stable peace and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through lectures and learning materials.

In AY 2019, director Mr. Mbuli Charles Boliko, Director of the Liaison Office in Japan, gave a lecture in the "Peace Studies II" class.



Signing ceremony with FAO

In August 2017, we signed a comprehensive partnership agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The comprehensive agreement includes publications, information exchange, visiting lecturer exchanges, providing internship opportunities at UNDP, joint seminars, etc. In AY 2020, Tetsuo Kondo, Representative of Japan, gave some remarks at the "Value Creation X SDGs" week held in December.



Signing ceremony with UNDP

■Based on an agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Refugee Higher Education Program in progress



On May 26, 2016, the university signed an agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the “Refugee Higher Education Program”².

The purpose of the program is to provide higher education opportunities to refugees living in Japanese society and their children born and raised in Japan. Ms. Megumi Niang Sian Kim, who was accepted as the first student in April 2017 as a first-year student, graduated from the Faculty of Economics in March 2021. Ms. Megumi started working for a service company in the railway industry in April.

< quote from Ms. Megumi >

I entered Soka University as the first student in the Refugee Higher Education Program. Over the past four years, I have been able to meet seniors, juniors, international students, and professors, and learned much more than I dreamed I would. I am grateful for all the "relationships" I have developed. In addition, I am who I am now because of the support of the people around me, such as my family, friends, and the faculty and staff at the university. Thanks to all of you, I was able to live a rich student life during my four years at Soka University. Once again, thank you very much. In the future, I want to support those who enroll in this program every year, so they can challenge themselves, cherish their experience, meet many people, and learn many things that can only be experienced at Soka University.



Ms. Megumi graduated this spring

< Efforts for Peace and Human Rights >

Japan-wide tour of the Exhibition “The Courage to Remember: The Holocaust 1939-1945 The Bravery of Anne Frank and Chiune Sugihara”



² Every year, Soka University selects one candidate recommended by UNHCR. Faculties able to accept: Economics, Business Administration, Law, Literature, Education, Science and Technology.

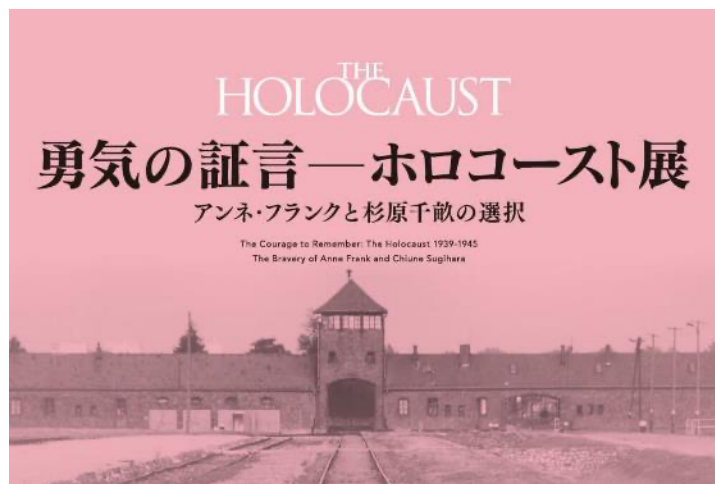
Students admitted to the above faculties are eligible to receive scholarships, etc. from Soka University for their studies.

In addition to Soka University and 11 other universities in Japan, including Aoyama Gakuin University, Kwansei Gakuin University, Tsuda University, and Meiji University etc., cooperate with UNHCR to provide university education opportunities.

From September 2014, 70 years after the end of World War II, the "The Courage to Remember: The Holocaust 1939-1945 The Bravery of Anne Frank and Chiune Sugihara" exhibition (sponsored by the Executive Committee and co-sponsored by Soka University and Simon Wiesenthal Center) has been held in 18 venues: Tokyo, Ikebukuro, Hiroshima, Soka University, Tomakomai, Fukui, Aomori, Okinawa, Shizuoka, Fukuoka, Kagoshima, Gunma, Yamagata, Gifu, Osaka, Hyogo, Ishikawa, Iwate, and Matsumoto.

So far, about 200,000 people, from elementary, junior high and high school students to the elderly, have visited the exhibition, providing opportunities to learn about the dignity of life, the importance of peace, and the ideal state of a community, and many thoughts and opinions have been shared. The exhibition consists of 106 panels and 25 items, tracing the history of the Holocaust (genocide) by Nazi Germany, and shedding light on the lives of Anne Frank, author of "The Diary of Anne Frank," who lived through that era, and Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who saved many Jewish people's lives with the Visa for Life.

The Holocaust is one of the most horrific historical events humanity has experienced in the 20th century. Even now, discrimination, violence, such as war, terrorism, hate speech and hate crimes continue. In that sense, the history of the Holocaust and the truth of those who lived in that era will lead us to find clues to address our challenges, and this exhibition will help us think about peace and human rights. This exhibition is sponsored by embassies from many countries, the United Nations Center for Public Affairs, and the Board of Education.



< Exhibition Feedback >

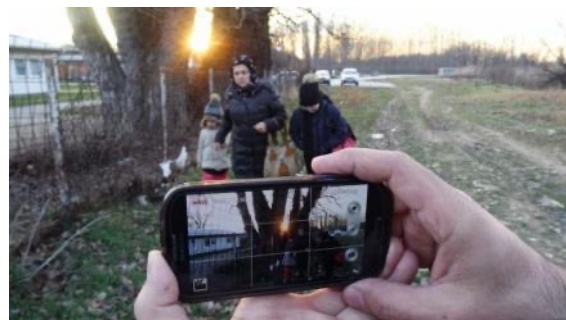
- "I felt once again that war is very cruel. I wish everyone would get along."
- "Anne Frank's diary, and Chiune Sugihara's content touched me very much. What stuck with me the most was these words "To be happy is not to change your environment, but to change yourself" (male in his 20s)
- "When I first encountered such an exhibition, I couldn't stop crying. It was an exhibition that made me decide to not let history repeat itself."

■ UNHCR WILL2LIVE Movement 2020 (15th UNHCR Refugee Film Festival) held at ASPIRE SOKA



ASPIRE SOKA was established in February 2016 as a student organization of Soka University, when the University joined the United Nations Academic Impact. It is an organization that learns about social issues related to the SDGs and takes action. ASPIRE SOKA holds an annual event called "Global Citizenship Week" to think about the initiatives of the SDGs. In 2020, the student organization it held a seven-day online event from July 1, with approximately 230 participants.

In conjunction with the UNHCR WILL2LIVE Movement 2020 (the 15th UNHCR Refugee Film Festival), as a member of the "UNHCR WILL2LIVE Cinema Partners" we held a screening event online. Two movies were shown: on the 10th, "On Her Shoulders" and on the 30th, "Midnight Traveler". A total of around 400 people (faculty/staff, students, and the public) watched online.



The purpose of this film festival was to expand the understanding of refugees through films, and to carry out promotional activities by collaborating with other universities and educational institutions. Soka University, which has a project partnership agreement with the UNHCR, and joined the University Partners in 2017, prepared for this screening in collaboration with "ASPIRE SOKA," a university student organization that promotes the peace movements established by the United Nations.

Before the screening, following the greeting by Ms. Chaoyang Koyama (4th year of the Faculty of Law), who was in charge of the film festival, Towa Kakuo (fourth-year student of the Faculty of International Liberal Arts) shared her learning from her internship experience at the Japan Society for Refugee Assistance, "I want you to be interested in the refugee issue and to understand the current situation." Next, Mr. Toshitsuki Kawauchi, vice representative of the UNHCR Office in Japan, talked about support activities for refugees and the current situation and issues of refugees.

■ Regional Project by Hannah Nishikawa seminar, Faculty of Letters



We, the students, are learning every day through classes and seminar activities that the local community has a major impact on people's welfare and health. Working on the "Minga Project" to create a place where students who feel lonely can also believe that "this is where they can feel right."

Until AY 2019, the Nishikawa seminar were working to "rent" the location of the food bank Hachioji Works in front of Hachioji Station, but this year they are trying to hold it online due to the novel coronavirus pandemic to prevent infection because students are all over Japan. Because everyone is scattered throughout Japan, we are working with the importance of being "connected" in our hearts. In fiscal 2020, we planned to exchange goods in the product building of the shop called "Good Things" and, from the student's perspective, disseminate the benefits of various shops and information in front of the station.



■ 50th Anniversary SDGs Serial Event SDGs Week



As part of the 50th anniversary project, Value Creation × SDGs (supported by: United Nations Public Relations Center) was held from December 11 to 17, 2020 with the aim of promoting the UN SDGs. All the events were held online and were watched by people from Japan and overseas.

<<Symposium>>

■ December 14th: Toward an Age of Humanitarian Competition: What We Can Do for Peacebuilding

Regis Savioz, Japan's Head of Delegation for the International Committee of the Red Cross, Brian Adams, director of the Center for Inter-Religion and Cultural Dialogue at Griffith University in Australia, and Nicholas Emmanuel, Associate Professor of the Graduate School of International Peace Studies at Soka University, gave speeches and exchanged views on building a peaceful society. Three of them introduced the idea of "Think Globally, Act Locally" (thinking on a global scale and acting locally), and said it was important to correctly understand the problems that are happening in the world while at the same time taking a step toward resolving them in your area.



December 15: Towards an era of humanitarian competition: Creating a future in which human dignity shines

Tetsuo Kondo, President of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), explained that global issues such as climate change are expanding as a reaction to the pursuit of convenience and comfort in daily life. He addressed that some people are greatly affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic and explained that UNDP is taking various initiatives in three areas of development: eradicating poverty, structural reform, and building a resilient society.

Kanae Doi, a representative of the international human rights NGO Human Rights Watch, explained how to move public opinion through policy proposals and other means based on the facts

obtained through objective and thorough investigations to protect the rights and dignity of people around the world. In addition, we reported on activities toward the prohibition of the use of "killer robots" that do not hesitate to kill people.

Professor Masashi Nakayama of the Faculty of Law at The University of Tokyo referred to the SDGs' philosophy of "leaving no one behind," and said that actions that contribute not only to oneself but also to others will lead to the building of a culture of "human rights."

●The 4th Peace Forum 2020

December 12: Creative Collaboration for a Resilient World: Value Creation and New Policies in the Post-Pandemic World

The 4th Peace Forum 2020 was held by Soka University, Kyungnam University (Korea), and Chinese Culture University, and professors from each university participated.

In his keynote speech, Yoichi Mine, a professor at Doshisha University, introduced the concept of "afracia", which geographically lumps Asia and Africa together. Based on the prediction that by 2100, the world's population will exceed 10 billion people, and more than 80% of the people of Africa and Asia will be living together, and he described the ideal society in which diverse people coexist. Afterwards, professors from each university presented and exchanged opinions.

●Joint ESD Forum for the Faculty of Education and the Graduate School of Teacher Education

The ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) Forum was held by the Faculty of Education and the Graduate School of Teacher Education. Prof. Mirai Horie (Principal, Ritsumeikan Elementary, Junior high and High school) of Ritsumeikan University's International Education Promotion Organization gave a lecture and introduced international understanding and the practice of SDGs education in Ritsumeikan Elementary, Junior high, and High schools, and then talked about the development of international education during the novel coronavirus pandemic. Next, four schools, including Soka High School in Tokyo, reported on the activities of the "UNESCO Associated School" Challenge School, which provides education in line with the philosophy of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

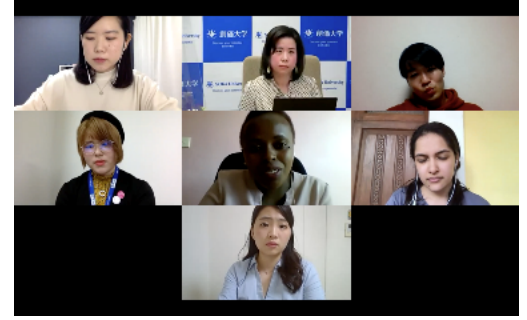
In addition, Dr. Sei Yoshikawa, Dean of the Graduate School of Teacher Education, and Vice President Kazuhiko Sekida (Dean of the Faculty of Education) gave a speech.

●Research Conference on East Asian School Curriculum and Method of Teaching

It was held as the 2nd Teaching Method Research Conference. After a greeting by Vice President Masafumi Suzuki of The University of Tokyo, with Kaoru Takeshi, Director of the Institute of Primary Education at Capital Normal University in China, Professor Yoshio Suzuki of Soka University's Graduate School of Teacher Education gave lectures on the curriculum and teaching methods of arithmetic classes at elementary schools in Japan and China. After the lecture, a subcommittee was held on several themes.

●Student Project "Youth Session"

Students from exchange schools in India and Kenya and students from The University of Osaka presented and discussed gender issues with each other. Miho Yamaoka (a fourth-year student in the Faculty of Letters) reflected on her experience studying abroad, raised issues such as "How can each person live like themselves and realize a right society?", and expressed her views on the direction for solving problems.



In addition, Grace Macel and Evita Rodriguez of the exchange schools touched on the current situation of refugee camps as an issue facing their country, and talked about the importance of promoting women's empowerment (Blooming of intrinsic power). Afterwards, based on the content of the presentation, views were actively exchanged on gender issues.

●Closing events

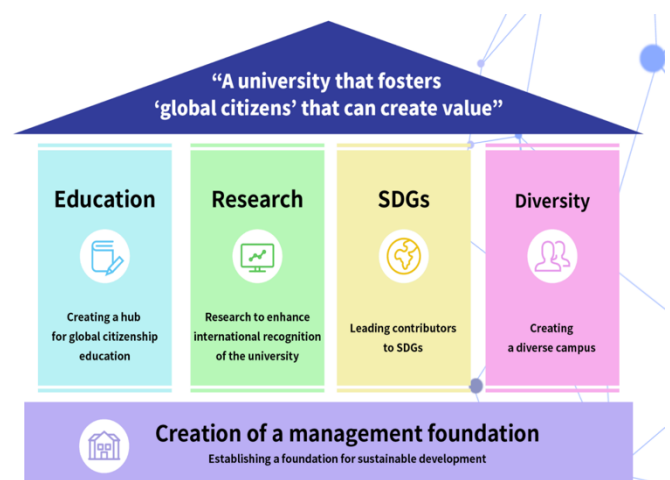
A video message was delivered by Shinji Kubo, a graduate of Soka University and president of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in the Philippines. Mr. Kubo mentioned that solving the refugee problem is an important theme in building a peaceful society, and he hopes that students will be empowered to lead from division to cooperation in order to practice the founding spirit of the university, "Be a fortress for the peace of humankind."

Next, Emily Naomi Okabe (4th year of law) and Yoshimi Baba (4th year of the Faculty of Letters) of Soka University, who had previously interned at UN agencies, reported on their learning and experiences.

Afterwards, Dr. Yukie Naga, Vice President of Rikkyo University (Professor, Graduate School of Social Design for the 21st Century), gave a keynote speech, mentioning many global issues, including the refugee issue, and saying that breaking the "barrier of indifference" would be the first step toward building a peaceful society. Finally, Jean Pictet, former vice chairperson of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said he wanted many people around the world to be able to imagine the suffering of others rather than observing their suffering.

New mid-to-long term plan "Soka University Grand Design 2021- 2030"

Soka University is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding now in 2021. Looking ahead to the next 50 years, which will mark the 100th anniversary of our founding, we have formulated a new 10-year medium- to long-term plan called the "Soka University Grand Design 2021-2030. Since its opening in 1971, Soka University has developed through constant reforms to realize the "founding spirit" of the university as expressed by its founder, Daisaku Ikeda. Soka University's Grand Design,



announced in 2010, set the goal of becoming "a university that fosters 'creative individuals' based on the spirit of its founding." It has produced numerous capable people in various fields both in Japan and abroad through its efforts over the past 10 years, including the globalization of the campus symbolized by being selected by the "Top Global University Project" to create a super global university, and the improvement of the educational environment including the construction of Global Square.

In this initiative aiming for 2030, we have set the theme of "a university that fosters 'global citizens' who practice value creation" based on the concepts of "education for global citizenship," "achievement of the SDGs," and "building a diverse campus."

< Guidelines >

- (1) Including the enhancement of programs related to "global citizenship education" centered on the fields of peace, the environment, development, and human rights, we will improve the education and research environment to foster the ability to create a sustainable society and aim to become a hub for educating global citizens who 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, various institutions, and researchers to play a leading role in the achievement of the SDGs.
- (3) Create a campus where people with diverse values and backgrounds, such as international students and working professionals, can gather and coexist.

■ Initiatives related to the SDGs

【Education】

As part of the systematization of education for global citizenship, students who earn the prescribed number of credits from SDGs-designated courses will receive it as an academic minor on their transcript.

【SDGs】

In addition to "promoting university-wide SDGs projects" and "fostering human resources and building networks to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs," we will promote cooperation with the United Nations and other organizations, as well as with the community and society.

【Management Foundation】

Aiming for a sustainable campus, we will promote energy plans and other measures aimed at carbon neutrality.