# II. Activity report to promote the United Nations Global Compact (From December 2020 to November 2022)

- 1. Building an educational system and human resource development that understands and promotes the 10 principles of the UNGC
- (1) Efforts in Curriculum and Education Program

# [Kokusai Gakuin Saitama College]

1) Graduation Research Seminar / Graduation Research Pre-Seminar

Kokusai Gakuin has started Graduation Research Seminar and Graduation Research Pre-Seminar since April 2019. The curriculum includes "graduation research seminars" and "graduation research pre-seminars" in which students understand the SDGs, actively practice them, and present their learning outcomes throughout the two years by linking the efforts of the SDGs through research. In addition, In addition, in order to further enhance the academic outcomes of the "Graduation Research Seminar" and "Graduation Research Pre-seminar," an operating expense application system has been established to subsidize materials and expenses necessary for educational and research activities, which has been in operation since April 2020. This system reduces the financial burden on students and, at the same time, broadens the scope of their educational and research activities, promoting greater educational effectiveness. In 2022, 48 groups presented their presentations in an online format, with one group received the Grand Prize and two groups received Awards of Excellence from each department, and posters of their presentations were displayed on campus to contribute to the learning of younger students.

### Grand Prize in 2021

-		
Early Child Care	Special	Support for key issues to enhance the quality of life of
and Education	Education Seminar	children and persons with severe and multiple disabilities.
Health and	Biochemistry and	The effect of glucose-containing food intake on
Nutrition	Pharmacology	concentration
	Seminar	

### [Awards of Excellence in 2021]

Early Child Care	Information Literacy	Impact of digitalization on education and health
and Education	Seminar	
	Child psychology	Comparison of childcare environments in the
	seminar	development of children's social skills

Health and	Food Economics	Town revitalization through food and the sweet
Nutrition	Seminar	potato business
	Food and	Environmental Conservation in Dietary Life
	Environment Seminar	









# 2) Status of classes related to SDGs

"Graduation Research Seminar", "Graduation Research Pre-seminar", "Japanese Culture and International Understanding", "Career Education I / II", "Earth and the Environment", "Saitama Studies", and "Overseas Training"

## 3) Itsuminesai, Infant Art Exhibition, and Ajisai Contest

## ① Itumine Festival

School festival, Itsuminesai, is a place to present the results of daily academic studies, as well as to connect with the local community and present the results of daily education and research. Students are not only working with the community, but also working to achieve the goals of the SDGs. While affected by COVID-19, the event was carried out while taking care to prevent the spread of the infection.





### ② Infant Art Exhibition

The exhibition is open to children attending kindergartens and nursery schools in Saitama Prefecture. The purpose of this program is to increase interest in expressive activities in early childhood education, to deepen cooperation with the local community, and to contribute to the promotion of early childhood education for the future. There were 709 applications from 100 nearby kindergartens and nursery schools in 2022.



### 3 Ajisai Contest

Ajisai Contest is held to promote food education (to acquire correct knowledge about food and desirable eating habits) and local production for local consumption (to consume locally produced food for a safe and secure diet).

The contest is held for the purpose of food education (to acquire proper knowledge and desirable eating habits) and local production for local consumption (to consume locally produced food for a safe and secure diet). 165 entries were received in the general category and 190 in the high school category, for a total of 355 in 2022. Local production for local consumption means that locally produced goods are consumed locally, which also leads to a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transportations and other activities. For this reason, local production for local consumption is a very important SDGs initiative.





## 4) Open Education Tools to the Public

We make our educational resources on the theme of sustainability widely available free of charge on our website for use as teaching materials and independent study tools. The following educational materials on early childhood education initiatives based on the idea of diversity and inclusion are currently available. (Series of 6 sessions. The third installment is now available.)

Special Lecture by Yasuhiro Sakurai, Special Assistant to the President

"Answering Teachers' Concerns

Part 1: Children who have a hard time finding their pace

Part 2: Children who have trouble with guidance

Part 3: Children who have difficulty joining group activities

### 5) Overseas Training

To be a trusted "person" in the international community, we offer a course called "Overseas Training," in which students visit foreign countries and learn mainly through practical training in those countries. Since overseas training was not possible due to the pandemic, we implemented initiatives based on the purpose of this class.

### ① Domestic Training

The training took place in Yokohama, an international port city that has served as a contact for international exchange with Europe, the U.S., China, and other countries since the Meiji era (1868-1912).

### ② Exchange remarks with an alumni who is working overseas

We held an online discussion with the alumni who is currently teaching Japanese cuisine at a vocational training school for chefs in the Kyrgyz Republic, where he was dispatched as a JICA Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer.

# [Kokusai Gakuin Junior and Senior High School]

# 1) Graduation Research Presentation

One of the school's unique approaches is "independent learning and presentation" inquiry learning. The highlight of the program is the graduation research presentation held during the senior year of high school. The students have been working on this project since their second year, and their research theme is related to one of the SDGs goals. As the culmination of their high school life, they confidently gave presentations in front of many people.

(Full-time Course Presentation)

(Correspondence Course Presentation)







High School Full-time Course in 2021: 9 representative titles (online)

- · Weaning Food
- Possibility of Using Music as a Learning Tool
- Why Do People Have Cramps In Their Muscles?
- The Tale of Genji: A Study of Modern and Ancient Views of Love
- · Basic Psychology through the Piano
- The view of young people's occupation: Positive attitude
- Pet Problems Caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic
- History of Cartoons and Social Problems
- Gamification
- ©Grand Prize: "The Possibility of Using Music as a Learning Method"

Correspondence Course 11 senior students in 2021 (Video Presentation)

- ©Grand Prize: Culture of Koedo Kawagoe
- ~Sustainable inheritance of cotton heritage learned from Kawagoe~

## 2) Itsuminesai

Itsuminesai is the name of our school's cultural festival and is derived from the five words of our spirit of foundation: Sincerity, Personal Growth, Charity, Trust, and Harmony, which are compared to the mountain peaks. Itsuminesai, which is held in September every year, is a place for students to perform their daily learning achievements, connect with local people, and learn about the SDGs. In 2022, for the first time in three years, we implemented a visitor-type festival while taking into consideration the prevention of the spread of the new coronavirus infection.

### 2021 Held online

Theme "Moon Shot"

Grand Prize "Shooting Club 2021- Behind the National Convention-"

2022 Visitor-type and online 532 visitors in 2 days
Theme "Next State ~ to a higher level~
Grand Prize "SDGs Adventure"

### 3) Promotion of online international exchange

This online international exchange program between high school students in Taiwan and our full-time junior and senior high school students is a very valuable opportunity to interact with Taiwanese high school students in real time.

The main theme of the exchange was "environmental pollution caused by plastic waste," and students from both sides exchanged a variety of opinions. The event ended with a Q&A session and a cheerful atmosphere.

In addition, the high school correspondence course exchanged culture boxes (origami works, Japanese animation T-shirts, sweets, etc.) with a Dutch school (Alfrinkcollege Deurne). We are planning to exchange school introduction videos in the future and expand our exchange opportunities.





## 4) Promotion of UNESCO School activities

We joined the UNESCO School in 2010 and have been actively involved in ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) through lectures on World Heritage and various international exchanges.

UNESCO Schools are working on ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) with the following four themes.

- Understanding the UN system for global issues
- Understanding and promoting human rights and democracy
- Understanding other cultures
- · Environmental Education

## ORecycling Activities

We are actively involved in various recycling activities to realize that each student's small actions can lead to a larger result.



○This is our school's traditional event to have foreign teachers residing in Saitama Prefecture visit the school to deepen cross-cultural understanding. Students learn basic knowledge about each country's society, schools, language through music, dance, and other demonstrations to gain a better understanding of different cultures. Instructors from 10 countries gave them lectures in 2021: Italy, Argentina, Colombia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Paraguay, China, Taiwan, and South Korea.



### 5) Considering DRR in Moral Education Class

As a member of the Global Compact, the Junior High School Student Council led a discussion on Disaster Prevention and Reduction (DRR) in moral education class at our school. The students checked the disaster prevention goods such as emergency preserved food stockpiled at our school, and again decided what they would need in an emergency.





### 6) Study Tours (SDGs training and World Heritage training)

As an alternative to overseas training, students in the second grade of the full-time high school program took part in SDGs training in four locations: Hokkaido, Okinawa, Kyushu, and Kansai. In each region, students deepened their thinking about environmental issues and history, and learned hands-on about the SDGs they had been learning. Correspondence course high school students also had similar training in Kansai.

Second-year junior high school students participated in the World Heritage Study Tour in Hiroshima, Kyoto, and Nara. In Hiroshima, students learned about peace, and in Kyoto and Nara, they learned about history through fieldwork at World Heritage sites.







2. Implement educational programs related to the SDGs through the concerted efforts of faculty, staff, and students by incorporating the SDGs initiatives promoted by UNGC into curricula and extracurricular activities.

(1) Independent and proactive efforts by students

# [Kokusai Gakuin Saitama College]

1) Student Policy Proposition Forum

Two groups of students from our college participated in the "11th Student Policy Proposal Forum" held by Saitama City, where we are located. This initiative is recognized as proof of students' behavior change regarding the SDGs.

- <Participating Student Groups>
- Molding Design Seminar (Policy proposal: Proposal of Saitama Rainbow WEB, Participants: 9 students)
  - <Pre><Pre>resentation Theme>

Leave no one behind

- ~ Propose to create a better city for sexual minority (LGBTQ) people~
- Clinical Nutrition Seminar (Policy proposal: Eat well to extend healthy life span, Participants: 3 students)
  - <Pre><Pre>resentation Theme>
  - Eat well to extend healthy life span
  - ~ Things we should do now to prevent Frail Sarcopenia ~

# (Purpose of Student Policy Proposal Forum)

In order to realize a sustainable city where "no one is left behind" by incorporating the concept of SDGs, students are asked to propose policies and projects in the 11 areas of Saitama City's Comprehensive Development Plan.





### 2) Proactive Activities of Alumni Associations

Although alumni association activities were severely limited during the Coronavirus disaster, we steadily carried out initiatives related to the SDGs, such as the Eco-cap Movement and donations of used stamps to UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). All proactive activities of the Alumni Association are reported at the Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association and published in the "Alumni Association PR RING" to be shared with the entire college.

#### Proactive Activities of Alumni Associations in 2021

- ① Eco Cap Movement: Provided to NPO Caps Piggy Bank Promotion Network Weight: 15.80 kg, Number of plastic caps: 6,794, Donation: 158 yen for polio vaccines for 7.9 people
- ② Fundraising campaign for UN support Amount donated: 1,637 yen
- ③ UNICEF donation to support Ukrainian refugees Amount donated: 20,908 yen
- ④ Participated in the town meeting. The president and vice president of the alumni association participated in an exchange of views with the mayor of Saitama City.
- Saitama Railway Molester Crime Prevention Liaison Council
   Participated in voluntary awareness-raising activities to eradicate molestation
- ⑥ Donated used stamps (172g) to UNICEF for activities to protect children in developing countries.

The students, who were deeply moved by the news reports about Ukraine, decided to see what they could do to help. On the day of the graduation ceremony, they placed a donation box at the ceremony site and appealed to students, parents, faculties, and staffs to support Ukrainian refugees. A total of 20,908 yen was donated to the "Emergency Fund for Refugees in Ukraine" through the Japan Committee for UNICEF.









### 3) Agricultural Experience

As an extra-curricular activity of students, with the cooperation of local farmers, students grow, harvest, process, and commercialize "Beni-Aka" sweet potatoes, a traditional vegetable of Saitama City. Through their farming experience, students learn the importance of sustaining the natural environment and the role that local production and consumption play in realizing a sustainable society by harvesting and commercializing local products.

[Kokusai Gakuin Junior and Senior High School]

1) Participated in the SDGs Eco Forum in Saitama "SDG Eco Forum" was held at Omiya Sonic City on January 30, 2021. Our student gave a presentation on her experiences with the Green Trust Movement and our school's SDGs initiatives.



# 2) Emergency fundraising for Ukrainian refugees

Our student council, as a member of the UNESCO School, held a three-day emergency fundraising campaign for Ukrainian refugees to put the principles expressed in the UNESCO Charter into practice at the school site. The total amount raised by the fundraising activities was 14,487 yen.

In addition, the charity amount obtained from the Charity English Vocabulary Grand Prix was 4,200 yen. The sum of 18,687 yen from these two efforts was donated to the Japan Committee for UNICEF's Ukraine Emergency Fund.





## 3) Lifesaving Activities by Students

Our students made a quick decision to save the life of a man who was on the side of the road due to an attack of illness on their way to school.

They received many responses to their actions, including from the local newspaper, which published a story on May 16th, 2022. The news lifted their hearts by vindicating their commitment to protecting human life.

### (2) Efforts to promote the SDGs

# [Kokusai Gakuin Saitama College]

1) SDGs promotion project in collaboration with Saitama City

Our college participates in the Saitama City Food Loss Reduction Project "Team Eat All" and work to reduce food loss by conducting graduation research on food loss, cooperating in a food drive at the Itsumine Festival (School Festival), and provides cooking lessons that minimize waste. These efforts to reduce food loss are communicated to the community through the website and other means to promote community-wide efforts toward the SDGs.

At a meeting to exchange opinions and reducing food loss held by the Kanto Agricultural Administration Bureau, our students and our faculty members, students proposed ways to extend the expiration dates of food products and introduced practical examples of making "eco-furikake" using kombu and bonito flakes used to make soup stock during cooking classes.

To reduce the use of plastic bottles, water servers were



installed at four locations on campus for a three-month period from September to December 2021, and a "Water Supply Spot Demonstration Experiment" was conducted to measure the reduction in the use of plastic bottles.

## 2) Disaster prevention and mitigation awareness activities

To raise students' awareness of disaster prevention and mitigation, we invited an expert (Disaster Prevention Cooking Advisor certified by the Institute for Risk Management Education) as a lecturer and held an online "First Disaster Food Lecture". In addition, we received a donation of Alpha Rice, a stockpiled food for disaster relief, from Saitama Prefecture, which was nearing its expiration date. During the university's own Disaster Prevention Month, we provided 70 free Alpha Rice balls (560 in total) to students on eight occasions using the concept of eating delicious Alpha Rice, so that they could experience disaster prevention food firsthand and raise awareness of food loss reduction as well as disaster prevention.





### 3) Harassment

Since the revised law on harassment came into effect at our college, we have been working to raise awareness and educate our faculties and staffs, develop relevant internal regulations, and organize a consultation service. We will continue to protect the human rights of our students, faculties, and staffs. Also, we will continue to protect the human rights of our students, teachers, and staffs at Kokusai Gakuin Junior and Senior High Schools as well.

4) Promotion of measures to prevent fraudulent use of public research funds
We have formulated a basic policy based on the "Guidelines for Management and
Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standards)" of
the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and under

the leadership of the Chief Administrator, we are implementing measures to prevent research fund abuse with respect to competitive research funds (public research funds).

### 5) Commemorative events for the founding of Kokusai Gakuin

We hold an event to commemorate the founding of the institute every December for students, parents, faculty, and staff of the junior college, junior high school, and high school to deepen their understanding of the founding spirit and educational policies of the institute. Following the ceremony, lectures and talks appropriate to the celebration of the institute's founding are given. We had a musician perform using a kocarina made from a tree exposed to the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and a pine tree damaged in the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2020. In 2021, college students wrote a reflection paper titled "VUCA and Me" to summarize their own opinions—after the lecture by the Chancellor and President.

# [Kokusai Gakuin Junior and Senior High School]

# 1) Improvement of educational environment and promotion of Eco-Campus

As part of our efforts to improve the educational environment, we are introducing electronic blackboards. The use of an electronic blackboard allows for dynamic class development and have greater educational effects than the old style.

In addition, we have been converting the lighting in each facility to LED. We have replaced the lighting in the MAKOTO HALL (gymnasium) and the grounds. We will continue to create an educational environment where students can learn comfortably and an eco-campus that saves energy.

### 2) Harassment

Since the revised law on harassment came into effect at our school, we have been working to raise awareness and educate our teachers and staffs, develop related internal regulations, and organize a consultation service. We will continue to protect the human rights of students, teachers, and staffs.

### 3) Slacks are introduced as an option for girls' uniforms

Slacks for girls were introduced in 2021. Slacks were introduced to ensure functionality and protection against cold weather, as well as to increase feelings of security and safety.

Introducing them is also a gender-neutral initiative.

### III. Measuring Outcomes

1. Establish an educational system and develop human resources who understand and can promote the 10 UNGC principles

# [Kokusai Gakuin Saitama College]

In the "Graduation Research Seminar" and "Graduation Research Pre-seminar," class courses are aimed at the realization of the 10 GC Principles and SDGs. Students present the results of their two-year research projects at the Graduation Research Presentation to deepen their classmates' understanding. We have begun publishing the Diploma Supplement, which is based on the evaluation of each student's graduation thesis since March 2021. In this graduation research evaluation, a rubric was introduced, and the evaluation perspectives and criteria were explained and disseminated to students' multiple times, leading to the publication of the Diploma Supplement.

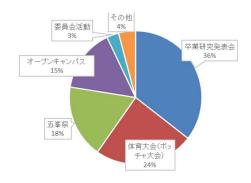
In addition, our unique two-year "graduation research" educational program, has dramatically increased SDG awareness and understanding among our students from 16.3% prior to enrollment to 98% at graduation, a significant achievement.



We have been cooperating and collaborating with the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games through our involvement in the Games, concluding our agreement of promoting understanding of the philosophy of contributing to world peace. Due to the spread of the coronavirus, the dispatch of student volunteers to the Olympics and Paralympics was postponed. However, as an educational activity on campus, we held a boccia tournament to increase awareness of sports popular among people with disabilities. In a survey of students at the time of graduation, the "Boccia Tournament" (24%) was ranked second to the graduation research presentation (36%) as the most rewarding and fulfilling event in their two years at the institute. It was an

opportunity to understand the significance of cooperating with various people. In this survey, 78% of students rated SDG-related initiatives at the Graduation Research Presentation, Boccia Tournament, and Itsumine Festival as having a high degree of





# [Kokusai Gakuin Junior and Senior High School]

The online international exchange event between Taiwanese high school students and our junior and high school students on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, was a very valuable opportunity to interact with high school students from overseas in real time.

The main theme of the exchange meeting was "Environmental Pollution from Plastic Waste". Students from both sides exchanged various opinions about the environmental pollution problem caused by plastic waste, which is a global issue for the realization of a sustainable society. This was a great opportunity for the students to think deeply about their future actions.

As a member of UNESCO Schools who is also committed to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)we will continue to promote international initiatives.

- OStudent behavior change confirmed from 2020 to 2021by survey results
  - ① Percentage of students with a better understanding of the SDGs:  $62.7\% \rightarrow 94.8\%$
  - ② Percentage of students who were able to take action to achieve the 17 SDGs:  $50\% \rightarrow 66.1\%$
- OSpecific actions taken to achieve SDG targets
- Efforts to sort and reduce waste
- Initiatives for food loss
- Initiatives for graduation research, etc.
- Recycling activities

· Efforts at home

• Initiatives at cultural festivals

• Reduction of plastic use

• Collection of contact lens cases

- · Club activities
- 2. Implementation of educational programs related to the SDGs integrated into curricula and extracurricular activities and SDG initiatives aimed at students' independent and proactive efforts

# [Kokusai Gakuin Saitama College]

1) Two of our student groups participated in the "11th Student Policy Proposal Forum" held by Saitama City. Since the start of the graduation seminar, students have been working on the SDGs as a theme. Three study seminar groups have applied to participate in this year's Student Policy Proposal Forum. It was clear that the students not only see the SDGs as their own problem but have also grown to the point where they are willing to take action to promote social change through the act of directly approaching government agencies in the form of policy proposals. Students are definitely changing their behavior.

### 2) UNICEF donation to support Ukrainian refugees

The students, who were deeply moved by the news reports about Ukraine, decided to see what they could do to help. On the day of the graduation ceremony, they placed a donation box at the ceremony site and appealed to students, parents, faculty, and staff to support Ukrainian refugees. A total of 20,908 yen was donated to the "Emergency Fund for Refugees in Ukraine" through the Japan Committee for UNICEF. In our survey of the growth and satisfaction of 2021 graduates, students feel a sense of accomplishment in learning when they think and act on their own and achieve results. Regardless of the amount of money raised, the fundraising for the Ukraine relief efforts can be seen as evidence of the transformation of the students' behavior, as they now see the SDGs as their own problem and put solutions for them into action, which can be seen as an achievement of their studies. In addition, letters of appreciation from UNICEF, UNICEF awards, and letters of thanks for donations of used stamps are displayed on campus as proof of the students' activities.







# [Kokusai Gakuin Junior and Senior High School]

## 1) Participated in the SDGs Eco Forum in Saitama.

"SDG Eco Forum" was held at Omiya Sonic City Auditorium on January 30, 2021. Our student gave a presentation on her experiences with the Green Trust Movement and our school's SDGs initiatives. It is an effort to understand the fact that the students' own efforts are connected to the SDGs efforts, and to encourage others to change their behavior. We consider these efforts to be a sign of student growth and an achievement of our school's education.

# 2) Emergency fundraising for Ukrainian refugees

Our student council, as a member of the UNESCO School, held a three-day emergency fundraising campaign for Ukrainian refugees to put the principles expressed in the UNESCO Charter into practice at the school site. The total amount raised by the fundraising activities was 14,487 yen.

In addition, the charity amount obtained from the Charity English Vocabulary Grand Prix was 4,200 yen. The sum of 18,687 yen from these two efforts was donated to the Japan Committee for UNICEF's Ukraine Emergency Fund, regardless of the amount of money raised, the emergency fundraising campaign to support Ukraine can be seen as an achievement of the school's education, as it is proof that students have changed their behavior by incorporating the SDGs as their own personal issues and putting them into action.

### 3) Lifesaving Activities by Students

Our students made a quick decision to save the life of a man who was on the side of the road due to an attack of illness on their way to school. We believe this demonstrates the essence of the SDG; a demand that they care for and protect human life. With their instant decision to take action, they have shown growth and we are proud of them for it.