



Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Japan
FY2024 UNESCO Future Co-Creation Platform Project

UNESCO WEEK 2024/25 International Symposium:
Sustainable Communities for a Sustainable Future
Concept Note and Programme

1. Background

In recent years, global call for sustainable development has grown louder, as environmental degradation, climate change and social inequalities continues to pose significant challenges. Addressing these interconnected issues requires innovative solutions that go beyond traditional approaches and involve collective action across various sectors. In this endeavor, there is no doubt that communities play a critical role in shaping sustainable futures, but their efforts must be supported by collaborative frameworks that transcend borders and disciplines.

In 2020, Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) launched the UNESCO Future Co-Creation Platform project, aimed at promoting multi-dimensional sustainability across generational, regional, and organizational levels through UNESCO-related activities. This project adopts an international and collaborative approach, fostering cooperation between various sectors and countries while involving stakeholders and experts from diverse academic and practical fields. By building a network of like-minded stakeholders from Japan and beyond and offering a platform for knowledge exchange and dialogue, grassroots activities in the area of UNESCO can be strategically enhanced and expanded, ultimately contributing to a more promising and sustainable future for all.

2. Objectives

The primary objective of the symposium is to explore and promote innovative strategies that empower individuals and institutions working at the community level to engage in effective cross-sectoral initiatives. By presenting global discussions on sustainability alongside a selection of relevant case studies, the symposium aims to inspire participants to take active roles in initiating and supporting collaborative efforts that drive sustainable community development in the fields of UNESCO.

3. Date, Time and Venue:

29 November 2024 (Friday) 18:00-19:30

On-site: Reception Hall, International Exchange Building,
National Olympics Memorial Youth Center
(Yoyogi Kamizono-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0052)

Online: Zoom link to be sent to registrants.

4. Target Audience

This international symposium is open to participants from diverse personal and professional backgrounds. Individuals of varying ages (especially youth) and nationalities based in different parts of the world are welcome to join, especially individuals and organisations that are

- involved in UNESCO-related activities on a professional and/or private basis,
- have an interest in, or are passionate about UNESCO or activities related to UNESCO's sectors of education, science, culture, etc.
- have an interest in, or are passionate about the development of sustainable societies or activities and efforts related to the development of sustainable societies.

5. Languages

English and Japanese (Simultaneous interpretation)

*Do note that there is a limited number of translation FM wireless receivers. Please register early should you wish to use them during the event.

6. Details regarding registration and participation

Participation fee: Free

Registration period: Accepted until the day of the event

*On-site participation is limited to the first 100 registrants.

How to register: Please submit your registration via the following URL:

<https://ws.formzu.net/fgen/S16197088/>



7. Programme

Time	Details
17:30-18:00	Reception/ Participants to enter the event hall
18:00-18:10	<p><u>Opening Ceremony</u> Opening Remarks</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mr. Sagisaka Katsuhisa Senior Analyst for Cooperation Policy, Office of the Director-General for International Affairs, MEXT (Vice-Secretary-General, Japanese National Commission for UNESCO)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mr. Oyasu Kiichi Director, Education Cooperation Department Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)</p>
18:10-18:30	<p><u>Keynote Speech</u> <i>Fostering Sustainable Communities: Integrating ESD Perspectives and Local Action for Global Impact</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mr. Kartikeya V. Sarabhai Founder Director, Centre for Environment Education (CEE)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>Kartikeya Vikram Sarabhai is the Founder Director of the Centre for Environment Education (CEE). As one of the world's leading figures in education, he is associated with a number of educational and charitable trusts, several committees set up by the Government of India and other national and international organizations in the fields of environment, wildlife protection, culture and education. He served as a member of the UNESCO Reference Group for the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development as well as Chair of UNESCO Global Action Programme on ESD.</p> </div>
18:30-18:45	<p><u>Presentation of Case Study (Domestic)</u> <i>Heritage for the Future Project: Preserving the community's traditional culture and natural heritage for future generations</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mr. Noguchi Noboru (Advisor and former Director General, National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ)/former UNESCO staff member)</p>
18:45-19:00	<p><u>Presentation of Case Study (International)</u> <i>Sustainable Development of Coastal Community and Building Healthy Relationship with Oceans: The Case of Ranong Biosphere Reserve in Thailand</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mr. Khayai Thongnunui Manager of Ranong Biosphere Reserve</p>
19:00-19:25	<p><u>Panel Discussion</u> Moderator: Ms. Jonghwi Park (Academic Programme Officer and Head of Innovation and Education, the United Nations University Institute for Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)) Panellists (in order of appearance): Mr. Kartikeya V. Sarabhai (CEE) Mr. Noguchi Noboru (NFUAJ) Mr. Khayai Thongnunui (Ranong BR)</p>

19:25- 19:30	<u>Closing Ceremony</u> Wrap-up and Way Forward	Mr. Oyasu Kiichi Director, Education Cooperation Department Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)
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Participants are free to engage in 1-to-1 discussions with the moderator and panellists for 15 minutes after the closing ceremony.

8. Event Organisers

【Main Organisers】

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU)

Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)



文部科学省



【Co-organiser】

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



【Supporter】

National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan

9. For inquiries, please contact:

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