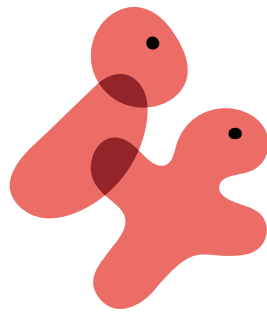


Action Plans

To Realize the *Inochi* Declaration



INOCHI FORUM

October 11, 2025
Action Plan Editorial Team

Action Plans to Realize the *Inochi* Declaration

A total of 103 draft action plans were submitted by 135 individuals, primarily those who participated in the activities of the *Inochi* Forum and those who share its ideals.

These plans were organized around five perspectives on *Inochi*—Protecting, Nurturing, Bonding, Feeling, and Understanding—and further classified within each perspective according to their specific content. Based on this classification, Declarations 1-1 through 5-4 were formulated.

The draft action plans included in this volume have been compiled with respect for the diverse proposals and opinions of contributors, and do not endorse any particular ideological, religious, or political stance. Going forward, we will continue to listen to the many other voices and perspectives that could not be incorporated into the present volume.

The editorial responsibility for the action plans rests with the Chief Editor of the Action Plan Editorial Team. The names of those who contributed to the drafting process are listed in the “List of Contributing Authors” at the end of this volume.

INOCHI

This precious *Inochi*, an irreplaceable gift to us

Fragile, delicate, changing with time.

Every *Inochi* conceals a radiant light,

All are deeply intertwined.

Let us protect, nurture,

And bond with every precious *Inochi*,

Unleashing its hidden light.

Discovering what it means to be alive,

And returning to *Inochi's* true origin.

**Inochi* is a Japanese term that signifies the sanctity of life. It goes beyond human existence to embrace the lives and ways of all living beings, emphasizing respect, individuality, and the celebration of potential.

1 Feel *Inochi*

Engage with people and nature and feel the essence of each *Inochi*. Sense the transience and vulnerability of *Inochi*, and, precisely because of that, appreciate its preciousness, joy, hidden brilliance, and value.

Declaration 1-1

Feel *Inochi* through art and draw forth the innate compassion within every individual.

1-1-1

Through art, let us bond with the very origin of *Inochi*. Let us draw forth the quiet voices within our hearts, let them resonate with one another, and spread a spirit of cherishing *Inochi* throughout the world.

When we realize that everything around us is a gift from the Earth and the cosmos, a sense of gratitude naturally begins to grow. With each breath of air, we feel the pulse of *Inochi*. The sun's warm light, the water that nourishes the land—together they give us the power to live. Though invisible to the eye, all *Inochi* is deeply connected and mutually supportive. *Inochi* is a great gift from the universe.

The General Incorporated Association Feel&Sense seeks, through music, film, and exhibition-based art, to inspire people to feel *Inochi* from a cosmic perspective, cultivate sensitivity to the subtleties of the human heart and mind, and nurture the strength to live by returning to the source of *Inochi*. Since our launch in 2018, we have presented the immersive art film LIFE® *Inochi*—A Journey to Re-experience Birth, designed to evoke awe and wonder, in science museums, art museums, planetariums, schools, sacred World Heritage sites such as Koyasan, and even at international summits. These activities have created opportunities—across generations and cultures—for people in Japan and abroad to experience the presence of *Inochi*.

This sustained work has been highly recognized, and in 2025 it was officially designated as a Cooperative Event of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition. On September 27, 2025, together with the *Inochi* Forum, Feel&Sense presented LIFE® *Inochi* with Super Kids Orchestra at the Expo Hall, the main stage of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai. The performance featured cosmic imagery mapped across the entire venue, as director and artist Masahiko Hashimoto was joined by the Super Kids Orchestra under the guidance of world-renowned conductor Yutaka Sado. Audience and performers alike were enveloped in the boundless space and pure sounds, tracing the grand



The *Inochi* Orchestra was held at the EXPO Hall, with 6,000 attendees

journey of *Inochi* back to its origin. The finale featured the *Inochi* Forum's theme song INOCHI (lyrics by the *Inochi* Forum, music by Masahiko Hashimoto), sung by about 200 participants. Among them were children living with serious illnesses or unable to attend school, yet on that day, all differences dissolved as they shared in the resonance of *Inochi* and hope for the future—a truly irreplaceable moment.

Building on these achievements, Feel&Sense envisions global expansion toward 2050, beginning with participation in the 2030 Expo in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. At the same time, they will unite the film LIFE® *Inochi* and the song INOCHI into the INOCHI WORLD PROJECT—an art initiative to draw forth and interweave each person's "voice of *Inochi*" and inspire change worldwide. The project's two pillars will be the "*Inochi* Orchestra" and the "*Inochi* Choir."

The *Inochi* Orchestra will bring the 25-minute art film LIFE® *Inochi*—screened at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai—to life as a live performance integrating film and music in collaboration with orchestras and artists from around the world, creating opportunities for people to reconnect with the

origin of *Inochi*. The *Inochi* Choir is more than a group that simply rehearses and performs songs. Its members watch LIFE® *Inochi* together, reflect on the meaning of *Inochi*, and listen to the quiet voices within their own hearts—voices often buried under the busyness of daily life. By sharing these resonances with others, they come to feel each other's existence as *Inochi* and to cultivate a spirit of cherishing life. Each person's inner voice merges with the lyrics of INOCHI, deepening their understanding of its profound meaning. The resulting harmonies are not just songs—they are messages of *Inochi* that reach straight into the depths of the listener's heart.

Together with diverse artists, the *Inochi* Forum will listen deeply to the resonance of *Inochi*, share and celebrate its preciousness, and expand the circle of empathy—sparking waves of resonance that reach across the world. We believe

with conviction that each action we take can enrich and transform hearts, foster enduring respect across generations and borders, and help bring forth a world in which humanity cherishes this planet as its own.

[Reference]

- Feel&Sense
<https://www.feelandsense.co/>
- INOCHI WORLD PROJECT
<https://inochiworldproject.com>

[Action Platform]

Arts, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



1-1-2

Believing in the “power of song”, establish hubs where every child who loves singing can regularly experience music in their own communities, and enable more children to cultivate the strength to live.

Music plays a powerful role in human development. In particular, singing—as a musical expression infused with words—carries the weight of history, culture, prayers, and emotions. Moreover, singing through vocalization and breath can contribute to physical well-being.

In every municipality across Japan, even the smallest ones, there are children who love to sing. Around 50 years ago, considered the heyday of choirs in Japan, many municipalities had children's choirs, often exceeding 100 members. However, with the progression of the declining birthrate and aging population from about 30 years ago, and as children's time outside school became increasingly devoted to cram schools in Japan's fierce competition for entrance examinations, children's choirs have experienced steady decline. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 further exacerbated this, leading to the closure of many children's choirs. Most that remain now operate with only a few members.

In response to this situation, the Art MICE Association is working to create local hubs where children who love to sing can participate in regular and sustained singing activities, even in small municipalities. A major challenge is securing local instructors for singing. Although many graduates from music universities enter society each year who have invested significant time in music since childhood, most cannot make a living from music alone. This reflects the broader reality that music is not yet fully recognized as indispensable to society in Japan.



Wakayama Children's Choir



Kōyasan International Children's Chorus Festival

In Western societies, the arts are regarded as essential to enriching *Inochi*. Local music schools not only offer education in the arts but are often among the region's most prestigious institutions. Research shows that regular musical experiences from a young age help develop various abilities. In the UK, music is even used in integrative medicine, where music therapy complements pharmaceuticals and surgery in healthcare. In Japan as well, many outstanding instructors have emerged through local children's choir activities, helping nurture talented individuals. Many children with developmental disabilities participate in these choirs, and singing-based therapeutic care has been practically implemented with notable outcomes. Through this experience, children with disabilities are able to lead rich and vibrant lives.

Art MICE is currently exploring how to incorporate "singing-based therapy" into child development support and after-school day services, which the government is currently promoting. In 2024, a major reform of welfare-related education policy was enacted, requiring after-school services to foster development across five domains essential for participation in society: health & daily life, physical activity & sensory development, cognition & behavior, language & communication, and interpersonal & social skills. Singing-based therapy encompasses all these five domains.

Moving forward, it is crucial to work in partnership with medical institutions and researchers to build solid evidence for its efficacy. If it can be shown that singing contributes meaningfully to child development, such therapy could

become a valuable resource in welfare education facilities throughout Japan—supporting children's growth and offering fulfilling, sustainable careers for those trained in music.

Music is a universal language, and singing is a musical culture practiced in every country. The *Inochi* Forum, together with organizations such as Art MICE, envisions a society in which children around the world gain the strength to live through singing-based therapy, enabling every *Inochi* to unleash its radiant light.

[References]

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<https://koyasan-chorus-festival.jimdosite.com/>
- Five Domains: Health & Daily Life, Physical Activity & Sensory Development, Cognition & Behavior, Language & Communication, Interpersonal & Social Skills

[Action Platform]

Education and Children

[SDGs]



1-1-3

Nurture *Inochi* through the creation of music together, and strive to build a peaceful and inclusive society where everyone can live freely, creatively, and harmoniously regardless of upbringing or ability.

Music is widely recognized for its educational benefits and is incorporated into learning settings from early childhood education to schools across all levels. In particular, ensemble activities such as choral singing and instrumental performance foster a sense of community and collective transformation, and in the process are understood to contribute to the development of children's cognitive and non-cognitive skills. Recent studies provide increasing evidence in support of this understanding.

El Sistema, a music education movement founded in Venezuela in 1975, was established with the goal of empowering children and transforming society through music. As the movement has expanded globally, evaluations and external studies by specialists have affirmed its social value. In the United States, Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA), led by



Finale at the International Exchange Summer Camp hosted by the Korean government, held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in August 2025. A total of 200 members—comprising orchestras, choirs, and dance teams—from South Korea, Japan, Thailand, and Malaysia participated in the finale

the Los Angeles Philharmonic with local music organizations, commissioned a case-control study of participants and non-participants over time from the Brain and Creativity Institute at the University of Southern California. This study demonstrated significant differences in brain development between children who participated in YOLA and those who did not.

In Japan, a 2014 external evaluation commissioned by Friends of *El Sistema* Japan and conducted by Aoyama Gakuin University examined members of the Soma Children's Orchestra. Participant observation and surveys revealed that orchestra members showed higher levels of self-confidence in their actions compared to national averages from similar questions. However, in group music settings, even when economic barriers such as participation fees are removed, other barriers remain. Some children have been unable to join due to behavioral norms, disabilities, or a desire to proceed at their own pace. In Japan, there is a tendency across educational settings to value children who adapt to group expectations and demonstrate consistent effort. Yet today's children are diverse. Some are diligent and focused, while others prefer a more relaxed and exploratory approach to learning music. It is essential that music education also provides spaces where every child—not just the hardworking ones—can feel free to engage on their own terms.

Of course, choral and ensemble performance require a certain degree of cohesion and commitment to shared goals. At the same time, it is critical to ensure that diversity is respected, and that each individual's rights, dignity, and freedom are upheld. The joy of different personalities coming together—acknowledging, including, and collaborating with one another despite differences—is a unique and irreplaceable experience. Music is particularly well-suited to making such experiences possible.

Therefore, music education based on co-creation is deeply aligned with SDGs beyond just education, inequality reduction, or community development. It is directly connected to the broader goals of realizing peace and justice. As we approach 2050, while we will benefit from developments in artificial intelligence and medicine, societies around the world will also face challenges like aging populations and increased risk of isolation. In such a context, music classrooms—spaces where freedom and equality are guaranteed at a micro level—can serve as the foundation for a just and inclusive society, and ultimately, for a peaceful world. At a time when inequality is rampant and conflict persists globally, this idea must be examined with urgency.

The *Inochi* Forum is committed to ensuring that by 2050, everyone on Earth can live in a creative and inclusive society that fosters freedom and self-expression. Working with stakeholders across music, culture, education, and welfare, we will build systems that enable joyful, empowering, and exploratory music education at all levels of society.

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<https://www.elsistemajapan.org>

[Action Platform]

Arts, Culture and Sport / Education and Children

[SDGs]



1-1-4

Enjoy the rhythm, dance together, and feel the pulse of *Inochi*—transcending nationalities, ethnicities, cultures, and religions. Spread a circle of empathy and our hopes for peace throughout the world.

Everything that lives and breathes,
 let this song reach them, reach them, let it spread out
 Let's weave the words of *Inochi*,
 let's sing the song of *Inochi*
 Where the dance of life emerges here today
 It bonds everyone, and bridges world to world
 Feel it here together, *Inochi Bon Bon NOW!*

The world today faces complex and overlapping crises—wars and civil conflicts in many regions, natural disasters striking frequently and globally, and rising risks of trade wars. Elements contributing to global instability continue to grow by the day.

Originating in Japan, *Bon Odori* is considered an inclusive dance that leaves no one behind. With simple and accessible movements that anyone can follow, people form a circle

and dance together—fostering joy, laughter, friendship, and shared delight. When people experience moments of joy, excitement, and togetherness in the same space, an indescribable, beautiful feeling emerges. When these moments are joined and shared, a circle of empathy is formed—perhaps this is how we can take steps, however small, toward peace. Such a circle of empathy may become the foundation for a more peaceful world.

With this belief, Japanese classical dancer Ukon Takafuji, JICA staff member Kota Sakaguchi, and social musician Rikiya Nakaegawa joined forces with musical artists from around the world to co-create a new concept: “*Bon Odori* with music representing each country and region, united in a prayer for peace.” This was the beginning of *World Bon Bon*. The initiative was sparked by a conversation around the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VII), held in 2019. The idea emerged to create an event where Africa and Japan could come together through music and dance. The *Africa Bon Odori Executive Committee* was launched, and as part of the TICAD VII pre-event, thousands of people from Africa, Japan, and other countries danced together in Yokohama. This shared experience became the foundation of the movement.

The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily halted activities, but in 2022, a new opportunity arose. Ambassador Richards of Jamaica approached Sakaguchi with a request: “It’s hard to host events during the pandemic, but could we hold something in Tokyo to commemorate Jamaica’s 60th anniversary of independence?” Inspired by this, the three collaborators reunited with a sense of purpose. They partnered with Mr. Macka Ruffin, a bearer of Jamaica’s roots reggae tradition, and created a new piece called *Reggae Bon Bon*, along with a companion track “*JJ Partnership*.” Sakaguchi contributed the musical ideas, Nakaegawa led the arrangement, and Takafuji choreographed the *Bon Odori* movements. The project received enthusiastic responses, opening the door to further opportunities.

Over the following two years, a series of original songs and dances emerged, including:

Mexico Bon Bon, Palo Bon Bon, Nica Bon Bon, Platano Bon Bon, Merengue Bon Bon, Bachata Bon Bon, Cotui Bon Bon, Lao Bon Bon, Jumbo Bon Bon (Kenya), *Irish Bon Bon, Guate Bon Bon, and Pachamama Bon Bon* (Bolivia).



Production and filming of the song and dance piece *Reggae Bon Bon* commemorating the Jamaica’s 60th anniversary of independence

These works have been performed in Japan, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Laos, Nicaragua, and beyond.

As a culmination of these efforts, the *World Bon Bon* team has now completed a new piece for the *Inochi* Declaration: *Inochi Bon Bon*. This work was created with the hope that through dance, people can feel the vitality of *Inochi* and allow it to shine. During the *Inochi* Declaration Festival on October 11, participants will join in singing and dancing to this and other songs as the grand finale of the event.

The *Inochi* Forum is committed to sharing and expanding the songs and dances of *World Bon Bon*—especially *Inochi Bon Bon*—with people of all backgrounds. By doing so, we will nurture actions that shine with *Inochi* and embody the hope for peace. Let us reflect on what we can do, find companions who share our vision, and take meaningful steps forward—together.

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[Action Platform]

Peace and Human Rights / Arts, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



1-1-5

Build spaces where everyone can attune their ears to the voices of *Inochi* resonating through art across generations, deepening their understanding of *Inochi*.

We live in an era where the question, “What is *Inochi*?” holds profound significance. Whether we consider the advancements in technology and medicine or ponder the nature of human existence in the face of artificial intelligence, we continually confront the question of *Inochi*. In many fields, people are grappling to find answers to this question.

One way to understand the invisible, formless concept of *Inochi* is by attuning our ears at a museum. Museums preserve and exhibit works that encapsulate the voices and emotions of *Inochi* in tangible form. For the purpose of this discussion, let us focus specifically on art museums. What does it mean to attune our ears at an art museum? It means investigating and researching the artworks exhibited there. These works, transformed into color, form, sound, and language, are manifestations of the voices and emotions of *Inochi*. Through careful study and research, we can bring the essence of *Inochi* to light.

From ancient cave paintings created tens of thousands of years ago to artworks being produced at this very moment, *Inochi* has given rise to a multitude of artistic expressions. While the creators of the ancient cave paintings are no longer alive, and we cannot directly hear their voices, we do not need to give up. Those paintings are living witnesses to their era. If we investigate and understand these works properly, they will eloquently tell us the stories of their time. Thus, to truly listen to the voices of these works, we must engage in accurate and thorough research. This is what we mean by “attuning our ears.”

However, investigating and researching the artwork alone is not sufficient to fully hear the voices of *Inochi*. This is because *Inochi* never exists in isolation; it is inevitably influenced—however subtly—by the surrounding environment, whether natural, social, or institutional. We must therefore approach the voices of *Inochi* with an awareness of these environmental factors.

For example, at the Ohara Museum of Art, artists are offered opportunities for residency and creation in a studio once used by painters a century ago. These artists not only create in the studio but also explore the local area, interact with residents, and research the land’s history and culture. The artworks produced there could not have come into being without the specific time, place, and artist. In the future, if someone seeks to understand this era, this place, or this artist, the works created now will surely speak to them about this moment with clarity and depth. To ensure that future generations can truly hear these voices when they



Listen intently to the voice of the work through dialogue

attune their ears, the Ohara Museum of Art preserve records and the artworks themselves.

In this era where the question “What is *Inochi*?” carries such weight, the *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with museums and other arts and cultural institutions, will work to create spaces where many people can visit museums, engage with both artworks and their surrounding contexts, and attune their ears to the voices of *Inochi*.

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<https://www.artic.edu/about-us>
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[Action Platform]

Art, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



1-1-6

Regard 2025 as a turning point for civilization on Earth and strive to build a sustainable society in harmony with nature, where everyone can feel happiness, by applying the creativity and imagination nurtured through art to society.

It is said that encountering art cultivates creativity, which enables us to carve out a path through difficulties and create the future, as well as imagination, which nurtures compassion for others and society.

The relationship between humanity and art can be traced back to prehistoric times—for instance, the geometric patterns found in South Africa's *Blombos* Cave (about 73,000 years ago) and numerous cave paintings around the world. That art has remained part of human life since before recorded history suggests it may have functioned as a means of survival. Even today, art plays a significant role in revitalizing cities and societies. In Japan, revitalization through art in coastal regions of the Seto Inland Sea has gained attention. Internationally, the Austrian city of Linz—once heavily polluted—founded the cultural and artistic institution “Ars Electronica” in 1979, which has led it to be recognized as a future-oriented creative city. Similarly, in Bilbao, Spain, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao opened in 1997 amid the decline of the shipbuilding industry, attracting around 4 million visitors in just three years and creating over 5,000 jobs.

Given these developments, international attention is growing toward “art thinking” and “STEAM education,” which emphasize creative thinking and integrated learning across Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Believing in the power of art as a means to shape a better future society, the Osaka Kansai International Art Festival Executive Committee has held the pre-festival “Study: Osaka Kansai International Art Festival” three times since 2022 under the theme of “Studying the Relationship among Art, People, and Society.” In 2025, the Committee collaborated with the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai presenting “social impact” as its central concept. Over 100 artist groups from a total of 25 countries and regions participated, showcasing exhibitions across Osaka and displaying public art at 13 locations within the Expo venue.

This art festival aims not only to promote culture but also to cultivate the next-generation core industries through the creative economy (industries based on intellectual property such as arts, design, advertising, fashion, and software). The committee has launched initiatives such as “StARTs UPs,” a business contest and support program for startups, contributing to job creation and new ventures.

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and South Korea, the committee co-hosted the international art fair “Study



Study: Osaka Kansai International Art Festival 2025, Chapter 2, Reflections on People and Life (Osaka Culture Centre, Tempozan), Exhibition view of ‘Reshaped Reality: 50 Years of Hyperrealist Sculpture’



Study: Osaka Kansai International Art Festival 2025, Chapter 1: An Invitation to a Diverse World (Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai) ‘EXPO PUBLIC ART’ Tepei Kaneuji, ‘Hard Boiled Daydream (Sculpture / Spook / Osaka)’

× PLAS: Asia Art Fair” at the Osaka International Convention Center. This event brought together approximately 80 galleries and organizations from eight Asian countries and regions, providing a platform for global artistic exchange. Additionally, the committee hosted the symposium “Study × PLAS Meeting: Art & Impact—Where Are We (the Earth) Headed?”, aiming to reunite knowledge fragmented across art, science, technology, anthropology, and beyond, and to reimagine the future on a planetary scale.

Looking ahead, the committee plans to evolve the Osaka Kansai International Art Festival into a sustainable initiative toward achieving the SDGs by 2030, continuing its journey of learning and practice. It envisions Osaka as a global art city and seeks to promote the entire region—from Lake Biwa, the Yodo River basin, to the Seto Inland Sea—as the “Kansai Art & Bio Region” on the world stage. As a platform for this vision, it aims to establish the “International Future Consortium (tentative),” which will serve as a legacy of the Expo.

The *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with organizations promoting various arts festivals to foster creativity and imagination through art, thereby advancing efforts to build a sustainable life in harmony with nature.

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[Action Platform]
Art, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



Declaration 1-2

Feel the pain of those facing hardship and adversity, expand the circle of empathy, and create a society that leaves no one behind.

1-2-1

Build friendships across intellectual disabilities and create a world where everyone can truly be themselves.

People with intellectual disabilities possess unique and irreplaceable gifts.

They may not live according to the standards of efficiency that society often values. Many face limitations in what they can do, and those with severe disabilities often require extensive assistance with daily activities such as eating. In some cases, they are unable to act independently and live in ways that differ significantly from others. In societies that place high value on efficiency, strength, and competence, people with intellectual disabilities often find themselves living in the space of “weakness.” Living in such a vulnerable state can be painful. When support is unavailable, when comparisons with others become a source of suffering, or when loneliness and lack of friendship take hold, their anguish may manifest as anger or cries for help.

Assistants at *L’Arche Kana no ie*—support workers who live alongside people with intellectual disabilities—arrive with the intention of helping those in need. But as they share daily life through meals, work, art, prayer, and celebrations, they are gradually drawn beyond superficial relationships. They are invited into honest, reciprocal connections—where both joy and conflict are experienced as equals. Many people with intellectual disabilities care little about titles or past achievements. Some possess a mysterious insight that gently touches the emotional wounds we carry from childhood. Others delight in small joys. Even when mocked or rejected, they are unafraid to love. In supporting people with disabilities and forming mutual relationships, we come to discover a new value system—one not based on efficiency.

At *L’Arche Kananoie*, this transformative process—where assistants and visitors alike, meet people with intellectual disabilities and, in doing so, discover their own true selves—is treasured above all. If you spend time with a person with an intellectual disability and become their friend, you may find that this helps you return to your own true self. Engaging with someone without hiding your own vulnerability invites you, little by little, to forgive your own weaknesses. For those of us who do not yet know how to accept our vulnerabilities, the presence of someone who simply stays with us is essential. People with intellectual disabilities teach us that we are enough just as we are—through their very presence



Interactions at the *L’Arche Kana no ie*

and openness.

Current welfare systems still fall short of ensuring that people with severe disabilities can live fully within society. The *Inochi* Forum, together with *L’Arche Kana no ie*, envisions and promotes the formation of small, inclusive communities where people with and without intellectual disabilities live together with mutual respect. In each of these communities, people share daily life regardless of ability, welcoming guests, sharing meals, praying, and celebrating together. Local residents meet people with intellectual disabilities and form friendships that transcend differences.

An inclusive society is one in which everyone is supported to live as their authentic selves. This is because people with intellectual disabilities convey a profound message: “You are enough, just as you are.” Their presence teaches us that our lives are supported by countless connections with other *Inochi*. Disability and vulnerability are not burdens—they are opportunities to say: “Your presence matters to me.”

The *Inochi* Forum is also committed to expanding a circle of joy that celebrates the *Inochi* we all share—strong and fragile alike.

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[Action Platform]
 Medical and Welfare

[SDGs]



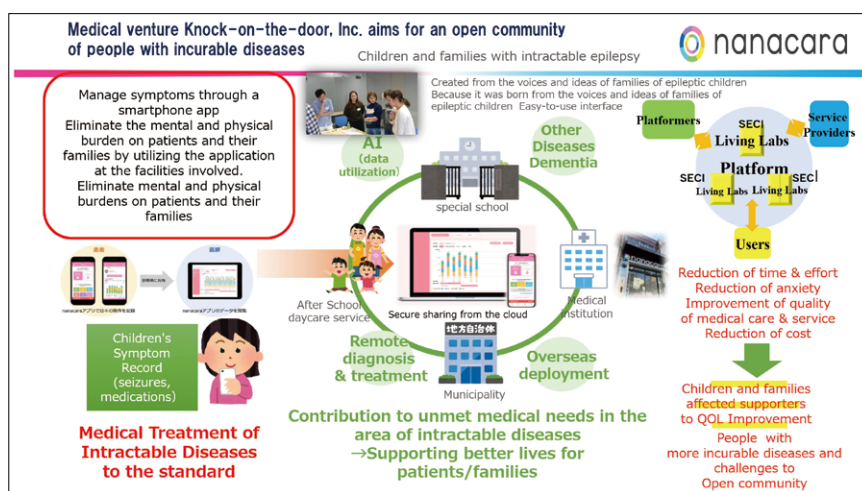
1-2-2

From the perspective of Human Healthcare, let us empathize with the lives and concerns of patients and people with disabilities. Let us support one another in realizing the full potential of each individual's given *Inochi*, enabling everyone to fully live their own lives with dignity.

“Human Healthcare” is an approach grounded in empathy—connecting with patients and people with disabilities, sharing their lived experiences, and standing beside them in their journey to live out their lives fully and authentically. *Inochi* does not refer solely to life in the biological or scientific sense, but to the active, human process of living with presence and purpose. Those who have endured illness, disability, or adversity possess a strength born of vulnerability, and they play a central role in regenerating *Inochi* in society. By learning from them, we can build a society rooted in shared existence—where everyone's *Inochi* is respected as a gift, where *Inochi* is abundant, and where *Inochi* is interconnected.

Eisai Co., Ltd. has made it its corporate philosophy to listen to the insights of people with rare diseases or disabilities, and to take real action to create solutions for them. At the core of this philosophy is the operational logic of “Human Healthcare”—a value system in which the benefit of patients and people with disabilities takes precedence, and business success follows as a result. At Eisai, every employee is required to spend at least 1% of their working hours with patients or people with disabilities, engaging in experiential learning that leads to empathy. Through this process, they internalize the company's mission. For example, some employees visit *L'Arche Kana no ie*, a group home for people with intellectual disabilities. There, they encounter the unexpected emotional richness and humanity of the residents, gaining insights that catalyze personal transformation.

This approach has also been extended to community-based initiatives, such as resident-driven Living Labs. These are co-hosted by local communities and companies under pioneering agreements and empower local residents to take the lead in shaping future-oriented ecosystems. A prime example is the smartphone application “*nanacara*”, developed by Knock on the Door, Inc.



The world “*nanacara*” aims to realize

The app allows users to easily record epileptic seizures in real time, track medication and seizure frequency, and share this data with family and physicians. Over a two-year co-creation process involving more than 250 patients and families, the app was designed in response to their wish to easily record seizures using a smartphone. It also reflects the empathy of parents who have experienced the pain of raising a child with a rare disease and who wish to prevent others from enduring the same hardship. From the extraction of latent concerns to design and launch, the development culminated in the release of “*nanacara*” in March 2020.

Knock on the Door's mission is to “enable patients with rare diseases and their families to shine with *Inochi* and live their lives true to themselves.” Their solutions go beyond medical care to support daily life and overall quality of life. Looking ahead, the company aims to develop predictive technologies for epileptic seizures using AI and biometric data. In addition to having established telemedicine infrastructure, they envision tools that interpret facial expressions, vocal signals, and biomarkers to more accurately communicate patient symptoms to physicians. They also aim to leverage AI to recommend optimal diagnoses and therapeutic candidates based on accumulated data. In the context of dementia, such technology could help individuals and families articulate life goals that are aligned with their identity and

sense of purpose—fostering mutual understanding and support. By 2026, Knock on the Door plans to build an innovation ecosystem where patients and healthcare professionals co-create transformative solutions on a shared platform.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with such organizations, seeks to return to the origins of “Human Healthcare”. It will work to weave together patients, families, healthcare providers, and caregivers into a support network that protects *Inochi* and helps every person face illness while living their given life in wellness and dignity.

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• Eisai Co., Ltd.

<https://www.eisai.co.jp>
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[Action Platform]

Medical and Welfare

[SDGs]



1-2-3

Act to create a world where everyone can enjoy fashion—regardless of disability, gender, age, or nationality.

When choosing clothing with designs or functions that suit one's individual needs, factors such as disability, gender, age, and nationality can become barriers. The Japan Welfare & Medical Fashion Association has worked to overcome these barriers by designing garments that are accessible to all—easy to put on and take off, and stylish for everyone. Examples include wrap-style skirts designed for individuals with paralysis (*bottom'all* – Photos A & B), jackets with zippers extending from the wrist to the side of the torso (Photo C), and boots with multiple zippers tailored to wheelchair users (banana boots – Photos D & E). In September 2022, the association held a fashion show featuring only wheelchair users during Paris Fashion Week. This groundbreaking event has since encouraged more wheelchair users to participate in global fashion shows such as New York and Milan, and we are now closer than ever to a society where everyone can enjoy fashion—regardless of physical ability.

Through these activities, the association has also received many heartfelt concerns about clothing. One topic that left a particularly strong impression was the issue of adult “diapers”. A wheelchair-using friend once confessed: “I can’t travel because I don’t want anyone to see me in a diaper.” Another friend spoke tearfully of their mother, who appeared distressed when told to start wearing diapers in a care facility. Issues such as urinary or fecal incontinence are difficult for many to talk about, even with close family or friends. In hearing these silent voices, the association began to feel a sense of responsibility to give them visible form. In fact, many people around us quietly struggle with excretion-related difficulties. There are women dealing with postpartum urinary incontinence, men suffering due to prostate-related conditions, individuals who’ve lost the sensation of bowel movements due to accidents or illness, and those



Photo A



Photo B

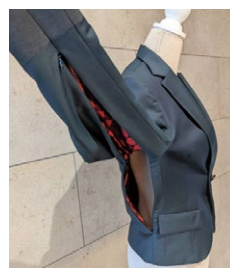


Photo C



Photo D



Photo E

who can no longer use the toilet independently.

In response, the association has launched the Future O-MU-TSU (diaper) Project. Unlike ordinary underwear, which comes in a wide variety of colors and designs that reflect individual preferences and styles, current adult diaper products are largely uniform. Although highly functional, most are plain white disposables, with little attention to design. As a result, many people have very few options that align with their own tastes, and some lose the freedom to express themselves in their daily lives.

From a welfare, medical, and fashion standpoint, the association is now working to design exciting and uplifting adult diapers. On June 24, 2025, at the EXPO Hall of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, the association hosted a fashion show titled “O-MU-TSU WORLD EXPO: Future Diaper Collection” with adult diapers as the featured items—sending a message to the world on behalf of those whose voices are rarely heard. Since the Expo, the association has been working to transform perceptions around diapers, catalyze global conversation, and drive meaningful societal change.

The *Inochi* Forum will also work hand-in-hand with people around the world to build a society where everyone, including those with disabilities or toileting difficulties, can enjoy fashion without shame or limitation.

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- More than 13 million people in Japan are estimated to experience urinary incontinence (defined as occurring once a week or more).
Source: “Guidelines on Female Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms” (2019)
https://www.urol.or.jp/lib/files/other/guideline/38_woman_lower-urinary_v2.pdf
- More than 5 million people in Japan are estimated to experience fecal incontinence (defined as once a month or more).
Source: “Definition and Epidemiology of Fecal Incontinence” by Toshiki *Ajimura*, Clinical Surgery, Vol. 79(3), 2017
- Prevalence of fecal incontinence:
7.5% for people aged 65+, 4% for people aged 20–64
- Weekly urinary incontinence: 13.24 million people (Men: 4.86 million, Women: 8.38 million)
Urge incontinence: Men 2.02M, Women 3.77M
Stress incontinence: Men 0.82M, Women 4.61M
- Daily urinary incontinence: 6.12 million people (Men: 1.68 million, Women: 4.44 million)
Urge incontinence: Men 1.24M, Women 2.19M
Stress incontinence: Men 0.44M, Women 2.25M
- Japan Welfare Medical Fashion Association:
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1-2-4

Respecting diversity and embracing those who feel isolated or left behind is not always easy to achieve together. That’s why we must open our hearts and create the rules of society together—collectively and inclusively.

Every person, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, or age, has the right to live freely, confidently, and in safety. This right must be guaranteed by a society that respects diversity and ensures social inclusion. Yet, contradictions inevitably arise from the interaction between individuals and their environments. Many people, especially those in structurally disadvantaged positions, face discrimination, poverty, insecurity, and isolation in their daily lives. These are not abstract issues; they are tangible violations of



Fashion show at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai Photo: Kohei Oka

[Action Platform]

Medical and Welfare

[SDGs]



human rights woven into everyday existence.

The values and systems needed for the future will not emerge from uniformity, but from diversity. Minorities are not merely passive recipients of support; they are active participants in society who contribute to the stability and progress of the majority. However, as diversity is increasingly respected, friction and conflict often arise around the mutual recognition of freedom between different groups.

The world today faces a serious and difficult challenge: how to promote social inclusion while achieving political and social equality alongside cultural diversity? This is the tension between the minority's desire for safety and freedom, and the anxiety or dissatisfaction of the majority who fear that existing norms may be eroded.

To overcome this divide, it is essential to foster resilient dialogue and develop layered relationships of mutual support—relationships that resist fixed roles of “helper” and “helped.” Across nations, regions, sectors, and professions, all stakeholders must collaborate flexibly. Sometimes roles will overlap, sometimes they will be shared or exchanged. The wisdom and experience gained from such collaboration can lay the foundation for a strong yet adaptable social solidarity that advances a more inclusive society. The *Inochi* Forum, alongside international and national efforts, also values local, everyday practices. By weaving these community-based actions together with care and intention, we aim to build systems of localized circulation that support sustainable coexistence.

For example, in Ikuno Ward of Osaka City—home to the highest proportion of foreign residents of any urban municipality in Japan—NPO *IKUNO Tabunka Flat* is working with private enterprises to repurpose a former elementary school into a multicultural hub. Since April 2022, this initiative has supported children from foreign backgrounds who require Japanese language assistance through learning support and children's cafeterias. These programs create safe spaces and empowering opportunities for minority children experiencing discrimination, poverty, or social exclusion.

To further advance these efforts, *IKUNO Tabunka Flat* propose the following actions:

1. Create mechanisms that enable minorities to actively participate in policy formation and decision-making processes across all sectors.

Ensuring the equal and proactive participation of minori-

ties—who are directly affected by public policies—not only to promote social justice but also to uphold the principles of democracy.

2. Expand legal frameworks and implement cross-sector action plans to promote respect for diversity and social inclusion.

Beyond cultivating public awareness, laws must be established to secure education, welfare, and employment in line with international human rights standards, and plans must be formulated and implemented based on those laws.

3. Develop and mobilize financial resources to implement these policies effectively.

In particular, it is necessary to enhance financial support for the civic sector, which often has limited funding but provides direct support to marginalized groups.

The *Inochi* Forum, in cooperation with diverse organizations, is committed to promoting these efforts. Together, we will expand spaces where everyone can help create the rules of society with openness and mutual respect.

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[Action Platform]

Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



1-2-5

Have you ever had an experience you couldn't put into words, leaving you to wonder: “Is it just me?” or “No one would understand anyway,” and feel isolated?

Bring together those unspoken feelings—and try to craft words for them, together!

Each of us lives with a different body and in different environments. Naturally, our experiences vary. For those whose bodies or environments differ significantly from the majority, their experiences are also likely to diverge from the norm. Everyday language circulating in society tends to crystallize common narratives repeatedly experienced by the majori-

ty—those “relatable episodes” that become common sense. Consequently, individuals in the minority may find themselves in situations where there are no words to express their own experiences. This absence of language makes it difficult to interpret their own experiences, envision their future, affirm the reality of events, or share empathy with

others—leading to further isolation.

There are cases where experiences that cannot be expressed in everyday language can be described using technical terms. Encountering such terms may allow minority individuals to finally recognize and affirm their long-muddled experiences as real and find pathways to cope with them. However, language and knowledge produced by research communities—often dominated by experts who have not had these experiences themselves—do not always fully capture the lived experiences of those concerned. Philosopher Miranda Fricker calls this imbalance, where daily language is biased toward the majority's narratives, “epistemic injustice.”^{*1}

To address such injustice, people who carry experiences that defy both everyday and academic expression have initiated what is known as “*Tojisha-Kenkyu*” (Participatory Research). This is a research activity in which individuals with shared experiences come together to generate words and phrases that articulate their realities and to uncover patterns within their experiences^{*2}. Originally emerging from communities of people with psychiatric disabilities, addiction, or developmental disorders, this practice has since extended to parents grappling with the uncertainties of child-rearing, children unable to attend school without clear reasons, formerly incarcerated individuals seeking to convey their struggles, and corporate workers enduring unnamable stress. Together, they are building research communities that transcend backgrounds and attributes.

For instance, since 2001, *Tojisha-Kenkyu* has been used as a method to support community reintegration for long-term psychiatric inpatients and individuals released from prison^{*3}. Since 2008, *Tojisha-Kenkyu* by autistic individuals has led to the scientific verification of their proposed hypotheses, contributing new insights into challenges such as body image, voice control instability, and narrowed personal space^{*4}. Additionally, educational programs combining virtual reality (VR) simulations co-created with autistic individuals and video testimonials have been found effective in reducing prejudice and discrimination among participants^{*5}. In recent years, *Tojisha-Kenkyu* has also begun to be utilized in transforming workplaces—such as companies and welfare facilities—into inclusive environments where diverse individuals can thrive^{*6}.

Perhaps one of the most pervasive but invisible forms of inequality today—beneath a world where division and isolation are growing—is epistemic injustice. Professor Shinichiro Kumagaya and his research team at the Research Center



A scene of *Tojisha-Kenkyu* being conducted with participants from Finland, the UK, South Korea, and Japan, using interpretation systems, sign language, and subtitles.

for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST), The University of Tokyo, have been studying the implementation of *Tojisha-Kenkyu* (a form of research conducted by and for people with lived experience of adversity) across various sectors, including healthcare, welfare, education, justice, urban planning, and corporate management. Interest in this Japan-born methodology is also growing internationally among researchers and civil society actors.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with such researchers, is committed to promoting the implementation of *Tojisha-Kenkyu* across diverse domains toward the year 2050.

[Notes]

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[Action Platform]

Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



Declaration 1-3

Through nature, culture, and spiritual activities, cultivate the capacity to feel *Inochi* and sense its very origin.

1-3-1

To cultivate our capacity to truly feel *Inochi* in contemporary society, we propose to expand spaces for Zen and mindfulness practices, while advancing international conferences, education, research, and community collaboration.

In today's world, the value of *Inochi* is increasingly reduced to economic and material terms. This trend is rooted in modern ideals that emphasize efficiency and productivity, often treating individuals as isolated entities while neglecting their interconnectedness with nature and others. Precisely because we live in such an era, we need a deeper and more holistic perspective on *Inochi*. In this context, the teachings of Zen^{*1} and mindfulness^{*2} are attracting renewed attention. As AI continues to take on greater roles in daily life, research, and industry, it is vital for us to remain human and stay attuned to the richness of *Inochi*. While AI enhances efficiency, excessive digital dependence can lead to mental distraction and stress. Zen and mindfulness offer important counterbalances, helping us face ourselves and cherish *moments* of *Inochi* even in digital society.

Since 2017, the international conference “Zen2.0” has been held annually at a Zen temple in Kamakura. The event features lectures and dialogues by Zen masters, mindfulness experts, AI and artificial life researchers, as well as cultural experiences such as *zazen* meditation, tea ceremony, shakuhachi flute, and calligraphy. These experiences allow participants to engage mindfully with their minds and bodies. Through these efforts, Zen and mindfulness have been introduced to corporate culture, education, and local communities.

As of 2024, Zen2.0 has welcomed 219 speakers from Japan and abroad, engaged 559 volunteers, received support from 105 sponsoring companies, and reached a cumulative total of 4,600 participants. Kamakura—a city rich in history—has served as a model community where people can experience *Inochi* and is now gaining international recognition as “Mindful City Kamakura.” Zen2.0 also maintains partnerships with countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Lithuania, and South Africa to globally expand Zen and mindfulness initiatives.

The *Inochi* Forum supports the continued hosting of Zen2.0 at Zen temples in Kamakura and contributes to the realization of a compassionate and *Inochi*-centered “Mindful City Kamakura.” Furthermore, it works to promote the expansion of these initiatives to new regions both in Japan and abroad,



International Zen and Mindfulness Conference “Zen2.0”

as well as their implementation in society, with the aim of creating a Mindful Planet. Specifically, the *Inochi* Forum and Zen2.0 jointly support the following three initiatives:

1. Introducing Programs in Schools and Corporate Training

Through collaborations with initiatives such as IDGs (Inner Development Goals) and the Keio University Contemplative Studies Center, we offer opportunities for educators, students, and corporate professionals to explore the essence of *Inochi*. These programs provide experiential learning of Zen and mindfulness, encouraging deep insight into the value of *Inochi*.

2. Promoting Interdisciplinary Research in Japan and Abroad

In partnership with Zen2.0 speakers and others, we foster interdisciplinary research that integrates Zen and mindfulness philosophy with fields such as medicine, psychology, environmental studies, sociology, economics, artificial intelligence, artificial life, and physics. This research aims to deepen our collective understanding of *Inochi*.

3. Collaborating with Local Communities

We aim to share insights about *Inochi* with local communities through Zen and mindfulness practices. Community workshops and *zazen* sessions will offer residents oppor-

tunities to learn about *Inochi* together, fostering cross-regional collaboration within Japan and internationally.

The *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with diverse organizations and advance interdisciplinary research and applied practices that explore the nature of human consciousness and spirituality.

[Notes]

*1 Zen: Originating in Buddhism, Zen emphasizes awareness of the present moment and the pursuit of self-realization through meditation. It is deeply rooted in Japanese culture, influencing arts such as tea ceremony and calligraphy, and embodying values of harmony and tranquility.

*2 Mindfulness: Derived from Buddhist meditation practices,

mindfulness cultivates awareness of the present. It has been shown to reduce stress, improve focus, and nurture compassion for oneself and others.

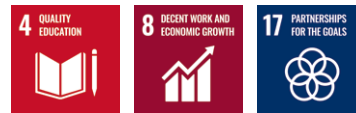
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[Action Platform]

Arts, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



1-3-2

Toward architecture that cultivates nature and time — Envisioning the future of people and culture together with stones quarried 400 years ago.

Today's society is in the midst of chaos, facing massive earthquakes, pandemics, and global divisions. Even though we live in an era of material abundance, the rapid digitization and proliferation of AI are gradually eroding what is invisible yet essential, such as human sensibility, traditional techniques, and our relationships with nature and culture. In this era, Yurica Design & Architecture is committed to an approach of opening the memories and values of the past toward the future through architecture, guided by the design philosophy of “Open Nostalgia”.

“Open Nostalgia” is not a retreat into the past, but a design concept that listens to the voices of history, memory, and materials, and opens them toward the future. It views nostalgia not as preservation or imitation, but as an opportunity for inheritance and transformation, and aims to re-cultivate relationships between humans and nature, time and matter, and people and place through architecture. One example of this approach is the renovation of the Ougo Honjin ruins in Ougo Town, Hyogo Prefecture. A proposal to transform this historical building—which had been vacant for over 50 years—into a new gathering hub for the community was adopted. In collaboration with local residents, the building was renovated. Eight years later, the site has become so integrated with the community that it is hard to recall its original state. This is a compelling example of how architecture can create places that mature over time, beyond their physical forms.

Ms. Yurika Takemura, the principal of Yurica Design & Architecture, was selected as one of the 20 emerging architects for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, and co-designed “Traces of Earth” with Hiromi Kobayashi and Hiroshi Ono.



“Traces of Earth”, Photo: Yousuke Ohtake

This structure incorporates *Zannen Ishi*—a giant stone quarried in the 16th century for building the stone wall of Osaka Castle but left unused and lying dormant for 400 years—in a contemporary architecture. Beyond being a natural stone, it conveys the strength and intentions of those who carved it centuries ago, which can be sensed through the five senses.

Takemura's inspiration stems from her childhood experiences of playing with large stones and the Japanese animistic worldview in which nature is imbued with *Inochi*. She regards these stones as beings with *Inochi* and sought to incorporate them into architecture without altering them. Blending the traditional technique (*Hikaritsuke*) used in stone-base construction with modern 3D scanning and five-axis NC machining, she pioneered a new method to craft wooden components that precisely fit the contours of each stone. In the completed structure, wood is layered upon the stones in a way that gently embraces their forms, and a light roof floats above. This reinterpretation of the traditional method (*Ishibatate*) softens the boundary between nature and artifice, creating a space where time, materials,

people, and nature engage in quiet dialogue.

Takemura explains,

“The opportunity to design architecture within the framework of the Expo, which we won through a competition, began with our presentation to government officials. As we engaged with the stone, we had many discussions with government representatives and members of the NPO that had long protected it. Those conversations taught us much, and we are honored to have helped bring global attention to this local resource through architecture. We believe this project offers a meaningful chance to revisit and reflect upon important histories.”

After the Expo, the stone will return to its original site in the community, continuing its story in a circular narrative.

Looking ahead to 2050, Yurica Design & Architecture plans to continue creating architecture rooted in the Japanese view of nature—one that sees humanity and the natural world as intertwined. Their goals include:

- Making invisible existing values visible through architecture, enabling cultural continuity
- Creating spatial experiences that appeal to the five senses and perception of human
- Drawing out the unique character of the land and fostering harmonious relationships between nature and people
- Sharing Japan-born values with the world from a borderless perspective
- Building gateways to contemporary culture by integrating history with technology

Furthermore, these goals are working on fostering spaces that resonate between people and nature throughout Japan.

The *Inochi* Forum participates in these activities to materialize the philosophy of “Open Nostalgia” through architecture, weaving future cultures along a long timeline that looks ahead to 2050.

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[Action Panel]

Arts, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



1-3-3

Overcome this era of division and uncertainty by sensing and contemplating *Inochi* through gardens—spaces that connect people and nature.

For most of us, *Inochi* is so intimately present in our daily lives that we seldom have the opportunity to reflect deeply on its nature. However, through experiences such as facing the death of relatives, we come to realize the finitude of *Inochi*—and this inevitably prompts us to question how we choose to live.

To live with the awareness that *Inochi* is finite is a uniquely human sensibility and marks a profound starting point for understanding life itself. Importantly, *Inochi* does not belong to the individual alone. Like plants, animals, and microorganisms, we exist within the natural cycle, influencing and being influenced by all forms of life. *Inochi*, in this sense, arises through relationships with others and with nature.

In Japanese culture, this is reflected in the belief that “even large stones or tools possess a soul”—an understanding rooted in this relational view of *Inochi*.

To reawaken a sense of this chain of *Inochi* and the self as part of these interconnections, *Umebachien* CEO Seiho Umeno has initiated a cultural and artistic endeavor called “Commons Garden”. This project employs the garden—a bounded space—as a site where people can physically, emotionally, and spiritually engage with nature, technology, and one another. The project integrates the traditional techniques passed down by Kyoto gardeners with AI and digital technologies, creating a temporal and spatial experience where past, present, and future converge.

Why, then, a garden? Across languages and traditions—whether Garden, Park, Paradise, *Enrin*, *Saniwa*, or *Yuniwa*—gardens share the feature of being enclosed spaces. This enclosed quality enables gardens to serve as thresholds between the ordinary and extraordinary, making them venues for rituals, prayers, memorials, and festivals. They have long provided humankind with shared spaces of resonance. As intermediate spaces that link disparate worlds, gardens connect life and death, nature and humanity. “Commons Garden” is a similar endeavor—a site where people can once again encounter *Inochi*, which is often overlooked in the routines of daily life.

At the heart of this activity lies the philosophy that *Inochi* is a commons. Just like air and water, *Inochi* is a shared resource that should be held and nurtured by all. It is something that, if fought over, is depleted—but when cultivated together, becomes enriched. Culture, as an act of cultivation, involves tending the soil of *Inochi*, engaging in dialogue, and fostering the seeds of empathy and shared bounty. Since its launch at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in 2023, “Commons Garden” has been held at UNESCO World Heritage sites like *Daigoji* and Ninnaji Temples. Rather than providing fixed answers, it invites participants to feel the wind, share silence with others, and reflect upon their own personal questions. It is a place of awakening—not to religion, philosophy, or science—but to one’s own inner light.

“Commons Garden” is not merely an artistic initiative. It is a practical action taken to cultivate the capacity to feel, to create places for reflection, and to nurture empathetic relationships—prior to social system reforms. Going forward, it is crucial to expand this initiative throughout Japan and globally—into cities, disaster-affected areas, and local cultural sites—to create more opportunities to reevaluate *Inochi*. Moreover, by fostering collaboration across sectors such as education, medicine, and welfare, we aim to build ecosystems and societies where *Inochi* is mutually sensed and shared.

Through participation in diverse actions, the *Inochi* Forum aspires to increase the number of people who reflect deeply on what is truly important to *Inochi*, so that we may all work together to overcome this age of division and violence. Let us feel and contemplate this very moment—together—and continue to engage with *Inochi*.



Exhibitions at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in 2023



A traditional Edo-period stone lantern reproduced using a 3D printer—expressing the relationship between humanity and science/technology (World Heritage Site Daigoji Temple)

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[Action Platform]

Arts, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



1-3-4

Promote the spread of entertainment spaces that allow people to feel empathy and a sense of connection through *Inochi*, by utilizing relocatable and adaptable facilities.

Humanity is now at a point where it must reexamine the necessity of spaces where entertainment naturally breathes life into society and nurtures people's sensibilities and imagination. Facilities where entertainment in a broad sense—such as music, theater, sports, and experiential art—takes place serve as spaces where people from diverse backgrounds can share the experience of *Inochi*, empathy, and connection. In present-day Japan, however, it cannot be said that there is a sufficient number of facilities where such entertainment can be expressed and shared. As the forms of expression in entertainment continue to evolve rapidly, driven by technological advancement and changing values, providers of such spaces have not kept pace with these transformations.

Therefore, the key issue we must now reconsider is the flexibility of facility structures that support entertainment. Given the challenges of material shortages and unstable supply chains, we need sustainable spaces that can serve multiple purposes and be configured using adaptable structural systems.

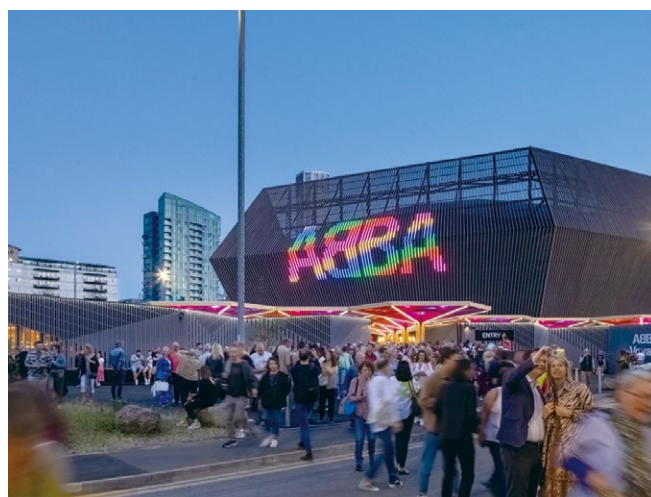
What becomes crucial here are the concepts of “Relocatable Structures,” “Semi-permanent Structures,” and “Adaptable Structures.” Unlike traditional facilities that are built to remain unchanged in form and location for decades, these structures utilize reusable components and can be installed, relocated, expanded, or downsized. Designing spaces themselves as entities that can adapt to change provides the foundation for offering more diverse cultural and artistic experiences to more people. Around the world—including at international expositions and music festivals—facilities employing these types of structures are already being introduced.

Since 1974, ES Global has been based in the UK and has provided numerous entertainment-oriented structures using steel components designed for reuse. These facilities have been rented for use in music stages, pavilions at Expos, and Olympic venues, among others. After each event, the components are recovered and reused at new sites and in new configurations, implementing a sustainable and circular approach. ES Global's structural systems are engineered to meet the load-bearing requirements of entertainment facilities and accommodate technologies essential to staging and broadcasting.

In Japan as well, these reusable structural materials have been used in temporary buildings, such as competition venues at the Tokyo Olympics and international pavilions



The Rady Shell, San Diego 2021



ABBA Arena, London 2022

for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai. Japan is currently facing a serious issue of constrained construction material supply, resulting in significant delays in procurement. To ensure the stable development of future spaces, addressing this material shortage is an urgent priority. In the field of entertainment, there is growing demand for mid-term buildings—structures that can be installed and moved flexibly. To realize this, it is vital to harmonize Japanese and international standards for construction materials so that safe overseas materials can be utilized. This will expand procurement options and help prevent construction delays. Institutional development and the establishment of relevant industry associations are needed to support such efforts.

ES Global is advancing the social implementation of flexible and sustainable building structures to expand spaces where *Inochi* is felt through culture, the arts, and entertainment. By 2027, they aim to establish an industry association for mid-term structures and advance the necessary proposals and preparations for institutional reform. From 2026 to 2035,

they will promote the development of systems that enable the use of overseas materials, addressing challenges such as material shortages and rising construction costs. Until around 2030, they will utilize venues such as Expos and cultural events to conduct pilot projects, accumulating evidence and practical results necessary for institutionalization. Beyond 2035, they aim to expand into diverse fields such as education, welfare, disaster prevention, and regional revitalization, creating spaces across society where *Inochi* can be mutually felt and cherished.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with diverse organizations, aims to realize an inclusive society where everyone can feel and nurture the spirit of *Inochi* through art and

entertainment, by promoting the social implementation of flexible and reusable spatial structures.

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[Action Platform]

Resource Recycling / Art, Culture, and Sports

[SDGs]



2 Protect *Inochi*

Protect *Inochi* from various threats, particularly by facing and offering support to wounded and weakened *Inochi*, extending a helping hand and remaining close.

Declaration 2-1

Uphold the dignity of *Inochi* and break cycles of hatred to build a peaceful society.

2-1-1

Return to the dignity of *Inochi*, seek to understand what is happening in the world, and take action to create a world where every person is valued and can live peacefully and without fear.

Currently, over 120 million people—out of the world's 8.1 billion—have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict or persecution. The United Nations projects that the global population will reach 9.7 billion by 2050. By then, will these displaced individuals have been able to return home? Will we be living in a world free from war, violence, and fear? Will we be part of a society where all *Inochi* is respected, and where no one is left behind?

Currently, there are more than 100 armed conflicts around the world, including wars in which the use of nuclear weapons is a real possibility. It is estimated that more than 300 million people now require humanitarian assistance, due to war, climate change, infectious diseases, and other crises. The COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 spread globally. War has erupted in Europe and the Middle East, with missiles flying overhead. Many lives have been lost. These events, even if seemingly distant, have impacted our daily lives, such as through rapid inflation—making us realize how interconnected the world truly is.

Closer to home, more people from abroad have moved into our communities. Among them are those who fled war, dictatorship, or persecution. Even among those born and raised in Japan, some struggle with poverty, illness, or the aftermath of natural disasters. In our schools, workplaces, and local communities, are we sure there is no bullying or abuse directed at vulnerable individuals? Can everyone—regardless of gender or gender identity—speak freely and participate equally in decision-making?

Every person is born with the right to live with dignity. These rights, known as human rights, affirm that each of us has the right to live with pride, purpose, and the ability to let our *Inochi* shine. To realize human rights, we must respect others as we respect ourselves and honor each person's *Inochi*. It requires cooperation so that everyone can realize



Countries where armed conflicts involving the government as a party have occurred



Support activities for realizing security, photo: Kenshiro Imamura / JICA

their abilities and potential.

The JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development continues to explore how to achieve *human security* through its research projects, which examine global issues from multiple perspectives including “politics and governance”, “*peacebuilding* and humanitarian aid”. Human security calls for the protection and empowerment of vulnerable populations—such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities—against threats like war

and natural disasters. At its core, it aims to help each person unlock their potential and expand their choices. Realizing this vision requires collaboration across governments, societies, generations, and organizations. JICA shares the concept and practice of human security through seminars, training programs, and publications, creating opportunities for engagement both in Japan and abroad.

It is essential to imagine and understand what is happening in the world today—and how it connects to our own lives. We must cultivate empathy for the dignity of *Inochi* of others across borders and backgrounds and consider what each of us can do. JICA also contributes to advancing human security education in schools through development education and global awareness programs. Let us work together to create a society in which everyone—wherever they live—can live freely and with dignity, without fear of war or persecution, and without having their worth denied. Let us act now, so that by 2050, all 9.7 billion people living on Earth can take pride in their own *Inochi* and cherish the *Inochi* of others while living together in peace.

The *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with public institutions such as JICA to support actions that uphold the dignity of *Inochi* and human security for all.

2-1-2

To reclaim the future of children robbed by conflict, supporting the reintegration of former child soldiers and undertaking landmine clearance to build a peaceful society.

Approximately 300,000 child soldiers exist worldwide, and in conflict-affected regions, landmines still claim the lives of innocent people on a daily basis. These are not distant problems confined to faraway lands. In today's globalized world, the repercussions of conflict transcend borders and affect even those living in peaceful societies. Issues such as the refugee crisis, terrorism, and the widening economic divide all stem from the absence of sustainable peace.

In 2001, Masaya Onimaru founded the certified NPO “Terra Renaissance”. As a university student, he visited landmine clearance sites in Cambodia and witnessed the deep scars left by conflict. Through continued fieldwork, he encountered people who had lost limbs due to landmines, and, most significantly, former child soldiers who bore profound psychological wounds. These encounters changed the course of his life. For over 24 years, Terra Renaissance has worked toward *creating a society where all lives can live in peace*. Its activities, currently carried out in ten countries, have yielded the following outcomes:

[References]

- UNHCR
Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Data
- UNOCHA
Humanitarian Needs
- World Economic Forum
Global Gender Gap Report 2024
- Ipsos
LGBT+Pride 2021 Global Survey
- UNICEF
Children's Protection Index and Disability Inclusion
- OECD
Migration and Integration Systems
- WHO
Suicide: One Person Dies Every 40 Seconds
- JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development
https://www.jica.go.jp/jica_ri/index.html

[Action Platform]

Peace and Human Rights

[SDGs]



● Landmine and UXO Clearance Support

In Cambodia and Laos, the organization has contributed to the safety of approximately 200,000 residents. In addition to clearance operations, risk education programs have empowered communities to protect themselves from future threats.

● Reintegration Support for Former Child Soldiers and Conflict Survivors

In Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi, Terra Renaissance provides comprehensive support ranging from trauma care and vocational training to *microfinance*. To date, over 2,000 former child soldiers have been reintegrated into society. The organization also addresses the basic human needs of those affected by conflict—including medical care and food aid—tailored to local conditions.

● Promotion of Peace Education

In Japan, peace education programs have reached over 200,000 people, raising awareness that *every individual is a bearer of peace*. Terra Renaissance also conducts



Former child soldiers undergoing vocational training in northern Uganda

global citizenship education programs for high school students in Japan and Taiwan to cultivate the next generation of *peacebuilders*.

Building on these achievements, Terra Renaissance is now planning new initiatives with a vision toward 2050:

● Expansion of Comprehensive Reintegration Programs for Former Child Soldiers

The organization will establish a one-stop service that integrates psychosocial care, access to education, vocational training, and entrepreneurial support. By 2030, it aims to assist 10,000 former child soldiers annually. A specialized care program for female former child soldiers will also be developed to enhance gender-responsive support.

● Global Standardization of Peace Education

Terra Renaissance will develop experiential peace education programs using VR and online platforms and create standard curricula that can be implemented in schools worldwide. By 2050, it aims to provide 100 million children with opportunities to learn the value of peace.

In collaboration with diverse support organizations, the *Inochi* Forum will co-develop capacity-building programs to cultivate the next generation of *peacebuilders* who can lead peace initiatives in their own communities. Grounded in the principles of the *Inochi* Declaration, this collaboration



The work of international NGOs in landmine clearance in Cambodia

also aims to establish an international platform that brings together governments, international organizations, NGOs, corporations, and civil society to build a peaceful world. Peace is not merely an ideal—it is an achievable goal through the concrete actions of individuals. We will stand with those affected by conflict and never cease our efforts to create a world in which every *Inochi* is respected and every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

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- ICBL Landmine Monitor Report
<http://www.icbl.org/en-gb/finish-the-job/landmine-monitor.aspx>
- UN *Peacebuilding* Commission
<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/>

[Action Platform]

Peace and Human Rights

[SDGs]



2-1-3

Go beyond support for victims of conflict and expand empowerment for youth who once took up arms to dismantle the cycle of hatred persisting across the globe.

In recent years, armed conflicts have been increasing worldwide, claiming the lives of nearly 240,000 people annually. By the end of 2023, more than 100 million people had been forcibly displaced as refugees or internally displaced persons—and this number continues to rise.

Terrorism and armed conflict both exacerbate a wide range of issues connected to the SDGs, including forced displacement, poverty, environmental degradation, and economic loss. At the root of these challenges lies a deeply entrenched cycle of hatred, often expressed in the logic of retaliation—"an eye for an eye." Until now, the dominant response

of the international community has been to treat individuals who join armed groups as “terrorists,” to be dehumanized and eliminated through military action. However, such approaches have failed to address the root causes. Instead, they have often led to greater civilian casualties and fueled further resentment, ultimately worsening the situation.

Accept International, a Japan-based NGO with special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), recognized a crucial reality through its *peacebuilding* work: many of those who end up participating in terrorism or armed violence are young people who had little choice—compelled by poverty, threats, or coercion. Accept International believes that if these young people can leave armed groups and return to society as empowered youth, they can become a driving force for global *peacebuilding* and conflict resolution.

Guided by this vision, Accept International operates various initiatives in conflict zones—primarily in Somalia and Yemen—across six countries worldwide. These include outreach programs and telephone hotlines that encourage disengagement from armed groups, along with comprehensive support for former combatants through counseling, basic education, vocational training, and religious re-education, facilitating both empowerment and reintegration into society.

Moreover, Accept International engages former fighters in emergency humanitarian aid for communities affected by conflict. By creating opportunities for dialogue and mutual understanding, they have fostered the emergence of small-scale reconciliation and healing in post-conflict societies. In this way, Accept International has helped protect the *Inochi* of former combatants and nurtured their potential as unique agents of peace. At the same time, their work safeguards the *Inochi* of countless others living in local communities—today and in generations to come.

Looking ahead, the organization will not only continue expanding its frontline activities in conflict zones but will also launch global efforts to raise awareness about youth involvement in terrorism and armed conflict, a topic often overlooked by the international community. Specifically, by 2031, Accept International aims to establish a new international framework that guarantees the rights, protection, and empowerment of youth formerly involved in armed violence—thereby promoting their transition into peacebuilders who can contribute to society based on their lived experiences. This goal is being advanced through the Global Taskforce for Youth Combatants (GTY), which serves as a platform for advocacy and dialogue on this critical issue.



One such example is the initiative providing income-generating support to former combatants held in prisons in Somalia.



Accept International has also engaged in global dialogue, such as participating in the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum, to further strengthen this mission.

In alignment with these efforts, the *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with diverse organizations to serve as a platform where businesses, governments, local authorities, academia, and civil society can co-create solutions. Together, we will share the message—both within Japan and with the world—that even those who once took up arms are human beings, holders of *Inochi* just like everyone else. Through this, we aim to contribute to *peacebuilding* initiatives originating from Japan.

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<https://gt4y.org>
- NGOs affiliated with the United Nations (Japanese Headquarters)
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[Action Platform]

Peace and Human Rights

[SDGs]



Declaration 2-2

Establish mechanisms that foster mutual trust among citizens, ensuring a society where everyone can freely express opinions and actively participate.

2-2-1

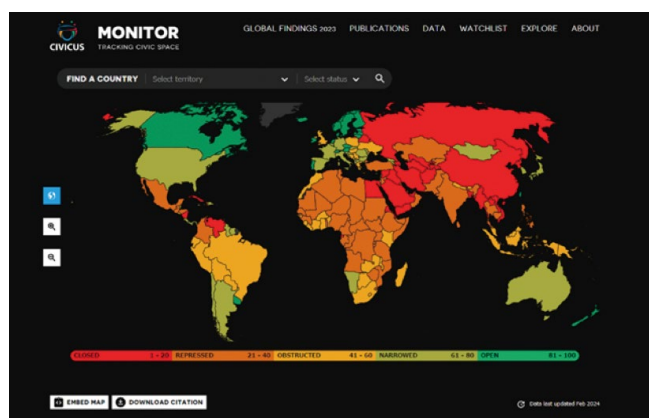
Protect civic space that forms the foundation of open and democratic societies, enabling citizens to freely speak, act, and participate.

“Civic space” refers to the social environment and opportunities where citizens can engage in free dialogue and actions. Globally, this space is shrinking, raising serious concerns. The concept of civic space is closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). Among the 12 targets under Goal 16, the protection of civic space is explicitly recognized as essential to ensuring freedom of association and expression.

In Japan, various efforts are being made to prevent the erosion of civic space both domestically and abroad. Organizations such as THINK Lobby (a division of the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation – JANIC), the NGO Action Network on Civic Space (NANCiS), and C&C Link (Citizen and Corporations Link) collaborate with Asian partner organizations to safeguard and expand civic space across the region. Their activities include research on the state of civic space, workshops and training programs, social media campaigns, policy recommendations to governments, and the development of a “Civic Charter on Civic Space.” The outcomes of these initiatives are also shared through forums such as the Tokyo Democracy Forum.

CIVICUS, an international NGO that monitors civic space trends globally, publishes the *CIVICUS Monitor* annually to report on the state of civic freedoms. According to the 2024 report, civic space continues to shrink globally. Around one-third of the world’s population now lives in countries classified as “closed.” This figure is the highest recorded since monitoring began in 2018^{*1}. In contrast, only about 2% of the world’s population lives in “open” countries where civic space is fully guaranteed, and even that percentage is declining. In Asia, Taiwan is the only country categorized as “open.” Japan, along with South Korea, Timor-Leste, and Mongolia, is rated as “narrowed.”

Factors contributing to Japan’s classification include its Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets, which has been criticized for its vague criteria and broad scope, allowing authorities significant discretion to classify information. There have also been reports of political figures exerting pressure on media outlets, raising concerns over press freedom. In Bangladesh, for example, violent clashes



CIVICUS Monitor 2024

occurred in July 2024 between students and security forces during protests demanding the abolition of civil service quotas favoring veterans’ families. These clashes resulted in numerous arrests and casualties. According to CIVICUS, Bangladesh is classified as a “closed” state where the government routinely suppresses civil liberties through arbitrary detention, torture, and silencing of dissenting voices. Critical journalists face intimidation, and some media outlets have been forced to shut down.

The rise of the internet and social media has enabled citizens to collect information, express opinions, and organize online campaigns and petitions. Civil society organizations and nonprofits addressing issues such as human rights, environmental protection, poverty, and arbitrary detention are now able to disseminate information more widely. However, this expanded reach has also led to increased government censorship and tighter control of online expression, making it increasingly difficult for citizens to speak freely.

To maintain and develop a healthy civic space, we must address these challenges and create an environment where all individuals can express their opinions and take action safely and freely. The *Inochi* Forum will participate in global civic networks such as Forus^{*2} and the Asia Development Alliance (ADA)^{*3} to advance collaborative efforts to ensure civic space remains open and inclusive.

[Notes]

*1 CIVICUS Monitor rating methodology
<https://monitor.civicus.org/about/how-it-works/ratings/>

*2 Forus

<https://www.forus-international.org/en/>

*3 Asia Development Alliance (ADA)

<https://ada2030.org/index.php>

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[Action Platform]

Peace and Human Rights

[SDGs]



2-2-2

Gather ideas for building a better society by combining online tools with face-to-face dialogues. Together, we can reflect on *Inochi* with people across the globe and co-create a new future.

This proposal introduces the evolution and practical application of civic participation in addressing social issues. Civic tech—activities that transform the relationship between governments and citizens through technology and community engagement—includes initiatives utilizing the digital democracy platform “Decidim,”—such as Barcelona’s city planning process involving 40,000 citizens, New York City’s participatory budgeting for citizens aged 11 and above, and youth-led policy initiatives in Kakogawa City, Japan. These initiatives have all yielded tangible results, demonstrating how collective citizen intelligence, powered by technology, can transform policymaking and implementation.

Such civic tech efforts directly contribute to SDG 16, which calls for “effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions.” For instance, hybrid models that combine online and offline dialogue, cross-generational participation frameworks, and youth-led policymaking processes—all powered by open-source platforms and community networks—embody this goal in practice. In Japan, internet-enabled citizen participation has been evolving since the late 1990s. Interest in such initiatives has grown significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic, which normalized digital communication in daily life. Nonetheless, institutional realization aligned with SDGs remains an ongoing challenge.

Decidim, developed in Barcelona in 2016, is now used across 450 sites in over 30 countries and regions, engaging approximately 3 million users. In Japan, Code for Japan has localized the platform and serves as its official Japanese partner, promoting its adoption nationwide. Since its implementation in Kakogawa City in October 2020, Decidim has been utilized by around 30 national and local governments, businesses, and organizations.

At the *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with Code for OSAKA



Accumulate various ideas in Decidim



Deepening discussions by referring to Decidim ideas during face-to-face workshops (Kakogawa, Hyogo)

and Code for Japan, Decidim is actively used to share the *Inochi* Declaration and showcase youth-led initiatives. Within this SDG-aligned movement, Decidim plays a vital role by enabling initiatives that integrate the “Know” and “Connect” dimensions of *Inochi*.

From the “Understand *Inochi*” perspective:

- Visualizing diverse voices and wisdom through a digital platform
- Sharing experiences and perspectives across generations, from youth to elders
- Enhancing mutual understanding by ensuring transparency in participation processes
- Fostering collective intelligence through democratized

access to information

From the “Bond *Inochi*” perspective:

- Building new communities by organically integrating online and offline dialogue
- Creating spaces that foster intergenerational and interregional conversations
- Realizing novel collaborations that connect citizens, governments, and multistakeholders

Looking beyond SDGs, there is a pressing need to create cross-regional networks of community-based *Inochi* wisdom on a global scale. Decidim can serve as the digital archive infrastructure for such an initiative. It also supports the United Nations’ concept of “Digital Public Goods” and contributes to the establishment of digital commons—where intergenerational and interregional knowledge and experience can be shared universally through accessible digital tools.

The *Inochi* Forum will continue working with diverse organizations to expand the potential of civic tech, while preserving these collaborative efforts as a living record of

action toward a more inclusive future.

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- NYC Civic Engagement Commission
<https://www.participate.nyc.gov/>
- Citizen Participatory Consensus Platform, Kakogawa City
<https://kakogawa.diycities.jp/>
- *Inochi* Forum Decidim
<https://inochi-forum.makeour.city/>
- United Nations Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation
<https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/>

[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



2-2-3

Create a society where mutual trust is possible both online and offline. To achieve this, we must leverage digital technologies that prevent identity fraud and enable secure communication.

With the spread of digital society, our lives have become increasingly convenient. We now shop, interact, and communicate online as a routine part of daily life. However, major social issues have also emerged—such as identity fraud, where it is unclear whether we are truly communicating with the intended person, and fake news, which makes it difficult to verify the accuracy of information.

In recent years, the relationship between our “digital self” and our “real-world self” has undergone major changes. Online harassment and defamation have led some to feel that their “digital self” is under threat—sometimes with devastating real-world consequences, including loss of life. There have also been cases where individuals’ digital selves are impersonated or have their information harvested without consent. These trends reveal a digital imbalance of power, creating new forms of social and economic inequality.

The “digital self” is also referred to as a “digital identity.” Across the globe, international standardization organizations are working toward the development of a reliable digital society where digital identities can be handled securely. To build a trustworthy digital society, three elements are crucial:

**Aiming for a Safe and Secure Internet Society :
Joint Research with Keio University Begins!**

In June 2024, the joint research project “Trust Knots” was launched



SFC
KEIO UNIVERSITY





CTC
Challenging Tomorrow's Changes

Purpose	Ensure the reliability of data exchanged over the internet and prevent fraud and unauthorized transactions.
Content	Mechanisms of trust (How can we trust people or data?)

Issues Growing problems caused by lack of trust in data distribution, hindering the development of the digital society.

example1 Increase in identity fraud using others’ IDs, data tampering, and spread of false information.	example2 Rising costs for companies and burdens on users for authenticity verification and identity checks.
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Source: ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation

1. **Verifiability:** The ability for individuals to confirm that people or data have not been tampered with.
2. **Controllability:** The ability for individuals to manage and control their own personal data.
3. **Interoperability:** The ability for different systems and services to connect and exchange data seamlessly.

First, regarding verifiability, Japan’s government is advancing the “Trusted Web” initiative. This initiative is part of efforts to realize the DFFT (Data Free Flow with Trust) concept adopted at the 2019 G20 Osaka Summit. DFFT aims to promote international, borderless data flows that

are trusted and secure—protecting privacy, security, and intellectual property while enabling the use of data to solve social and business challenges. In line with this concept, Keio University and ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation have launched joint research to enhance the reliability of data circulation through digital verification.

Next, in terms of controllability, new systems are being developed to allow individuals to carry their own data with them and decide which data to disclose to service providers—giving users greater control over their digital lives.

Lastly, on the topic of interoperability, global efforts are underway, including the work of SIDI Hub (Sustainable and Interoperable Digital Identity), a community formed by non-profit organizations such as the OpenID Foundation. These groups aim to build international frameworks that define technologies and cross-border rules for sustainable and interoperable digital identities. Their emphasis on community building, not just technical solutions, resonates with the *Inochi* Forum’s vision of empathy and mutual support.

By embedding these three core elements into online services around the world, we can build a safer digital society—one in which people can communicate with confidence and where *every Inochi unleashes its radiant light* in the digital age.

The *Inochi* Forum will continue to collaborate with organizations advancing these efforts, working toward a safe digital society by promoting technological development, implementation, and international cooperation—together with diverse stakeholders.

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<https://www.ctc-g.co.jp/company/release/20240802-01772.html>
- OpenID Foundation
<https://openid.net/>
- SIDI Hub
<https://sidi-hub.community/>

[Action Platform]

Peace and Human Rights

[SDGs]



Declaration 2-3

Develop disaster-prevention systems that function effectively in both normal times and emergencies.

2-3-1

Rather than preparing solely for emergencies, transform our legal systems into “phase-free legal frameworks” by integrating disaster preparedness into ordinary-time regulations.

Among the various social challenges we face, disasters have a distinct nature. Issues such as environmental degradation, poverty, and an aging society are ever-present across different regions, thus encouraging ongoing action and generating public opinion that drives legal reform. Disasters, on the other hand, occur only occasionally and in limited regions, which causes interest and action to remain confined to a small group of individuals or communities. And yet, Japan—often referred to as a disaster-prone nation—frequently faces such regionally rare yet devastating events.

Given this, one might assume that Japanese society excels in disaster response. This is partially true. Japan performs well in infrastructure-related preparedness. Roads, rivers, and schools are built to withstand damage and are generally restored efficiently after disasters. However, Japan cannot be said to excel in supporting disaster victims. For instance, conditions in evacuation centers often fall far below international humanitarian standards, resulting in prolonged disorder.

The reason behind Japan’s strength in infrastructure preparedness is straightforward: disaster-related infrastructure measures are largely an extension of everyday public works, such as road construction or school building projects by national and local governments. There are pre-existing legal frameworks that prompt authorities to prepare for disasters through such infrastructure development, and when a disaster strikes, these same systems are rapidly mobilized by professionals to enable recovery.

Conversely, Japan’s weakness in providing victim support stems from a completely different structural logic. In normal times, goods and services that support everyday life are primarily supplied by for-profit enterprises through the market, or by non-governmental organizations through quasi-markets supported by public funding (see diagram).

In times of disaster, however, local governments become the

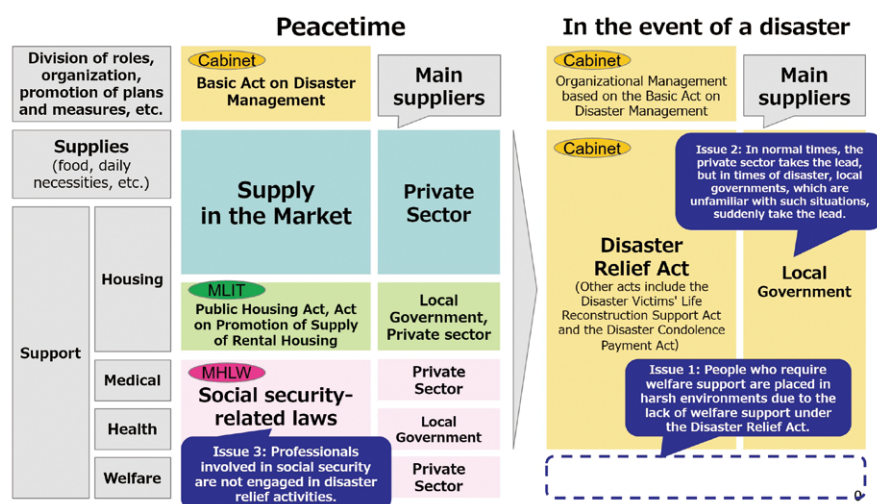


Diagram: Structural reasons for disorganized disaster victim support — based on Sugano, 2021
In May 2025, the Act Partially Amending the Basic Act on Disaster Management and Related Legislation was enacted. This law introduced a registration system for “Disaster Victim Assistance Support Organizations,” enabling specialized civil organizations to autonomously participate in disaster response. Furthermore, in order to strengthen support for older persons and persons with disabilities, the provision of welfare services was formally integrated into the disaster response framework. Through this amendment, the government has begun addressing Challenges 1 and 2.

primary actors in support provision. For many local government employees, responding to a major disaster is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, meaning that responses are often unskilled and ineffective. This is one major reason disaster victim support in Japan remains disorganized despite the country’s frequency of disasters. Since disasters—though infrequent—impact every aspect of daily life, it is critical to involve the very organizations that supply goods and services during ordinary times in disaster preparedness and response. It is also essential that existing legal frameworks, with which people are already familiar, preemptively incorporate provisions for disaster scenarios. Doing so allows society to leverage well-practiced systems in the event of a crisis.

The concept of designing products and services for usefulness not only during normal times but also during disasters is called “phase-free.” In Japan, the Phase Free Association was established in 2018, promoting the idea of transcending the binary between normalcy and disaster. It is not enough to prepare only for emergencies—we must also embed disaster preparedness into our everyday legal systems, thereby establishing phase-free legal frameworks.

Recognizing that disaster response mechanisms are essen-

tial for building communities of mutual support, The *Inochi* Forum will work with diverse organizations, including private enterprises and third-sector organizations, to establish and promote phase-free systems nationwide by 2030.

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2-3-2

Build a resilient and inclusive society through diversity-driven innovation by bridging the blind spots of disaster resilience—religious institutions, science and technology, and local governments.

In recent years, Japan and many other parts of the world have experienced an increasing frequency of natural disasters, including earthquakes and torrential rains. One of the most pressing issues during such events is the shortage of evacuation shelters. In many areas, designated shelters alone are insufficient to accommodate evacuees. In response to this challenge, there has been growing attention to the role of religious institutions as alternative evacuation shelters.

During the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Kumamoto Earthquake, temples, shrines, and other religious facilities served as shelters and volunteer centers. These institutions worked in collaboration with local governments and social welfare councils to provide essential support. Likewise, during the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, over 35 religious institutions functioned as shelters and welcomed numerous evacuees. Because they are trusted by the local communities, religious institutions can also enhance the “soft” elements of disaster preparedness, including information dissemination, safety confirmation, and mental health care during emergencies.

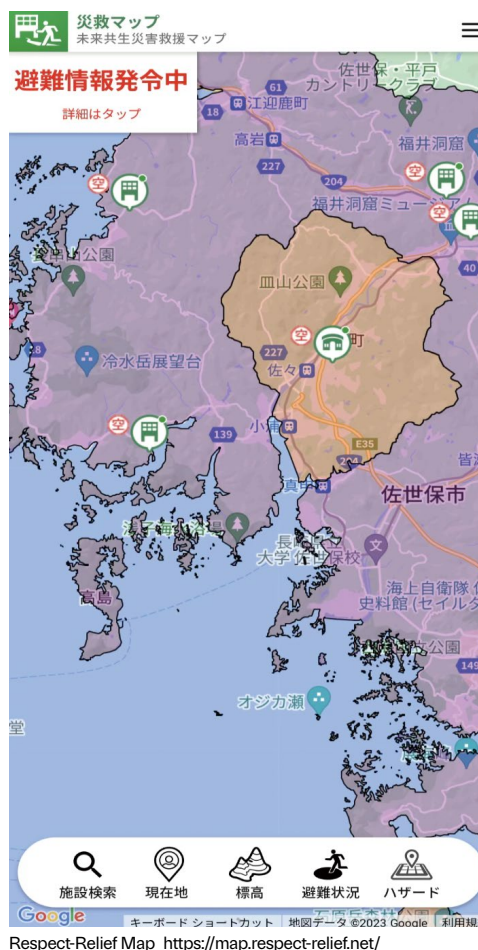
Recognizing these possibilities, the Social Solution Initiative (SSI) at The University of Osaka, together with the Regional Information Co-Creation Center (RICCC), has launched a project titled “Construction of a Disaster Prevention / Watching System with Community Resources and Information Technology.” The project is led by Professor Keishin Inaba of the Graduate School of Human Sciences.

To fully utilize religious institutions during disasters, it is crucial to establish stronger coordination with local governments. This includes designating religious sites as official shelters or emergency assembly points and entering into agreements to develop evacuation plans and operational structures in advance. Although there is a growing movement toward such cooperation, as of now, only 24.0% of local governments in Japan have established formal cooper-

[Action Platform]

Urban Development and Disaster Prevention

[SDGs]



Respect-Relief Map <https://map.respect-relief.net/>

ation frameworks with religious institutions—leaving significant room for expansion. Additionally, there are challenges such as seismic resilience and location suitability of religious facilities, which must be addressed through initiatives like hazard map-based planning and structural reinforcement.

On the other hand, science and technology—including ICT (Information and Communication Technology), AI, and IoT (Internet of Things)—offer new tools for enhancing disaster preparedness and response. Social innovation that integrates local resources with technology is essential. Exam-

ples include ICT-based shelter management systems, real-time evacuation alerts, and digital volunteer coordination platforms. These tools allow for not just Technology-Driven Innovation (TDI), but also Diversity-Driven Innovation (DDI) where various actors collaborate to generate shared social values such as altruism, mutual support, and coexistence.

In times of disaster, religious institutions can serve not only as shelters but also as temporary shelters for stranded individuals and as facilities for dignified care of the deceased. In Tokyo, religious sites are already being used to host stranded commuters, and similar initiatives should be expanded nationwide. By strengthening partnerships among religious institutions, science and technology sectors, and local governments, we can enhance the overall disaster preparedness of society. Moreover, by improving monitoring and support systems during ordinary times, we can contribute to everyday safety and well-being—not just during crises. Moving forward, it is essential to build deeper collaborations between local governments and religious institutions, while also accelerating the adoption of technology-based disaster preparedness systems.

By bringing together diverse stakeholders, we can foster a spirit of mutual aid not only during emergencies but also in daily life. Through intentional collaboration among religious institutions, science and technology, and local governance—and by embracing the principles of Diversity-Driven Innovation (DDI)—we can establish more effective and inclusive disaster preparedness systems and realize a resilient, inclusive society. Let us leverage the strengths of each actor and

work together to create communities where all people can live with safety and peace of mind.

The *Inochi* Forum will continue to promote collaboration between religious institutions, science and technology, and local governments—grounded in the principles of Diversity-Driven Innovation—while working alongside a wide range of partners and initiatives.

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[Action Platform]

Urban Development and Disaster Prevention

[SDGs]

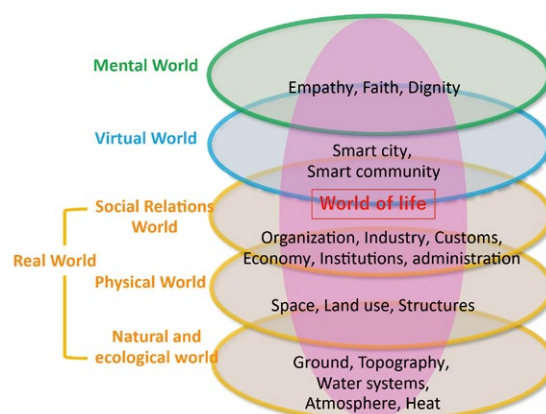


2-3-3

Build disaster-resilient communities and campuses that utilize university spaces to support disaster victims collectively and reconnect the “world of the heart” and the “real world.”

The New-POD (Research Division for Future Society that Values Life with a Focus on “New Prevention of Disaster”) at the Institute for Open and *Transdisciplinary* Research Initiative, The University of Osaka, aims to revive the “world of *Inochi*” by developing technologies to reorganize the physical world and by forming a “virtual world” through ICT, thereby reconnecting the “mental world” with the “real world”.

Originally, community and town development meant that people collaborated to create better places to live, sharing a mental world and manifesting it in society and space. However, today, even if people wish to realize the mental world, various barriers and constraints make it difficult, and the detachment and indifference toward communities and towns have led to the dilution of the mental world.



Constitution of the “World of *Inochi*”

As shown in the diagram, the mental world is closely interconnected and integrated with layers of the “social relations world,” the “physical world,” and the “natural/ecological

world” to constitute the “world of *Inochi*.” These three layers are collectively referred to as the “real world.” The physical world—comprising infrastructures like factories, waterways, and ports—has historically connected the world of social relations with the world of nature and ecosystems by transforming nature to sustain livelihoods. However, in the postwar era, excessive expansion and hardening of infrastructures have severed these connections.

New-POD has collaborated with interdisciplinary researchers and local government officials in Kansai to develop and implement community and town development plans. It has been found that the Hokusetsu and Senshu regions are less susceptible to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and heavy rainfall compared to other Kansai areas, making them suitable bases for wide-area disaster recovery support.

In the Hokusetsu region, New-POD has continued activities such as utilizing vacant stores and creating hazard maps. In 2024, it introduced a Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO) at the Senri Festival to form new community organizations centered on disaster preparedness, aiming to build a virtual world that reconnects the mental world and the real world. In the Senshu region, in addition to urban redevelopment projects like the utilization of public housing and former school sites in Kaizuka City, New-POD has engaged in inter-municipal public facility and infrastructure management since 2024, aiming to reestablish connections with other layers by flexibly reorganizing the overgrown and rigid physical world.

Furthermore, New-POD is engaged in town development that overcomes broad challenges, including conflict and poverty. In Africa, New-POD collaborates with local organizations in impoverished regions of Ghana and Sierra Leone to conduct town development education programs in elementary schools, fostering multi-generational community

pride and attachment.

Going forward, New-POD will further advance these initiatives and, as a core activity, implement disaster-resilient community and campus development in the Hokusetsu region. The University of Osaka’s campuses in Suita, Toyonaka, and Minoh are well-located and well-equipped to serve as disaster hubs. New-POD will plan the utilization of university campuses with citizens, NPOs, businesses, and local governments, integrating public and private facilities, open spaces, parking lots, and more to establish systems for broad-based disaster victim acceptance and wide-area support hubs. Through these activities, New-POD aims to rebuild the mental world based on altruism and reconnect people with the real world by encouraging active utilization of community facilities and spaces.

The *Inochi* Forum will strengthen collaboration with domestic and international partners and promote the regional and town development activities guided by New-POD to revive the “world of *Inochi*.”

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[Action Platform]

Urban Development and Disaster Prevention

[SDGs]



Declaration 2-4

Establish sustainable systems for resource recycling and energy circulation to protect the Earth's environment.

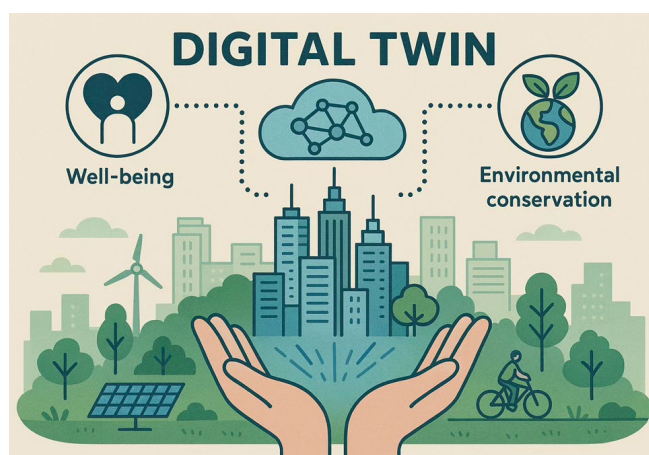
2-4-1

Build a shared urban data platform (Digital Twin Platform), and through its utilization and system integration, realize decarbonization, zero waste, and disaster resilience—transforming cities into safe and sustainable environments.

Humanity has spent a long-time shaping today's living environment. Many cities have experienced development, and within these urban spaces, a wide range of services necessary for human activity are provided. These include housing and building structures that offer shelter functions; transportation systems enabling mobility; energy supply systems that drive urban operations; production systems that extract resources from nature and convert them into useful forms; and waste treatment and resource circulation systems that manage waste and recycle materials. Through these various systems that support urban life, mechanisms have evolved to autonomously enhance functionality, convenience, comfort, efficiency, safety, stability, cost-effectiveness, and environmental sustainability.

At the same time, it is now clear that, as seen in the tangible impact of climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions, our environmental burden is increasing beyond the limits of Earth's ability to maintain stability-known as "Planetary Boundaries"^{*1}. In response to this reality, requirements for achieving a sustainable society have been articulated-such as "carbon neutrality" in climate change mitigation and nature positive in ecosystem conservation. These developments call for the formulation of concrete strategies and their social implementation. However, the changes required are vast and urgent: for instance, to achieve the 1.5°C global warming target, carbon neutrality by 2050 demands an annual reduction rate of 4%. Therefore, mere improvements based on existing system structures are no longer sufficient. What is needed is structural change across systems and integration between them.

The Urban Energy Systems Lab of the Graduate School of Engineering, (The University of Osaka) has particularly focused on modeling energy demand within the housing and building stock and conducting scenario analysis toward decarbonization. Within this field, conventional measures have included introducing various energy-saving technologies, shifting energy sources in thermal applications like air conditioning and water heating, and promoting the use of renewable energy, primarily solar power. However, the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report^{*2} highlights the need to go beyond existing measures by adopting digital solu-



Urban Digital Twin Platform

tions, encouraging behavioral and lifestyle changes among residents and users, and promoting integrated operation between demand and supply sides of services. These broad perspectives are necessary to envision system change and advance integration across systems and sectors. Likewise, such extensive and rapid transformations are also required in related domains.

Furthermore, Osaka Prefecture and City have been selected alongside Tsukuba City for the Japanese Cabinet Office's Super City initiative. The Osaka Super City Project is involved in constructing the Osaka Regional Data Exchange Network (ORDEN), which is expected to evolve into a digital twin of the city. At The University of Osaka's D3 Center, joint research on digital twins for smart cities and smart buildings is being conducted in collaboration with *Daikin* Industries through the D-child initiative. In addition, the center is researching evacuation simulations using digital twins, contributing to resilient urban development.

Given this background, the DX Society Research Division, the Institute for Open and Transdisciplinary Research Initiative, The University of Osaka and the Urban Energy Systems Lab are envisioning an action plan toward 2050 that includes building a Digital Twin^{*3} Platform for system integration. This platform will convert and visualize data related to housing, urban structures, and infrastructure into a 3D urban model. It will comprehensively incorporate operational and management data from various systems,

enabling real-time understanding of current conditions and future projections within cities, while also supporting analyses based on transformation scenarios.

The platform will allow policymakers, planners, managers, and urban residents to intuitively understand and communicate with each other, facilitating policy decisions and municipal planning. Moreover, by integrating synthetic models simulating people's locations, daily behaviors, mobility, and corresponding service demands, the platform will reconstruct inter-system relationships with high spatiotemporal resolution and enable real-time responsiveness, which will be useful for disaster response. Designed for scalability beyond Japan, the platform will be adaptable to rapidly developing cities across Asia and contribute to solving urban challenges around the world.

In collaboration with the DX Social Research Division, the D3 Center, the Urban Energy Systems Lab, the Smart City Strategy Department of Osaka Prefecture, and the Social Solution Initiative (SSI), the *Inochi* Forum will continue its efforts to build a shared urban data platform (Digital Twin Platform). Through this, it seeks to realize decarbonization, zero waste, and disaster resilience, thereby transforming cities into safe and sustainable environments where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

[Notes]

- *1 The 2023 update to the Planetary boundaries. *Azote* for Stockholm Resilience Centre, based on analysis in Richardson et al 2023
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- *2 IPCC, 2023: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 184 pp., doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647.
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[Action Platform]

Energy and Climate Change / Resource Recycling

[SDGs]



2-4-2

Protect everyone's "*Inochi* Water" together, for the benefit of all. Let us pass on to the future the traditional systems and infrastructure that skillfully utilize nature's blessings—rainwater that permeates the soil and flows through rivers and underground channels.

How much water do we actually need each day?

To simply avoid thirst, 2 to 3 liters of drinking water per day is sufficient. However, in Japan, we use between 200 and 300 liters of tap water daily for bathing, flushing toilets, cooking, laundry, washing our faces, and brushing our teeth. This amounts—over a hundred times what we need for survival—enables us to live healthy, cultural lives with dignity and self-respect. Moreover, water is essential not only for our daily lives but also for food production, which in turn sustains life. On average, we consume food that requires 2,000 to 3,000 liters of water per person per day to produce—about one million liters per year.

Given how much water is necessary to nurture and sustain

our lives, one might think Japan is rich in water. While the country does receive about twice the global land average in rainfall and snowfall, the availability of water per capita is only half the world average due to high population density within limited land space. Additionally, as an island nation with steep terrain, most rainfall quickly runs off into the sea. In fact, during years of low rainfall, Japan has frequently experienced droughts leading to poor rice harvests and water supply disruptions. In some regions, such situations continued until recently.

The reason we can now enjoy a stable water supply without concern is thanks to infrastructure that has been developed over many years to minimize water-related disasters while maximizing the benefits of water—despite the environmen-

tal load this may entail. These include physical structures like reservoirs, dams, canals, weirs, floodgates, pumps, water purification and wastewater treatment plants, levees, and retention basins. These are known as “infrastructure” because they lie beneath our everyday awareness.

In addition to built infrastructure, natural ecosystems such as rivers, groundwater, forests, lakes, and wetlands—and even man-made ecosystems like paddy fields and farmlands—store water, regulate its flow, and purify its quality. Organizations within each community, as well as us who maintain and manage both natural and man-made systems, are integral components of the mechanisms that ensure the steady blessings of water.

These tangible and intangible systems that support our rich, safe, and healthy lives can be collectively referred to as “Water Infrastructure of All, by All, for All,” or “*Minfra*” (short for *Minna no Infra*, meaning “everyone’s infrastructure”). However, the future of “*Water Minfra*” faces challenges—aging facilities due to population decline, weakening of community organizations, insufficient revenue from service charges, and new pressures from climate change and social transformation.

In response, the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research launched the “Future Vision for Sustainable Water Management” program to analyze the current state of water in Japan, formulate long-term visions, and provide policy recommendations for building sustainable communities through water. Although water is a shared natural resource, the stable and safe supply of clean water is made possible only through the “*Water Minfra*” that communities have cultivated and protected over generations. Expanding awareness of such shared infrastructure—composed of people,



Image of “*Water Minfra*” by SEKI Mihoko

organizations, nature, and technology, not only for water but for food, energy, education, healthcare, administration, public safety, and financial systems—will be vital for building a sustainable society.

Guided by this vision, the *Inochi* Forum will continue to promote the concept of “*Water Minfra*” worldwide, working toward a future where everyone protects everyone’s “*Inochi* Water” together.

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[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



2-4-3

Transform plastics into materials that can be recycled repeatedly—never becoming waste but returning once more to plastic. Through this, we can protect and circulate vital resources and build a sustainable society.

Plastics such as polyethylene and polypropylene became widely used in the latter half of the 20th century due to their affordability, light weight, durability, and resistance to decay. These materials have been integral across a range of industries, enhancing our daily lives in numerous ways.

What makes plastics so advantageous? Their greatest strength is their light weight—about one-eighth that of steel. Transparent plastics enable the production of durable containers like PET bottles that won’t shatter when dropped. Soft transparent plastic films are used extensively in food packaging, helping preserve freshness. Rigid plastics, such

as those used in egg cartons, provide essential protection for fragile contents. The affordability of plastic products can be attributed not only to mass production, but also to the development of high-speed molding techniques. Lamination technologies further expanded the utility of plastics, enabling their use in packaging for ready-to-eat foods such as retort-pouch curry, which in turn contributes to food safety. As these technologies rapidly advanced, we came to enjoy the benefits of plastic with little conscious awareness of their pervasiveness.

However, amid this rapid technological innovation, the issue of plastic waste was largely neglected. While the durability of plastics is critical for product performance, most plastics do not biodegrade in the natural environment. Improperly discarded plastics often find their way into oceans, leading to a growing crisis of marine plastic waste. Microplastics are now widespread not only in marine environments but also in the atmosphere, raising serious concerns about human health.

So how can we solve the plastic problem? Unfortunately, there is no definitive solution yet. Strategies and technologies for building a truly circular plastic economy remain in early stages and are far from widespread social implementation. Nonetheless, urgent action is required—especially to address the mounting issue of marine plastic waste. In discussing potential solutions, we must consider three distinct axes: (1) time scale, (2) spatial scale, and (3) strategy. Without this multidimensional approach, efforts may lack direction or effectiveness. Looking toward a full resource circulation with zero waste, all plastic products must ultimately be designed with recyclability in mind, so that plastics can continuously return to their original form rather than becoming waste.

The plastic waste issue is intricately linked to broader social systems, and our capacity for immediate large-scale action is limited. However, we can and must begin with small steps. For example, connecting plastic recycling to *upcycled* products, or introducing environmentally conscious plastic materials, can contribute meaningfully to addressing the problem. These actions are also effective in fostering citizen-level awareness and engagement with plastic-related issues.

At The University of Osaka, the Social Solution Initiative has launched the “Co-Creation Base of Resource Recycling that Aims for Zero Plastic Waste in Osaka Bay” (project lead: Prof. Hiroshi Uyama, Graduate School of Engineering).

In 2023, the project developed an interactive educational activity titled *Let's Make a Plastic Waste Coaster* for elementary school students. In this program, children process plastic waste to create coasters, gaining a hands-on understanding that plastic can be reused many times. In 2024, the team collaborated with children to create stylish accessories from recycled acrylic sheets and marine plastic debris. These creative experiences are expected to nurture future leaders in plastic resource circulation.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with a wide range of partner organizations, will take steady and practical steps toward the realization of a society in which plastics are no longer discarded after use, but instead returned to plastics through repeated recycling—contributing to the protection and sustainable use of planetary resources.

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[Action Platform]

Resource Circulation

[SDGs]



Towards a Zero Plastic Waste Society

2-4-4

Zero Waste Will Save the Earth. Let's build a sustainable system for protecting *Inochi*. To achieve this, empathy as global citizens is indispensable. Success in reducing everyday waste provides powerful insights for global sustainability.

The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, set a target to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C” in order to protect the Earth’s ecosystems. However, at COP28, held last year, it was reported that there remains a significant gap between current progress and this goal. Can the 1.5°C target truly be achieved?

One particularly striking graph sheds light on this question. This graph, showing the trend in municipal waste in Osaka City, illustrates two key developments:

1. Following World War II, shifts in lifestyle toward mass consumption and disposal led to a fivefold increase in waste—from 400,000 tons in 1955 to 2.2 million tons in 1991.
2. Since that peak, however, waste has been reduced by 60%, reaching approximately 900,000 tons today.

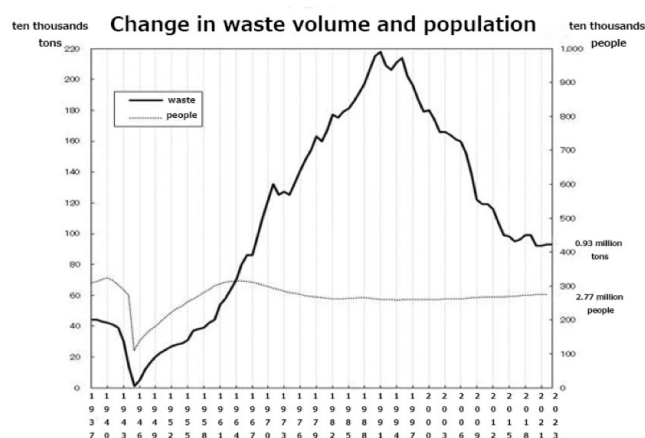
Prior to the era of rapid economic growth, people in Japan lived in resource-circulating ways—for instance, food leftovers were repurposed as livestock feed, and tofu was purchased using reusable pots. The dramatic decline in waste volume demonstrates that it can be done. The number of incineration plants in Osaka decreased from 10 to 6, resulting in cumulative savings of over 150 billion yen. This stands as a prime example of harmonizing environmental and economic goals.

What made this reduction possible? The answer lies in waste separation, and more importantly, the empathy cultivated within local communities that enabled such behavior.

Two initiatives exemplify this:

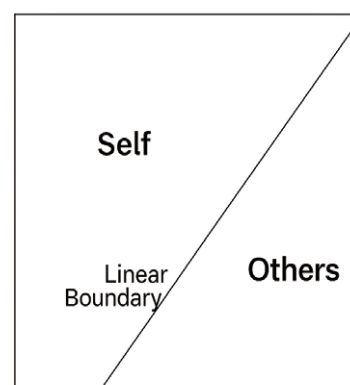
- Community Collection of Used Paper and Clothing
- PET Bottle Recycling Project Connecting Everyone

In these programs, residents go the extra mile—removing labels and washing bottles—to transform used paper and PET bottles into valuable resources. The rewards are then reinvested in local welfare efforts, such as supporting isolated elderly individuals or providing meals at community cafés for children. These daily actions, undertaken with empathy and ownership, exemplify the integrated vision of environmental, economic, and social sustainability pursued by the SDGs. Similarly, the plastic bag fee introduced in 2020 gained public acceptance due to widespread empathy—sparked by images of sea turtles and seabirds harmed by plastic waste—encouraging more people to carry eco-bags. Such successes inspire hope for zero waste and meeting

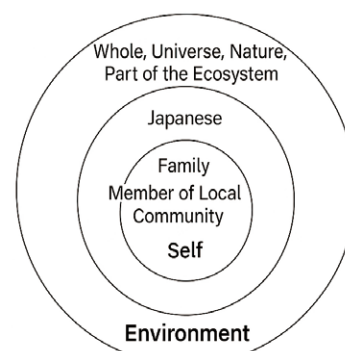


Source: “FY2023 Osaka City Environmental Bureau Project Overview” Chapter 4, Section 2: Municipal Waste Management

Exclusive Identity



Empathetic Identity



The Japanese word for “environment” (環境) can also mean a “boundary” (界) formed into a circle (環). Unlike a straight line that separates, a circle iludes its inner parts as one: Considering the environment means recognizing oneself—empathetically and inclusively—as part of the

Top panel: Image of Exclusive. Bottom panel: Empathetic Identity

the 1.5°C goal.

Addressing environmental issues requires systems that internalize externalities, making environmentally friendly actions also financially beneficial to individuals and busi-

nesses. For example, in cases of industrial pollution, polluting companies compensate victims, even outside of market mechanisms. Yet global issues like climate change and plastic pollution make everyone both a victim and a perpetrator. Rulemaking and internalization frameworks, driven through COP and other mechanisms, are being developed globally. Empathy for the *Inochi* of others—including nature—is essential to shaping such rules and policies.

The word “environment” (環境) in Japanese can also mean a “boundary (境) formed into a circle (環).” Unlike a straight line that separates, a circle includes its inner parts as one. This metaphor suggests that each of us is simultaneously a member of a family, a citizen of a nation, a global citizen, and a part of the interconnected web of *Inochi*. Our identity expands outward like concentric circles.

Humanity’s relentless pursuit of material progress, through technological innovation, has raised living standards—but it also threatens ecosystems and long-term sustainability. Climate change is one manifestation of this danger. Overcoming this crisis requires each individual to restrain narrow egoism and act in solidarity with others as global citizens, grounded in empathy.

The Global Environmental Centre Foundation (GEC), a partner of the *Inochi* Forum, operates with the mission of fostering global collaboration on environmental issues. With networks spanning the United Nations, governments, local authorities, universities, and businesses, GEC works to real-

ize a circular and sustainable society by 2050.

In collaboration with GEC and other organizations, the *Inochi* Forum promotes awareness and nurtures empathy by sharing pioneering domestic initiatives on zero waste and carbon neutrality each year. We also create spaces for engagement with stakeholders from developing countries to share Japan’s knowledge and case studies, thus contributing to global action.

[Notes]

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[Action Platform]

Energy and Climate Change / Resource Recycling

[SDGs]



2-4-5

The proper circulation of nitrogen—source of all *Inochi*—nurtures healthy soil and water, thriving grass and cattle, and delicious milk. Leverage technology to recycle “poop” and contribute to solving the global nitrogen crisis.

The bodies of humans and all living beings—once water and lipids are removed—are largely composed of proteins. These proteins originate from nitrogen in the atmosphere, which is taken up through the soil, plants, animals, and microorganisms via the grand cycle of *Inochi* that we all share. Naturally occurring “good nitrogen” compounds—such as ammonia that plants can absorb—have historically only existed in very limited quantities, produced by nitrogen-fixing bacteria and other sources. However, with the invention of the Haber–Bosch process in the 20th century, humans developed the ability to produce nitrogen fertilizers artificially, enabling a dramatic increase in crop yields, a food supply surge, and a subsequent explosion in global population.

While synthetic nitrogen fertilizers helped address issues like poverty and hunger and brought enormous benefits

to humanity, they also introduced serious environmental consequences. A large portion of nitrogen fertilizers applied to crops is not absorbed, instead causing soil acidification, degradation (desertification), and eutrophication in rivers and oceans—leading to phytoplankton blooms and oxygen depletion that devastate ecosystems, such as coral reefs. This core issue of the nitrogen crisis—considered even more severe than carbon emissions in some major agricultural countries including the EU—is that much of the synthetic nitrogen is not being properly utilized by plants and is instead flowing away unused.

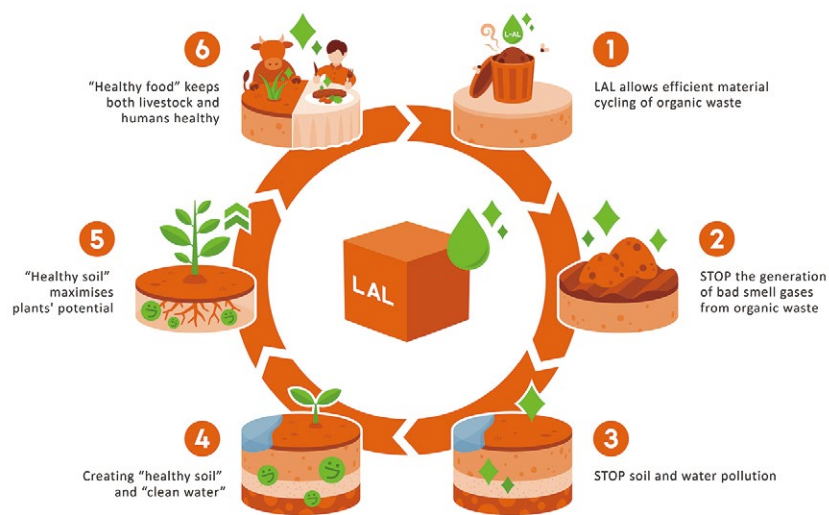
In addition, as 90% of land animals are now humans and livestock, the large amounts of human and livestock “poop” being discharged are also a major factor in exacerbating the nitrogen problem on the planet. Although the production

and use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers has skyrocketed, the nitrogen contained in animal and human waste has not been adequately recycled. Instead, it has been released into the atmosphere and aquatic systems via sewage treatment or composting, resulting in an overabundance of “good nitrogen” on Earth—exceeding the planetary boundary and attracting global attention as a critical environmental concern.

At a dairy farm in Hokkaido, LIFULL Agri Loop Inc. has introduced an innovative “Poop Loop” system. Using iron-based catalysts, the nitrogen in cow manure is transformed into usable “good nitrogen,” enabling the farm to grow nutritious grass without chemical fertilizers and raise healthy cows solely on that grass. This system produces virtually no harmful ammonia or greenhouse gases and is completely odorless. The catalyst prevents nitrogen from oxidizing and allows it to be safely stored as a stable fertilizer. Fields treated with this fertilizer show reduced soil acidification and yield high-sugar grasses, resulting in healthier, long-lived cows that produce abundant, rich milk. Furthermore, the farm has not only eliminated its use of chemical fertilizers but also no longer needs to purchase grain-based feed, significantly reducing its environmental footprint while enhancing agricultural productivity.

In Japan, where most livestock farmers operate at a loss and agriculture is often perceived as one of the “3K” jobs—*kitsui* (demanding), *kitanai* (dirty), and *kasegenai* (unprofitable)—such innovations that simultaneously address the nitrogen problem and create profitable agriculture are of profound significance, especially given the declining number of farmers and Japan’s low food self-sufficiency.

The nitrogen contained in livestock waste in Japan is nearly equivalent to the total nitrogen used in chemical fertilizers. As one of its key initiatives toward 2050, LIFULL Agri Loop aims to widely promote the conversion of livestock and human waste into “good nitrogen” using technology that suppresses oxidation. This would help reduce soil degradation, nitrogen contamination in aquatic systems, and emissions of nitrogen-derived greenhouse gases. Ultimately, this would improve overall environmental health—and through



“Poop Loop” solving the nitrogen problem

food, human health as well.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with diverse organizations, will continue to raise public awareness about the importance of nitrogen circulation and expand educational outreach to promote broader understanding and empathy. Additionally, we will support the discovery and implementation of various technologies that contribute to better nitrogen circulation through collaborative and co-creative platforms between academia and industry.

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[Action Platform]

Food and Agriculture

[SDGs]



Declaration 2-5

Leverage advanced technologies to realize life care that attends closely to individuals and families.

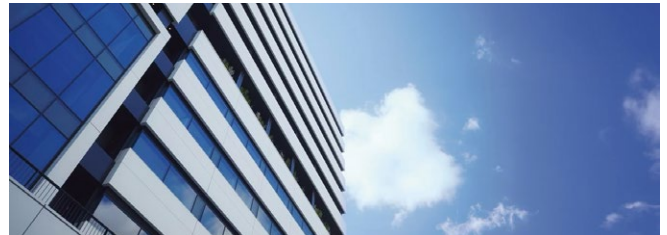
2-5-1

Promote future medicine through enhanced resilience in medicine, and realize a future society in which every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light and no one is left behind.

The theme of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai is “Designing Future Society for Our Lives.” At its heart line *Inochi* itself. The COVID-19 pandemic sent shockwaves of fear across the globe, confronting humanity with the imminence of death and reminding us of the preciousness of *Inochi*. Now that everyday life is returning, overcoming this global crisis, it is our mission as those living today to co-create a world where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light, based on this profound shared experience.

Looking back, why has Homo sapiens (meaning “wise human” in Latin) flourished to such an extent on Earth, despite not being the strongest species? It is because we have cultivated a deep reservoir of adaptive intelligence and transformed our vulnerabilities into strength. This persistent wisdom—what we now recognize as the power of resilience—has been key to our survival. The pandemic experience has also provided a new and significant perspective on the field of medicine. The global efforts by researchers and healthcare professionals, including mRNA vaccines and anti-COVID-19 therapies, helped safeguard humanity. As humanity begins to move forward, we have all come to understand the true importance of resilience—flexibility and the power to recover—in the context of medicine. Going forward, in the face of new medical threats and intractable diseases, it will be critical to harness the collective wisdom of medical scientists and healthcare providers to ensure that no *Inochi* is left behind as we build a radiant future.

We are entering an era of 100-year life spans in which healthcare is shifting from the age of pharmaceuticals and devices to one marked by cutting-edge scientific innovations. These include regenerative medicine using iPS cells, precision medicine through genome research, and next-generation medical devices employing AI and robotics. Amidst a super-aging society confronting a “heart failure pandemic,” we are advancing future medicine that incorporates iPS cell-derived *cardiomyocyte* regenerative therapies, alongside heart transplantation and mechanical circulatory support. The global community now looks with great expectations to the power of medical resilience as we challenge and overcome diseases and infections once deemed incurable.



Future Medicine Promotion Organization / Nakanoshima Gross (NQ)

With this backdrop, the Future Medicine Promotion Organization / Nakanoshima Gross (NQ) has been established at the heart of Osaka to serve as a hub for the realization of future medicine. This location has historically fostered medical innovation and education—from the Osaka Municipal Hospital (established in 1879), through Osaka Imperial University’s School of Medicine (1931), to the present-day The University of Osaka Medical School (since 1949). In 2025, NQ was launched as an Expo legacy project, integrating regenerative medicine using iPS cells, AI, and robotics with implementation and startup acceleration. Housing companies, research institutes, startups, hospitals, and clinics all under one roof is a rarity globally, allowing for a seamless connection between research outcomes and clinical application. By establishing a medical industry and startup ecosystem at NQ, we aim to implement future medicine from Osaka to the world, realizing a society where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light and no one is left behind.

Healthcare professionals continuously confront death, perceive it objectively, and fight against life-threatening diseases. Meanwhile, around the world, murders and wars occur daily. These are the egotistical actions of unwise sapiens. For those who dedicate their lives to protecting *Inochi*, such violence is unacceptable. Have we, in this time of peace and prosperity, forgotten to reflect on the meaning of *Inochi*? Today, we must strive for a world where everyone lives with a conscious awareness of *Well-being*—how to live happily—and *Well-dying*—how to die with dignity—creating a healthy and harmonious society, nation, and planet.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with various medical and research institutions, will promote a future society in which every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light and no one is left behind.

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[Action Platform]

Medical and Welfare

[SDGs]



2-5-2

Utilize science and technology to advance personalized health management and respect for diversity, realizing a future where every person protects, nurtures, and feels *Inochi*.

Today's world faces pressing challenges surrounding *Inochi*, challenges that have emerged alongside rapid advancements in science and technology. These include complex themes such as bioethics, human dignity, and the relationship between technology and humanity. Among these, utilizing science and technology to deliver personalized care tailored to each individual's characteristics is especially vital for the future of society.

Personalized care is a health promotion approach that provides optimal prevention and treatment based on an individual's health condition and living environment. It plays a crucial role in accurately safeguarding both physical and mental well-being and contributes significantly to realizing a future where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light. To ensure that everyone can live healthier, richer lives, it is essential to deliver healthcare that meets individual needs through science and technology. Spreading these technologies throughout society will be key to building a healthy and happy future.

At the Kanki Laboratory of the Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research, The University of Osaka, research has been conducted on developing high-sensitivity sensors capable of pulse wave and electrocardiographic measurements—foundational technologies for personalized care^{*1*2}. In particular, systems have been developed to measure heart rate and autonomic nervous system activity with reduced noise even in everyday and group activity settings. Further research is underway to create systems capable of analyzing various physiological data to assess levels of stress and relaxation. These technologies represent important steps toward the real-time understanding of individual health conditions and the realization of personalized care in the future^{*3}.

Moreover, it is essential to use science and technology to broadly disseminate knowledge and techniques related to *Inochi*. To achieve this, the Kanki Laboratory is introducing educational programs in schools and communities that use heart rate and autonomic nervous system monitoring to foster understanding of *Inochi*, aiming to help younger generations appreciate the preciousness of *Inochi* through



An image of personalized care utilising science and technology

scientific insights. In local communities, healthcare support initiatives are being promoted, utilizing developed devices and systems to implement stress reduction and resilience enhancement programs within various group activities^{*4}. These efforts are designed to cultivate a consciousness of nurturing *Inochi* across all generations.

In addition, it is crucial to establish a “co-creation network” where individuals from diverse backgrounds collaborate on health and stress management while respecting diversity. The Kanki Laboratory is developing new health management methods based on physiological data collected from diverse individuals, including those with developmental disabilities, in collaboration with researchers from various fields and healthcare professionals. Educational programs are also being introduced to promote understanding and

acceptance of individual diversity. Furthermore, to foster global collaboration, an online platform is being developed to share knowledge and resources on health management, aiming to realize a sustainable, diversity-conscious health-promoting society by 2050.

The *Inochi* Forum will engage in these activities, striving to realize a future where every person nurtures and feels *Inochi* through the promotion of personalized health management and respect for diversity powered by science and technology.

[Notes]

- *1 Development of ultra-sensitive strain sensors using flexible VO₂ thin films:
https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/jsapmeeting/2019.1/0/2019.1_1353/_pdf/-char/ja
- *2 Enhancing the sensitivity of flexible strain sensors by 200

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- *4 Moonshot Research and Development Program Goal 9 – Protecting Children’s Curiosity and Individuality for a Vibrant Society:
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[Action Platform]

Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



2-5-3

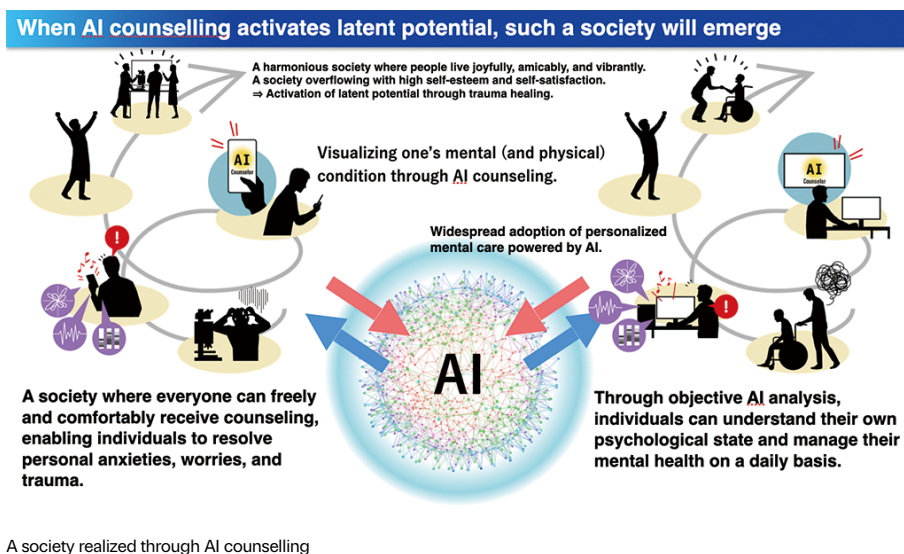
Utilize psychological approaches to heal trauma and unlock latent human potential—so that individuals may rediscover their inherent capacity and create innovation.

Researchers are tasked with generating innovation through discovery and invention. However, the greater the innovation, the less likely it is to arise through rational thought alone. Researchers typically take on challenges that cannot be solved by logic alone. If they begin by thinking: “There’s no way I could ever do this,” their drive to take on challenges diminishes. In contrast, when they deeply believe they can succeed, they are often able to tap into potential beyond their own imagination and accomplish extraordinary things.

This principle holds true beyond research—in every field of human endeavor. When this power cannot be accessed, it is often because an individual’s mental resilience is weakened.

How, then, can we strengthen our mental resilience? While it may be said that overcoming intense experiences or near-crises can build resilience, simply increasing external stress does not automatically lead to mental strength. This is where psychological approaches become essential. Trauma must first be addressed. For individuals carrying self-denying trauma—such as the belief that they lack ability—exposing them to extreme pressure can have the opposite effect and exacerbate their condition.

Trauma is often defined as “psychological shock” resulting



from life-threatening experiences such as traffic accidents, violent crimes, or natural disasters. However, seemingly minor experiences such as being scolded or mocked in everyday life can also result in trauma. This is especially true in childhood, when even small events can leave deep emotional wounds. Although parents may scold their children with good intentions, the children may interpret such actions as a denial of their very existence. As a result, they lose the ability to fully express the potential they inherently possess.

At The University of Osaka Resilience Support & Training Center, housed within the School and Graduate School of Engineering, individuals can receive trauma-focused counseling based on psychological approaches. Many faculty,

staff, and students make use of these services. For example, a researcher who was generally well-adjusted but tended to give up when facing difficult problems came to the center for counseling. As a result, they were able to confront those challenges without hesitation. Similarly, students who had struggled to attend university because of trauma were able to overcome school refusal after engaging with counseling services at the center.

The impact of trauma-healing counseling can be summarized in two main effects:

1. Improved communication skills
2. A renewed sense of confidence

These outcomes raise self-esteem and enable individuals to express their latent abilities, thereby enhancing their capacity to generate innovation. In order to expand the use of such psychological approaches and reinvigorate society, it is essential to cultivate counselors with advanced skills.

To this end, The University of Osaka launched a project in FY2024 exploring whether counseling skills can be enhanced using AI and image-based diagnostics. The project begins with analyzing what constitutes advanced counseling techniques. This includes recording counseling sessions while simultaneously monitoring body temperature, heart

rate, and brainwave activity to gather data for analyzing trauma healing processes. By using machine learning to study dialogue content, the project seeks to identify patterns and cues for trauma recovery—and possibly develop AI-based counseling methods. All of these measurements and AI capabilities are made possible by advances in semiconductor technology.

The *Inochi* Forum will collaborate in these kinds of projects and promote the use of psychological approaches to heal trauma and awaken latent potential—while also supporting advancements in semiconductor technologies.

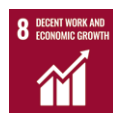
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[Action Platform]

Education and Children

[SDGs]



2-5-4

By integrating healthcare and welfare data and leveraging technologies such as AI, we can deliver personalized care and preventive solutions tailored to each individual's way of life, needs, and values.

Current approaches to medical and welfare care and prevention largely rely on quantitative data—such as age, weight, and blood pressure—while often overlooking the qualitative aspects of individuals' lives, such as their daily routines, emotional states, and subjective experiences. As a result, there are significant limitations in the ability to design care and prevention strategies that truly reflect individual needs.

Qualitative data—such as people's feelings, experiences of hardship, or personal narratives—capture vital, non-numeric insights. With recent advancements in artificial intelligence, it has become possible to incorporate these qualitative data into predictive models, allowing for more tailored care and preventive strategies. AI can now analyze lifestyle and psychological patterns to estimate health risks and provide personalized health recommendations.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with the Social Solution Initiative (SSI) of The University of Osaka and its core project "Science and Humanity for Fostering a Super-aged

Society that Respects Individual's Views on Life and Death and Their Autonomy" (PI: Assoc. Prof. Miyae Yamakawa, Graduate School of Medicine), is building a data science platform that integrates healthcare and welfare data. The initiative aims to use qualitative data within AI-based predictive models to enhance health and well-being outcomes. This approach enables care and prevention to be customized for each individual and contributes to broader community health promotion.

While AI and predictive analytics have recently made significant inroads into the fields of medicine and welfare, existing AI models are still primarily based on quantitative data. As such, they are insufficient for capturing people's lived realities and perspectives. To further improve these technologies, it is essential to incorporate qualitative data that reflect patients' real-life conditions, enabling more empathetic and customized disease prevention and eldercare prediction. Such integration can enhance patient satisfaction and reduce medical costs.

A conceptual model illustrating this integrated approach shows how combining healthcare and welfare data can lead to better care and support. Conventional AI models have focused on quantitative data such as clinical records and care logs. However, these data alone cannot fully grasp the experiences and perceptions of patients. New models must include qualitative data such as patient and caregiver narratives. This richer data enables deeper understanding of patients' environments and social contexts. This approach is called "CHR" (Contextual Health Records)—a framework that allows all stakeholders in healthcare and caregiving to share insights about patients' lives and needs, enabling more personalized care and preventive interventions. CHR aims to elevate the quality of both care and support by offering optimal, individualized services.

To advance this initiative, several concrete steps are being taken. To begin with, to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of patients and caregivers, the project will collect qualitative data such as nursing and caregiving records, as well as patient narratives, and integrate them with electronic health records (EHRs) and personal health records (PHRs) into a unified, large-scale database. Next, the project will employ natural language processing (NLP) technologies to convert the collected data into formats that can be easily interpreted by AI systems. This will allow AI to learn from patients' lifestyles and perspectives, enabling it to propose care plans tailored to individual needs.

Furthermore, the project will develop new AI predictive models that combine both quantitative and qualitative data, aiming to improve disease prevention and optimize caregiving. These models will be tested in real healthcare and welfare settings, where their effectiveness will be validated by comparing predicted outcomes with actual results, thereby enhancing the model's accuracy. In addition, the project plans to host workshops in community spaces such as public libraries and civic centers. These workshops will

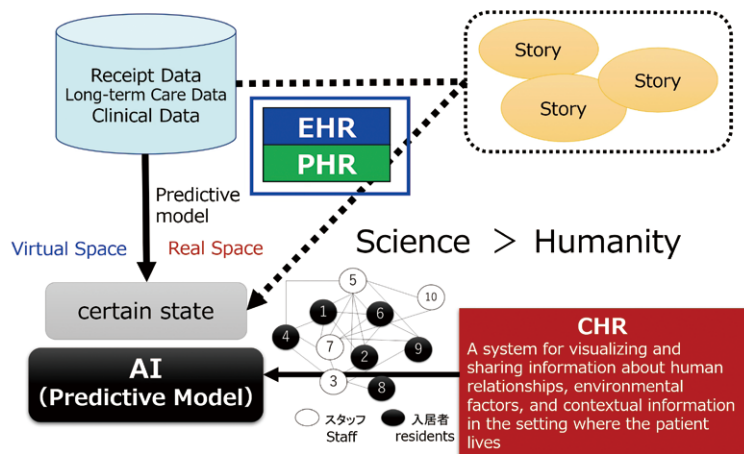


Image of the new AI prediction model (CHR)

not only help gather more qualitative data through people's personal stories but also promote a better understanding of the role and value of AI-based models in healthcare.

Through its participation in these activities, the *Inochi* Forum seeks to improve the quality and sustainability of care by offering more personalized, empathetic support to patients and caregivers, and by strengthening collaboration between science and society.

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[Action Platform]

Medical and Welfare

[SDGs]



2-5-5

Create systems that listen to and engage with the thoughts and voices of those living with diseases that still lack effective treatments, working together toward solutions rooted in empathy and shared determination.

As medical technologies have advanced worldwide, we have seen significant progress in the prevention and treatment of many illnesses, including diseases once considered incurable, such as cancer. These developments have undoubtedly contributed to increased life expectancy in

many countries.

At the same time, advancements in diagnostics have led to the identification of a growing number of rare diseases. These conditions—often referred to as “rare and intractable diseases”—affect relatively small populations and typically

involve complex mechanisms, making them difficult to treat or target with conventional drug development. As a result, these diseases are frequently categorized as “intractable,” and those diagnosed—along with their families—face unavoidable declines in quality of life. There are now more than 6,000 identified rare diseases worldwide, affecting over 300 million people globally. When viewed in the context of *Inochi* as a universal human concern, it becomes clear that these conditions are far from “rare.”

Various initiatives have emerged in response to this challenge. One important example is the creation of “patient and family associations”, where patients and their families share information and connect with others living with the same condition. In the face of limited public knowledge, these communities serve as invaluable sources of lived experience and mutual support. However, such associations exist only for a portion of rare diseases and do not offer universal coverage.

Another key effort is Rare Disease Day—a global campaign launched in Sweden in 2008 to raise awareness and foster understanding between patients, families, and society at large. It is now observed in over 100 countries, including Japan. A common thread in both movements is that patients and families themselves are at the center—driven by powerful determination and energy. However, one major obstacle is the lack of sustainable support. While some private companies do offer donations, these are typically one-off or indirect contributions, disconnected from their core businesses, and insufficient to ensure long-term sustainability.

To accelerate progress toward a future in which every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light, we must build systems in which private-sector companies engage directly and sustainably with patients and families in the field of rare and intractable diseases. Looking ahead to 2050, it is essential to develop mechanisms that center the voices and energy of those most affected while enabling faster and more effective problem-solving. In recent years, some startups and socially driven enterprises have begun co-creating services with patients and families—aiming to improve not only medical outcomes but also quality of life. These companies make rare and intractable diseases their core business focus, incorporating revenue models to ensure long-term viability and social impact.

One representative example is “*nanacara*,” a platform co-developed by Knock on the Door, Inc. and families living with drug-resistant epilepsy. Founded in 2018, the compa-



Interactions and information exchange among platform users

ny has worked with hundreds of individuals with rare and intractable diseases, building long-term teams with patients and caregivers to co-create a unified seizure tracking and management platform. The platform enables users to log and monitor symptoms, communicate easily with family and doctors, and maintain better mental and physical balance. Furthermore, the real-world data collected—on medication, seizure patterns, and daily life—is leveraged for pharmaceutical research and development, contributing to improved therapies while also serving as a sustainable revenue source.

The *Inochi* Forum aims to expand such an ecosystem in collaboration with diverse organizations. We seek to create platforms that enable more private-sector organizations to engage directly with patients and families in the rare disease field. Through these collaborative and sustainable efforts, we strive to realize a future in which every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

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[Action Platform]

Medical and Welfare

[SDGs]



3 Nurture *Inochi*

Discover and harness the hidden power of diverse *Inochi* to live well and meaningfully. Build societal systems that extend the potential of each individual, and receive the blessings of nature in a sustainable manner.

Declaration 3-1

Overcome poverty traps through learning, eliminate discrimination and inequality, and create a society where everyone can live safely and meaningfully.

3-1-1

To protect *Inochi*, let us provide education that places well-being at its core—so that every person, regardless of gender, can live authentically and build equal and respectful relationships.

According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2024 released by the World Economic Forum, Japan ranks 118th out of 146 countries. Persistent issues such as the low number of women in management positions and the gender pay gap reveal how Japan continues to lag significantly behind in advancing gender equality.

One major factor contributing to this gender gap is the disproportionate burden that women still carry in relation to marriage, childbirth, and childcare. The traditional division of roles—where men are breadwinners and women are homemakers—remains deeply ingrained. For example, although the government mandates companies to promote paternity leave, the rate of uptake among men remains just 30.1%. Nurturing *Inochi* does not end with childbirth. It is a long-term process built on the premise of gender-equal relationships informed by comprehensive sexuality education. This process calls for both partners to collaborate in protecting and nurturing *Inochi*, considering life planning together. The well-being—physical, mental, and social—of everyone involved in this process must be respected. All individuals must be empowered to realize their rights and potential without limitation.

To ensure well-being for those who protect and nurture *Inochi*, it is essential to recognize the importance of equality and mutual respect within partnerships. The work of nurturing *Inochi* should be shared equitably. This necessitates the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), which addresses not only biological and reproductive topics but also a broad range of themes such as human relationships, gender diversity, life planning, gender equality, and happiness. CSE, grounded in human rights, goes beyond traditional school-based sex education by reexamining ideas of gender norms and identity. Promoting CSE



Until we are all equal

Plan International is an international NGO dedicated to supporting girls and women

is essential for shaping a society in which all individuals enjoy their rights and achieve personal fulfillment based on the premise of nurturing *Inochi*—an indispensable step for nurturing and passing on *Inochi* to the next generation.

Plan International Japan is the Japanese branch of Plan International, an UN-registered NGO operating in more than 80 countries. The organization has worked across seven priority areas to build a just society where all children, especially girls, are free from discrimination. These areas include quality education, healthy development, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). However, no country or region has yet fully achieved gender equality. In Nepal, one of the Plan's focus areas, early marriage remains a major cause of unintended pregnancy and school dropouts among girls. The Plan is conducting awareness campaigns in partnership with schools and communities, advocating for gender-responsive curricula, safer school environments, and the legal increase of the minimum age of marriage to 20.

Research jointly conducted by Plan International and the United Nations reveals that fewer than one in four countries are taking sufficient action toward gender equality. This highlights the growing challenge of achieving SDG 5

by 2030.

In response to these challenges, Plan International Japan prioritizes:

- Empowering girls' leadership
- Ensuring the rights of girls in crises such as conflict, disaster, and climate change
- Advancing the realization of SRHR

Together with youth who are directly affected, Plan International Japan implement support programs both in Japan and around the world. We also engage in policy advocacy, participating in international conferences and urging governments to reform laws and policies to promote gender equality.

The *Inochi* Forum will work with diverse organizations such as Plan International Japan to establish systems that ensure the well-being of every individual—especially women and girls—at every stage of pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting.

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[Action Platform]

Education and Children / Diversity & Inclusion

[SDGs]



3-1-2

Ensure that all people—especially women—have access to education, to build a world where every person can live in safety and dignity, and to break the cycle of poverty.

Achieving equality for women is not only a matter of protecting women's rights; it also contributes to the creation of a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Equality is essential for social stability, health, sustainable growth, and resilience in the face of disasters. Among the many components of gender equality, education is paramount.

Educated women are more likely to earn higher incomes, are less likely to marry in childhood, and tend to have fewer children. Fewer childbirths reduce physical strain and lower the risk to both mother and child during delivery. Moreover, the children of educated women are less likely to suffer from infant mortality or malnutrition. Education empowers women with the ability to make informed decisions in their lives and reduces their risk of facing discrimination and violence.

Educated women also tend to invest in the future of their children and communities. They are more likely to send their children to school and engage in actions that benefit the entire community. These communities in turn prosper and grow economically, providing more children with access to education. As discrimination decreases, gender-based violence also declines, paving the way for sustainable economic activity and disaster-resilient communities. In this way, ensuring women have equal access to education leads not only to the empowerment of women, but also to greater safety and security for society as a whole.

JEN (Japan Emergency NGO), an international NGO supporting people in vulnerable conditions due to conflict or natural disaster under the motto "Supporting the Power

to Live," has promoted education for girls and the empowerment of women across various regions of the world.

In many places, however, women still face harsh conditions. In conservative areas of countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan, it is not culturally acceptable for women to work outside the home. If the male primary earner passes away or becomes unable to work due to illness or injury, the family may fall into poverty. In such cases, young boys often have no choice but to sell goods on the street to support their families. However, if women had access to education, they could engage in home-based work such as sewing or baking, enabling their sons to return to school and thereby breaking the cycle of generational poverty. Unfortunately, due to lack of education, many women are unable to find employment or support their families, and their children are forced to work—trapped in a vicious cycle. It is essential to ensure that these women can earn an income and take charge of their own futures.



Supporting education by enabling women to work, such as through bread-baking

JEN is developing programs that enable women, especially female heads of households, to support their families. These programs provide education and training for home-based work that allows women to earn income without leaving

their homes. Specifically, JEN aims to enable at least half of the women in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan to receive education by 2030, and to build a world by 2035 in which women can care for themselves, support their families, and live with dignity.

The *Inochi* Forum will work with diverse organizations to break the cycle of poverty and build a world where every person can live in safety. Together, we will expand global efforts to ensure all people—especially women—have access to education.

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[Action Platform]

Peace and Human Rights

[SDGs]



3-1-3

Break the cycle of poverty through education, eliminate discrimination and inequality, and ensure that everyone can live in safety.

Human history is a history of struggling against injustice. War, poverty, discrimination, disaster, and inequality—all have continuously cast shadows on humanity's journey. Among the many possible approaches, education is the most reliable means of breaking this chain of injustice.

However, there are people whom conventional education cannot reach. Children unable to attend classrooms, regions suffering from teacher shortages, areas where textbooks cannot be distributed, and places where learning is disrupted by civil war or disaster—these realities are all too common. Particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, population growth has rapidly increased the number of school-age children, far outpacing the ability of traditional infrastructure—classrooms, teachers, and especially budgets—to keep up, both physically and institutionally.

How can technology respond to these challenges? Since its founding, Castalia has been promoting digital learning worldwide, including in Japan. In recent years, we have launched projects in African countries using the mobile learning service GOOCUS, delivered via smartphones, to overcome regional and economic disparities in educational opportunities. Notably, GOOCUS Edge—developed for regions with unstable internet connectivity—allows users to pre-download learning materials and study offline. This system enables the construction of sustainable and scalable learning environments even in refugee camps, rural schools, and areas where learning has been disrupted by conflict or disaster.



A girl who participated in a programming class in Kenya expresses her gratitude to the staff



A female pupil taking a programming test at a primary school in Basra, Iraq

Castalia approaches technology with a belief in human goodness. The organization believes that technology can protect human dignity and become a means to overcome social injustices. By fusing education with technology, we can transcend the limits of traditional education systems

and open the “doors of possibility” to people who have previously been deprived of learning opportunities.

For example, in Kenya and Ethiopia, one of the main reasons girls drop out of school is the restrictions on education opportunities due to economic hardship or gender roles. In these contexts, parental influence is critical—parents often determine their children’s futures. If parents do not prioritize education, children’s futures are abruptly cut off. However, if an environment is created where learning can continue at home with just a smartphone, education continuity becomes possible, helping to prevent the interruption of learning. Furthermore, digital training for teachers and the standardization of educational materials can help improve the quality of education.

Of course, not all problems can be solved so simply. There are times when people feel powerless against harsh realities. Yet, we must hold onto the hope that there is something we can do. Delivering learning opportunities to those placed amid injustice, and supporting them in gaining the

power to choose their futures by their own will—this reflects Castalia’s mission, driven by both technology and philosophy, and represents an ongoing challenge.

The *Inochi* Forum resonates deeply with Castalia’s vision and will continue to work with diverse organizations to break the cycle of injustice through the power of education and technology, aiming to build a society where everyone can “learn and live in peace.”

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[Action Platform]

Education and Children

[SDGs]



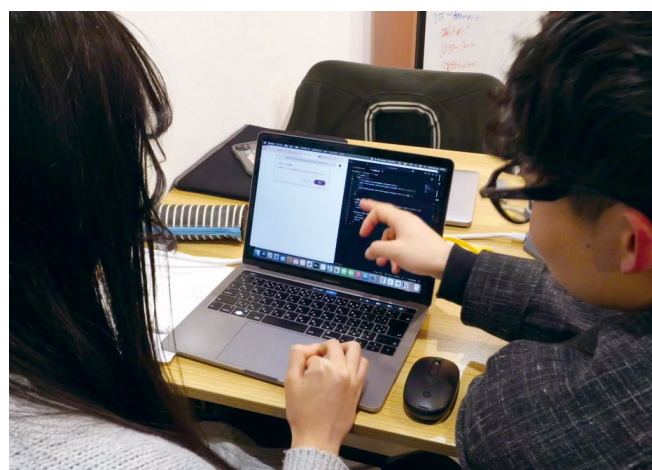
3-1-4

By combining digital education with personalized support, break the cycle of poverty and create a “cycle of hope” for children facing adversity.

Today, one in nine children in Japan lives in relative poverty. A family’s economic circumstances significantly affect a child’s self-esteem, educational background, and future employment, often contributing to school refusal and social withdrawal. Additional challenges such as being a young carer, living with developmental disabilities, or having foreign roots further deepen opportunity gaps.

While support for younger children—such as meal programs, learning assistance, and safe spaces—is gradually increasing, there remains a significant gap in support for high school students, who have completed compulsory education. Children facing hardship often lack opportunities to develop interests, experience learning beyond school, form social connections, or acquire planning and metacognitive skills. Support for developing “self-agency”—the ability to act independently for future economic and emotional self-reliance—is also limited.

Certified NPO CLACK provides digital and career education combined with close accompaniment for high school-aged youth experiencing difficulties, aiming to break the cycle of poverty. In partnership with Boards of Education, high schools, NPOs, and social workers, CLACK operates mainly in Tokyo and Osaka to create safe spaces where youth can learn proactively.



Digital and career education for children facing difficulties

In its “Tech Runway” program, CLACK provides three months of digital and career education completely free of charge—including tuition, transportation costs, and laptops—ensuring that financial hardship does not hinder learning. After acquiring skills, participants are offered practical experiences before entering society, cultivating experience, relationships, and thinking capacity. This fosters a cycle of learning and action that expands their future options. To date, approximately 500 youth have participated in the program, with a completion rate of 93.8% over the past three years. Around 50% of graduates have advanced to IT-related universities or vocational schools or found employment at tech companies, including those from single-parent households or with histories of school refusal.

As AI technology continues to advance rapidly, the job market is evolving at an unprecedented pace. CLACK plans to respond to these changes by expanding its curriculum and developing online programs so that all youth, regardless of location, can access high-quality education and opportunities for challenge. Through these efforts, youth raised in adversity who overcome poverty, discrimination, prejudice, and division to live independently and stay connected with others will serve as beacons of hope for children in similar situations. Ultimately, this can create a “cycle of hope” where every child—regardless of the environment into which they were born—feels empowered to seize their future and shape their own path.

The *Inochi* Forum will promote collaboration with various educational support organizations like CLACK, integrating wisdom and resources passed down from the past with new technologies and approaches. Together, we will expand this “cycle of hope” nationwide and carry the torch of *Inochi* into the future.

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty

[SDGs]



Declaration 3-2

Empower children and young people to freely express their thoughts and opinions and participate in decision-making processes.

3-2-1

Create a society where the voices of children are respected, where they can engage in democratic dialogue—among themselves and with adults—and where we foster the next generation of adults capable of sustaining such a society.

The Basic Act on Children, which came into effect in April 2023, outlines six foundational principles for future child policy in Japan. One of these states that “every child shall have their opinions respected according to their age and stage of development, and that what is best for the child in the present and future shall be prioritized.”¹ To realize this principle, it is vital to create environments in which children, regardless of age, gender, or nationality, can safely express their views in public spaces to improve their lives and the society they live in. Moreover, it is crucial that such expressions spark constructive dialogue among all members of society.

In response, the Social Solution Initiative (SSI) at The University of Osaka launched the project “Development of Educational Curricula and Programs for Next-generation citizens who can co-create public knowledge based on their own life experiences” (Project Lead: Prof. Mika Okabe, Graduate School of Human Sciences). This initiative aims to conceptualize and build a participatory society that includes children and other citizens. A central goal is to facilitate democratic dialogue between children and adults, while also encouraging children to engage in conversations among themselves. Through these dialogues, the project challenges outdated and increasingly obsolete social categories—adult / child, male / female, expert / layperson, Western / non-Western, normal / abnormal—as well as systemic divisions such as those in administration, law, academic disciplines, education systems, and public-private boundaries. The project promotes both theoretical and practical approaches to redrawing, transcending, or even dissolving these societal boundaries.

In 2022, the project supported night junior high school students in expressing their perspectives to both domestic and international audiences. In 2023, junior high and high school students from across Japan articulated their visions, concerns, and hopes for future society.

From 2024 onward, two key initiatives are being implemented annually. These initiatives encourage high school, university, and graduate students to critically re-examine the SDGs within the framework of inquiry-based learning. The students identify critical, reflective questions—rather



Undergraduate and postgraduate students engaged in discussion



High school students engaged in debate and the postgraduate students supporting them

than fact-based questions with fixed answers—using the SDGs as a lens to challenge taken-for-granted assumptions in contemporary society. By reviewing the pre-history and socio-political background of the SDGs, students develop meaningful “*Inochi* Voices,” which articulate their ideas and commitments for shaping a sustainable future. These voices are shared with relevant social institutions and actors as concrete proposals. Dialogue sessions are then organized between children and adults based on the “*Inochi* Voices” generated, helping nurture young people who can engage in social and political commitments and foster adults capable of supporting the civic agency of children.

Looking ahead, the project plans to deepen university students’ engagement through a critical reading of philosophical texts on “inquiry,” particularly those of American

philosopher John Dewey (1859–1952), who emphasized the significance of reflective learning.

Building on this foundation, students will explore the historical and social contexts that gave rise to the SDGs, questioning the assumptions underlying current targets. By identifying reflective questions and conducting literature reviews, students will refine their inquiries, develop “*Inochi* Voices”, and act on them by engaging with relevant social institutions. This process serves as a starting point for civic and political engagement. As part of a parallel initiative, graduate and undergraduate students will support high school students in conducting inquiry-based explorations of the SDGs, through an intensive three-day seminar.

The *Inochi* Forum supports such projects with the goal of building a society where children’s opinions are valued and democratic dialogue across generations is made possible.

[Notes]

*1 Children and Families Agency: The Basic Act on Children
<https://www.cfa.go.jp/policies/kodomo-kihon>

[References]

- The University of Osaka SSI Core Project: Development of Educational Curricula and Programs for Next-generation citizens who can co-create public knowledge based on their own life experiences
https://www.ssi.osaka-u.ac.jp/activity/core/public_knowledge/
- Japan-OECD Symposium 2022
<https://www.ssi.osaka-u.ac.jp/activity/other/japanoecd-2022082728/>
- 5th SSI Symposium Report
<https://www.ssi.osaka-u.ac.jp/activity/salon/5thssisymposium-2/?sortcat=cat01>

[Action Platform]

Education and Children

[SDGs]



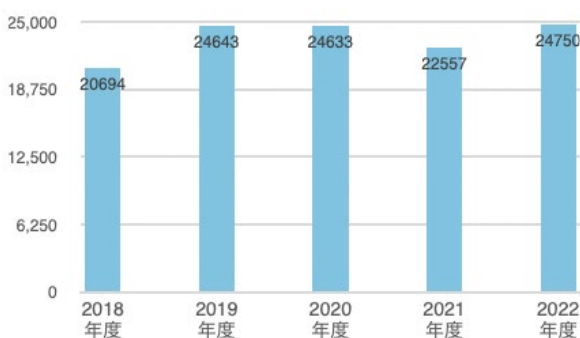
3-2-2

Expand educational initiatives within schools that empower children to envision a future for themselves and society—so that they can act to protect and value not only their own *Inochi* but also that of others.

Children represent limitless potential for the future and are embodiments of radiant *Inochi* itself. Yet today, their worlds are increasingly threatened—so much so that it is not an exaggeration to say they are losing their capacity to shine. In Japan, serious issues such as child abuse, chronic absenteeism, and the growing inability among children to dream about or set goals for their future continue to worsen. Concerning Osaka Prefecture, the following data highlights these trends:

- Cases of child abuse remain unabated.
- The number of children who do not attend school continues to rise annually.

Child Abuse (Osaka)

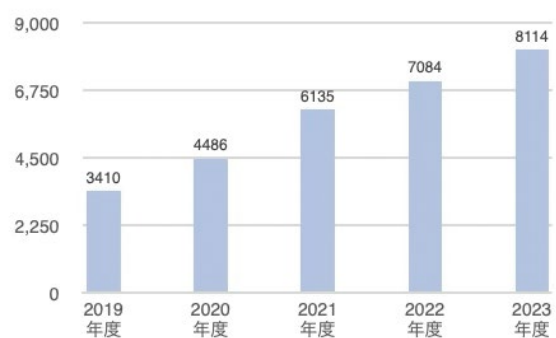


Compiled by the Osaka Prefectural Education Office from a survey by the Ministry of Education.

ues to rise annually.

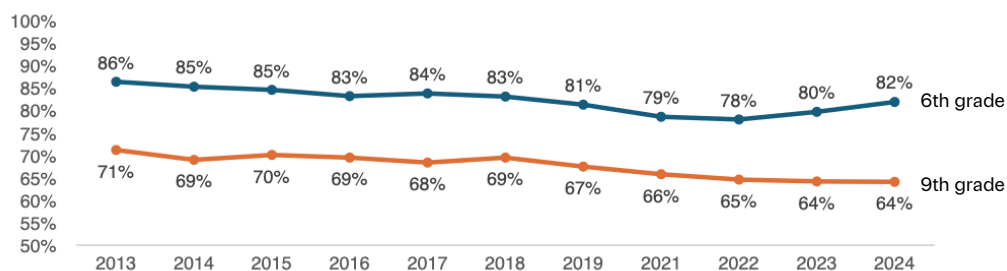
- According to surveys of 6th and 9th grade students in Osaka, the proportion of those who report having a dream or goal for the future has steadily declined.
- Reports also show that child suicides have reached record highs.
- Cases of child abuse remain unabated.
- The number of children who do not attend school continues to rise annually.
- According to surveys of 6th and 9th grade students in Osaka, the proportion of those who report having a dream or goal for the future has steadily declined.

Absenteeism (Elementary school)



● Reports also show that child suicides have reached record highs.

Education should be a means of shaping and securing children's futures.



Percentage of children having dreams and goals for the future (National Survey of Academic Achievement and Learning Status, Osaka Prefecture results).

Now more than ever, it is essential to create opportunities for children to raise their awareness of societal issues, explore solutions, feel their ideas are recognized, and build self-worth and a sense of connection with the wider world. These experiences will help them cultivate hope for the future of both themselves and society. In response, the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education has developed the *Waku Waku Doki Doki* SDGs Junior Project, an educational program inspired by the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan theme: Designing Future Society for Our Lives.

To realize this vision, it is vital that children grow up with an awareness of being part of a diverse society—not isolated but embedded within broader social systems. It is not enough to have personal aspirations; a vision for the collective future is also essential.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, daily life was transformed into unprecedented ways. Coupled with an increasingly unstable global landscape—where war and conflict feel ever closer—and the rapid rise of AI technologies, children now face a world where it is exceedingly difficult to hold on to dreams and hopes for the future of society. In such a challenging context, the *Waku Waku Doki Doki* SDGs Junior Project offers children the opportunity to observe their surroundings, their communities, and the wider world as members of society. Through recognizing social issues, engaging in dialogue and collaborative activities with others, and exploring how to build a better society, children are encouraged to create their own ideas, communicate them with conviction, and take action—or envision doing so in the future. This learning initiative emphasizes that there is no single correct answer. Ideas are limitless, and each individual's perspective holds value. It is an inquiry-based learning model where everyone is acknowledged and respected.

The project is built upon three core components:

1. An inquiry-based learning program.
2. Idea meetings with professionals who are actively in-

volved in SDGs and social contribution.

3. A forum where students can share and deepen their ideas through broader interaction.

By delivering these three components directly to schools, Osaka Prefecture has made it possible for students to turn their ideas into real-world action. Since its launch in 2020, the number of participating schools has steadily increased. Notably, survey results from the Osaka Prefectural Board of Education indicate a growing number of elementary and junior high school students who respond: "I have strengths I can be proud of."

Looking ahead, the project aims to establish a future in which all schools independently recognize the value of this program and continue implementing it. By 2050, it is hoped that this kind of education will be the norm—nurturing individuals who take action to ensure that every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with diverse local governments, will support the further development and implementation of this educational program, helping to build a society in which children can envision and shape hopeful futures for themselves and their communities.

[References]

- *Waku Waku Doki Doki* SDGs Junior Project (Osaka Prefectural Board of Education)
<https://www.pref.osaka.lg.jp/o180080/shochugakko/wakudoki/index.html>
- Junior Expo (Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition)
<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/overview/education/>

[Action Platform]

Education and Children

[SDGs]



3-2-3

It is time to create new ways for children and young people to share their ideas about how to be healthy and happy despite the threat and impact of disasters. By working together and contributing to solutions, they can be empowered to face disaster challenges and be part of a global effort to increase disaster resilience.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states the rights of children to live in a healthy environment, and to contribute to decisions affecting their lives. One of the current major issues affecting the lives of children is the increasing threat of climate-related disasters. Good health and wellbeing, and climate action, have both been identified as sustainable development goals. Any efforts to address these combined issues need to be developed with, by and for children and young people. This approach is consistent with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction¹ and the Nurture Pillar of the *Inochi* Declaration.

A major risk associated with disasters is long term mental health problems², particularly for those who experience more than one disaster³. Mental health problems can arise from experiencing the disaster event and also the difficulties and changes that occur in the years afterwards including damaged homes, schools and local services which can force families to move away from their communities and support systems. Children and young people who are very worried about climate change may also experience mental health problems⁴.

There are many examples of the important contributions children and young people have made to disaster resilience, including the Student Volunteer Army in Aotearoa New Zealand which was initially mobilised by University of Canterbury students using social media following the Christchurch earthquakes. Disaster risk reduction and recovery support programs^{5,6} are also important strategies for engaging children and young people in disaster preparedness and guiding them through disaster experiences. However, more evidence is needed to understand the best ways to support their mental health and wellbeing, particularly for groups who may have specific needs such as preschool children, children with disabilities, and those from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

If there was a consistent way for children and young people to share their thoughts and ideas about disaster resilience, it would help everyone understand the importance of their voices, and it would become normal to include their views and experiences when decisions are being made that impact them. It would also give young people the chance to work together, share new ideas, and learn from each other across different cultures and countries.

The *Inochi* Forum is committed to advocating for the estab-

lishment of tiers of local, regional and international networks of Young Disaster Resilience Leaders as an ongoing responsibility for government and non-government disaster agencies. These leadership groups and networks would help young people become stronger leaders: supporting their sense of empowerment and agency and their opportunities to contribute to community resilience. It is possible to involve younger children as disaster resilience contributors to these networks via supportive contexts such as schools and community settings. There should be ways for all children and young people to contribute including different ages, genders, abilities, family backgrounds and living circumstances.

For this to work, it needs support from adults and other young people and their organisations. These supporters would work together to ensure that Young Disaster Resilience Leaders develop skills to manage stress related to disasters, at the same time as helping others in a safe and trauma informed way. There also needs to be succession planning allowing for new leaders bringing in fresh ideas as the older ones grow up and become leaders in the adult world. Finally, adults in government, health, disaster services and schools would need to be open to learning themselves, creating safe spaces for contributions from children and young people, and listening to what they say so that their ideas help to make real changes.

Setting up these groups can be difficult, especially after a disaster when things are chaotic. Fortunately, researchers and young people with lived experience of disasters in Western Australia have great advice on how to engage young people in disaster risk reduction (<https://shorturl.at/lyjKe>). Getting started early can make sure things are in place before a disaster occurs. Commemorating past disasters can also be a helpful way to do this – such as the memorials and events held in Kobe, Japan in January 2025 to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and engage the next generation in learning and preparedness activities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Youth Preparedness Council in the USA and the National Centre of Excellence: Young People & Disasters in Australia demonstrate different ways to establish youth leadership in disaster resilience. By highlighting the success of existing initiatives, and advocating for a more networked approach within and across countries, the *Inochi* Forum together with

the contributors to this action plan, proposes the establishment of Young Disaster Resilience Leader networks. This will encourage adults to understand the needs of children and young people and provide opportunities for their active participation, influencing disaster resilience initiatives and helping to design more effective solutions.

The *Inochi* Forum proposes that these networks will also encourage children and young people to focus on their own sphere of influence (the things they can control) and, through the networks, together build their future in a climate disrupted world.

[Notes]

- *1 The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
<https://recovery.preventionweb.net/ja/the-citizens-guide-to-the-sendai-framework-for-drr-japanese>
- *2 Newnham EA, Mergelsberg ELP, Chen Y, Kim Y, Gibbs L, Dzidic PL, et al. Long term mental health trajectories after disasters and pandemics: A multilingual systematic review of prevalence, risk and protective factors. *Clinical Psychology Review*. 2022;97: 102203. doi: 10.1016/j.cpr.2022.102203.
- *3 Leppold C, Gibbs L, Block K, Reifels L, Quinn P. Public health implications of multiple disaster exposures *The Lancet Public*

Health. 2022;7:e274-86. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-667\(21\)00255-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-667(21)00255-3).

- *4 Léger-Goodes T, Malboeuf-Hurtubise C, Mastine T, Généreux M, Paradis PO, Camden C. Eco-anxiety in children: A scoping review of the mental health impacts of the awareness of climate change. *Frontiers in Psychology*. 2022;13:872544. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2022.
- *5 Amri A, Haynes K, Bird DK, Ronan K. Bridging the divide between studies on disaster risk reduction education and *child-centred* disaster risk reduction: a critical review. *Children's Geographies*. 2017;16(3):239-51. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14733285.2017.1358448>.
- *6 Gibbs L, Marinkovic K, Nurse J, Tong LA, Tekin E, Ulubasoglu M, et al. Child and adolescent psychosocial support programs following natural disasters – a scoping review of emerging evidence. *Current Psychiatry Reports*. 2021;23(12):23(12):82. doi: 10.1007/s11920-021-01293-1.

[Action Platform]

Medical and Welfare

[SDGs]



3-2-4

Build a society in which the next generation can envision the possibilities of the future and, through their own actions, choose and shape that future.

What kind of world can we leave for future generations? While much attention has been given to the butterfly effect of how the past influences the present, people living today remain largely unaware of the extent to which they can impact the future. From a long-term perspective grounded in intergenerational ethics, it is essential that young people who will live in the future stand up on their own, envision the future they desire, act to realize it, and form solidarity that transcends disciplines and sectors.

In response to this challenge and with the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai as a key opportunity, Hiroshi Sakuma (Specially Appointed Researcher at The University of Osaka's Social Solution Initiative) launched the Shape New World Initiative. This initiative began as a collaboration between the Japan Association for the 2025 World Expo and members of the Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, and has driven a wide range of efforts over the years.

Specifically, the initiative has promoted two central projects: the Shape New World Project, a research program focused on social design, and the Shape New World Committee,



Future generations will shape their own futures.

aimed at designing visions for the society of 2050. In both projects, the central philosophy is that young people who will lead future generations should actively choose the direction of the future. Themes addressed include cultural co-creation for the future, communities and mobility, food and lifestyles, health and well-being, learning and play, peace and human rights, the planet and biodiversity, and SDGs+Beyond— a future society in which every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light. Through these activities, young people have taken responsibility for envisioning and real-

izing their own futures. Backcasting from this vision, they have identified major global gaps and proposed solutions through technological, medical, political, and economic innovations. They also presented concrete, cross-sectoral guidelines to make these roadmaps a reality.

The Social Solution Initiative, co-led by Mr. Sakuma, has collaborated with the Japan Science and Technology Agency to produce research reports by convening leading figures from academia and industry. In addition, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and the Japan Association for the 2025 World Expo jointly supported the Shape New World Initiative, furthering efforts to empower the next generation to tackle global challenges. The initiative's results have been shared through Theme Weeks and symposiums at the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo.

A key principle running through these efforts is the belief that future generations have the will and the right to choose and create their own future. The visions developed through research and dialogue are no longer abstract dreams—they are within reach through concrete action. Over the next 25 years, these visions will be brought to life by the continued efforts of those involved. As a general incorporated association, the Shape New World Initiative will publish annual research reports and implement a tracking program to follow the activities of symposium speakers. The initiative

is also exploring educational collaboration, including future society design through inquiry-based learning in partnership with institutions such as University of Tsukuba Senior High School.

The *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with next-generation-led organizations, including the Shape New World Initiative, leveraging diverse visions and networks to promote activities that empower the next generation to choose and shape their own future.

[References]

- Shape New World Initiative
<https://www.shapenewworld.com/>
- Multifaceted Investigation for Future Society Design “Shape New World Project”
<https://www.ssi.osaka-u.ac.jp/activity/joint/future-society-design-by-shape-new-world-initiative/>
- Global Shapers Community
<https://www.globalshapers.org/home>

[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



3-2-5

By encountering the pure and genuine feelings of children, learn that kindness can arise spontaneously, and build a society where every person's conscience can be fully expressed, where all *Inochi* is nurtured, and where we sustain each other's lives.

Hirofumi Miyata, President of Miyata Unyu Co., Ltd., a Japanese transportation company, located in Takatsuki City, Osaka, shares the following story:

Our company changed profoundly because of a fatal traffic accident that occurred in 2013.

Miyata Unyu was in its 68th year, and I had just been appointed as the fourth-generation president in 2012. In the busy summer of 2013, not long after my appointment, one of our trucks collided with a scooter ridden by a 43-year-old man, resulting in his death. I will never forget what the man's father said to me after the accident:

“I’m not here to say who was right or wrong. But know this: my son lost his life just now. And he had a daughter in fourth grade. Please remember that.”

I could only respond: “I will sincerely do everything I can.”

Traffic accidents are a societal issue. Even before this incident, we had worked to prevent accidents and spread awareness. Yet, facing the reality that the work I had believed in had taken someone's life left me deeply shocked. At the same time, it made me realize that we are not only keeping someone alive but being kept by someone else. For the first time, each of our employees appeared to me as *Inochi* itself. From then on, I began to reflect on what we could do for the deceased, their family, and society.

Initially, I tried to strengthen traffic control and monitoring, but little improvement was seen. Instead, dissatisfaction and complaints grew louder. When I was struggling with the thought that if things don't get better, I might as well think of a way to get rid of the trucks, someone said to me:

“Miyata, you love trucks, don't you? Then instead of getting rid of them, why not think of a way to make them a force for good?”

That remark opened my eyes. I realized we could sustain life by finding a way to “activate” trucks. Around that time, I noticed drawings by drivers’ children displayed inside their truck cabins. When I saw those pure, heartfelt pictures, I felt a wave of calmness and kindness wash over me. It struck me that if we wrapped these drawings and messages not just inside but outside the trucks, both drivers and the public who saw them would be filled with the same gentle feelings—and would be internally motivated to drive safely and avoid accidents. One year after the accident, we completed our first truck wrapped with children’s drawings.

We named this initiative the “Kodomo Museum Project” and expanded it within our company. According to our internal data, the accident rate dropped by 40%. I realized that people do not improve through control and surveillance, but that kindness already exists within everyone. Thus, rather than trying to mold employees into mere company men, I resolved to foster individuals who would be valued by society and help each employee unlock their own destiny.

Since then, the spirit of kindness has spread beyond the logistics industry. Pharmacies, construction sites, hospitals, restaurants, and many other sectors have joined the initiative. Our activities have expanded beyond Japan into China, Laos, and Thailand. Beyond reducing traffic accidents, the project has evolved into a broader movement to make society better.

Because children’s drawings are central to the project, we also visit preschools and elementary schools to tell children how their artwork is contributing to society—helping nurture their self-esteem. For high school students, we share the journey that led to the current form of the project, encouraging them to see mistakes and failures not as ends but as experiences to be transformed into growth. In this way, we create opportunities for both children and adults to gain new insights.

We will continue this work without end, striving to cultivate hearts of compassion, to create a society where people sustain and nurture one another. By 50 years from now, we aim for these activities and ideals to become not something exceptional, but simply the norm.

The *Inochi* Forum will work to create many opportunities



Scene from the unveiling ceremony of the wrapped vehicle at the primary school



Wrapped truck unveiled at the event

and mechanisms in workplaces where people can encounter the pure and sincere thoughts of children, allowing kindness to arise spontaneously and enabling every individual to express their conscience without restriction. Together, we will build a society where all *Inochi* is nurtured.

[References]

・Kodomo Museum Project Official Website
<https://www.kodomo-museum.jp/>

[Action Platform]

Education and Children / SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



Declaration 3-3

Share information from a citizen's perspective and, through consumption, investment, and daily choices, build a sustainable society.

3-3-1

“Shopping is voting.” Create a society where everyone can easily make choices that lead to happiness for the future by providing clear, citizen-centered information—transforming both lifestyles and social systems.

Our lives are sustained by daily choices—almost everyday, we select and purchase goods and services. Food, daily necessities, means of transportation, and other services all require choices.

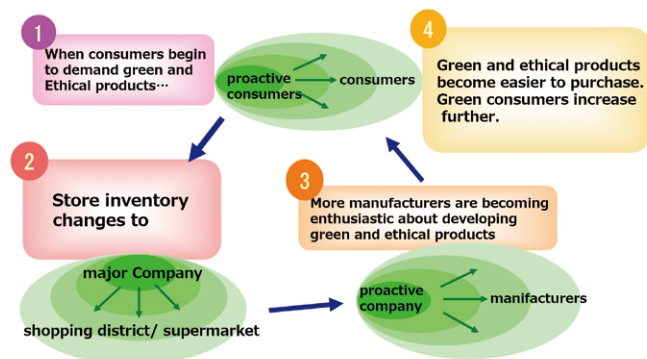
The phrase “shopping is voting” was coined by Ralph Nader, a leader in the American consumer movement. If we continue to buy products made with no regard for the environment or human rights, companies that ignore these values will prosper, leading to a society that disregards environmental and human rights concerns. Conversely, if we choose products from companies that prioritize environmental protection and human rights, such companies will thrive—and before long, we will find ourselves living in a society where these values are upheld.

- What kind of society do you wish to create?
- The future depends on the choices we make every day.

However, we are not advocating that you abandon all your existing purchasing criteria. In today's Japan, it remains difficult to base all purchases solely on ethical considerations. Instead, we suggest that alongside your existing standards, you add new criteria such as environmental responsibility, human rights, sustainability, fairness, and ethics. When making choices, simply opt for the “better” alternative available at that moment. Even if it is not the “best,” if everyone consistently chooses “better,” society as a whole will gradually be elevated.

The certified NPO Citizens Environmental Foundation^{*1} works to disseminate easy-to-understand information for those who want to know which companies contribute to future well-being and what products are better for society and the planet—and where they can find them. For over 30 years, the Foundation has promoted green consumer activities and environmental education, encouraging individuals to incorporate an “environmental perspective” into their daily shopping decisions, thus influencing producers, retailers, and the broader economy^{*2}.

To Make Consumption and Production Sustainable



To promote this positive change, reliable information and communication are necessary.

Image of the sustainable consumption and production cycle

In collaboration with other regional environmental groups, the Foundation surveyed and evaluated the environmental policies of 68 major national supermarkets, co-ops, and convenience store chains, leading to the publication of *The Guide to Environmentally Friendly Shopping*. This initiative expanded nationally in 1999 with the publication of *The Green Consumer Shopping Guide* by the Green Consumer National Network. In 2005, the Foundation launched an NPO and civil network to support CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) efforts, conducting citizen-driven CSR research projects until 2013^{*3}.

Further broadening our scope, in 2016 we initiated the “Citizen Network for Sustainable Consumption,”^{*4} which evaluates corporate CSR and sustainability practices through the *Ethical Corporate Scorecard*^{*5} and showcases green and ethical products via the website Green & Choices (*Guricho*)^{*6}. The Foundation aims to continue providing accessible, essential information to build a society where companies and consumers are trustworthy partners. In addition, the Foundation is developing a self-check system for SMEs to assess their own ethical and sustainability practices. Through these efforts, we hope to transform the economy by increasing the number of people engaged in ethical consumption.

Together with diverse organizations, the *Inochi* Forum will promote the spirit of “shopping is voting” by creating and delivering accessible information that helps make ethical and sustainable choices easier for everyone.

[Notes]

- *1 Environmental Citizens Organization:
<https://kankyoshimin.org>
- *2 Green Consumer Activities:
<https://kankyoshimin.org/activity/life-style/green-consumer/activity-56/>
- *3 CSR Research Projects by Citizens:
<https://kankyoshimin.org/jizoku-selfcheck/>
- *4 Citizen Network for Sustainable Consumption:

<https://cnrc.jp>

- *5 Ethical Corporate Scorecard:
<https://cnrc.jp/works/business-ethical-rating/>
- *6 Green & Choices (*Guricho*):
<https://guricho.net>

[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment, and Poverty

[SDGs]



3-3-2

Realize a sustainable socio-economic system of *Sanpo-Yoshi*—beneficial for the seller, the buyer, and society—by fostering a virtuous cycle through individuals selecting companies based on ESG information that reflects corporate social value, in their roles as workers, investors, and consumers.

Over the past 30 years, Japan’s GDP has barely grown, and labor productivity has remained persistently low. Labor productivity is defined as the amount of monetary value—or added value—generated per unit of labor time. As the working population shows no signs of increasing, Japan is faced with a historically rare situation: national debt amounting to 240% of GDP, raising concerns over future interest payment burdens. To restore fiscal soundness and support a sustainable society, it is essential to improve labor productivity and secure sufficient added value. In Japan, the markup rate—which reflects the pricing power of goods and services—is significantly lower than global standards. Similarly, real wages, the monetary value assigned to labor, have remained stagnant or declined over the past three decades.

To address this challenge, the Core Project of the University of Osaka Social Solution Initiative (SSI), titled “Realization of an Empathetic Economy through the Promotion of Stakeholder-ESG Management, Ethical Consumption and Sustainable Procurement” (PI: Professor Takeshi Ito, SSI), seeks to realize a society guided by *Sanpo-Yoshi* (beneficial for the seller, the buyer, and society). This entails exploring pathways for corporations and industries to enhance their markups while earning empathy from consumers and society, thereby increasing the added value of labor, goods, and services.

A practical pathway toward this vision is to enable workers, investors, and consumers to evaluate and select companies

comprehensive evaluation		Ranking (points)		1st place (83)	4th place (60)	2nd place (68)	5th place (20)	3rd place (63)
Evaluation criteria		Weighting	Industry name	Meiji HD (2022)	Nippon Ham (2022)	Ajinomoto (2022)	Yamazaki Bred (2022)	Maruha Nichiro (2022)
E	Environment (Qualitative: by company survey year)	10 %	Company name					
			Score	50 points	30 points	50 points	30 points	30 points
E	Environment (Quantitative: Survey Year 2022)	10 %	Ranking (points)	1st place (4)	3rd place (2)	1st place (4)	3rd place (2)	3rd place (2)
			Score	77 points	70 points	47 points	73 points	85 points
S	Consumers (Qualitative: by survey year and company)	10 %	Ranking (points)	2nd place (3)	4th place (1)	5th place (0)	3rd place (2)	1st place (4)
			Score	60 points	80 points	70 points	40 points	80 points
S	Human Rights/Labor (Qualitative: by company survey year)	10 %	Ranking (points)	4th place (1)	1st place (4)	3rd place (2)	5th place (0)	1st place (4)
			Score	80 points	60 points	70 points	40 points	70 points
S	Society: Social Contribution (Qualitative: by company survey year)	10 %	Ranking (points)	1st place (4)	4th place (1)	2nd place (3)	5th place (0)	2nd place (3)
			Score	70 points	70 points	50 points	50 points	50 points
S	Peace and Non-violence (Qualitative: by company survey year)	10 %	Ranking (points)	1st place (4)	1st place (4)	3rd place (2)	3rd place (2)	3rd place (2)
			Score	30 points	30 points	20 points	10 points	20 points
S	Animal Welfare (Qualitative: by company survey year)	10 %	Ranking (points)	1st place (4)	1st place (4)	3rd place (2)	5th place (0)	3rd place (2)
			Score	20 points	40 points	20 points	10 points	10 points
S	Society (Quantitative: Survey year 2023)	10 %	Ranking (points)	2nd place (3)	1st place (4)	2nd place (3)	4th place (1)	4th place (1)
			Score	59 points	51 points	58 points	44 points	42 points
G	Sustainability system (Qualitative: by company survey year)	10 %	Ranking (points)	1st place (4)	3rd place (2)	2nd place (3)	4th place (1)	5th place (0)
			Score	70 points	60 points	70 points	30 points	70 points
G	Governance (Quantitative: Survey year 2023)	10 %	Ranking (points)	1st place (4)	4th place (1)	1st place (4)	5th place (0)	1st place (4)
			Score	64 points	57 points	70 points	56 points	66 points

App view for evaluating and comparing ESG of companies

based on disclosed ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) information. In such an environment, as companies compete transparently, the ESG standards of businesses, industries, and society as a whole are expected to rise. ESG disclosures reflect corporate behavior toward suppliers, employees, the environment, and local communities. In other words, ESG represents the social value a company provides—their true societal impact—and it constitutes the substance of a corporate brand. To enhance these social impacts through competitive efforts, our project is devel-

oping an application called the “*Sustaina App*” to facilitate ESG comparisons. This app assigns scores to corporate efforts across categories such as environmental performance, human rights, social contributions, animal welfare, and governance. It is designed to support stakeholders—consumers, job seekers, etc.—in making informed decisions about where to buy or work. The project is currently engaging not only publicly listed companies, which are leading ESG disclosure, but also reaching out to unlisted companies.

The project advocates for pricing things of value appropriately, based on evaluations and support from stakeholders. While improving ESG performance involves costs, these costs—when they represent true value—should rightly be reflected in prices. Even after Japan’s so-called “Lost 30 Years,” the economy still suffers from unpaid or excessive services and low wages, with valuable things remaining undervalued. A particularly urgent issue is increasing wages, which fall under the “Social” category of ESG—that is, assigning proper value to labor. To achieve this, all industries must be able to fully incorporate ESG-related value into the pricing of their goods and services. This requires the empathy and cooperation of all stakeholders—not only corporations, but also consumers, investors, and workers.

Based on this vision, the project will intensify its outreach efforts based on this vision. We aim to further develop and

disseminate the “*Sustaina App*” by leveraging AI for data collection, creating spaces such as workshops and interactive events, collaborating with other organizations involved in the *Inochi Forum*, and engaging in joint research with companies.

The *Inochi Forum*, together with this project, will develop methods that enable workers, investors, and consumers to select companies based on ESG information and to establish ESG-conscious lifestyles. Through this, we seek to build a sound cycle of value creation based on *Sanpo-Yoshi*, where companies generate added value in a virtuous and sustainable economy that benefits all.

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty

[SDGs]



3-3-3

Dress to protect every *Inochi* on Earth. Choose fashion that weaves a future through responsible production and consumption.

Fashion planner Yusuke Tani has continuously confronted the “invisible realities” behind the surface beauty of fashion. Having witnessed firsthand the harsh working conditions in garment factories in Bangladesh and the “graveyard of clothes” of discarded garments piled high in the Atacama Desert in Chile, he came to question the mass consumption and unconscious choices of affluent societies. Though fashion is meant to be an expression of personal beauty and freedom, behind it lie countless lives sacrificed and environmental damage.

In response to these issues, Mr. Tani has launched “clothing education” (*fukuiku*) initiatives in collaboration with governments and companies. He emphasizes that clothing is not merely a product, but something made through someone’s time and life. Understanding this background fundamentally transforms how we make choices. Through lectures and talks across Japan, he has conveyed to people of all ages the stories behind consumption—stories of the labor conditions at production sites, the natural environments that



A workshop in Dominican Republic

foster materials, and the ultimate destination of discarded clothes. Beyond lectures, he has developed learning experiences through workshops where participants reconstruct discarded clothing using buttons, and through interactive exhibitions that explore the possibilities of clothing.

Participants have responded positively, with comments like: “my perspective when shopping has changed” and: “this made me think about responsibility in fashion for the first time,” indicating a clear shift in awareness. Looking ahead to 2050, Mr. Tani aims not only to deepen and expand these educational efforts, but also to explore new approaches that integrate fashion and art. Through visual arts, film, photography, and body expression, he seeks to create sensory experiences that allow people to grasp the “life and death” of clothing. He envisions exhibitions where visitors can follow the narrative of a garment—from its creation and usage to its eventual disposal—through visuals and tactile senses. Using sounds, scents, and materials, he hopes to convey the flow of *Inochi* embedded in garments and evoke a visceral awareness of loss, connection, and ecology.

The *Inochi* Forum also believes that fashion must be redefined not as mere consumer goods, but as a way of living. Clothing wraps our lived time—our very *Inochi*. Paying attention to where, by whom, with what materials, and for what purpose a garment is made is a profound act of respect for the *Inochi* of others and of the Earth. Confronting the reality that many garments are incinerated touches on our perceptions of life and death. The ultimate fate of clothing invites us to reconsider how we face the end of *Inochi*. Fashion holds the power to transform society. It is more than trends—it is a declaration of our stance toward coexisting with the world.

Believing in this potential, the *Inochi* Forum will continue working alongside fashion planners like Mr. Tani to spread the message of “responsibility in creation,” “responsibility in use,” and the “dignity of *Inochi*” across the globe—through the medium of fashion.

3-3-4

Visualize the various impacts of corporations on the environment, society, and humanity, and together support enterprises that embody kindness and enrich people’s lives and society, thereby realizing *Keisei-Saimin*—building a peaceful and prosperous world by saving and nurturing people.

Economic activity, at its core, should be an endeavor of *Keisei-Saimin*—enriching and sustaining life. The essential mission of a corporation is to pursue social values. Generating sustained economic profit is merely a means to this end. However, means and ends have become inverted, and the livelihoods of people and nature are often neglected.

To address this issue, Sustainable Lab Inc. has developed and provided tools that visualize the environmental, social, and human impacts generated by corporations. Over 4,000 companies and more than 30 financial institutions have

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[Action Platform]

Art, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



already utilized these systems. The collected data is being compiled into a comprehensive database and shared with government agencies, contributing to the broader recognition of the importance of non-financial information.

Based on these achievements, the *Inochi* Forum and Sustainable Lab propose an action plan for a fundamental transformation of the economic system. The centerpiece of this plan is the development and use of “non-financial statements.” Just like financial statements, corporations would be required to create and disclose non-financial statements

that quantitatively and qualitatively describe information on natural capital, human capital, intellectual capital, and governance structures. This will serve as a new indicator of corporate value—expressing the power of companies to enrich people and society.

Government agencies will also join this movement by establishing systems that make use of non-financial statements. For example, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications could incorporate information from local governments and local enterprises into the basis for allocating local allocation taxes. Other ministries may refer to non-financial statements when determining the provision of subsidies or grants. The Financial Services Agency can encourage banks to take non-financial information into account when assessing loan applications or opening new accounts, thereby promoting the disclosure of comprehensive information. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare may require companies to disclose non-financial information as part of their recruitment processes. Other ministries can also use such information when evaluating applications for business licenses.

Furthermore, prefectural governments and stock exchanges may adopt non-financial statements as part of their screening procedures and listing maintenance criteria. These changes, in many cases, do not require amendments to existing laws and can be implemented through administrative notifications issued by central government agencies. As non-financial statements become widespread, the recognition that “companies creating high social value have greater future potential” will spread, and the evaluation of such enterprises will improve. Consequently, these companies will gain advantages in fundraising, recruitment, and transactions, creating a sustainable cycle where companies that fail to contribute to society are naturally phased out.

To ensure the stable operation of this system, three essential components are needed:

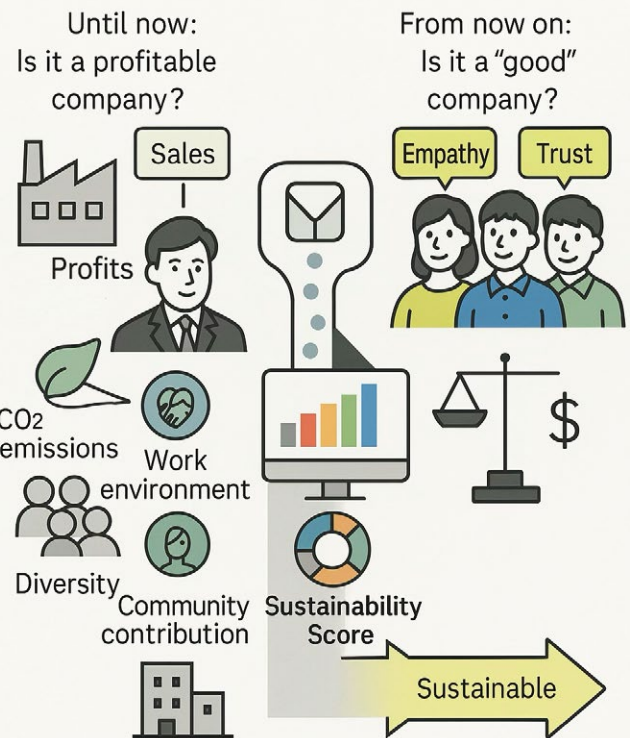
1. Tools for creating non-financial statements
2. Verification mechanisms and specialized institutions for auditing the statements
3. Models for aggregating and evaluating the information

These elements can be realized through the development of specialized human resources and operational tools.

Furthermore, concerns that pursuing social benefits may impair economic competitiveness can be mitigated. Standardized formats for non-financial statements and the spread of generative AI will streamline data aggregation and evaluation, minimizing any negative impact on economic efficiency. On the contrary, converting previously invisible “intangible assets” into economic value can enhance over-

Non-financial Information Drives the Future

Return to an Economy Centered on “Life”



Making a company's “invisible assets” visible

all economic value and competitiveness. Public-private sector collaboration for the standardization of non-financial statements is already underway, and substantial progress is expected within a few years.

As the *Inochi* Forum seeks a transition to an economic system centered on *Inochi*, it will collaborate with diverse organizations like Sustainable Lab to create a system that visualizes the diverse impacts of corporations on the environment, society, and humanity—and support enterprises that embody kindness and enrich people's lives and society.

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment, and Poverty

[SDGs]



3-3-5

Transform the structure of our society from capitalism to an “Empathy Capital Society”—a new model of mutual support—through the use of community currencies, move away from warlike language often used in business and instead adopt words that reflect harmony and cooperation.

To address the widening social disparities and ongoing environmental degradation caused by excessive capitalism, the nonprofit corporation *eumo* has promoted the concept of an “Empathy Capital Society” since 2018. In this vision, society cherishes and nurtures *empathy* as a non-monetary, invisible value and places it at the core of all activity.

In contrast to traditional capitalism, where shareholder value and financial returns dominate, an Empathy Capital Society encourages corporations to engage in co-creation to solve social issues. Shareholders in this model invest not for dividends or capital gains, but out of empathy. Employees choose where to work based on how inspired they feel, cultivate their unique talents, and contribute to society in diverse ways—holding multiple jobs, farming, or engaging in community-based work without being bound by location. Consumers may also farm themselves and begin to shift away from the idea that “cheaper is better,” opting instead to buy from producers they resonate with. Prices are not fixed, but determined within the bounds of each person’s relationship and ability to pay. The crucial point is that people can choose their future course based on their own will.

An Empathy Capital Society does not negate the role of money—there are many things that can be achieved with currency. However, not every aspiration or ideal yields financial profit. For these endeavors, we must have the option to use empathy as a resource. The empathy community currency *eumo*, designed to circulate money based on empathy, is currently used in about 30 communities across Japan. In this system, people pay more to support good causes and a culture of “pay it forward” is encouraged by assigning expiration dates to the currency—so that those who don’t need it now can pass it on to those who do. This fosters a shift from an economy of competition to one of sharing.

Additionally, the *eumo* Academy, a place of learning for aspiring participants in the Empathy Capital Society, has empowered over 300 students and professionals to co-create new values for a new era. Many graduates are actively working to revitalize local communities across Japan. As a network for mutual aid, the Tanimachi Social Association was launched in Osaka’s Tanimachi district. This platform brings together diverse individuals who support one another through shared social initiatives. Young students are especially drawn to the universal restaurant and café that serve as hubs for these activities, as places where they can meet inspiring adults.



eumo Day: A gathering for those striving to realise an open empathy-based society in 2024

To fully realize an Empathy Capital Society, we must also rethink our business language. Words such as “competition” or “strategy”—terms reminiscent of warfare—should be eliminated. Language influences how we envision reality and what we ultimately create. As long as such warlike words remain, people will see competition as natural and co-creation as unnatural. Instead, business language must shift from words of conflict to words that reflect a journey of introspection and dialogue.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with diverse companies and organizations, will strive toward an Empathy Capital Society—one in which every person can live more abundantly and every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty

[SDGs]



Declaration 3-4

Through social enterprises and public policies, encourage mutual learning among residents and open up the future of local communities.

3-4-1

Realize a future supported by empathy by promoting social businesses that are not only supportive of society but are also supported by society.

The motivations behind why entrepreneurs choose to launch businesses are greatly influenced by the economic backdrop of their time. It is imperative for us to learn from the past, reflect on today's challenges, take action, and open pathways to the future. While many entrepreneurs have transformed society by turning their beliefs into action, at times, these beliefs have been overshadowed by economic and social success. Particularly in developed countries, the prioritization of economic rationality has had serious consequences for the global environment and developing nations. Resource conflicts and the exploitation of cheap labor have widened economic disparities, exacerbating poverty and environmental destruction. Confronting this reality, we must rethink the nature of business and society and work toward building a sustainable future.

Social business is driven not by the pursuit of profit alone but by the resolve to solve pressing societal issues. Motivated by a desire to protect *Inochi* and build a society where people can live with peace of mind, social business entrepreneurs listen attentively to small, overlooked voices and transform them into sources of hope for society. Changing the current social fabric necessitates leveraging today's economic systems, and despite the ongoing struggle to balance social and economic imperatives, social business entrepreneurs continue to advance toward the future they envision.

Traditional profit-driven business models have reached their limits. In many developed nations, the boundaries of economic growth have become apparent, and there is increasing concern that profit-driven business practices are worsening social problems. In a world inundated with goods and information, consumers are beginning to seek deeper meaning in life. They desire to reduce the burdens placed on society and the environment and are striving for a sustainable society. Consequently, expectations for social businesses, which realize social good through economic mechanisms, are rising, and social businesses themselves are increasingly supported by society in various ways.

The Common Beat NPO conducts activities focused on human resource development and social awareness through musicals that emphasize respect for individuality and diversity. To revitalize local communities, it is crucial to create



100 people×100 Days Musical

opportunities where people from diverse backgrounds and positions can collaborate, and mutual respect for individual differences becomes essential. Performing arts (integrated arts) have the unique strength of enabling participants to physically experience and internalize these difficult concepts. At Common Beat, through the process of creating a musical with 100 people over 100 days, participants of various generations and nationalities experience the joy of overcoming differences and achieving mutual understanding.

Graduates of this program have gone on to become leaders revitalizing community connections across Japan, and performances have been held in regional cities nationwide. Over 21 years, Common Beat's activities have naturally spread throughout the country, fostering a culture where aspirations are shared and mutual support thrives. Moving forward, the organization aims to reach one million people by 2050, creating spaces that nurture diversity beyond mere

economic rationality and efficiency, and revitalizing Japan's regional communities.

Empathy for society begins with listening to small voices, turning attention toward diverse societies different from our own and allowing ourselves to be moved by their hopes and aspirations. Ultimately, this leads to gaining support from society and becomes the driving force behind activities sustained and cherished by empathy. It is precisely because we are all different that we can create a truly wonderful society.

The *Inochi* Forum, together with organizations like Common Beat that promote social business, will work to create a future sustained by empathy—where differences are em-

braced and aspirations are shared.

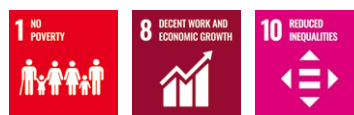
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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty / Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



3-4-2

Create a society in which people engage in healthy dialogue—transcending isolation and fragmentation—by building a new cultural foundation for communication in the age of digital hyper-connectivity and algorithmic influence.

We now live in an era where our everyday actions generate value as data. Each individual instance—be it a purchase, time spent at a local shop, or participation in a community event—may seem trivial on its own. Yet, when aggregated and connected, such data can drive value creation in the form of behavioral prediction, demand generation, and regional revitalization.

The value of this data grows exponentially as the number of users increases, serving as the core revenue source for platform-based enterprises. The joint-stock company model, born in the era of industrialization, distributes value according to contributions of labor and capital. However, it is not designed to accommodate the new kinds of value produced through data. Crucially, those who generate the data—individuals—rarely receive a fair share of that value. Instead, it is concentrated among capital providers in the form of shareholders. Moreover, vital contributions to society—such as community cleaning or helping others—often go unrecognized in existing systems.

In response to this challenge, Continuum Social Inc., in collaboration with The University of Osaka and the Senri Platform, has launched a test case in the Senri region. Utilizing “CyberTrophy”, a virtual system deployed across commercial facilities and public spaces, the project aims to tokenize (digitize) the value generated through people's daily actions, making it visible and circulating it fairly within the community. This initiative connects diverse forms of social capital—

Centralization and Value Sharing

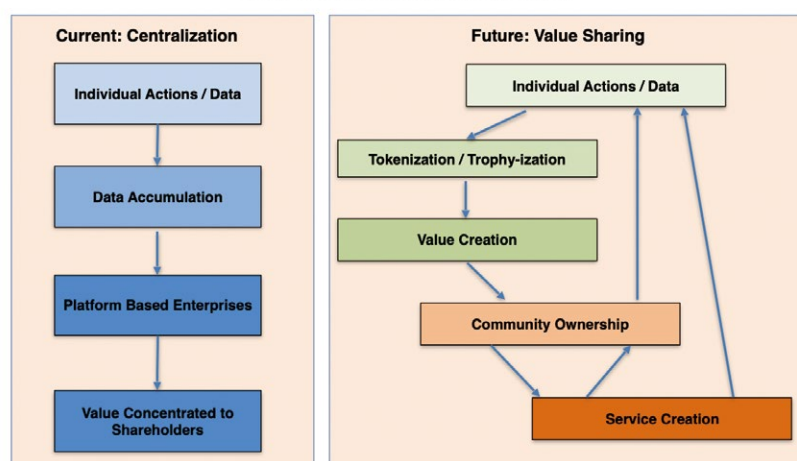


Diagram: Value sharing via CyberTrophy

ranging from everyday activities to disaster preparedness and cultural engagement—and explores new models of community building. Through the gradual implementation of value distribution and governance frameworks, the project in Senri is being developed as a template model that can be scaled horizontally to other communities (see diagram).

Unlike conventional centralized platforms, this initiative allows communities themselves to govern how value is assessed and distributed. Realizing such a system requires careful examination from three perspectives: technology, economics, and institutional frameworks. Technologically, the system will build upon existing blockchain and smart contract technologies, enabling customization according to local characteristics. Next, economically, the initiative prioritizes harmony with local economies, working in col-

laboration with shopping districts, financial institutions, ESG initiatives of businesses, and local government digital transformation policies. Then, institutionally, legal definitions around digital certification and taxation frameworks for value transfers must be clarified in consultation with relevant agencies. In addition to these initiatives, the governance of the entire system will prioritize openness—both in protocols and services—allowing participants to take active ownership in its development and evolution.

The initiative begins with basic implementation in commercial and public facilities, validating the processes of value creation based on behavior. Key challenges include (1) Maintaining sustained engagement from users, (2) Ensuring the reliability of data and (3) Establishing objective standards for evaluating value. Each of these issues will be addressed in turn. Success will be measured through indicators such as monthly active users, the volume of value created, and the economic impact on the local community. Through ongoing evaluation and refinement, the project seeks to foster an ecosystem in which community members take ownership of the system, supported by natural emergence of service providers. Each community can adapt this foundational model to its own local context, connecting loosely with others through shared principles, thereby co-creating a new, contemporary model of value circulation that is inclusive and regenerative.

The *Inochi* Forum, together with initiatives such as Contin-

uum Social and other organizations, will build systems that make the creation and circulation of data-driven value more democratic and open, and will strive to realize a society where the value created by all is shared by all—a society in which every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

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[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



3-4-3

Create mixed communities where people of diverse generations can live vibrantly, ensuring that elderly and low-income residents in areas with a concentration of public housing do not become isolated.

Are you familiar with the current state of public housing in Japan?

Public housing provides affordable, high-quality living environments for low-income individuals and families who struggle to secure housing. National and local governments cover construction and other costs. Admissions are typically open to the public and are subject to income requirements. Rent is not fixed; it operates under a rent scheme that increases proportionally with income, based on the ability-to-pay principle. Unlike private rental housing, where outsourcing maintenance services incurs additional resident costs, public housing is managed on the principle of resident self-governance to avoid excessive burdens. This is the ideal operation of public housing.

However, under the ability-to-pay principle, households that see an improvement in income tend to move out. Conse-



**We aim to create a mixed community
where people of all ages can live vibrant lives.**



A place to belong, a role to play, building connections

quently, new tenants are mostly low-income individuals or those facing welfare challenges. As a result, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) disclosed that, in 2015, the elderly population (aged 60 or older) in public housing accounted for 60% of residents, and 80% of households had monthly incomes of 104,000 yen or

less^{*1}. This raises concerns such as “Who can manage the residents’ self-governance?” and “Who can take on the role of caretakers?” Furthermore, the number of foreign residents has increased in recent years, introducing language barriers.

In the northwestern area of Nishinari Ward, Osaka City, there are over 1,500 municipal housing units across 44 buildings. It is also a dense area of aging wooden houses, with very few private rental properties available for family households^{*2}. Although Nishinari Ward promotes the motto “For the Children”^{*3}, the overwhelming shortage of family-friendly housing makes it difficult to advance these initiatives. On the other hand, it is said that there are more than 500 “policy vacant units” in municipal housing in Nishinari Ward—vacant units being held back in preparation for rebuilding projects. If these units could be actively utilized for housing child-rearing families and young households struggling to find housing, it could bring hope to solving the shortage of self-governance leaders amid the aging resident population.

NICE Corporation^{*4}, based in Nishinari Ward, has been working to develop family-friendly rental apartments and youth share houses repurposed from vacant homes in the dense residential area. Partnering with local organizations such as the Human Rights Welfare Association and *Nishinari Rinpo-kan Yu-to-Ai*, they have been providing support services such as consultations, community watch programs, and safe spaces, with the aim of building mixed communities. Utilizing this network, they advocate to the local government to allow organizations like NICE and these local groups to sublease the policy vacant units from the municipality and provide them as supported housing for young

people and child-rearing households.

The *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with diverse local organizations to promote not only the physical development of such communities but also the soft aspects—such as comprehensive life consultations and residents’ association support. Through mixed community development in areas with concentrated public housing, we aim to create neighborhoods where elderly and low-income individuals do not become isolated.

[Notes]

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[Action Platform]

Urban Development and Disaster Prevention / Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



3-4-4

Deepen intergenerational dialogue and connection in our communities by preserving and sharing local stories and lived experiences through digital archives, in collaboration between public libraries and historically significant public spaces.

In Japan’s super-aged society, public libraries are expected to play a renewed role in strengthening community ties and fostering dialogue across generations. The success of the New York Public Library’s *Community Oral History Project*, which has collected over 1,250 personal stories and made them publicly accessible, offers an inspiring example. By adapting such models to the Japanese context and aligning them with the philosophy of the *Inochi* Forum, public libraries can become vital hubs for community resilience and contribute to the creation of sustainable, inclusive societies.

Japanese public libraries have the potential to serve not only as repositories of books and media, but also as “third

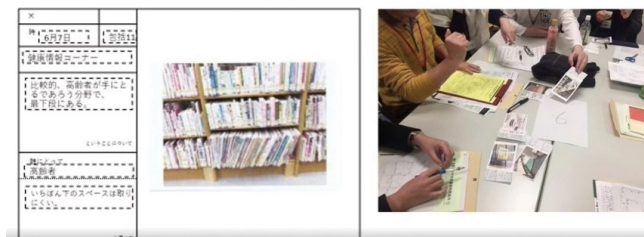
places” where people of all ages gather and interact. For instance, The University of Osaka’s Social Solution Initiative (SSI), through its project titled “Science and Humanity for Fostering a Super-aged Society that Respects Individual’s Views on Life and Death and Their Autonomy” (led by Assoc. Prof. Miyae Yamakawa), has collaborated with local libraries to co-host community health consultations at Suita City’s Kento Library. The project has also evaluated how public libraries can better serve people living with dementia or other social challenges, including during restrictions like those imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moving forward, this initiative seeks to evolve further by

fostering collaboration between public libraries and other historically significant public spaces. The aim is to transform libraries into dynamic archives of community memory and platforms for intergenerational dialogue. Such collaboration is vital to address diverse local needs and promote cross-generational exchange. Libraries, when linked with places like traditional public bathhouses, can create spaces to share and celebrate community history and culture. As open, accessible, and egalitarian spaces, libraries are uniquely positioned to safeguard regional memory and facilitate dialogue across generations—ultimately contributing to the creation of stronger, more cohesive communities.

This initiative also aims to connect young people and older generations through shared learning. For example, the project envisions partnerships between libraries and longstanding public spaces such as traditional public bathhouses in Osaka. These venues will host regular workshops where residents can share their personal experiences and local histories. Such intergenerational storytelling fosters empathy and mutual learning, while the digital archiving of these narratives will ensure public accessibility through the library system.

In addition, educational programs will be developed in collaboration with local schools and institutions, allowing students to explore and appreciate regional history and culture. Participation in local festivals and public events will further enable the project team to share updates with community members and increase engagement. This inclusive approach aims to broaden community involvement and energize local networks. As public libraries take on a more central role in preserving regional history and culture, we anticipate a revitalization of local identity and community spirit. Increased intergenerational dialogue will encourage younger generations to take an interest in and develop respect for the places they call home.



Spatial evaluation based on caption evaluation method for creating a third place accessible to all

Together with this project, the *Inochi* Forum will continue to support the reinvention of public libraries and communal spaces as inclusive sites of learning and connection. By providing environments where diverse people can come together to learn and support one another, we will contribute to building a sustainable society where community bonds grow stronger and every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

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[Action Platform]

Education and Children

[SDGs]



4 Bond *Inochi*

Overcome discrimination, prejudice, and division, and realize a world without hostility. Promote coexistence with nature, recognizing that all share in one great *Inochi*. Connect *Inochi* from the past, through the present, into the future, and sustain this collective *Inochi*.

Declaration 4-1

From the perspective of *Inochi*, promote creative dialogue to overcome conflicts and divisions based on nationality, ethnicity, race, and generations.

4-1-1

While respecting cultural diversity, cultivate empathy with others who live in the same era but belong to different cultures, and cherish the preciousness and interconnectedness of every single *Inochi*

Human civilization now appears to be at a significant turning point, the likes of which we have not seen in centuries. Traditional power structures, where the center exercised unilateral control over the periphery, are undergoing profound change. Today, reciprocal contact, intersection, and interaction between groups once considered either central or peripheral are occurring across the globe. In this process, however, new divisions are also emerging. Meanwhile, since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020, we have experienced firsthand how human life is closely intertwined with the movements of invisible viruses and bacteria. In other words, we human beings are part of the “biosphere” that embraces all forms of life. Terms like “Anthropocene” have entered common use, acknowledging that human activities exert irreversible impacts on the global environment, and compelling us to confront the necessity of planet-wide, future-oriented responses.

Despite the urgent need for global cooperation, divisive forces continue to hinder such efforts. There has never been a more pressing time for humanity to build a world where people live together while respecting different cultures, transcending linguistic and cultural barriers. More than ever, we must recognize not only the dignity of human life but also the inherent value of all forms of *Inochi*, and find ways for humans to live as part of that vast web of life.

Respect for diversity is fundamental to the survival of both human cultures and biological species. Yet it must be noted that neither cultures nor organisms exist in isolation or independence from others. In the case of humans, deep attachment to one’s own culture can easily lead to exclusion or discrimination against others. Therefore, we must remain



Photo: “Are they similar? Or different?”
Masks with common intimidating expressions, crafted in diverse locations worldwide.

vigilant against this pitfall of self-other perception.

Alongside respect for diversity, what is needed is the cultivation of connections with others—that is, an awareness of the commonality and universality we share as fellow human beings and as fellow bearers of *Inochi*—and a sense of empathy as those living together in the same era. At the entrance to the main exhibition hall of the National Museum of Ethnology (*Minpaku*) in Senri, Osaka, visitors encounter four introductory stages, each featuring a short question. One stage asks, “Are they similar? Or different?” and dis-

plays masks from around the world. Despite their menacing expressions, the masks—crafted in places like Japan, Bolivia, and Indonesia—bear striking resemblance.

Another stage poses the question, “Are they different? Or similar?” and juxtaposes a lobster-shaped coffin popular near Accra, Ghana—crafted according to the deceased’s profession or hobbies—with a pole-shaped coffin used by Aboriginal peoples of Australia. While their forms differ, both serve the shared purpose of mourning the dead.

These two stages exemplify cultural diversity and commonality. They are designed to provide visitors with key perspectives for viewing the exhibits, while also encapsulating the core principles of cultural anthropology^{*1}. It is vital that we always carry within us both respect for diversity and a recognition of our commonality—our shared humanity and our shared *Inochi*. These principles are timeless: not merely goals for 2030, but enduring human imperatives. Only when we embody these principles can we hope to build a convivial society where no one is left behind—a truly inclusive and sustainable future.

Respect for diversity and empathy toward others, as well as recognition of the preciousness and interconnectedness of every single *Inochi*. The *Inochi* Forum is confident that Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai has served as an opportunity for people around the world to share these values, and we are committed to continuing activities that spread this awareness far beyond the Expo.

4-1-2

Build a society and culture where diverse forms of *Inochi* can flourish in harmony through creativity, inclusiveness, and playfulness, and create new kinds of schools, companies, and hospitals that enable everyone to express their creativity.

Every *Inochi* is endowed with boundless creativity and radiant potential. *Inochi* is ever-changing, full of dynamic possibilities and a presence defined by its very fluctuation. However, society and culture today are not yet mature, and the brilliance and creativity of each individual are often not fully realized. Some may lose confidence, thinking: “I can’t do X” or “I lack X compared to others,” and go through life unable to harness their strengths. At times, even without ill intent, ignorance of differences may lead to unintentional prejudice, resulting in discrimination, bullying, harassment, conflict, or violence. These are not personal faults but structural and societal challenges—obstacles created by the system itself.

The Jellyfish Team, centered around the signature pavilion “Playground of Life: Jellyfish Pavilion” at the EXPO 2025

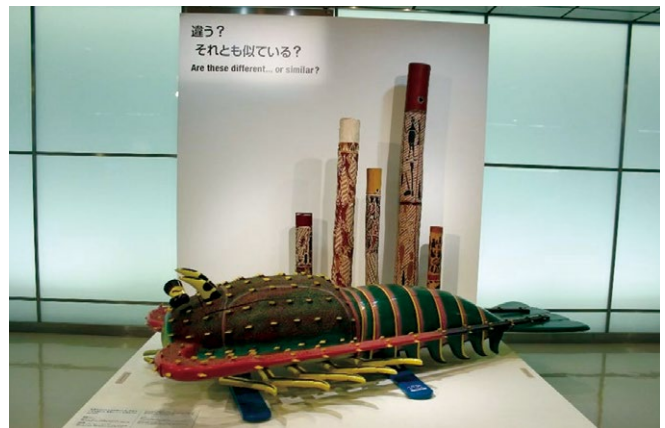


Photo: “Are they different? Or similar?”
A lobster-shaped coffin from near Accra, Ghana, used for a deceased shrimp farmer; alongside it, a pole-shaped coffin used by Aboriginal peoples in Australia. Despite the difference in form, both reflect a shared human emotion of mourning the dead.

[Notes]

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[Action Panel Theme]

Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



Osaka, Kansai produced by Sachiko Nakajima, is expanding its initiatives from this base. The team works to “playfully stir society” so that diverse individuals can get to know, sense, respect, and trust one another—thus enabling genuine dialogue, even confrontation when needed.

The team includes those with disabilities, different nationalities, refugee backgrounds, indigenous identities, diverse genders, and varied backgrounds, regions, families, personalities, and characteristics. It is precisely because of such differences and perceived vulnerabilities that new perspectives emerge. Differences and vulnerabilities are valuable—they are the seeds of innovation toward a future in which every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light. Connecting diverse existences to generate new futures: this is the essence of learning and playing in our time. It is the begin-

ning of an era where everyone becomes a co-creator of society and culture.

The Jellyfish Team also emphasizes the vital role of culture. Culture is not simply language or symbols—it is cultivated through daily life and the subtle sensations and signs we experience. We feel *Inochi* as we walk, eat, laugh, and sleep. We suffer, rejoice, cry, and smile. We live not only among people but also with mountains, seas, rivers, forests, meadows, and cities.

Culture emerges from the ever-changing, one-time-only “now” of countless forms of *Inochi*, shaped by both professionals and amateurs alike. It may sometimes appear as exquisite craftsmanship or performing arts, but at its heart lies the ultimate expression of the beauty of being just as one is. Festivals, folk performing arts, traditional crafts, local dishes, lullabies—culture that has continued from the past and continues to evolve now is crucial for sensing *Inochi* in its purest form. Culture grows when different traditions meet, clash, and transcend differences—even across time and space. Like live music, culture is the harmonious co-creation of *Inochi* with technology and the digital realm, transforming toward the future.

Through the Expo and other platforms, the Jellyfish Team has been catalyzing social mixing and the co-creation and resonance of diverse existences and cultures. Under the motto “The joy of creating for all!”, the team aims to democratize creativity. Our first step has been to create inclusive, playful, well-being spaces where diverse individuals can feel accepted and present as they are. Learning, working, living, creating, and playing are all one and the same. Even after the Expo, the Jellyfish Team will continue its efforts to transform schools, universities, companies, welfare facilities, hospitals, care homes, museums, libraries, and more by 2050—reconnecting each with its essential purpose and building a society and culture where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light. We will reinterpret the meaning of these institutions and breathe new life into their historical significance, including the Expo itself.

The *Inochi* Forum will continue to collaborate with with organizations such as the Jellyfish Team beyond the Expo, further developing the connections formed there and fostering mutual understanding and resonance across diverse sectors, co-creating a more beautiful future together.



Wonderful jellyfish volunteers with severe physical and mental disabilities, gathered from all over Japan!



KURAGE (jellyfish) Band: Connecting world cultures through a performance at “Inochi Park”

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[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



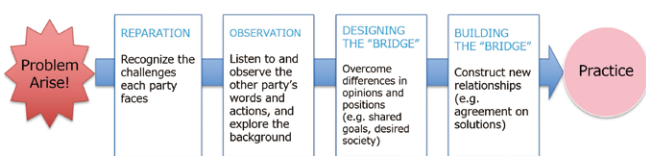
4-1-3

Cultivate individuals and organizations capable of designing and advancing *creative dialogue*—a process that transcends divisions and fosters mutual understanding.

Our society faces numerous complex challenges that are difficult to resolve. Since social issues inevitably involve many different stakeholders, collaboration is essential. However, differences in values and conflicts of interest often make resolution difficult. To address these challenges, it is necessary to design and promote creative dialogue—an approach that overcomes confrontation and division—and to nurture individuals and organizations capable of facilitating such dialogue.

Creative dialogue involves designing processes that enable participants to understand each other's underlying positions, cultures, and values and to move beyond these differences toward resolution. Take, for example, the social issues surrounding the employment of foreign workers. More than 50 years ago, Swiss writer Max Frisch remarked: "We asked for workers, but human beings came." Many countries have accepted foreign workers for various reasons, but it is crucial to recognize that these workers are human beings, just like ourselves, sharing the same *Inochi*. If companies approach this issue solely from the perspective of securing labor, it can lead to conflicts, difficulties in the retention of foreign workers, and even accusations of human rights violations. Creative dialogue is essential for bridging these gaps and addressing the challenges.

For instance, the CSO Network Japan, an organization committed to promoting a just and sustainable society that guarantees the dignity of every individual, advances dialogue through the following process:



Process of Creative Dialogue
(Source: CSO Network Japan, "A Guide to Creative Dialogue for Coexistence with Foreign Workers")

The CSO Network Japan proposes the following seven principles for engaging in dialogue that transcends differences and aims toward solutions:

1. Confirm international norms concerning human rights and decent work.
2. Treat foreign workers equally, just as Japanese nationals are treated.
3. Understand the backgrounds—religion, language, culture, traditions—behind differing opinions.
4. Carefully explain the reasons and contexts behind neces-

sary rules.

5. Ensure that no individual is disadvantaged for expressing their opinions.
6. Respect differences in opinion and acknowledge one another.
7. Engage in thorough discussions to find points of agreement.

Moreover, the knowledge platform SHAR (Social Connection for Human Rights), focusing on business and human rights, has declared its intention to serve as a "bridge"—creating fair dialogues that recognize differences, understand each other's perspectives, and respect the rights holders (those whose human rights may be affected). For creative dialogue to succeed, participants must possess the skills to understand its significance and objectives and to put them into practice. Given the diverse nature of social issues, each organization working toward resolution must develop internal systems and training programs to build these skills.

Utilizing creative dialogue to overcome differences and conflicts is the first step toward resolving a wide range of social issues. The *Inochi* Forum emphasizes the importance of fostering creative dialogue through the participation of diverse individuals. Moving forward, we aim to further develop mechanisms for creative dialogue, ensuring that organizations seeking to address social challenges recognize its necessity and value, and actively adopt it.

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[Action Platform]

Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



4-1-4

Foster a society where high school students, alongside university students, can explore the SDGs without assuming that there is a single correct answer, and where they can formulate their own questions through dialogue with others and propose their visions for the future in their own words.

One of the guiding principles of the Basic Act on Children in Japan is the following:

“Every child shall have their opinions respected in accordance with their age and stage of development, and their best interests shall be prioritized.”¹

As this principle suggests, there is growing recognition of children’s right to express their views publicly and to participate in shaping the society they live in. However, the goal is not to unconditionally accept their opinions, but rather to respect them while facilitating equitable dialogue—among children and between children and adults—on how their views can be incorporated into real-world decision-making.

One example of such efforts in Japan is the establishment of “Children’s Assemblies” at the local government level, where children propose policy ideas for their communities². These platforms allow children to articulate their visions for the future directly to adults in their regions. However, in today’s globally connected world, even local issues are inextricably linked to international trends. Therefore, it is essential to cultivate the ability to think and engage in dialogue not only within one’s immediate environment but also from a broader, global perspective.

The project titled “Development of Educational Curricula and Programs for Next-generation citizens who can co-create public knowledge based on their own life experiences”, led by Prof. Mika Okabe under the Social Solution Initiative (SSI) at The University of Osaka³, aims to conceptualize a participatory society that includes children as key actors. The project promotes civic engagement through dialogue and discussion, encouraging children and adults alike to challenge outdated social categories and work together to design a better society. As part of this initiative, a program titled “Academically Exploring What Lies Beyond the SDGs” has been developed and implemented.

The SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), adopted by the United Nations under the motto “Leave no one behind,” outline what “we the people” must achieve in order to ensure the continued survival and flourishing of life on Earth. If we are to include “all of us,” then the hopes and opinions of high school students—those who will shape the future—must also be taken into account. Do the SDGs truly reflect the futures that high school students imagine and desire? And if not, can we really say that these goals



High school students debating at the seminar “Academically Exploring What Lies Beyond the SDGs”

are sustainable?

“Academically Exploring What Lies Beyond the SDGs” is an intensive three-day seminar in which high school students engage with the SDGs through academic inquiry, global perspectives, and collaborative dialogue.

- On Day 1, participants examine the historical background and origins of the SDGs to understand their underlying significance.
- On Day 2, they engage in critical dialogue with fellow high school students and university students, re-evaluating the SDGs and their targets.
- On Day 3, students conduct research using resources at The University of Osaka Central Library and academic databases. They then formulate visions for the future in their own words and thoughts, looking beyond 2030 and toward 2050. These ideas are compiled and shared publicly as the “*Inochi* Voices.”

The program is scheduled to be held annually. Each year, 20 to 30 high school students will envision their desired future society and articulate their proposals to the broader public. How we respond to these proposals will be a question not only for today’s adults, but also for the high school and university students who will become the adults of tomorrow. These “*Inochi* Voices” will be the first step toward building a future society through collective effort—by *all of us*.

The *Inochi* Forum supports initiatives like this one, working to create a society in which the next generation can engage

in dialogue across divisions and express their visions for the future in their own voices.

[Notes]

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- *3 SSI Core Project – Fostering the Next Generation of Civic Co-creators <https://kyonin.hus.osaka-u.ac.jp/report/next->

generation/

[Action Platform]

Education and Children

[SDGs]



4-1-5

Spread “Co-creative Education”, where diverse people transcend generations, sectors, and races to ask questions together, think together, learn together, challenge together, and refine each other together.

To address the pressing challenges facing humanity—such as war and global warming—cooperation and co-creation beyond regional, sectoral, and ethnic boundaries are essential. To achieve this, nurturing next-generation co-creative leaders is indispensable. However, while technological advances in IT and AI have dramatically improved the efficiency of individualized learning and knowledge acquisition, education that sufficiently fosters the skills necessary for cooperation and co-creation remains insufficient.

To truly foster these skills, the burden and cost must be shared across society as a whole. Governments, businesses, and academia must transcend sectoral and generational boundaries and engage collectively in education. The most critical factor in nurturing next-generation co-creative leaders is cultivating relationships and real interactions with diverse others.

What matters most is not establishing a top-down “vertical” relationship where adults teach the younger generation. Rather, it is about building “horizontal” relationships where both sides think, learn, challenge, and refine each other through Co-creative Education—and sustaining this cycle over time. Naturally, ensuring the continuity of these efforts requires economic rationality for the social side. In this regard, the educational benefits for working adults deserve special attention. In a rapidly changing world, it is crucial for adults to continue learning and updating themselves. Engaging with the pure, energetic minds of young people greatly enhances the quality and quantity of that learning.

In 2022, the Edgeson Management Association was established through industry-academia collaboration. Since 2024, the association has been implementing MIRA-GE—a multigenerational co-creative workshop—as the flagship of Co-creative Education. The initiative was sparked by the



MIRA-GE at Nagasaki Higashi High School: Multigenerational discussions on the future

recognition that the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, is an opportunity to design a future society where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

The name MIRA-GE symbolizes building a bridge between the present and the future. In these workshops, groups of four to five middle and high school students, university students, and working adults come together to discuss their vision for a desired future, identify the challenges to realizing that future, and propose cross-generational actions to address these challenges. A key feature is that corporations

such as Hitachi and Panasonic, as well as universities like Kagawa University, provide insights into future technologies, around which discussions are held to design a better future.

In 2024, MIRA-GE workshops were held eight times in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Nagasaki, Kagawa, and Ibaraki. The initiative has been well received, with feedback from both young participants and working adults stating that it was “a valuable learning experience” and “inspiring.” Furthermore, through Co-creative Education, new relationships are being built across sectors and generations in local communities, among governments, businesses, and educational institutions. By 2030, Edgeson Management Association aims to expand Co-creative Education throughout Japan, establishing itself as a pioneer in this field. Moreover, the association intends to showcase the outcomes at the 2030 World Expo in Saudi Arabia and further promote Co-creative Education as an essential initiative to connect *Inochi* worldwide, beginning with Asia and expanding globally.

In collaboration with diverse educational organizations, the *Inochi* Forum will also promote Co-creative Education that fosters mutual learning across generations and professions.

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[Action Platform]

Education and Children

[SDGs]



4-1-6

Cultivate wisdom and courage and create a bright future by bringing together what is different—urban and rural, elderly and children, analog and digital—and fostering spaces for honest dialogue.

Okinawa, located at the northern limit of the tropics and the southern limit of the temperate zone, is rich in biodiversity. As the former Ryukyu Kingdom, it has a history of flourishing through trade with Southeast Asian nations and is also home to a culturally diverse immigrant population, with an estimated 400,000 people of Okinawan descent living abroad. Having lost one-fourth of its population during World War II, experienced 27 years under U.S. military rule, and still hosting 70% of U.S. military bases in Japan, Okinawa has cultivated a resilient spirit of empathy and acceptance of diversity, particularly among its elderly population.

Spanning 1,000 kilometers east-west and 400 kilometers north-south, Okinawa Prefecture is home to 38 inhabited remote islands. Of these, only three islands have high schools, despite 29 islands having elementary and junior high schools. Most children leave their islands at age 15 to attend high school elsewhere and rarely return. Moreover, these islands often lack basic infrastructure—no hospitals, supermarkets, convenience stores, public buses, or taxis. The same legal and regulatory frameworks apply as in urban areas, yet licensing requirements make it extremely difficult to offer essential services.

These islands serve as a microcosm of Japan, and by working with diverse island residents on various initiatives, we can identify and implement solutions relevant nationwide.



Experiences on remote islands

Rather than relying on the logic of numbers found in large cities and corporations, focusing on enriching each individual’s “heart and life” on these islands may also resonate with people living in depopulated rural areas and the wider public.

Cultivate Inc., based in Okinawa Prefecture, has worked for over 25 years in collaboration with local and national government agencies to revitalize depopulated islands and rural areas. The company supports product development based on local natural and cultural resources (e.g., experiential tours, specialty goods), capacity building, and tourism promotion. According to CEO Rika Hiraki (Higa), the most important value upheld is ensuring that local residents are the primary drivers and protagonists. Drawing on the knowledge of researchers, industry experts, travelers, and migrants, the company aims to uncover and polish local treasures, build systems for welcoming visitors, and establish methods for passing these treasures to future generations.

Cultivate Inc. has organized an annual government-supported program (Okinawa Remote Island Experience Exchange Promotion Project) for 16 years, sending fifth-grade elementary school students (around age 10-11) from Okinawa's main island to stay in private homes on remote islands. There, guided by locals, children experience the island's nature and culture firsthand. This initiative fosters mutual joy and reward—beyond monetary gain—for both children and islanders. To date, around 32,000 children and 2,100 teachers have participated. The project has supported 26 regions across 23 islands in developing their organization, human resources, and experience programs. Some islands that launched homestay-style accommodations through this project generated over 220 million yen in 2019 alone from school trips originating on the mainland. The program created momentum among residents, teachers, schools, and operators, invigorating both children and adults. Tourism infrastructure took root on the islands, and schools became more proactive in fostering student growth through the project. The more engaged the schools were, the more they observed increased student initiative, classroom cohesion,

and growth among students facing challenges. By combining elements such as urban and remote islands, elders and children, analog and digital, and island treasures, honest conversations and collaborative efforts brought about one miracle after another.

Moving forward, Cultivate Inc. aims to leverage this experience by creating spaces that bring together passionate adults—from wartime survivors to socially conscious young entrepreneurs—and diverse children, regardless of background or age, facilitated by university students. In partnership with public agencies, Cultivate Inc. will expand community bases using mobile trailer houses. These activities will nurture sensibilities capable of envisioning a bright future and promote actions that inspire wisdom and courage.

The *Inochi* Forum will continue to collaborate with organizations such as Cultivate Inc., advancing initiatives that combine different elements—urban and rural, elderly and children, analog and digital—and foster honest conversations that generate wisdom, courage, and miracles.

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[Action Platform]

Education and Children / Diversity & Inclusion

[SDGs]



4-1-7

Young people, co-create a thriving future by strengthening Africa-Japan ties through innovation, entrepreneurship, and cultural exchange. Let's lead with purpose and build sustainable solutions together — as part of a shared global movement

Africa Diaspora Network in Japan (ADNJ) addresses the critical gap between cultural understanding and business collaboration between Africa and Japan. It emphasizes that breaking cultural barriers is essential for fostering innovative entrepreneurship, co-creation, and sustainable development. ADNJ prioritizes building mutual trust and shared values to unlock economic opportunities and empower enterprises in Japan and Africa.

Since 2019, ADNJ has been at the forefront of addressing the gap between cultural understanding and business

collaboration through a series of targeted initiatives that combine cultural education, networking, and business promotion. ADNJ launched the “Discover Africa” online series, organizing 28 virtual events that introduced Japanese people and companies to African cultures, industries, and investment landscapes. Additionally, the “Discover Africa Food” events brought together participants in 16 interactive gatherings that used culinary experiences to deepen cultural understanding and spark informal dialogue between African and Japanese attendees. ADNJ also developed the “African Students Meet & Greet,” a mentorship and orienta-

tion program designed to support new African students in Japan, easing cultural integration and fostering long-term personal and professional connections.

ADNJ initiated the “Go to Africa” campaign to motivate Japanese companies and individuals to travel to African countries, meet potential partners, and explore opportunities firsthand. The Osaka Africa Business Forum, held annually in 2022, 2023, and 2024, has served as a key platform for African companies and governments to build strategic ties with enterprises in the Kansai region, which boasts over 500,000 SMEs and a globally respected manufacturing base. To recognize impactful efforts in fostering Africa-Japan cooperation, ADNJ established the ADNJ Award, an annual accolade honoring individuals and organizations advancing socio-economic collaboration between the two regions.

ADNJ envisions scaling its impact through a series of transformative initiatives that enhance Africa-Japan co-creation by blending entrepreneurship, innovation, and cultural exchange. Central to this vision is the transformation of the Osaka Africa Business Forum into a multi-day flagship event. The expanded forum would span two to three days and include thematic sessions on trade, digital innovation, green technology, agriculture, and the creative economy.

As part of its academic and leadership development agenda, ADNJ plans the implementation of a University Exchange Program in collaboration with various academic institutions, including the University of Osaka. This one-semester exchange will immerse students in entrepreneurship, sustainability, and cross-cultural leadership, with a focus on Africa-Japan relations. The initiative will progressively expand to additional universities across Japan and Africa to increase participation and diversity.

ADNJ plans the establishment of a Japanese language and culture school in each of the five African regions. This initiative is designed to create job opportunities for Africans while serving as a strategic human resource pipeline for Japan. The program may be delivered through a hybrid model, combining both physical and virtual learning. These schools aim to address the language and cultural barriers currently existing between Africans and Japanese, thereby enabling more seamless job creation and mutual human resource exchange.

People-to-people exchange can also be strengthened through sports. ADNJ plans the development of sports exchange programs focusing on various games such as football, handball, running and others. These activities would promote physical health and mental well-being among young people, while also fostering international understanding. Such programs would contribute to the broader objective of enhancing intercultural exchange and supporting



Activities to promote exchanges between African countries and Japan

the health and wellness of youth through constructive and unifying sporting experiences.

To complement academic and entrepreneurial exposure, ADNJ plans to launch a Business Tours initiative. These tours will provide Japanese students and entrepreneurs with the opportunity to explore African startups, SMEs, and cultural heritage sites firsthand. In return, African professionals will engage in business tours across Japan, gaining insights into Japanese enterprise models and innovation ecosystems. Both sides will come together in joint workshops to co-design solutions to shared challenges, reinforcing mutual understanding and innovation.

The *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with diverse organizations, including ADNJ, to foster a stronger and more enduring bridge between African countries and Japan across academic, cultural, sports, and business domains.

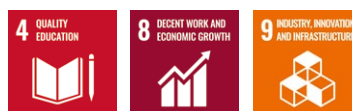
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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty / Arts, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



Declaration 4-2

Foster connections and mutual learning across gender boundaries to build a society based on gender equality.

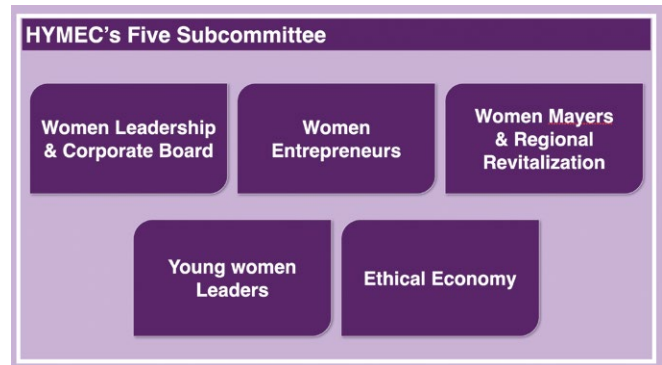
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Integrate the principles of gender equality into policies and systems across all sectors of society. By fostering mutual learning and connection among women, we can realize a new model of a sustainable society based on gender equality.

At the G20 Osaka Summit held in 2019, the W20 (Women 20)—a group of gender equality experts representing 20 countries—issued policy proposals centered on the theme: “A New Form of Growth Through Closing the Gender Gap.” These proposals focused on four key pillars: labor, finance, digital innovation, and governance. Haruno Yoshida, then co-chair of W20 and the first female vice-chair of *Keidanren* as well as President of BT Japan, advocated for making the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai a “Women’s EXPO” to advance gender equality through the G20 Leaders’ Declaration. Inspired by her legacy, the *Haruno Yoshida Memorial Executive Committee* (HYMEC) was established and continues to advance gender equality in all sectors of society.

One of the most urgent issues in Japan is increasing the participation of women in decision-making positions. The Japanese government and *Keidanren* have set a goal of raising the percentage of women in executive and managerial positions to 30% by 2030. HYMEC, however, aims even higher—with a 50% target—and hosts the annual seminar series *Road to Board*, which supports leadership development and networking among women. Many graduates of the program have since advanced to executive and senior management positions, including overseas appointments. These women are laying the foundation for new economic growth, and their vision, passion, and initiative will serve as a compass for future generations.

HYMEC is also working to increase the number of women entrepreneurs and business leaders, recognizing that companies led by women are key to driving global economic growth. It is estimated that women entrepreneurs could contribute an additional \$6 trillion to the global economy. However, investment in women-led businesses remains limited, and currently, women-owned businesses receive less than 1% of contracts within government and corporate supply chains. To foster sustainable economic development, it is essential to support women as creators of organizations, employers, and catalysts for inclusive economic ecosystems. Women with strong ethical values and a desire to contribute to society are also expected to lead the way in promoting responsible investment and consumption.



Annual Conference and HYMEC's Five Subcommittee

To that end, HYMEC is partnering with *WEConnect International*, a global NPO promoting supplier diversity, to support the goal of raising the percentage of women entrepreneurs and business leaders to 50%. This includes prioritizing transactions with women-owned and minority-owned businesses in public procurement and corporate supply chains, while providing access to resources and networking opportunities.

Political participation is another critical area where Japan lags significantly behind the global standard. Bold policies are required to address this gap. Increasing the percentage of women in local government—where decisions directly impact daily life and *Inochi*—to 50% is a pressing priority. HYMEC is committed to eliminating the barriers between women and political engagement by providing relevant information and supporting dialogue and participation.

In society, at home, and in schools, unconscious bias and rigid gender roles persist. These issues affect all genders by limiting self-determination and creating environments where individuals cannot fully respect their own or others' *Inochi*. To counter this, HYMEC actively invites female university students to events and supports student entre-

preneurs, aiming to maximize their potential and create a society in which everyone can thrive authentically. Based on these efforts, HYMEC is planning further initiatives to realize its “50 by 50” vision—a goal of achieving 50% representation of women in all fields across Japan by 2050.

The *Inochi* Forum strongly believes that advancing gender equality will shape a new model of growth for a sustainable world. We are committed to working in partnership with diverse organizations including HYMEC to build a society where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

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• 5th WAW!/ W20 International Conference (2019)

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• WEConnect International

<https://weconnectinternational.org/>

[Action Platform]

Diversity and Inclusion / Peace and Human Rights

[SDGs]



4-2-2

Promote a society where everyone knows about and supports menstruation as a concrete step toward achieving gender equality.

“Does gender equality sometimes feel like a distant, abstract goal?”

Achieving this goal indeed requires overcoming various forms of inequality and barriers through diverse approaches, along with persistent improvement and reform. One issue within this broader challenge is how menstruation is addressed. The onset of menarche (first menstruation) typically occurs in adolescence, and from then on, most individuals experience a menstrual cycle approximately once a month. While this is a natural biological process, it necessitates menstrual management, and many individuals suffer from menstrual pain to varying degrees. Menstruation can also become a hindrance to studying or working. Furthermore, many have experienced anxiety about menstrual leaks due to not having access to sanitary products or being unable to change them frequently enough—whether at school, at work, or while out and about.

Despite these realities, in many societies—including Japan—menstruation is still treated as something to be hidden. Many individuals endure discomfort and manage menstruation alone without sharing their struggles^{*1}. Although basic biological knowledge of menstruation is taught in schools, meaningful communication about the experience of menstruation is often lacking. Regardless of gender, it is essential to foster greater understanding of menstruation itself, the variations in individuals’ experiences, the growing diversity of menstrual products and body care options, and how we can support others.

For example, imagine a society where sanitary products are freely available inside restrooms. Such a small design



MeW dispenser installed in a restroom stall

change could significantly improve the well-being of those who menstruate. Since 2021, the *MeW Project* (Menstrual Wellbeing by/in Social Design) at the University of Osaka’s UNESCO Chair has been working to create such a system^{*2}. Specifically, they developed the *MeW Dispenser*—a cardboard, assembly-type dispenser for sanitary products—through academia-society collaboration. These dispensers can be easily installed in restrooms. At the University of Osaka, the Diversity and Inclusion Center and the *MeW Project* have collaborated to install *MeW Dispensers* in all women’s and all-gender restrooms across its three campuses^{*3}. Students, prospective students, and even visitors from outside the university have expressed their appreciation, saying they were “saved” by the availability of these products.

The use of *MeW Dispensers* is spreading beyond universities to elementary, junior high, and high schools, municipalities, and businesses—and has also been introduced in emergency shelters. During disasters, evacuees often face

difficulties in accessing menstrual products. Although the situation has improved since the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, there are still reports, such as from the 2024 Noto Earthquake, of challenges like sanitary products being placed in conspicuous locations where it is hard to retrieve them, or products not matching users' needs.

We must normalize the practice of making menstrual products available in restrooms, just like toilet paper. Supporting menstruation in this way not only improves well-being but also serves as a trigger for greater awareness, discussion, and understanding of menstruation across schools, companies, and society at large. The *MeW Project* will continue its awareness-raising and outreach efforts, collaborating with diverse actors.

The *Inochi* Forum values and supports such initiatives. Together, we will work to spread the practice of knowing about and supporting menstruation as a concrete step

toward achieving gender equality.

[Notes]

- *1 UNICEF WHO monitor menstruation-related issues within the SDGs:
<https://washdata.org/monitoring/menstrual-health>
- *2 The University of Osaka UNESCO Chair MeW Project:
<https://mew.hus.osaka-u.ac.jp/>
- *3 The University of Osaka Diversity and Inclusion Center – Free Provision of Sanitary Products in Restrooms:
<https://www.di.osaka-u.ac.jp/dispenser-list/>

[Action Platform]

Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



4-2-3

Create more safe and welcoming spaces—at home, in schools, workplaces, and communities—for LGBTQ+ individuals and those around them, who are often rendered “invisible”.

LGBTQ+ and other sexual minorities are known to be at higher risk for suicide and self-harm. In Japan, studies (Kamano: 2023)^{*1} have shown that they are two to three times more likely than the general population to experience mental health challenges. In East Asia, the legacy of patriarchy contributes to intense social pressure to marry and have children, resulting in very few LGBTQ+ people coming out to those around them. LGBTQ+ individuals are rendered invisible at home, in schools, at workplaces, and in communities. Legal systems also exclude them, as Japan lags behind in enacting legislation such as marriage equality and comprehensive anti-discrimination laws. In Japanese society, there are sadly very few safe spaces where LGBTQ+ individuals can breathe freely.

Since 2014, the certified non-profit organization *Nijiirō*^{*2} Diversity has been conducting research on LGBTQ+ issues in collaboration with academic researchers. In Japan, LGBTQ+ individuals are also absent from national statistics—there is no official statistics. Surveys reveal heartrending responses such as “I can’t tell my parents,” “I’m bullied at school,” “I hide my identity at work,” and “I’m isolated in my community.” As society continues to erase their existence, LGBTQ+ individuals are found to have lower educational attainment, income, and physical and mental health^{*3}.

To change these circumstances, *Nijiirō* Diversity established *Pride Center Osaka* in 2022. The center houses more



Inside the *Pride Center Osaka* and its staff

than 750 books on LGBTQ+ topics and offers community events and counseling services. It is the first permanent LGBTQ+ center in western Japan and has welcomed over 4,300 visitors from across the country. Some visitors have

said, “This is the only place where I can breathe freely.” The center powerfully illustrates how vital such safe spaces are for LGBTQ+ individuals to live authentically. The center also receives inquiries from individuals who have fled countries where being LGBTQ+ is criminalized. Amid global instability, LGBTQ+ individuals—being a social minority—are increasingly targeted and displaced.

By 2050, we must ensure that LGBTQ+ individuals everywhere can find a safe, affirming space to be themselves. To achieve this, countries must advance legal reforms—decriminalizing LGBTQ+ identities, prohibiting discrimination, and explicitly incorporating LGBTQ+ perspectives in international frameworks like the SDGs. The fact that LGBTQ+ issues are not explicitly mentioned in the SDGs is itself a serious gap.

In Japan, alongside legislative efforts, there is a pressing need to expand spaces like *Pride Center Osaka* nationwide. Such centers are critical infrastructure for preventing the isolation of LGBTQ+ individuals and building connections with society. We must build collaborative systems that allow civil society, government agencies, corporations, educational institutions, and healthcare providers to jointly operate and sustain these centers.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with diverse support

organizations, encourages all stakeholders to acknowledge that LGBTQ+ individuals are an integral part of society and to reflect their voices in all policies. The voices of those who are often overlooked or who find it difficult to speak out are the key to building a brighter future where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

[Notes]

- *1 Saori Kamano et. al. (2023) “Report of the National Survey of Family, Gender/Sexuality and Diversity”.
<https://www.hosei.ac.jp/press/info/article-20231027123950/>
- *2 *Nijiiro* means “rainbow-colored”
- *3 「*nijiVOICE2024*」
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<http://www.nijiirodiversity.jp/>

[Action Platform]

Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



Declaration 4-3

Broaden safe spaces across communities where everyone can gather, connect, and find roles and purpose in life.

4-3-1

Expand the activities of “Children’s Cafeterias” and realize a society in Japan and across the world where “places of belonging” that connect people and nurture every *Inochi* to unleash its radiant light are present in every community.

By 2050, Japan’s population is projected to fall below 100 million, with the aging rate reaching 40%. In order for every *Inochi* to unleash its radiant light, people must be able to truly feel happiness. However, no matter how much money one may have, if there is no *connection with others*, genuine happiness cannot be felt. In 2050 Japan—and likely throughout the world—connections among people will be more vital than ever. One initiative that creates spaces where such human connections can be nurtured is known in Japan as *Ibasho-dukuri* (creating “places of belonging”). Japan, having faced depopulation and the decline of communities earlier than the rest of the world, has responded by fostering grassroots efforts led by local residents under the principle of community autonomy.

“Children’s Cafeterias” (*Kodomo-Shokudo*), which began as spaces where children could go alone and receive free or low-cost meals, are an example of places of belonging. Today, these cafeterias have evolved into open, inclusive, and universal spaces that welcome people of all ages, genders, incomes, and backgrounds. They are places of *mixing and mingling* where local residents come face-to-face, learn about each other’s diverse circumstances, listen to different perspectives, and interact across divides. Built voluntarily by community members, these spaces have resonated with many and continue to grow. As of 2024, the number of children’s cafeterias has reached 10,867—surpassing the number of public junior high schools.

Musubie, the National Children’s Cafeteria Support Center, sees these cafeterias as key to revitalizing communities that have lost their sense of place. *Musubie* supports those interested in sustainable regional development and fostering the next generation. It also helps broaden the horizons of individuals in an increasingly fragmented society, aiming to empower each person to become a proactive contributor to their community and society. *Musubie* facilitates the spread of children’s cafeterias by supporting intermediary organizations (local networks), connecting cafeterias with companies and organizations that wish to help, and conducting surveys and research to communicate the significance and real conditions of these cafeterias. In this sense, *Musubie* plays the role of a *musubime* (connector) that links children,



Children's cafeteria where anyone can join

children’s cafeterias, and supporters.

Looking at the world, we see a growing number of people who feel left behind or disrespected and who are rejecting the existing systems. Surrounded by those in similar situations or with similar views, people are losing sight of others and growing increasingly distrustful. Simply saying “let’s engage with differing opinions” is not enough to change the situation. What is needed are real-life settings where people naturally and regularly encounter a wide range of others. Children’s Cafeterias are such places, where people connect over shared meals, learn to recognize the dignity of others, and cultivate mutual respect.

Musubie aims to create a society in Japan where everyone can walk to a children’s cafeteria nearby. By 2030, we aim to have a children’s cafeteria in every elementary school district. Looking ahead to 2050, we envision a world in which places of belonging where people gather and support one another will have spread to many countries.

The *Inochi* Forum, together with organizations such as *Musubie*, will promote the expansion of children’s cafeterias and help build a world where people are truly connected and every individual’s dignity is deeply respected.

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[Action Platform]

Education and Children / Economy, Employment and Poverty / Urban Development and Disaster Prevention / Diversity and

Inclusion / Arts, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



4-3-2

Let us create, together, a safety net for children and young people in entertainment districts, so that every young person can have hope for their own future.

Japan's GDP per capita is approximately USD 33,138^{*1}, yet one in seven children under the age of 17 lives on less than USD 8,500 per year^{*2}. Nationwide, an estimated 295,000 junior high and high school students are not attending school^{*3}, more than 46,000 students drop out of high school each year^{*4}, and the number of young people aged 15–34 not in education, employment, or training (NEET) is estimated at around 900,000^{*5}.

The circumstances facing teenagers vary widely. Some are in economically difficult situations; some cannot feel safe at home or at school; others live with developmental or learning disabilities. Many experience overlapping hardships. Even when they appear grown-up, they remain underage and have limited options; losing connections with people they can trust makes it harder for them to access the social safety net. In severe cases, they may become involved with dangerous adults and be drawn into harmful incidents. Poverty not only deprives children and young people of access to education and cultural experiences but also reduces their chances of finding places and communities where they feel they belong. Past experiences—such as bullying, interpersonal conflicts, violence or abuse at home, and neglect—can become psychological barriers, prompting them to avoid human contact and deepening their isolation.

To address child and youth poverty in Japan, the Certified Nonprofit Organization D×P has been supporting children and young people—many of whom have run away from home or suffered abuse—who gather in Osaka Minami, beneath the famous *Glico* sign in an area locally known as “*Gurishita*” (under the *Glico* sign). Just a four-minute walk from *Gurishita*, D×P has rented a space to establish a Night Youth Center. Funded by private donations amounting to about JPY 60 million annually, it has become a hub for supporting children and young people in *Gurishita*.

Prompted by D×P's work, Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City visited *Gurishita* and established a coordinating body called the “*Gurishita* Conference.” D×P has also signed an agree-



Food aid boxes and support in Osaka's Minami district

ment with Osaka City to conduct surveys, which revealed that 20–30% of those in the area lack stable housing. In response, Osaka City began moving toward providing housing assistance, working in partnership with NPOs. Currently, D×P opens the Night Youth Center twice a week, serving about 4,000 visitors annually. On other days, the organization provides in-person support, such as helping young people find hospitals or housing, and works daily to ensure they have the basics of food, clothing, and shelter.

Looking ahead, D×P will expand online counseling staff and strengthen training systems, creating an environment where young people across Japan can safely seek help. It

will also build regional support hubs in collaboration with local governments, schools, businesses, and NPOs. Furthermore, it will expand vocational experiences and internships tailored to young people's interests and aptitudes, strengthen job-matching with companies, and increase employment opportunities. D×P will also promote outreach via social media, schools, and communities to connect with young people before isolation becomes severe, share their voices and realities with society to eliminate prejudice and misunderstanding, and broaden the circle of support.

In view of the challenges that may persist in 2050, advances in AI could enable various forms of support. Yet even in that era, many children and young people may still fall through the gaps of public assistance and institutional frameworks. Entertainment districts are likely to continue attracting people and offering, for some, a sense of belonging—meaning that many children and young people may still gather there.

To prepare for this possibility, the *Inochi* Forum will work together with organizations including D×P to establish not only public safety nets but also robust private ones, forming support hubs across Japan where young people—regardless of the environment in which they were raised—can find

the connections and bonds they need to build stable lives.

[Notes]

- *1 International Monetary Fund (IMF), *World Economic Outlook Database*, 2024.
- *2 The Nippon Foundation, *Ending Child Poverty*, 2023.
- *3 Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), *Survey on Problematic Behavior and School Non-Attendance*, 2022.
- *4 According to MEXT's *School Basic Survey* (2023, Final Data), the number of high school dropouts in 2023 was 45,813, with a dropout rate of 1.5%.
- *5 Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, *White Paper on Children and Young People*, 2023.

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- Certified Nonprofit Organization D×P
<https://www.dreampossibility.com/>

[ActionPlatform]

Peace and Human Rights

[SDGs]



4-3-3

Build a society where children, young people, and every individual are respected as irreplaceable members of society and can find both a place and a role to belong.

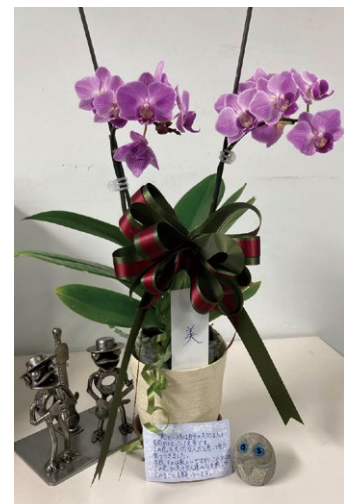
The Japan Philanthropic Association engages in the planning, management, and coordination of corporate and employee social contribution activities.

For example, the Association has been involved in planning and managing volunteer activities for juveniles in detention centers. Some of these centers house youths who have repeatedly committed offenses, have suffered from severe abuse, or live with disabilities. According to the staff, many of these young people have never once been thanked by anyone and have lost hope in adults, society, and even themselves. The staff expressed a wish to provide these children with experiences where they could feel appreciated and realize they can be helpful to others. Since the detention center employs solitary confinement, the volunteer activities had to be ones that could be done alone in their rooms.

In response, the Japan Philanthropic Association launched a project where the juveniles grow *Phalaenopsis* orchids and donate them to children's hospitals, child welfare facilities, and refugee support organizations. A small ceremony is held during which recipients express their gratitude. The young people also attach messages like "While looking at

these flowers, may you forget about your illness for a while" or "Please take good care of these flowers." These modest experiences can hopefully become a source of support for their lives.

Moreover, the dedication of the staff members who support these young people must not go unnoticed. After being released, many youths continue to call the staff. Facing discrimination and prejudice in society, they often find themselves struggling. By venting or receiving words of encouragement over the phone, they can keep going. While they are protected within the detention center, re-entering society exposes them to harsh realities. In such cases, their continued connection with the staff becomes a lifeline. Preventing isolation is essential for safeguarding the *Inochi* of these children.



The boy decorates the flowers he has grown with ribbons and adds a message

However, the situation for children remains serious. According to the Children and Families Agency, the number of reported child abuse cases exceeded 210,000 in 2022, more than double the figure from a decade ago (cases handled by child consultation centers). Among developed countries, Japan has the highest suicide mortality rate among young people at 16.3%, according to a World Health Organization report from February 2023.

To address these challenges, the Japan Philanthropic Association has launched an agriculture–welfare collaboration project (*Noufuku*), where individuals with disabilities, social withdrawal, criminal records, or foreign nationalities engage in agriculture, revitalizing local farming communities suffering from a shortage of next-generation farmers and abandoned farmland. Through the revitalization of agriculture, this initiative aims to create regions that are kind to both people and the environment—places where children can grow up with hope for the future. The goal is to build regions where everyone has a place and a role by the year 2050.

Together with organizations like the Japan Philanthropic Association, the *Inochi* Forum will expand the circle of support, engaging companies' social resources and employees, to build a society where everyone has a place and a role—playing our part in connecting and sustaining *Inochi*.



People with disabilities working alongside farmers

[References]

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<https://www.philanthropy.or.jp/>
- Agriculture–Welfare Collaboration Projects for Creating a Symbiotic Society:
<https://www.philanthropy.or.jp/noufuku/adopted/>

[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



4-3-4

Create symbiotic community-based societies where all people, including older adults, have meaningful roles, through care practices that value individual identity and attend to each person's heart.

In this super-aging society, care models centered around institutionalization and control have become increasingly prevalent. Particularly for older adults with dementia, this trend often leads to a lack of understanding of their psychological states, robbing them of their dignity and autonomy. In response, the Montessori Care Association Japan opened *Shibahara Moca Maison*, a residential care facility for older adults, in 2021. At this facility, *Montessori Care* is practiced—an approach that deeply respects each person's individuality and provides care that truly attends to the heart of each resident.

At *Moca Maison*, residents engage in daily activities that help uncover their capabilities and preferences, which are then translated into roles they can play within the community. This enables people with dementia to maintain as much autonomy as possible, live peacefully with high self-esteem, and find purpose. The facility has also developed AI technology that interprets changes in facial expressions to detect signs of motivation or anxiety. The association organizes seminars to train Montessori dementia care workers, with

around 10 participants earning international certification each year, and it also hosts study groups twice a month.

Additionally, the association renovated a traditional Japanese house to establish *Moca no Ie: Living Care Hospice*, where it is now pioneering new approaches to palliative care. Dr. Tetsuo Kashiwagi, who introduced the hospice concept to Japan, has spoken about the importance of addressing not only physical pain, but also psychological, social, and spiritual suffering. Building on this, the association now aims to relieve family members' pain as well. It practices end-of-life care that honors both patients and their families, providing a space where anyone can come and go freely, enjoy hobbies, bring pets, or sip on a drink—ensuring a dignified and regret-free experience. Advanced Care Planning (ACP) is also actively incorporated.

To widely share these models, the association has presented at domestic and international conferences, published papers, and actively participated in symposiums and lectures, drawing attention from numerous media outlets. At

the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, it exhibited under the theme “Dementia That Brings Happiness” in collaboration with academic and corporate partners, gaining significant resonance. In order to leverage this response as a turning point in the values of care, the following actions are planned:

[Phase 1: 2025–2028]

The association will continue its care worker training seminars, recreate its Osaka-Kansai Expo exhibit at the International Montessori Congress in 2026, and organize exhibitions and workshops across the country. It will also strengthen its online outreach through SNS and video platforms. Collaborations with leading care facilities and local governments will promote adoption at the community level.

[Phase 2: 2029–2035]

The association will operate seminars to train regional leaders, aiming to produce 200 international certificate holders by 2035. It will establish a practice-based community where facilities that have introduced Montessori Care engage in joint training and on-site learning. To advocate for the inclusion of an “autonomy-supportive care” evaluation criterion in Japan’s long-term care insurance system, the association will propose policies based on verified data. With an eye toward international expansion, particularly in Asia, it will partner with research and practice institutions to build successful case studies abroad.

[Phase 3: 2036–2043]

In tandem with realizing the aforementioned policy reform, the association will begin integrating Montessori Care into the curricula of universities and professional schools.

[Phase 4: 2044–2050]

To ensure that Montessori Care takes root as a cultural practice and is passed on to future generations, the association will propose and implement its incorporation into elementary, junior high, and high school curricula.



Exhibition at the Osaka-Kansai Expo

[Across All Phases]

The association aims to integrate care philosophy with technologies such as AI, and will also publish practical handbooks on Montessori Care.

Montessori Care is, in a broad sense, a philosophy of care—and more than that, a vision for a society where all people are treated as dignified human beings. The *Inochi* Forum will continue collaborating with organizations like the Montessori Care Association Japan to realize community-based societies where children, older adults, and people of all backgrounds hold meaningful roles and contribute together.

[References]

- *Moca Maison*
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- Montessori Care Association Japan
<https://www.montessoricarejapan.com/>

[Action Platform]

Medical and Welfare

[SDGs]



4-3-5

Regard dementia as the greatest stage of growth in life, and by focusing on what we can do now and living with gratitude, build a kind and inclusive society where everyone cherishes their bodies and can live with peace of mind.

The Dementia Prevention Activity Consortium (commonly known as “*Niyo-katsu*”) was established in 2019 by a group of volunteer dementia supporters under the guiding principle: reducing to zero the number of people who give up on life because of dementia. The organization plans and operates social contribution activities addressing both prevention and coexistence with dementia, exploring new possibilities in a super-aged society.

Japan is undergoing rapid population aging and a declining birthrate. While advances in medical technology and the emergence of diverse care services are progressing, they also highlight the urgent issue of increasing medical and caregiving costs. This growing financial burden is a serious challenge for society, especially as the birthrate continues to decline. Dementia is not simply a natural part of aging; it is a medical condition, with an identifiable preclinical phase. While promoting health to avoid risk is essential, *Niyo-katsu* believes that this alone is not sufficient. True risk avoidance requires a society in which older adults who face higher risks can continue to find meaning in life. What matters most is the ability to feel genuine joy—“This is fun!”—through connections with people and society in one’s own community.

Niyo-katsu recognizes that physical health initiatives must go hand in hand with building systems that foster a sense of purpose in local communities, and they take a multi-faceted approach to their activities.

A flagship initiative is the promotion of Mini-Light *Mölkky*®, a universal sport adapted from Finland’s *Mölkky* and made one-fifth lighter for accessibility. *Niyo-katsu* regularly hosts large-scale events such as the “*Orangelympic*,” which welcomes participants from toddlers as young as two to elderly individuals in their 90s. The event brings together people of all ages and abilities, including people with disabilities, those in need of caregiving, and people with dementia, encouraging natural, multigenerational interaction. To further deepen such community connections, *Niyo-katsu* launched the “*MöIpa*” (*Mölkky* Party) project, a community gathering initiative. In addition to Mini-Light *Mölkky* instruction, *MöIpa* includes training on how to interact with and be considerate toward individuals with dementia. This effort contributes to nurturing local leaders who can sustain such community-based activities independently.

Niyo-katsu’s work goes beyond sports. Recognizing the decline in the sense of smell as an early symptom of Alzheimer’s disease, they collaborate with aromatherapists in



Orangelympic scenes

prevention efforts. Through symposiums and workshops, they also continue to disseminate the latest knowledge on prevention and coexistence with dementia, contributing to greater public awareness.

True happiness is only found through connections with others. Based on this belief, *Niyo-katsu* will continue expanding spaces where people can enjoy sports together. They aim to promote universal sports across generations—from kindergartens and elementary schools to elderly care facilities and hospitals. Their initiatives seek to foster multigenerational gatherings centered on dementia awareness through sports events and community spaces. To support this vision, they are committed to nurturing human resources and developing sustainable systems that enable autonomous regional development. Within these systems, they will promote regional societies where people can connect naturally and comfortably, in line with the realities of today’s world.

Humans derive a sense of purpose by contributing to others. *Inochi* Forum values systems that allow this fundamental human motivation to thrive, even in small-scale, volunteer-like formats. It will continue promoting activities

through collaboration across government, academia, industry, and civil society. In particular, in partnership with organizations like *Niyo-katsu*, it will provide opportunities and frameworks for people to realize their inner desires to “be of help” and “continue learning.” Toward 2050, we will continue striving to create a gentle and joyful universal society—one that only a super-aged society can make possible.

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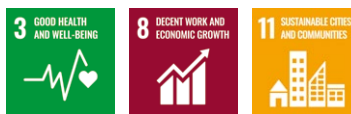
· *Orangelympic*

<https://www.niyokatsufes.com/orangelympic>

[Action Platform]

Diversity & Inclusion

[SDGs]



4-3-6

Health is one of our greatest assets—something to be nurtured in everyone, including those with illness or disability. When we nurture health, we create the conditions for all people to participate fully—in families, communities, work, and planetary care.

The University of Osaka’s UNESCO Chair in Global Health and Education (hereafter UO-UC) was launched in 2018 with one simple idea: that every child and young person deserves the chance to live a healthy and fulfilling life. In the years since, UO-UC has worked to understand and address the many challenges children and young people face—from infectious and chronic diseases to reproductive health, mental health, and social exclusion. These challenges are global, but solutions must begin locally—in schools, families, and communities.

Through research, collaboration, and education, UO-UC have built an approach that bridges public health, the social sciences, and design thinking. It centers not only on what people need, but also on what they already have—their strengths, networks, and creativity. At the heart of this work is the idea of nurturing people and relationships, nurturing supportive learning environments, and nurturing the capacities of communities to care for themselves and each other. Their work aligns closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - particularly SDG 3 (health), SDG 4 (education), and SDG 5 (gender equality). But as the world prepares to move beyond the SDGs, the following questions should be asked: what has been learned, and where do we go from here?

From UO-UC’s perspective, three lessons stand out:

1. We need to build health systems that start with people’s strengths, not just problems.

The UO-UC’s focus on the “health asset” approach highlights the value of what communities already do to care for each other—through relationships, shared spaces, and local knowledge.



Students participating in the UO-UC educational program

2. We need inclusive, participatory systems that reflect lived experience.

Health promotion must be done with people, not to them. UO-UC has used participatory methods with students, families, and teachers to ensure their voices shape programs that affect them.

3. We must understand health as interconnected—between individuals, societies, and the planet.

The UO-UC’s emerging work on “social design for health” draws on design thinking to co-create solutions that make healthy living not just possible, but natural—in the way cities are built, schools are run, and care is delivered.

UO-UC has brought together a network of collaborators across Asia and beyond. In school health, they have worked closely with the Japanese Consortium for Global School Health Research, convening experts from China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, South Korea, the Philippines, and more. They have supported teachers and education systems in delivering comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) including menstrual health education, hosting international

symposia and producing research on how to train and support those doing this vital work—especially in settings with limited resources.

UO-UC has studied the mental health needs of adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic, partnering with WHO Kobe, and collaborated with the University of Oxford on how citizens can shape the ethical use of AI in healthcare. UO-UC has launched a graduate program in Global Health and Education and is preparing new online courses on planetary health and social design for health, opening up these conversations to learners worldwide.

As the SDG era draws to a close, the next phase of global action must be rooted in nurturing—nurturing people, communities, and the planet that sustains us.

This means:

- Nurturing environments where children and young people feel safe, valued, and supported—not just to survive, but to thrive.
- Nurturing education systems that empower learners with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to care for their own health and contribute to the well-being of others.
- Nurturing partnerships across sectors and borders, grounded in trust and co-production, not one-size-fits-all solutions.

UO-UC will continue to:

- Work in co-production with stakeholders—including students, teachers, caregivers, and communities—to build healthy environments that reflect local realities and values.
- Strengthen health education by integrating the princi-

ples of social design for health, which uses creativity and collaboration to make healthy living easier, more intuitive, and more equitable.

- Build on a health assets approach, recognizing and amplifying the strengths people and communities already possess.
- Stay mindful of planetary health, ensuring that the choices we make today nurture both human and ecological well-being for generations to come.

This is not an easy path—but it is a necessary one. In collaboration with diverse organizations, the *Inochi* Forum is committed to walking it with others: educators, researchers, students, policymakers, industry and all those who believe that a healthier future must also be a more inclusive, more connected, and more caring one.

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[Action Platform]

Medical and Welfare

[SDGs]



Declaration 4-4

Build networks across regions and affiliations to advance community building that cherishes *Inochi*.

4-4-1

Create our own SDGs at the community level, implement them through local action, and build a society that protects and nurtures the dignity of *Inochi*.

How can we realize a society where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light?

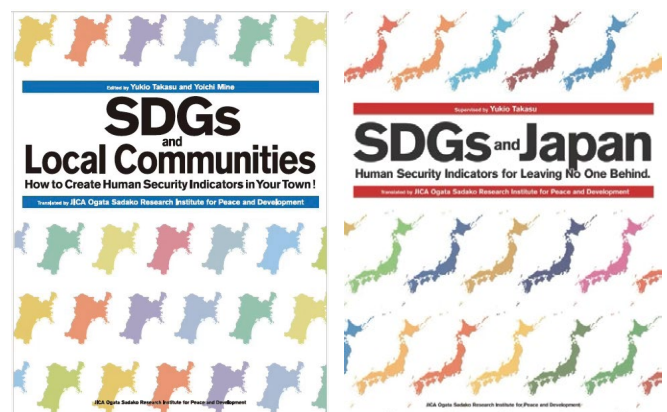
In the international community, the importance of “human security” has been emphasized. It is a concept rooted in the freedom from fear and want and the freedom to live in dignity. Dignity forms the foundation of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, affirming that each individual possesses irreplaceable value. People also harbor a sense of reverence toward nature—including other living beings and even inanimate objects—and feel an obligation not to violate their inherent dignity. Thus, a society where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light must necessarily be a society where the dignity of all life, including human life, is recognized.

To realize such a society, it is essential to nurture local communities where people are mindful of each other and ensure that no one is left behind or deprived of their dignity, and where the destruction of the natural environment is prevented. Communities must be places where members can care for one another within a visible range. However, local communities in Japan today are rapidly weakening. Population outflows from rural areas to cities have accelerated, and mobility between cities and from cities back to rural areas is increasing. In urban areas, where such flows are concentrated, attachment to communities is declining, and community bonds are weakening. Meanwhile, in many rural areas, declining populations and aging are eroding traditional communities. In some areas, efforts to rebuild communities by welcoming migrants and foreigners have been insufficient. Thus, communities—which should serve as the foundation for a society that respects dignity—are losing their vitality both in urban and rural areas.

The *Inochi* Forum propose that community members come together to set their own SDG targets and indicators and take action to achieve them. Although the SDGs were agreed upon through negotiations among nation-states, the 17 Goals are universal and highly applicable at the community level. The SDGs present a diverse menu of issues, enabling communities to expand beyond their traditional boundaries and confront new challenges they may not have previously considered. They also allow communities to



Various teaching materials for learning about the SDGs



The English versions of “SDGs and Japanese Society” and “SDGs and Local Communities”

learn from pioneering examples set by others. In this way, the SDGs serve as a shared language for thinking about efforts toward a dignified and sustainable society.

In this context, to support such community-level SDG initiatives internationally, the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development has published English translations of its research books, *SDGs and Japan* and *SDGs and Local Communities*, which propose indicators that visualize the implementation and challenges of SDGs in Japanese local governments from the perspective of human security. Additionally, the institute is conducting research projects aimed at preparing for the next set of international development goals following the SDGs. These projects examine examples of local communities setting their own SDG targets and indicators, aiming to disseminate the experiences and knowledge gained.

The SDGs illustrate the image of a better world to be achieved by 2030. Until now, the SDGs have largely been implemented through top-down initiatives led by national governments and international cooperation efforts. Going forward, it is essential to set original SDG targets and indicators at the level of local communities—where people can see each other's faces and the surrounding natural environment—and to revive community-based collaboration and self-governance. Learning from community-level practices, it should also be possible to formulate the post-SDGs international development goals through participatory approaches.

Together with organizations like the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development, the *Inochi* Forum will work to realize a society where the dignity of all *Inochi* is secured, starting from the bottom up at the community level.

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[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



4-4-2

To address complex challenges, identify and empower “hubs” that can connect people beyond their affiliations and disciplines.

In recent years, the third sector—comprising non-profit and cooperative organizations such as NPOs, NGOs, and cooperatives—has become increasingly involved in addressing diverse social challenges. These actors engage in collaborative efforts with businesses and governments to tackle so-called “wicked problems,” such as environmental degradation, refugee support, alternative education, and support for the economically disadvantaged—issues that cannot be easily resolved through conventional approaches. Following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, such activities were also seen in the affected areas. However, the extent and effectiveness of these initiatives varied by region. Some communities were successful, while others struggled. This variation appeared to be strongly influenced by the structure of social networks—specifically, the human connections within the third sector.

Taku Sugano from Osaka Metropolitan University conducted an interview-based study to analyze these social network structures. He asked key figures in the third sector:

“Please name up to 10 individuals you trusted or relied on during the Great East Japan Earthquake. They may be affiliated with government, businesses, or third sector organizations. The connections may have existed before or emerged after the disaster, and the individuals may reside inside or outside of the affected areas.”

He then interviewed those named—provided they were third-sector individuals who had lived in the affected areas after the disaster—repeating this process 80 times. In theory, this would result in a network of up to 800 key individuals (80 people naming up to 10 each). In practice, 459 individuals were identified. Most respondents named 10 people, indicating that many names were mentioned by multiple individuals.

Sugano's analysis revealed a key feature of this network: while most individuals were named only once, a few were mentioned repeatedly. These individuals functioned as “hubs” with many connections. Networks that include such

hubs are known as “scale-free networks,” characterized by resilience to random disruptions and high information transmission efficiency. The internet is a prime example, where search engines like Google serve as hubs, enabling users to navigate billions of websites in just a few clicks. Similarly, the third sector’s social network, by virtue of these hubs, allows for the rapid spread of information and efficient sharing of knowledge and resources. Hubs play a pivotal role in connecting people in response to problems, mobilizing knowledge and assets, clarifying issues, and fostering the emergence of solutions.

Too often, efforts—via *selection* and *concentration*—focus on problems that are well-defined and already have clear solutions. As a result, wicked problems that are ambiguous and lack obvious solutions tend to be neglected. To continue addressing such complex issues effectively, the *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with governments, businesses, and third-sector organizations to identify hub individuals, clarify the conditions that enable them to thrive, and work to ensure that by 2030, a supportive environment is established in which hubs can fully play their roles. We will advocate for this to be positioned within national policies, the SDGs, and post-SDG goals through engagement with diverse stakeholders.

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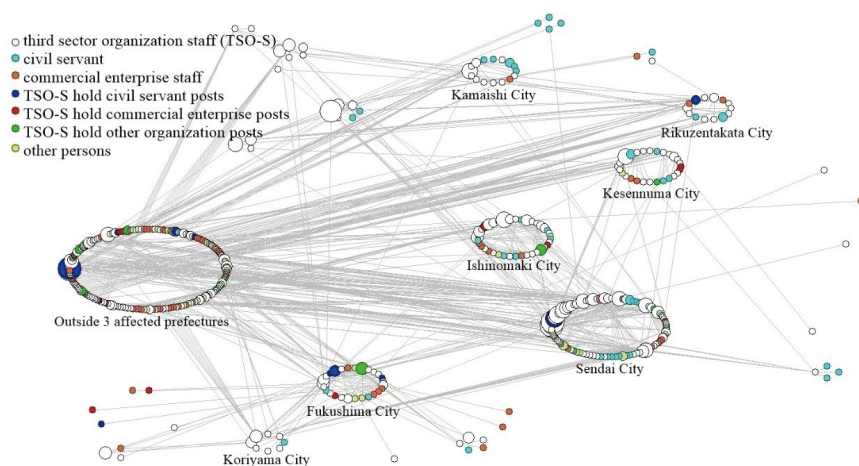


Diagram: Social Network of Key Third-Sector Figures (June 23, 2016)

A single circle represents one person; size reflects the number of mentions. Circles are grouped by region, and lines between circles indicate social connections.

(Source: Sugano, 2020)

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[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



4-4-3

Practice business that fulfills the aspirations of communities that nurture cultural diversity, and together create a beautiful economic landscape welcomed by the future.

Since 2012, RELEASE; has been working as a non-profit organization to create an economy welcomed by the future. Inspired by the biodiversity of our blue planet, they seek to connect cultural diversity¹ to the future by discovering, embodying, and widely sharing businesses, ideas, and methodologies that create a “beautiful economic landscape.”

In September 2020, RELEASE; called for the idea of “Community Based Economy” together with over 100 volunteers both in Japan and abroad². This movement was influenced by the *Declaration of Community-based Companies in Kyoto*, which begins with the statement: “A company must have a philosophy”³. In response to this declaration, which

asserts that companies should prioritize people, nature, and local communities, root themselves in their regions, and sustain and develop together, Kyoto City enacted the *Ordinance for the Sustainable Development of Community-based Companies* in April 2019⁴. This ordinance has helped promote regional economic development and supported business management that values diverse forms of capital, including nature and culture.

RELEASE; was deeply involved in the entire process that led to the emergence of this declaration and ordinance, exploring why Kyoto could be a city where such initiatives were proposed by a consensus of private enterprises and unani-

mously passed by the city council. Kyoto's unique business culture places high value on steadfast philosophies such as “Priority to Justice over Profit” (*Sen-gi Kōri*) and “Perpetual Change within Immovability” (*Fueki Ryūkō*), along with trust-based relationships, originality, and the health of the value chain. Many companies engaged in long-term management practices grounded in these principles have not only sustained Kyoto's economy but also supported citizens' lives and the preservation of culture. Such community-based management practices suggest an economic activity that prioritizes what is essential to the community over short-term profits or business scale, embodying the values and diversity befitting the blue planet—a truly “beautiful economic landscape.”

In March 2021, the *Community Based Companies Forum*, launched from Kyoto, began spreading throughout Japan to places like Kagoshima, Nagano, Sapporo, and Okinawa as a platform for accumulating practical knowledge on business that fulfills community aspirations. Additionally, RELEASE; launched the *Community Based Economy Journal*, a business documentary magazine that highlights economic activities aimed at increasing local natural and cultural capital without depleting it. The journal continues to spark dialogue about the kinds of businesses now needed across different regions.

In 2024, they also set up *in InterConnected Arts®/Japan*, an initiative to discover the knowledge and beauty embedded in traditional craftsmanship across Japan, rooted in the symbiosis of nature and people^{*5}. By curating journeys that revolve around the act of “making”—the central verb of economic activity—and sharing these experiences with business leaders around the world, the project aims to form cross-border communities that expand the “Community Based Economy” movement and foster the exchange of knowledge and values globally.

The Chinese character for “life” (生) is said to depict the



A project for discovering and sharing knowledge and beauty, uncovering the act of creation and foregrounding it as a journey

image of grass sprouting from the soil, combining the elements for “sprout” (芽) and “soil” (土). Without soil, there can be no life. Together with organizations like RELEASE;, the *Inochi* Forum will work to expand an economic sphere that preserves the “soil” of diverse cultures across regions, ensuring that *Inochi* can continue to live vibrantly into the future.

[Notes]

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty

[SDGs]



4-4-4

Express our gratitude to nature and those who bring food to our tables, and remember that each of us has a role in passing on what we value to future generations.

Today, we are living in a time of unprecedented urban concentration, where rural depopulation and the decline of local industries are becoming increasingly serious issues. This is not a phenomenon limited to Japan; in many developing regions such as Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the outflow of young people to cities, the aging of rural populations, and the disappearance of local industries are pressing social concerns. Ways of life, cultures, and craftsmanship

rooted in agricultural, mountainous, and fishing villages are steadily vanishing, losing the opportunity to be passed on to future generations.

In response to this situation, the joint project under the The University of Osaka Social Solution Initiative, titled *Building Sustainable Regional Models through Agriculture, Forestry, and Craftsmanship: Linking Local Knowledge and Tech-*

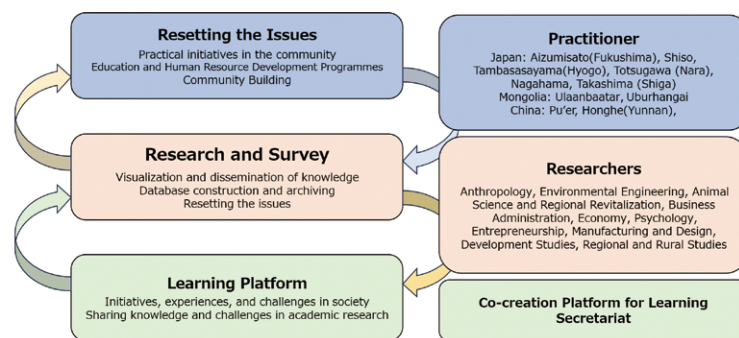
nologies (Co-representatives: Professor Michinori Uwasu, Graduate School of Economics, The University of Osaka; Mr. Siquinfu, Representative Director, *Kita no Kaze·Minami no Kumo*), has engaged in efforts to promote the “localization of knowledge”. This concept is not about simply transferring knowledge or introducing technologies. Rather, it is about deeply learning from, respecting, and leveraging—across society—the indigenous knowledge embedded in regional ways of coexisting with nature, mutual human support, and time-honored practices in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and crafts. These are invaluable forms of wisdom that cannot be measured by market efficiency alone.

Through both research and field practice, the project has worked to visualize and share these values in collaboration with local communities. In education, for example, field studies have taken students to rural communities, where they engage in dialogues with residents and experience firsthand their lives and cultures—learning together about the value of the region. It is imperative to develop such initiatives across national, cultural, and urban-rural divides.

Within the concept of “localization of knowledge”, two core questions arise. The first is how we can pass down the wisdom, techniques, and spirit of “making”—which nurtures and sustains *Inochi*—to future generations. Handmade skills, the use of local materials, seasonal living, and cooperative labor are more than just means of production; they are “technologies of *Inochi*”—ways for people and nature to live in harmony. The second question concerns the restoration of ties between rural and urban areas. Cities and rural communities are not opposite: they are interdependent. Urban life and economies are supported by rural practices. Water, energy, food, and raw materials for industrial goods are all gifts from nature brought forth by rural areas. For example, Japan’s reputation for delicious cuisine is built upon the knowledge, labor, and dialogue with nature practiced by food producers. To eat is to sustain life—and to resonate with the lives and work of others.

To hand down such techniques, values, and connections to the next generation, we need systems that allow each of us to internalize the meaning of “localization of knowledge” and “bond *Inochi*” as our own concern—and to engage with them creatively and proactively. By listening to the voices of communities and creating opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to think and act together, we can realize a new society based on circularity and coexistence.

As part of its action plan, this project integrates the practical wisdom of communities with academic knowledge to build sustainable regional models centered on agriculture, forestry, and craftsmanship. Specific initiatives include:



Process of forming a “Learning and Co-Creation Community”

1. Establishing “demonstration fields” that utilize local resources
2. Implementing and evaluating agricultural and forestry technologies locally
3. Regularly holding co-creation workshops on “locality × research”
4. Creating exchange and residency programs for children, youth, and researchers within and beyond communities

These efforts go beyond regional revitalization; they foster a mutually beneficial system where “local knowledge” and “university knowledge” are leveraged in both directions to enable autonomous development in rural areas. Researchers and practitioners from across Japan, China, and Mongolia are collaborating to promote natural and organic farming, sustainable forest resource use, and regional industrial innovation—offering new models for resource-circulating sustainable communities.

The *Inochi* Forum collaborates with projects like this to bridge higher education and regional society across borders of nation, region, and culture—cultivating the next generation of community leaders by providing students and children with opportunities to learn through practical engagement in the field.

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[Action Platform]

Urban Development and Disaster Prevention / Food and Agriculture / Resource Recycling

[SDGs]



Declaration 4-5

Build networks across regions and affiliations to advance community building that cherishes Inochi.

4-5-1

Realize a society where companies take responsibility for their actions, articulate their envisioned future, and engage in dialogue with society, working together to solve environmental and social issues.

Which of the following statements feels more accurate to you?

- (A) Economic activity causes distortion.
- (B) Economic activity can solve social issues.

The world population has grown from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 6.9 billion in 2010—nearly tripling—while GDP has increased approximately tenfold. On average, humanity has become three times wealthier in those sixty years. Overall social activity has rapidly expanded since 1950. On the other hand, according to the Earth Overshoot Day index, as of August 1st, 2024, humanity had already consumed more resources than the Earth can regenerate in a year.^{*1} In effect, we are living on borrowed resources in exchange for economic growth.

At the 1999 World Economic Forum in Davos, then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged global markets—where the pace of expansion had outstripped the development of social and political systems—to become more “human.” This led to the establishment of the UN Global Compact^{*2}, which introduced universal principles for all businesses to uphold in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. In 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Davos Manifesto was revised for the first time in 50 years^{*3}, marking a major shift in direction. It moved away from the traditional shareholder-centric model—where the company exists primarily to benefit its owners—and toward a new understanding that companies must serve all stakeholders, including employees, customers, suppliers, local communities, and broader society. It declared that corporate value lies not only in profit distribution to shareholders, but also in the creation of social value and action toward a sustainable future.

For businesses to contribute to a sustainable society, they must earn the trust of society to be entrusted with the future. In this process, information disclosure and transparency have become increasingly important. While regulatory frameworks such as European directives and corporate governance now require ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) disclosure, what is needed more is voluntary



Structure of “Sanpo-yoshi”

and sincere communication and engagement rather than mere compliance through mandatory external audits.

Among the measures set forth in Japan’s 2020 “National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights” is the promotion of “consumer-oriented management,” which encourages corporations to solve social issues in collaboration with consumers^{*4}. This includes advancing ethical consumer behavior, such as avoiding products made through unsustainable practices or exploitative labor (e.g., slavery or child labor). This initiative supports SDG Target 12.8: “information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.” According to the Consumer Affairs Agency, the term “consumer” includes a wide range of stakeholders. “Consumer-oriented management”^{*5} refers to a form of management that improves social value in co-creation with these stakeholders. This approach resonates with the *Omi* merchants’ philosophy of mutual prosperity: “*Sanpo-yoshi*” (good for the buyer, seller, and society). It offers a framework for companies to consider whom to partner with, which social issues to address, and what actions to take.

Based on the above, the *Inochi* Forum will further advance collaboration with business leaders engaged in sustainability, along with related organizations and civil society, to help achieve the SDGs by 2030 and beyond—striving to resolve environmental and social challenges and to build a society that protects peace and *Inochi* through the dynamic principle of mutual benefit.

[Notes]

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty

[SDGs]



4-5-2

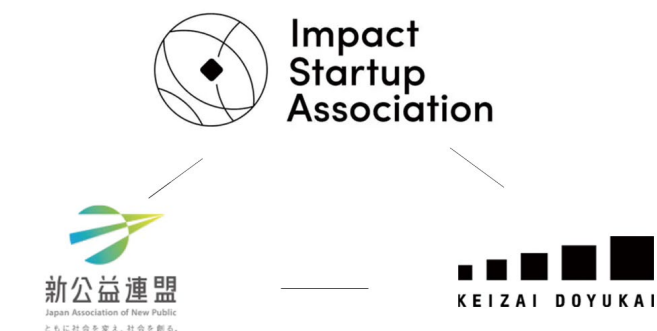
Confront social challenges on the foundation of liberal arts, practice mutual-aid management, propose pathways toward a sustainable society, and share values that will guide the future.

The theme of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan—*Designing Future Society for Our Lives*—asks each of us: what kind of future should we create? Since the 1980s, the pursuit of efficiency rooted in neoliberalism has yielded both benefits and costs: while achieving economic prosperity, it has also caused growing disparities and severe environmental degradation. Continuing this path will not lead to a sustainable future. Now is the time to fundamentally rethink our way of thinking.

In recent years, frameworks such as the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) management have gained attention. They serve as important frameworks that encourage corporate activities with an emphasis on sustainability. However, rather than perceiving these as externally imposed mandates or fleeting trends, it is essential to approach them based on intrinsic motivation. When companies speak of “sustainability” or “social responsibility,” their true value lies not in superficial initiatives but in the genuine will to shape the future.

To nurture such intrinsic motivation, it is crucial for business leaders to engage deeply with timeless wisdom and cultivate their ability to think independently. The foundation for this is liberal arts. Through the study of fields such as philosophy, literature, and history, liberal arts education reexamines the essence of humanity and connects us with the accumulated wisdom of humankind across time and space. This learning offers profound insights and fresh perspectives on today's complex challenges.

One initiative that embodies this philosophy is the lead-



Establishment of a “Mutual-Aid” Platform

ership development program conducted by the Aspen Institute Japan, where leaders engage in dialogue through “Classics and Dialogue” seminars. Over the past 25 years, many executives have participated. At the Aspen Institute, participants engage in dialogue on classical texts from around the world, creating time to ponder the fundamental questions of what it means to be human—beyond short-term profits and efficiency. Through such learning, leaders develop the strength to continuously ask: “What is right?” and “What is valuable?”—providing them with a compass for the future.

Additionally, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, in collaboration with organizations like the Public Interest Capitalism Institute and the Impact Startup Association, has established a platform to advance the concepts of “Mutual-Aid Capitalism” and “Mutual-Aid Management.” This initiative promotes systems in which companies contribute to solving social issues based on purpose and empathy. By leveraging corporate resources and innovation and collaborating with the social sector, they aim to enhance sustain-

ability across society. Within these activities, new models for the economy of the future are being explored.

Recently, there has been increasing emphasis on the importance of humility—recognizing that humans are merely one form of life among many. We tend to fall into anthropocentrism, but we must not forget that we are beings who are given life within nature. We need deeper gratitude for the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat—all of which are gifts from the great life system that is the Earth. This recognition reminds us that humans are part of the web of life and encourage decision-making with a planetary perspective.

The *Inochi* Forum plays a vital role as a place to share such fundamental questions and explore directions for the future. Here, we are called to return to the essence of life itself and envision the future from a perspective that transcends specific topics like economics, technology, or the environment. Through such dialogue, we should not merely share knowledge but build a new vision for society centered on *Inochi* and translate it into concrete action.

4-5-3

Realize a sustainable society that responds to the voices of the unheard by expanding a funding ecosystem grounded in trust and empathy—so that personal thoughts and aspirations can become the driving force for shaping society.

In postwar Japan, the state has taken on many roles in supporting people's lives—through social security, economic policy, and national defense. However, with the accelerating decline in birthrate and the aging population, the number of taxpayers will decrease, fundamentally altering the balance between those who support and those who receive social security. Moreover, the business models that once sustained Japan's economic growth are now reaching a turning point.

In this context, we must rethink the structure of society, moving away from reliance on the state alone and toward a new model where individuals connect and support one another. It is time to reinterpret and revive the spirit of mutual help that once formed the backbone of Japanese society. Change is also needed in the capital market system. Investments in socially significant innovations and ventures often do not yield short-term profits, making them less attractive to conventional investors. While continuing to benefit from capitalism, we must also explore new flows of capital—a search now taking place in many parts of the world. Historically, wealth inequality has bred social unrest and conflict. Now is the time to build a sustainable structure where people's aspirations and capital flow into initiatives that improve society, and where many can share the benefits.

Through the experience of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, what Japan should present to the world is not merely technological or economic strengths. More importantly, we must demonstrate values grounded in profound respect and humility toward all *Inochi* that will live into the future. The *Inochi* Forum will continue to engage in dialogue with diverse people, persistently questioning what kind of values we should present to future generations.

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty

[SDGs]



READYFOR Inc. has tackled these challenges by working to *diversify philanthropy*. Launched in 2011 as Japan's first crowdfunding platform, *READYFOR* has connected those who take action to improve society with those who wish to support such endeavors. Examples include a project that gathered support from approximately 90,000 people to preserve the valuable specimens of the National Museum of Nature and Science, and another to restore the cultural treasures of Horyuji Temple. During the COVID-19 pandemic, *READYFOR* launched emergency relief funds for medical institutions and vulnerable households, garnering widespread empathy and financial support. Our support goes beyond fundraising—we also assist project leaders to ensure their efforts lead to sustained social impact.

In recent years, *READYFOR* has also expanded its role as a philanthropy advisor, acting as a bridge between individual donors and social impact organizations. We are also promoting legacy donations. Many people want to contribute but don't know which causes they can trust. Based on the expertise we've cultivated, we clarify trustworthy donation options and make philanthropy more accessible. As these efforts expand, so too will the role of *READYFOR*.

Looking toward the next 10, 50, and even 100 years, *READYFOR* aims to create mechanisms that ensure capital

reaches where it is truly needed. In doing so, we give voice to those who otherwise remain unheard. *READYFOR*'s purpose is to "gather everyone's aspirations and create a flow of capital that improves society." This flow of money should not be controlled by a select few in power—it should be built through listening to people's voices and working together. Grounded in crowdfunding, *READYFOR* will continue to build a reliable and robust flow of capital that supports remarkable initiatives across the country.

The *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with organizations like *READYFOR* to listen to people's voices, gather collective aspirations, and create funding flows that contribute to the

common good.

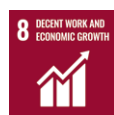
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Economy, Employment and Poverty

[SDGs]



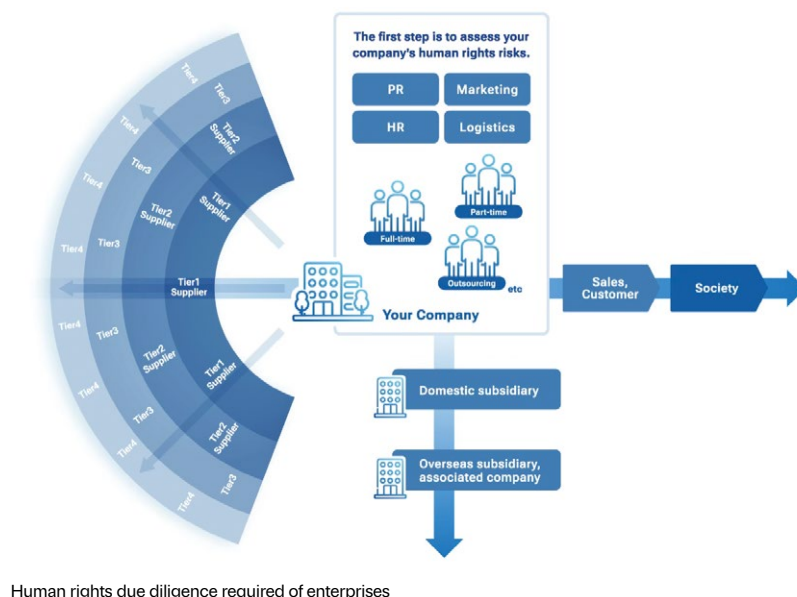
4-5-4

Recognize people not merely as capital to generate wealth, but as irreplaceable *Inochi*, and transform the world of business into one that truly embraces human rights.

At the heart of our society lies the economy, woven together by corporate activity. These endeavors, predicated on the universal human desires for safety and security, have historically generated immense wealth through successive waves of technological innovation, fulfilling many aspects of human self-actualization.

Yet this pursuit of great wealth has come at a cost. As financial gain became an overwhelming force, our gaze shifted exclusively toward accumulating capital. Money, originally intended as a measure of value exchange for tangible goods and experiences, has now become a product itself. In this extreme capitalist system, where money generates more money without grounding in real-world value, the limits are becoming increasingly apparent. This trend has led to a tacit social norm: people are viewed primarily as capital to generate wealth. In the process, we have lost sight of what matters most—*Inochi*. As we chase profit, we risk neglecting the cultivation of compassion and respect for others.

The low awareness of human rights in society has also allowed unconscious bias to proliferate, resulting in many instances of discrimination that are unintentional but harmful. In Japan, where there is neither active immigration policy nor a multicultural demographic, sensitivity to human rights issues tends to be low. As a result, discriminatory perceptions of *Inochi* often go unnoticed, and tragically, there are numerous cases in which lives that should shine with potential are lost. As more Japanese companies expand globally due to declining domestic demand, it is essential that they raise their awareness of human rights and confront



Human rights due diligence required of enterprises

these issues with sincerity and introspection.

It is precisely because companies are collectives of people—and because they form the core of economic activity—that they must face up to human rights as the very foundation of what it means to be human. It is crucial to know what is happening around the world, what is being lost before our eyes, and to engage with these realities. While many international guidelines are already being developed, Japan has also issued its own National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights through the Ministry of Justice. This plan requires companies to proactively reduce their negative human rights impact. Today, human rights due diligence is no longer optional—it must be treated as a priority management issue. Without actively identifying, preventing, and addressing adverse human rights impacts, companies will not be

able to sustain growth in the global arena.

In this context, companies such as Link Saussure Inc. in Japan are actively addressing human rights risks. Their initiatives go beyond risk identification and analysis; they offer support for organizational reform that tackles root causes, and for stakeholder reporting that promotes transparency and accountability. Rather than framing issues as a binary conflict of “self” versus “others,” we must broaden our perspective to include the entire world that surrounds us. Instead of reducing complexity to “either/or” logic, we must adopt “both/and” thinking—perceiving change as a gradient and embracing the human responsibility to leave behind a society rich in dignity and possibility for future generations.

The *Inochi* Forum will continue to support efforts to ensure that corporate engagement with human rights becomes a

societal norm. We will work to promote consistent and comprehensive support—from identifying and analyzing risks to improving organizational practices and disclosing information to stakeholders—thereby contributing to the realization of a society filled with hope for the future.

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty / Peace and Human Rights

[SDGs]



4-5-5

Understand the worldviews of those in different positions, turn our eyes to the sources that sustain the economy, and realize a sustainable society through leadership that connects us with those sources.

At the NPO *Miratsuku*, they have worked to foster natural cooperation through dialogue among people from diverse backgrounds, creating shifts where common ground emerges. This has taken shape through forums and large-scale workshops, the building of cross-sectoral collaborations in projects, publications, online media operations, and the creation of physical hubs for interaction.

Physicist David Bohm, in his book *Dialogue*, describes the essence of dialogue as *coherence*, a state in which wavelengths of light align and amplify. *Miratsuku* regards dialogue not as mere reciprocal communication, but as an act in which individuals—who are inherently different—attune their tone to one another. To support such dialogue, what is required is “servant leadership”—not leadership that directs or commands, but leadership that dedicates itself in service to others, fostering mutual trust and rebuilding relationships where natural concern and shared responsibility can flourish.

At *Miratsuku*, they believe leadership is cultivated by encountering diverse values and listening deeply through dialogue. Leadership nurtures dialogue, and dialogue expands leadership—this dual cycle of inward and outward flow has been central to our practice. As people harmonize their tone through dialogue, they develop mutual respect for each other’s values and worldviews. Since the initiative began in 2008, it has grown to include engagements with tens of thousands of individuals, over 300 collaborative corporate

projects, and outreach through books and media. In 2021, they launched *esse-sense* Inc., intensifying our work to build focused relationships between researchers and business communities. Even between these groups—often perceived as divided by differing values—dialogue naturally fosters relationships of mutual care.

Going forward, *Miratsuku* will continue its activities to realize a world where respect and the circulation of value are extended to those who support the sources that generate what sustains our economy.

In March 2017, after 140 years of legal struggle and negotiation, the New Zealand Parliament unanimously passed the *Te Awa Tupua* (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act. Through this legislation, the Whanganui River (including its basin and tributaries) was recognized as a single, indivisible living being, and granted legal personhood. As a result, the existence of *natural capital*—the source behind resources—was formalized not only for those who personally value it, but for all members of society governed by New Zealand’s legal framework. As this case in New Zealand demonstrates, we still hold great potential to cultivate broader, richer relationships and the actions they inspire.

The invisible values categorized as “natural capital”, “cultural capital”, “intellectual capital”, and “social capital” have long supported economic activity from behind the scenes

as foundational sources. Severing these sources from the economy undermines its sustainability and may lead to exploitative, one-sided relationships. *Miratsuku* aims to make these four types of capital—these sources—visible, to recognize and honor their existence, and to realize a society where a more expansive cycle of economy, born from this recognition, becomes the norm. They believe that the key to this lies in leadership that links the “source”, the “resource”, and “our lives,” and contributes to rebuilding the world.

The *Inochi* Forum, like *Miratsuku* and *esse-sense*, aims to realize a sustainable society by fostering leadership that, through dialogue, helps us understand the worldviews of others, turns our attention to the sources sustaining our economy, and connects those sources to our lives.

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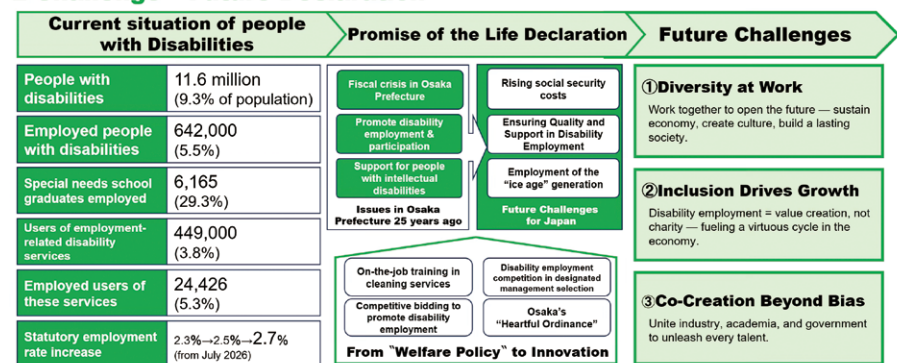
4-5-6

Support starting to work and continuing to work for everyone by shifting public procurement from price competition to competition on employment quality and strengthening intermediary support organizations that focus not just on the number but also the quality of employment.

Let us look back at the situation of people with intellectual disabilities in Japan 25 years ago. In 1998, intellectual disabilities were included in the calculation basis for the statutory employment rate. In 1999, the derogatory legal term “*seishin hakuju*” (mental retardation) was changed to “intellectual disability.” In 2000, with the structural reform of social welfare, service use shifted from “administrative measures” to “user contracts”. While the overhaul of employment-related service systems would come later (2006), at the time, local governments were struggling to promote employment support for people with intellectual disabilities.

During that period, an idea was born in Osaka Prefecture: the “Welfare of the Government”^{*1} initiative. Facing a fiscal crisis, Osaka chose not to allocate new budgets but to leverage existing programs and resources to create employment and work opportunities for people with disabilities and others needing support. One key focus was cleaning services, which matched the strengths of people with intellectual disabilities. By adding the value of vocational training for people with intellectual disabilities to cleaning contracts, Osaka introduced a comprehensive evaluation competitive bidding system that considered not only price but also disability employment outcomes. This approach generated

L-Challenge – Future Declaration



[Source] Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (2024 Labour Economy Analysis)
<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/wp/hakusyo/roudou/24/backdata/column01-01-03.html>

significant employment opportunities. Today, building maintenance companies participating in cleaning bids for large Osaka Prefecture facilities maintain a disability employment rate of over 10%, transforming the industry itself into a social enterprise.

L-Challenge, the cooperative undertaking vocational training contracts, was recognized in 2019 as Osaka Prefecture’s first “Support Organization for Improvement of Work Environment for Persons with Disabilities”^{*2}. Its role is to stand between companies contracted by the prefecture and the employees with disabilities, creating workplaces that are truly inclusive—not simply outsourcing arrangements aimed at meeting legal disability employment quotas^{*3}. While hiring people with disabilities to meet the statutory employment rate is one thing, what matters is to move beyond

mere compliance: companies must review their operations, invest in developing the abilities of employees with disabilities, and integrate them as active contributors to their workforce. L-Challenge has worked together with companies to create workplaces characterized by both consideration and rigor, enabling people with disabilities to become valued team members.

By 2050, Japan's population is projected to shrink to about 95 million, with the elderly population increasing by approximately 12 million and the working-age population decreasing by 35 million. With ballooning social security costs and dwindling tax revenues, sustaining the traditional welfare system will become increasingly difficult. Osaka's comprehensive evaluation bidding system was assessed in 2017 through a social cost estimation study, comparing the additional costs of comprehensive evaluation bidding to the benefits from reduced social security expenditures^{*4}. The results demonstrated the policy's cost-effectiveness and spurred the revision of Osaka Prefecture's *Heartful Ordinance* in 2018^{*5}. Similar employment support ordinances have also been enacted in other areas, such as Fuji City's Universal Employment Ordinance (2017) and Tokyo Metropolitan Government's Social Firm Ordinance (2020)^{*6*7}.

Looking toward 2050, the *Inochi* Forum aims to expand the 25 years of experience in Osaka's "Welfare of the Government" to other municipalities and businesses, ultimately evolving it into the broader "Welfare-Integrated Osaka." Working with organizations such as L-Challenge, we will promote public procurement systems with policy objectives, contributing to the creation of a society where everyone can start working and continue working.

[Notes]

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*3 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Disability Employment Subcommittee, Labor Policy Council – 128th Meeting Materials:

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*5 Osaka Prefecture, "Revised *Heartful Ordinance* (2018)":

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*6 Fuji-City, "Universal Employment Ordinance (2017)":

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty / Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



Declaration 4-6

Raise awareness of our interconnectedness with nature and open pathways for living together with it.

4-6-1

Rediscover traditional Japanese views of nature—embodied in the concept of “Chinju no Mori” (sacred groves) and the belief in “Yaoyorozu no Kami” (eight million deities)—and apply them to contemporary challenges such as biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and human-nature coexistence.

Global environmental issues typically fall into two broad categories: climate change, including global warming, and biodiversity loss along with ecosystem degradation. While public discourse has historically emphasized the first, recent years have seen a growing awareness of the second. Within this shift, an important perspective emerges: the connection between biodiversity and traditional Japanese cultural beliefs—especially the concept of “Yaoyorozu no Kami”, the “eight million deities” that inhabit all aspects of nature.

This ancient belief reflects a worldview in which symbolic deities dwell throughout the natural world, inspiring reverence and humility. It also aligns with the concept of “Chinju no Mori” (the Shinto shrine forests), sacred groves that protect and are protected by local communities. These spaces suggest a symbiotic relationship between humans and nature, reinforcing the principle that biodiversity must be respected and preserved not only for its scientific or utilitarian value but as a cultural and spiritual imperative rooted in tradition. In March 2023, the Japanese government adopted its new National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2030, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed upon in December 2022. Notably, this national strategy explicitly acknowledges the cultural significance of nature in Japan, stating:

“Based on the understanding that keeping Japanese views on coexistence between people and nature, such as the respect for nature as symbolized by the Shinto shrine forests (*Chinju no Mori*) and *yaoyorozu-no-kami* (eight million deities), and local culture (traditional events, food culture, local industry, and so on) deep-rooted in the abundance of biodiversity, and the importance placed by the Japanese on maintaining the way of life and land use in the local community according to local nature, the government will implement measures to collect and share such traditional culture and views on nature, as well as knowledge and techniques for utilizing the benefits of nature in the local community and avoiding disasters. In light of the connections among forests, the countryside, rivers, and the seas, the government aims to communicate through various opportunities, the cultural and spiritual abundance that nature provides,



The forest at the southern foot of Yatsugatakev



Kamikura Shrine, Wakayama Prefecture

the fact that nature supports local traditions, food, industry, and culture, and the inheritance of the Japanese people’s perspective of nature coexisting with people in harmony, to deepen local residents’ understanding of and concern for nature, and to promote biodiversity conservation activities in the region.”

This recognition underscores a vital point: culture, though absent from the 17 goals of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is not a “problem” to be solved, but rather a wellspring of motivation and value. Cultural

frameworks play a powerful role in guiding ecological behavior, fostering emotional and moral connections with the environment.

One example is the work of the *Chinju-no-Mori Community Institute*, which connects Japan's cultural heritage—represented by sacred groves—with contemporary issues such as renewable energy, holistic wellness, and regional revitalization. In Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture, home to the UNESCO-recognized Chichibu Night Festival and Chichibu Shrine, the institute has introduced small-scale hydropower in partnership with local residents. Profits from the electricity are intended to be reinvested into *satoyama* (rural forest) restoration and environmental conservation. This initiative, awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Green Promotion in 2022, is driven by local affection for Mount Bukō (the shrine's sacred mountain) and the broader cultural landscape—demonstrating how deep cultural identity can mobilize conservation.

Through such efforts, by 2030 we envision widespread public recognition of the link between biodiversity and traditional Japanese culture. People will take local, personal action informed by this awareness. By 2050, these cumula-

tive efforts are expected to lead to restored ecosystems and a society in which humans and nature coexist harmoniously.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with organizations such as the *Chinju-no-Mori Community Institute*, will continue to promote initiatives that rediscover the value of traditional Japanese nature-based spirituality. These efforts will support biodiversity preservation and address modern ecological challenges by fostering renewed awareness of the sacred relationship between humans and nature.

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Environment and Biodiversity / SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



4-6-2

Revive the interconnectedness and cycles of *Inochi* by restoring traditional lifestyles in harmony with nature in each local community, thereby passing on a society that values every *Inochi*.

Our bodies are sustained by receiving the *Inochi* of others, and all beings in this world exist by transferring *Inochi* from one to another. In other words, *Inochi* continues to move through transformation. This is the essence of circulation—it is the natural form of *Inochi*. In today's world, however, we have disrupted these cycles, and as a result, people are increasingly living lives detached from *Inochi*. We are witnessing the destruction of peace, nature, the environment, and even our daily lives.

In response, Kaguya Co., Ltd. has been promoting the concept of “Kurashi-Fullness,”^{*1} which advocates for a way of life that faces *Inochi* head-on and cherishes it.

1. Support for Early Childhood Education: “Creating Environments that Nurture *Inochi*”

To create environments where every child can fully express their own *Inochi*, they have provided a software solution called “*Mimamoring*™” for preschools and kindergartens. This has been implemented in approximately 525 institutions nationwide, supporting the growth of 165,835 children. Rather than “assessing” children's development, the software fosters a culture of “celebrating



The temple lodgings of Mount Hiko, revived by the efforts of many people



Creating spaces where children and adults grow together

together and believing in growth.” To support institutions practicing “*Inochi-centered* childcare” (child-led approaches), they have hosted 121 seminars and workshops attended by a total of 13,064 participants. Across Japan, including online programs, 704 facilities have engaged in these learning opportunities. Through a combination of ICT and dialogue, they aim to foster environments where both children and adults grow together.

2. Creating Living Spaces: “Living the Nostalgic Future”

They believe it is the mission of educators to embody lifestyles that cherish *Inochi*—so that children may one day say, “I can’t wait to grow up.” They named our efforts to revive traditional Japanese lifestyles that coexist with nature “*Kurashi-Fullness*.” In Fukuoka, we have restored seven traditional folk houses, cultivated rice fields and gardens, fermented foods like pickles and miso, celebrated seasonal festivals, and engaged in traditional play. These environments are closely connected with early childhood education, providing children with opportunities to experience the cycles of nature and *Inochi* firsthand. When adults earnestly “live the nostalgic future,” they can pass on richer values to future generations.

3. Dialogue and Human Development: “*Ichien-Dialogue* that Connects Hearts”

Their *Ichien-Dialogue* has continued for over 15 years since its launch in 2009. It is a space for open conversation not only for their staff but also for preschool teachers and local residents. Sitting in a circle, they listen to each other’s *Inochi* for one hour, sharing in empathy and gratitude without denial or criticism. This practice fosters safe spaces where everyone can simply “be themselves,” helping people reconnect with each other on a deeper level. It has become an irreplaceable time for many and is spreading into schools and workplace cultures, nurturing

relationships rooted in trust and respect. Dialogue is the power to make *Inochi* resonate—and to change the world.

As the action plan for 20250, they will continue supporting preschools and kindergartens that respect the growth of each child’s *Inochi* and expand their implementation nationwide, starting from Tokyo. At the same time, they will further promote the revival of traditional folk houses as hubs for “*Kurashi-Fullness*”. These spaces will be used to transmit vital cultural knowledge and ancestral wisdom to future generations, sustaining practices that will be necessary for the future.

The *Inochi* Forum will work together with diverse organizations such as Kaguya Co., Ltd. to revitalize traditional lifestyles in harmony with nature in local communities. Through these efforts, we aim to pass on to children the ways of living that embody natural cycles and ensure that every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

[Notes]

*1 *Kurashi* is a Japanese term that captures the richness of everyday life—how one lives, finds comfort, connects with others, and relates to the environment.

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· Kaguya Co., Ltd.
<https://www.kaguya.co.jp/>

[Action Platform]

Education and Children

[SDGs]



4-6-3

Transform workplaces and corporate-owned natural, intellectual, and cultural assets into open hubs for society, where *Inochi* is cherished.

Ishizaka Sangyo Co., Ltd. operates in four municipalities across Miyoshi Town, Kawagoe City, Tokorozawa City, and Sayama City in Saitama Prefecture. In 2015, the company opened *Santome Konjyaku Mura*, a community plaza nestled within a vibrant grove of trees, where people of all generations who work and live in this land can gather, relax, dine, play, and learn together. Originally launched with the concept of “Bringing Nature into Everyday Life: A New *Satoyama*^{*1} Style,” the plaza served as a space for children to thrive in nature and adults to converse and connect. It was later restructured into a place that visualizes the com-

pany’s business vision, connects shared empathy, fosters co-creation, and preserves the region’s distinctive natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

Ishizaka Sangyo seeks to communicate two core values. The first is “Zero Waste Design,” which does not merely aim to eliminate waste but rather envisions a society where waste is not perceived as waste in the first place. The second is the appreciation of the ancient philosophy that *Inochi* resides in all things, fostering a way of life that harmonizes beautifully with nature.

To express these values not just through language but also through non-verbal, artistic elements, the spatial design of *Santome Konjyaku Mura* was carefully crafted. Upon entering the plaza, visitors are immersed in an environment that conveys intentions and emotions through all five senses. The provision of natural and social experiences encourages reflection on personal habits and attentiveness to nearby nature, fostering behavioral transformation. This approach represents “experiential” environmental education and ESD (Education for Sustainable Development).

Forward-looking investments have also been made to meet the needs of both present and future generations. By 2024, the site had grown to over four times the area of Tokyo Dome, and annual visitors surpassed 60,000. The facility now hosts corporate and organizational study tours and inquiry-based learning for schools.

Ishizaka Sangyo resonates with the vision of the *Inochi* Forum to realize a society where Inochi is valued. Toward the goal of welcoming 500,000 visitors to *Santome Konjyaku Mura* by 2050, it will carry out the following three action plans:

● **Creating New Connections Between Nature and People Through a Chain of Well-being**

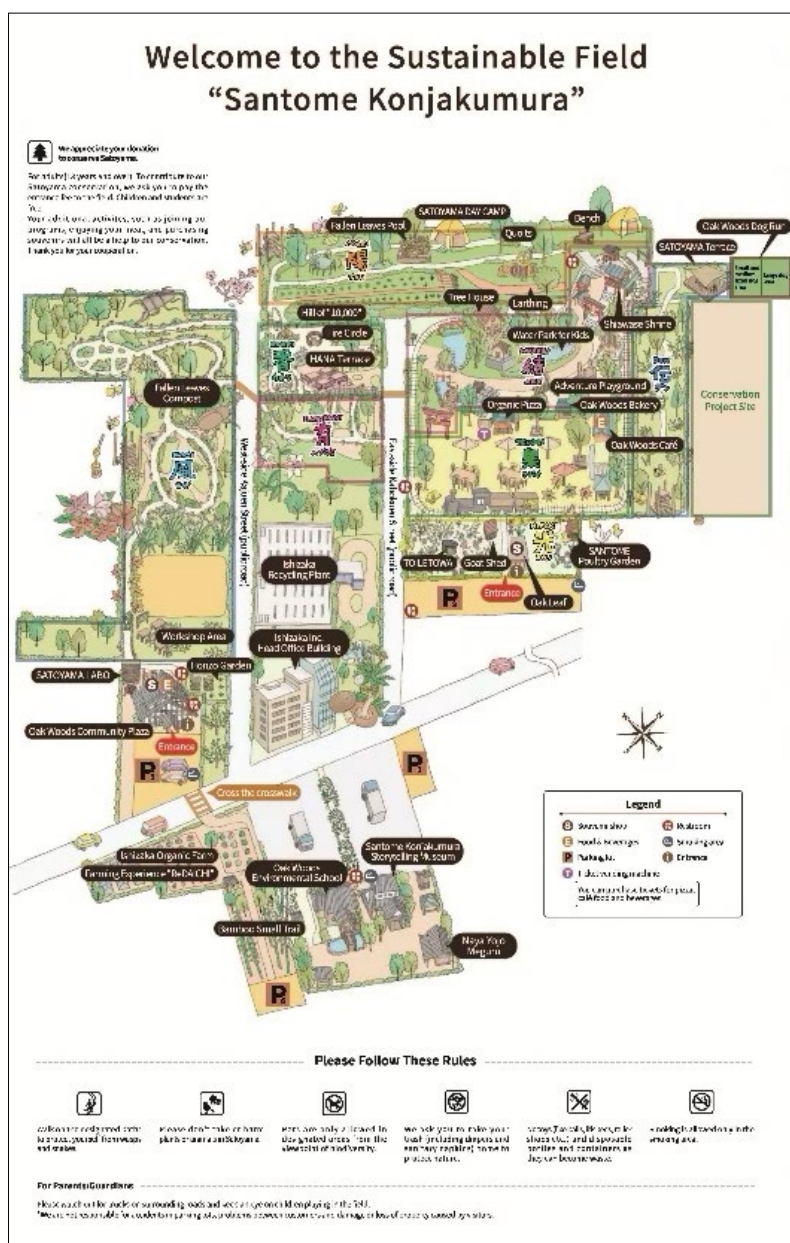
Soil organisms are being harmed by global warming and urban development. Ishizaka Sangyo will repurpose the adjacent site of the former Miyoshi Town Waste Incineration Plant to restore the soil ecosystem through a regeneration business. This includes creating suitable habitats for nematodes, soil microbes, and earthworms, and planting native tree species. The plan is to build an eco-tourism site tentatively named “Forest of Life,” where diverse life below and above ground coexists. The company aims to cultivate a “healthy” *sato-yama* from revitalized soil and connect the blessings of a “healthy” natural environment to human well-being—designing a virtuous cycle of well-being.

- Expanding Bonds Through “Experiential” Environmental Education and Nurturing Future Generations Who Value *Inochi*

In 2013, Ishizaka Sangyo helped establish a council for the Institute for Experiential Opportunities. Since 2019, it has hosted the Green Blue Education Forum (GBEF), an initiative to discover future leaders and engage in outreach. The Ministry of the Environment in Japan



Photo of bio-toilet: the walls are constructed using recycled materials, embodying the principles of “circulation and regeneration”.



An environmental education field where learning engages all five senses

co-organizes the event, and operations are supported by corporate and organizational donations. In 2025, GBEF will be held at the Osaka-Kansai Expo, bringing together multigenerational participants in collaborative and sustainable activities. The company also aims to establish at least one certified provider of “experiential” environmental education and ESD in all 47 prefectures, cultivating leaders for local communities.

● Sharing the Value of Zero Waste Design with Asia and Protecting *Inochi* on Earth

Many Asian countries lack technologies for proper waste management and have not developed effective recycling systems. Some even lack customs of using trash bins. Ishizaka Sangyo offers its recycling technologies and intellectual assets that allow for 98% resource recovery of construction waste to countries across Asia. By spreading Zero Waste Design abroad, the company promotes a circular economy. It actively accepts study tours and internships from overseas and hires individuals passionate about environmental business, supporting entrepreneurship in more than five countries.

The *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with organizations including Ishizaka Sangyo to encourage the development of community models such as *Santome Konjaku Mura* in regions across Japan.

[Notes]

*1 Satoyama is a Japanese term for the border area between village and mountain, where people live in harmony with nature.”

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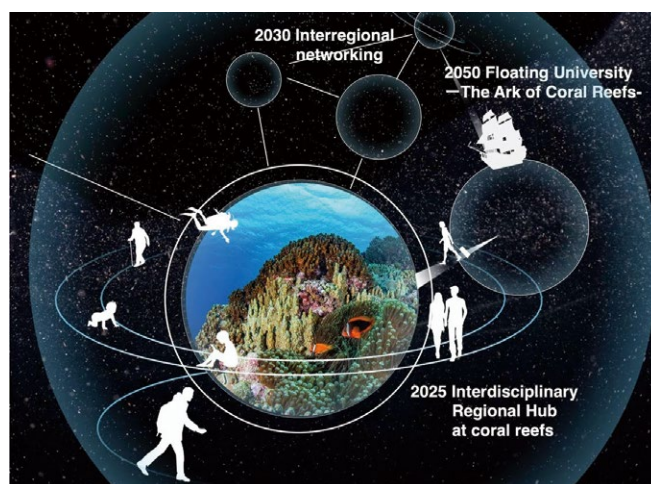
[SDGs]



4-6-4

Just as coral reefs grow while embracing diverse forms of nature, create a future where the world’s unique natural environments and cultures are respected and flourish together, by building a Coral Ark—an offshore university connecting humanity and nature across regions and generations.

Our ancestors first emerged 500 million years ago. Throughout Earth’s environmental changes, some of our relatives went extinct, while at times, favorable conditions in the seas led to the flourishing of many new life forms. The more our kind thrived, the more other living beings gathered around us. Though we do not remember the moment of our birth, we came into existence in the dark sea where faint, warm light reached us. As adults, on nights of the full moon, we release the next generation into the water. I was alone at first, deciding to settle and live here. Soon after, my body tingled, and before I knew it, I became two. Then four, eight—dividing endlessly. Each of the children here has a different shape, each uniquely individual. Small partners live within our bodies, and together we draw strength from the sunlight. Our bodies grow, transforming into stone and accumulating over years, decades, centuries, and millennia. Though some parts are unstable, as we stack upon each other, different kinds of beings also gather, creating a place where diverse life converges.



A vision of a future where diverse people and nature coexist like a coral reef

The way coral grows—from single individuals to colonies and eventually to reef structures—is similar to how humans maintain and develop social organizations across generations. Coral reef ecosystems, by maintaining biodiversity, have withstood historical climate fluctuations—warming, cooling, and sea-level changes—with resilience. At the same time, they are sensitive to sudden environmental changes, suffering from bleaching due to rising sea temperatures or

sedimentation from red soil runoff.

Today, humanity faces an era where human-induced activities—like CO₂ emissions leading to global warming—impact climate systems and the natural environment, making it difficult to predict the future of our living conditions. In these times, it is crucial that we learn from and apply the wisdom and cultures of coral reefs, which have harmonized with nature over vast timescales, supporting diverse life forms. Coral reefs are not only ecosystems but also arenas where people from various cultures, ethnicities, and generations gather. They serve as vibrant fields for learning and creativity, attracting researchers and practitioners across diverse disciplines, including natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

At the Kikai Institute for Coral Reef Sciences, based in Kikai Island of the Amami Archipelago, researchers, artists, and local residents collaborate under the philosophy of “Preserving for 100 Years.” Together, they nurture future leaders, fostering a coral reef-style regional hub that bridges cultures and disciplines. Young people from various regions and countries have gathered, and while moving between cities and local communities, they have created a center for feeling, discovering, conveying, and preserving the rich nature of the Earth, the lives of its inhabitants, and the forms nature should take.

By 2030, they aim to establish a network connecting cities and regions worldwide, where humans and nature co-engage, seeking to preserve rich ecosystems while exploring

new possibilities for relationships between people and nature. By 2050, they will build a *Coral Ark*—an offshore university—to foster deep, cross-border and cross-regional connections for a future where diverse beings coexist and thrive. Through these activities, like coral reefs, where diverse beings coexist in mutual respect, they will create a better future for both humanity and nature by ensuring that each region’s unique natural environments and cultures are honored and sustained.

In collaboration with organizations like the Kikai Institute for Coral Reef Sciences, the *Inochi* Forum will work to create a future where nature and culture are respected and flourish in harmony.

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[Action Platform]

Environment and Biodiversity

[SDGs]



4-6-5

Return the land that humankind has long occupied to the lives beyond human beings.

Perhaps the most detrimental legacy of human civilization upon the Earth is that we have forgotten how to appropriately define our own territorial boundaries. In our detachment from the essential distance required to coexist with other forms of life, we have continued to exploit land under the authority of market economies and nation-states. Driven by irrational fears and insatiable desires for “more,” we have pushed countless species to extinction and generated unceasing discord among ourselves. The challenges addressed by the SDGs, at their core, can all be seen as issues of both literal and metaphorical space. That is because spatial issues transcend the physical environment. Geopolitical conflicts over energy, high-tech resources, or religion, unsustainable economic competition, and even discrimination based on race or gender, can all be understood as struggles over space—over the right to exist and belong.

What we humans must do, as those who continue to deprive other beings of their habitats, is to recover the bodily and spiritual awareness that we too are lives that exist on this Earth—and to begin returning those habitats to the lives beyond human beings. By reintegrating human habitats with nature, our social and economic activities can begin to slow down and align with Earth’s regeneration. In doing so, we can also enrich human well-being. Artist Naho Iguchi holds this vision and seeks, not as an activist, ecologist, or architect, but as an artist who shares time and space with all beings, to express compassion toward those others. Her art is not something to be passively observed—like paintings or music—but a process that actively involves people, transforming how we work, live, think, and feel.

She has been developing what she calls the “Give Space Urban Design Methodology” (Give Space), which regards

ecosystems as teachers and aims to revolutionize human land use and development, returning habitats to other forms of life. To achieve this, it is not sufficient to address only the physical aspects such as buildings and infrastructure. While technical solutions may exist, they are often not chosen or implemented because they are obstructed by human systems—economic indicators, evaluation criteria, institutional behavior, and cultural frameworks—which themselves stem from the inner states of human beings.

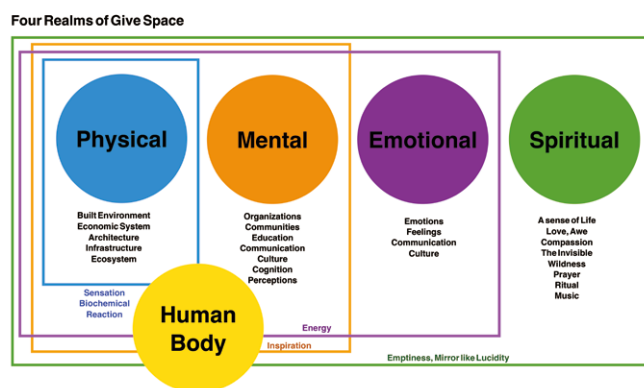
Give Space approaches “space” through four dimensions:

1. Physical
2. Mental (economic, legal, organizational, cultural)
3. Emotional (feelings, emotions, sensitivities)
4. Spiritual (mind, soul)

It is a process of engaging with all these realms through everyday actions.

Based on her previous work, Iguchi established the General Incorporated Association Give Space Urban Design and will advance efforts to return land to non-human lives through three pillars:

- Research – showcasing pioneering global practices, architectural methods and tools, and promoting academic publications originating from Japan.
- Practice – providing urban development consulting services for the private sector, offering educational programs for individuals (especially children) to nurture “a sensitivity for *Inochi*” and “a love for nature”, and operating sites of practical Give Space implementation in collaboration



with those who possess land but seek meaningful ways to use it.

- Evaluation – introducing new assessment methods that leave positive footprints on the Earth and supporting a transition toward life-centered values in as many development projects as possible.

The *Inochi* Forum will advocate for the principles of Give Space—enabling the sharing of habitats with the lives beyond human beings—to be embedded in national policies, urban development practices, and corporate initiatives, by engaging with policymakers, public officials, architects, engineers, and other professionals.

[Action Platform]

Urban Development and Disaster Preparedness

[SDGs]



4-6-6

Make the burdens that human activity imposes on nature—the “Voices of *Inochi*”—visible and use this as a catalyst to change our mindsets and behaviors. Let us expand Japan’s practices into a global framework.

Every living being and all entities possessing energy are imbued with *Inochi*. For a future where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light, we must fundamentally transform the human-centered mindset and behaviors that dominate society—globally. Though it will not be easy, it is essential.

The number of humans who have used their intellect to drive material prosperity, improved nutrition, and extended lifespans, has exceeded 8 billion—ranking us 10th among single-species populations, more than half the number of red-billed *quelea* birds (15 billion). In terms of biomass, humans weigh 390 million tons, more than six times that of wild mammals (60 million tons). Livestock raised for human

use adds another 630 million tons (with cattle accounting for two-thirds). Over the past 10,000 years, nearly half of the habitable land (around 70% of all land) has been converted from forests and wild grasslands into agricultural land (14% of habitable land) and grazing land for livestock (31%). This provides a stark illustration of how much human activity burdens ecosystems.

So, what can we do? Since we cannot suddenly reduce the number of humans, the only path is for humans to undergo a shift in consciousness and minimize the burdens we impose on ecosystems. A critical element of this transformation is rethinking the economy, which has traditionally prioritized

material prosperity. We must fundamentally reconsider the foundations of economics, which has been built mainly on capital and labor, and reevaluate today's capitalism, which often carries strong tendencies toward materialism and profit-maximization.

As a first step, we initiated efforts to challenge financial capitalism's materialist orientation by introducing the concept of "Intellectual Capital Management" in 2005 through an interim report by the Industrial Structure Council. This concept emphasizes valuing not just financial capital but also intellectual capital, social capital, human capital, and natural capital. This approach was later formalized into the *International Integrated Reporting Framework* in 2013. Together with growing global concern over climate change, this thinking has contributed to movements such as the SDGs and ESG investing. Today, initiatives like the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) under the IFRS Foundation plan to establish disclosure standards for biodiversity by 2026.

However, even among the 17 SDGs, only Goals 14 (*Life Below Water*) and 15 (*Life on Land*) address the environment directly. The rest focus mainly on human society and livelihoods. While it is undeniable that human action is crucial, even the idea of "conservation" reflects a human-centered, top-down view that assumes nature is something to be controlled.

Instead, if we start by listening to the sacrifices of ecosystems—the "Voices of *Inochi*"—and place them at the heart of our thinking, new ideas are likely to emerge. Japan excels in this approach. Historically, we have held a sense of awe toward nature, recognizing forces beyond human control, which has influenced our nature worship and the concept of "*Yaoyorozu no Kami*" (eight million gods). However, merely asserting Japanese ideas will not persuade the world. We must find similar cultures and ways of thinking globally and demonstrate these ideas through concrete actions that resonate internationally.

Japan has experience turning homegrown ideas into global

rules—such as Integrated Reporting. In addition to creating standards like those promoted by the ISSB for visualizing CO₂ emission reductions as part of climate change countermeasures, we should also aim to develop tools to communicate the "Voices of *Inochi*." One example is environmental DNA (see the Environmental DNA Society website), a tool that makes visible the constantly changing state of local ecosystems. On a more everyday level, we could develop tools to calculate the area of grazing land that could be returned to forests or grasslands by reducing meat consumption, as well as tools to visualize reductions in environmental burdens achieved by cutting food waste.

The *Inochi* Forum will collaborate with various organizations to create such tools, aiming to build a global framework that changes human behavior naturally and convincingly—without coercion—by making the "Voices of *Inochi*" visible.

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[Action Platform] SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



5 Understand *Inochi*

Understand the essence of *Inochi*—what it is and where it is heading—not only through science, philosophy, and religion, but also through diverse experiences, and come to realize the meaning of being alive.

Declaration 5-1

Foster empathy for non-human *Inochi*, regard environmental issues as a personal concern, and take action.

5-1-1

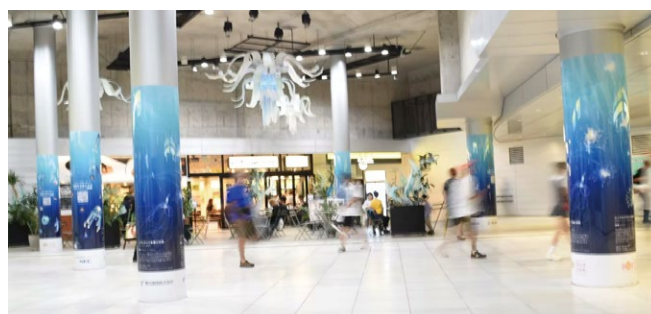
Explore coexistence with nature from the perspective of younger generations, and co-create concrete actions toward a sustainable society through dialogue that transcends generations and cultures.

If everyone in the world consumed resources at the same rate as people in Japan, we would need the equivalent of 2.9 Earths to sustain our lifestyles. But we only have one Earth. Can Japan truly call itself a “developed nation” while consuming resources at nearly three times the planet’s capacity? In particular, the energy and resources consumed in concentrated urban areas demonstrate how our ways of living and working are placing immense pressure on the planet.

It is estimated that approximately half of the world’s GDP depends on ecosystem services. If ecosystems are destroyed, our societies and economies will no longer function as we know them. There are over 30 million species of living organisms on Earth, and these species are indispensable to maintaining the natural benefits we enjoy in our daily lives. And yet, we human beings—just one species among millions—are responsible for driving 27% of these species to the brink of extinction.

In other words, protecting Earth’s biodiversity is synonymous with protecting the foundation of our own survival. Some species, known as “keystone species”, play a disproportionately large role in maintaining ecosystem balance despite being relatively few in number. A notable example is the sea otter. In the 1990s, rampant hunting drastically reduced their population. As a result, sea urchins—their primary prey—multiplied rapidly and consumed large amounts of kelp. These kelp forests are critical “blue carbon” ecosystems that absorb CO₂ from the ocean. The disappearance of sea otters thus triggered a destructive chain reaction, illustrating how the loss of a single species can have far-reaching consequences.

Given this reality, what actions must we take now? The



“Feeling the Sea” Exhibition in Shibuya, Tokyo

answer is clear: we must deepen our understanding of the Earth’s environmental crisis and take swift, collective action to address it. At SWiTCH, we implement environmental education programs in collaboration with schools and academic institutions, develop sustainable products and services in partnership with businesses, and promote biodiversity-conscious urban development in cooperation with local governments. Our initiatives include supporting the introduction of renewable energy, advancing the circular economy, and launching urban ecosystem restoration projects, each driven by the fresh perspectives of young people and committed to generating real-world impact. Just as the Japanese saying “*nasake wa hito no tame narazu*” (Kindness is not only for others but for oneself) reminds us, climate action is not just for the Earth—it is for us, too. To ensure our own well-being, coexistence with ecosystems is no longer optional; it is essential.

In pursuit of the SDGs by 2030 and the goals of the Paris Agreement by 2050, SWiTCH places young people in their 20s at the heart of cross-sector, cross-generational, and international dialogue. Going forward, we will place particular emphasis on three areas:

1. Developing urban models for ecosystem coexistence,
2. Supporting innovations in environmental technology, and
3. Empowering youth to engage in policy-making and advocacy.

The *Inochi* Forum will join hands with organizations like SWITCH to build a platform for action—one that supports environmental education, promotes intergenerational dialogue, and fosters lifestyles that are in harmony with the resources of a single planet. Together, for the future of all *Inochi* on Earth, let us take bold steps forward.

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[Action Platform]

Environment and Biodiversity

[SDGs]



5-1-2

Reflect on global challenges through something as familiar as food. Food is intricately connected to global issues such as climate change and armed conflicts. Let us join hands to address challenges other than food as well.

In recent times, as seen in the issue of rising prices of rice in Japan, things we take for granted in our daily lives are no longer guaranteed. Global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss are deeply connected to the food we consume every day. As of 2023, the number of people suffering from hunger worldwide has risen to 730 million^{*1}. While one in every eleven people on the planet faces food insecurity, one billion tons of food is wasted annually. In Japan alone, 38 kilograms of food waste is generated per person each year^{*2}. Food is vital for nutrition and health and is an essential element that sustains *Inochi*. Precisely because the problem of food waste is close to home, we may discover new insights when we reflect upon it.

The war between Russia and Ukraine, which began in 2022, still shows no signs of resolution. People continue their daily lives amid the conflict. Bread holds significant meaning in Ukrainian culture—it is a symbolic food item. During the Christian celebration of Easter, special breads and cakes are prepared. In Ukraine, a country founded on agriculture, wheat and bread symbolize culture, economy, and identity, and they are the foundation of national sovereignty and prosperity. However, the war has spread landmines and unexploded ordnance across the country, continuing to threaten civilian lives. It is said that landmines exist in about one-third of Ukraine's territory. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports landmine clearance efforts in Ukraine. In Kherson Oblast in southern Ukraine, wheat has been successfully harvested on *de-mined* land, contributing to economic recovery and the preservation of cultural traditions.



"20 Tragedies Hidden from the World" exhibited at the Osaka-Kansai Expo. Photo courtesy of UNDP Tokyo.

Food, which protects *Inochi*, is threatened by war, climate change, biodiversity loss, consumer culture, and many other factors. Nevertheless, there are actions that each of us can take in our daily lives. These include participating in global discussions, conducting research, and more. Food is intricately connected to all issues in the world, making it an accessible entry point for understanding these connections. The UNDP Representation Office in Tokyo disseminates the message that global challenges are in fact deeply linked to the lives of people in Japan.

The term "international cooperation" may sound distant. However, Japan and the world are interconnected. Global issues such as climate change, conflict, and biodiversity loss are closely linked to our daily behavior and lifestyle through food. We invite people to reflect on these connections.

UNDP utilizes Japan's knowledge and expertise to promote

climate change countermeasures and green transformation (GX) in Pacific Island nations. Stakeholders from Vanuatu, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste visited Okinawa Prefecture to learn from the wisdom of *Okinawan* island communities, inclusive decision-making processes, climate change adaptation measures, and regional revitalization initiatives. Furthermore, on the occasion of the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) to be held in Yokohama in 2025, UNDP has created opportunities for African and Japanese youth to connect and exchange views through a “Model African Union.” Staff and interns from the UNDP Tokyo Office also visit schools throughout Japan—from Hokkaido to Okinawa—offering outreach classes to promote understanding of Africa. These efforts aim to convey that domestic and international challenges are intimately connected to our lives.

At the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, where the theme is “Designing Future Society for Our Lives,” UNDP is showcasing an art installation titled “20 Hidden Tragedies of the World.” International cooperation is no longer about providing top-down aid to developing countries. Even in societies that appear peaceful and prosperous, tragedy exists. This artwork captures various elements—division, climate change, conflict, drought, water scarcity, food crises, and societies that appear joyful—into a single piece, yet offers no definitive answers. By exhibiting this work to people of all ages, from children to the elderly, and asking what each of us can do in our own lives, UNDP aims to continue these educational and awareness-raising initiatives.

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with international organizations such as UNDP, will demonstrate how everyday matters, beginning with food, are connected to global challenges, and will encourage each person to reflect on what

they can do in their own lives and take action.

[Notes]

- *1 FAO (2024) “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report”
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[Action Platform]

Food and Agriculture

[SDGs]



5-1-3

Cultivate the power to care for distant and future *Inochi* and tackle climate change as an issue that concerns us all.

According to the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the global average temperature in the 2010s had already risen by about 1°C above pre-industrial levels. Since then, we have seen a noticeable increase in weather disasters such as extreme heatwaves, wildfires, severe tropical cyclones like typhoons and hurricanes, and heavy rains and floods worldwide. While modern science has not yet been able to quantify the precise link between individual weather events and global warming, there is no doubt that such a frequency and intensity of disasters would not have occurred without climate change.

Countless *Inochi* are being lost or endangered across the globe due to these weather disasters. In developed countries, the impact is mitigated by adaptation measures such as air conditioning, levees, and controlled agriculture, but in developing countries, people suffer far greater losses. Ecosystems, unable to adapt, face even more severe damage. The greenhouse gases emitted historically by developed countries continue to affect the *Inochi* of current and future generations worldwide—and the impacts will only grow more severe for later generations.

If these facts were recognized as our own concern, our be-

haviors would naturally change. As the world shifts toward dematerialization and a circular economy, the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions are moving away from “manufacturing” toward “living”—our clothing, food, housing, and transportation. In other words, our daily choices in energy use, housing, consumer goods, and modes of transport will have a major impact on the *Inochi* of the future world. It is critical to actively adopt decarbonization technologies and transition industries away from fossil fuel dependence, halting the progression of global warming, fostering economic growth, and building a bright future.

However, many people still lack proper awareness. For instance, when the government announces, “We will achieve carbon neutrality by 2050,” many may believe that a decarbonized society will somehow materialize automatically as solar and wind energy expand “behind the plug,” without their direct involvement.

What is needed for everyone to correctly recognize and begin taking action on climate change? Above all, we must cultivate the imagination to care for future generations and distant lives around the world—and to understand the relationship between our actions and their impacts. This requires accurate scientific knowledge about climate change and the fostering of imagination based on science. Moreover, it is essential to rethink how we consume energy in our daily lives.

At the Urban Energy Systems Laboratory of The University of Osaka's Graduate School of Engineering (led by Professor Yoshiyuki Shimoda), long-standing research has focused on modeling energy demand related to everyday living. More recently, they have participated in the international collaborative research network EDITS (Energy Demand changes Induced by Technological and Social innovations), which

aims to present scenarios for achieving low-energy societies without compromising people's well-being. EDITS conducts comparative studies of data, concepts, and models related to energy demand, and develops feasible low-energy demand scenarios while considering the impacts of digitalization, the sharing economy, the need to ensure Decent Living Standards in developing countries, alignment with the SDGs, and the evolving nature of services.

The *Inochi* Forum will promote these activities, aiming to realize a world where, by 2050, all individuals engage with climate change as their personal issue and actively work toward solutions.

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[Action Platform]

Energy and Climate Change

[SDGs]



5-1-4

To protect the future of Earth's environment, expand partnership activities based on empathy, build a platform for realization, and create a society where everyone can choose actions that value *Inochi*.

Today, while some people feel overwhelmed and powerless in the face of Earth's critical environmental state, there is a growing awareness under the leadership of the United Nations and the SDG spirit of “leaving no one behind.” Innovative technologies, new initiatives, and partnerships are emerging, expanding positive and proactive efforts toward solving global challenges.

Toward 2030 and beyond, movements that aim to protect Earth's environment and all *Inochi* are rising worldwide.

The year 2030, the dawn of SDGs+Beyond, is expected to set a new, globally shared goal that emphasizes the joy and irreplaceable value of *Inochi* itself.

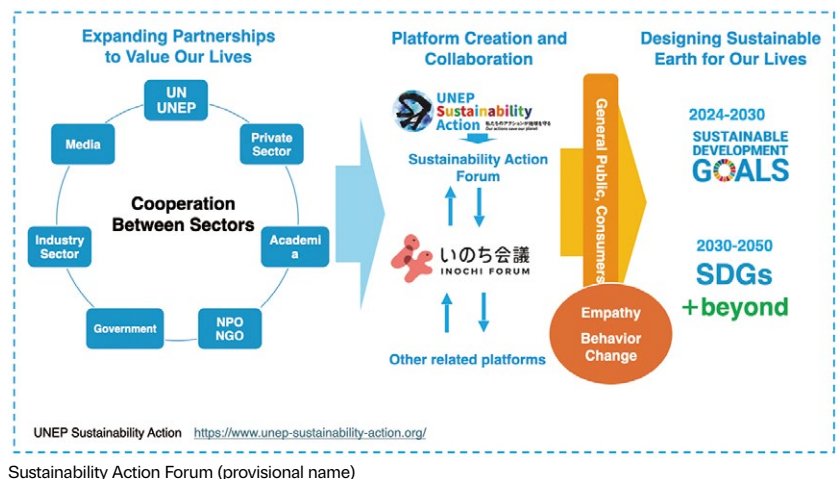
The United Nations Environment Programme's International Environmental Technology Centre (UNEP-IETC), established in Osaka in 1992 as a legacy of the International Garden and Greenery Exposition, focuses on addressing global waste and pollution issues. In collaboration with UNEP, the Global Environment Centre Foundation launched the

UNEP Sustainability Action platform in 2020.^{*1} This platform is composed of United Nations agencies leading SDG initiatives, private corporations that support daily lives (such as Seven & i Holdings, Fast Retailing, and Rakuten Group), and advisor Pikotaro (Japanese Comedian). With the message “Our Actions Protect the Earth,” the platform has continuously promoted the importance of resource circulation and concrete actions, introducing efforts to reduce plastic waste and food loss and encouraging eco-friendly lifestyles. These messages will also be conveyed to the world during the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai Theme Weeks.

Building on this foundation, we are upgrading our efforts into a new initiative called the Sustainability Action Forum (provisional name) aiming to achieve a carbon-neutral society based on resource circulation by 2025. We plan to expand the platform by forming new partnerships with domestic and international organizations, institutions, businesses, and other platforms that share our mission, amplifying the impact and outcomes of our activities. Specifically, we will collaborate on campaigns aligned with UN International Days, unique initiatives led by various entities, and the construction of joint projects. By joining forces through this platform, we aim to maximize achievements.

These partnerships will foster empathy among citizens (consumers) and drive behavioral change, expanding the circle of awareness for the importance of protecting Earth’s environment and *Inochi* from individuals to society, from local to global levels. This will accelerate efforts to achieve the 2030 SDGs and further evolve into SDGs+Beyond initiatives aimed at realizing an ideal carbon-neutral society by 2050, based on resource circulation.

The *Inochi* Forum will work to increase the number of



partner companies and organizations that resonate with the principle of “cherishing *Inochi*,” reaching a broader audience of consumers, and expanding partnerships across United Nations agencies, corporations, governments, local authorities, academic institutions, NGOs, influencers, and more. Together with organizations like UNEP Sustainability Action and other platforms, we will form an even larger platform that leverages the diverse strengths born from different collaborations, creating significant societal and global impact and driving the movement to realize a sustainable planet by 2050.

[Notes]

*1 UNEP Sustainability Action:
<https://www.unep-sustainability-action.org/>

[Action Platform]
 Resource Recycling

[SDGs]



Declaration 5-2

Utilize technology and games to expand circles of empathy and dialogue, and broaden learning spaces where the bonds of *Inochi* can be experienced

5-2-1

Through learning and dialogue facilitated by games, feel the contrast between a world with a shared goal and one without—and co-create an inclusive society where everyone can shape the future together.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established in 2015 as a set of global targets to be achieved by 2030. Prior to that, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) served a similar purpose, and now the framework for what comes after the SDGs is under discussion. What is most crucial is that these goals are not just transient policy agendas—they represent a broader, long-term transformation in which humanity has been attempting to shift toward a world united by *shared global objectives* since the end of the last century. In the 20th century, nations and corporations primarily pursued their own interests, leading to devastating consequences such as two world wars and large-scale environmental destruction. By contrast, the 21st century challenges us to collaboratively update society through shared goals that reflect the needs of our time. This understanding is fundamental to any meaningful engagement with the SDGs.

Yet, current approaches to SDG education often focus solely on the *acquisition of knowledge*, lacking opportunities for people to truly *feel the essence of the goals*. To awaken a sense of agency toward co-creating the future, what we need is not just information, but a learning experience that allows people to viscerally sense the difference between a world with *shared* goals and one without.

In response to this need, SUNABA Corporation developed a board game titled “Get The Point”, designed for all ages—from children to adults. Rather than emphasizing knowledge of individual SDGs’ goals, the game aims to foster an understanding of why it is meaningful for the world to have shared goals. Through gameplay, participants simulate both societies with shared objectives and those without, coming to appreciate the importance of cooperation and dialogue. This is not merely about acquiring knowledge; it is a transformative experience that encourages players to reflect on and shift their own thinking and behavior.

The game has already been customized and deployed in collaboration with local governments across Japan, adapting its content to regional issues. It is currently in use in schools and community centers in seven municipalities.



Board Game “Get The Point”



A localized version was launched in Ichihara City, Chiba Prefecture



“Touch The Point” experience session

To broaden access to this learning tool, SUNABA is also developing an inclusive version called “Touch The Point” for people with visual impairments. In this version, the gameplay revolves around tactile interaction, enabling everyone—

regardless of visual ability—to learn and engage together. The project also explores a model in which people with visual impairments themselves serve as facilitators, fostering inclusive educational spaces.

SUNABA Corporation will promote the following three actions toward 2050:

1. Expanding and Evolving “Get The Point”

Building on past success, they will further collaborate with schools, businesses, and municipalities to provide sustainable learning environments. Looking ahead, they aim to expand the program globally, offering opportunities to explore shared global goals beyond national borders.

2. Creating Inclusive Spaces for Learning and Dialogue

By utilizing “Touch The Point”, they will increase opportunities for shared learning regardless of physical ability. They also plan to develop experiential workshops that bring together people from diverse backgrounds, contributing to the realization of a truly inclusive society.

3. Expanding Game-Based Learning Programs

Currently, they are also developing and implementing an

anti-bullying workshop using gameplay. These workshops offer children a chance to explore why bullying occurs and how it can be prevented. Going forward, they will continue to apply game-based learning to social issues, promoting deeper understanding through experience.

Learning about the SDGs and social challenges should go beyond acquiring knowledge, it should be a profound, embodied experience. The *Inochi* Forum will continue to support the dissemination of educational methods that integrate games and dialogue-based workshops as powerful tools to deepen such learning.

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· “Get The Point” – SDGs Learning Game for Children and Adults:
<https://www.sdsgstgp.com/>

[Action Platform]

Education and Children

[SDGs]



5-2-2

Cultivate the perspectives necessary for realizing a future where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light by using “serious games” based on various social issues to simulate sustainable futures, and enhance our capacity for empathy through imaginative, communicative engagement with one another.

We are living in an era of VUCA—Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity—where the pace and magnitude of change in society and information are unprecedented. In such an unpredictable landscape, how can we advance the SDGs and envision a sustainable future? It is essential to engage in foresight—imagining a wide range of possible scenarios and futures from today’s realities—and to share those visions that emerge from diverse values. Such collective envisioning may lead us to discover new possibilities for our future.

One method to explore such possibilities is the use of “serious games” centered around social issues. Workshops and training programs employing these games effectively facilitate goal-sharing and communication among participants. Mr. Masashi Inui, who leads the project JOY & JOIN, discovered the potential of these games when he participated in the card-based game *2030SDGs*. Through communication during the game and reflection on its process and outcomes, he saw how people’s inner awareness was awakened, fostering deep understanding and interest in



Workshop using “serious games”

social issues. He recognized within this process immense possibilities for creating the future.

Building on this experience, Mr. Inui has obtained facilitation qualifications for twelve different serious games that address a range of themes such as disaster prevention, aging

societies, environmental challenges, well-being, parenting, and democracy—all rooted in the SDGs. He now hosts approximately 100 events annually in collaboration with governments, schools, and communities. The aim of these activities is to cultivate mutual communication and empathy toward diverse opinions. Words spoken from differing perspectives and values can open up new awareness. When people share the same experience, they are more likely to empathize with and accept different viewpoints. Mr. Inui recounts encountering many such moments.

Looking toward 2050, he aims to help create community spaces where local residents—across generations and social positions—can imagine and co-create a shared future. His hope is that participants will experience joy, delight, and empathy, which inspired the project's name: “JOY & JOIN.” The foundation of this initiative is co-creation and collaboration. By connecting with more people in more places, he strives to foster these interactive spaces through serious games. While the facilitator guides the process, the true protagonists are the participants. What matters is the shared creation of the space itself. Mr. Inui is committed to traveling anywhere the opportunity arises—or initiating engagement himself—to play a role in drawing out learning and insight. By finding empathic companions and fresh ideas in different regions, he seeks to grow this movement, likening the journey to an expansive role-playing game—one that connects present action to future transformation.

The *Inochi* Forum shares the vision of JOY & JOIN and will actively promote serious games more widely. By enabling more people to simulate sustainable futures, this approach fosters the perspectives needed for the future and strengthens empathy, enhancing the feasibility of realizing a society

in which every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

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<https://readyfor.jp/projects/118551>
- *Tsuitsui* Cards
<https://readyfor.jp/projects/tsui-tsui-card>

[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



5-2-3

Harness technology to create connections with the frontlines of social challenges and foster broader empathy among people.

Cross Fields, one of the partner organizations of the *Inochi* Forum, is a nonprofit organization founded in Japan in 2011 with the mission of “increasing the number of people who internalize social issues as their own.” Since then, the organization has delivered transformative experiences to over 3,000 business professionals through programs such as the *Corporate Cross-Cultural Work Program* and *Field Study Programs on Social Issues*, providing direct exposure to the realities of social challenges. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cross Fields pivoted to digitalization and, since 2020, has launched the Empathy VR initiative, offering simulated experiences of social issues using VR and 360-degree video technology. This initiative has been primarily deployed in educational settings and corporate training programs,



Participants experiencing the *Empathy* VR programme

providing diverse audiences with opportunities to connect with the realities of social issues.

In the field of education, Cross Fields has developed and delivered educational content for junior and senior high school students across Japan. They have created ten inquiry-based learning modules covering topics such as “Poverty in Cambodia” and “Energy Issues in Tanzania,” making these materials freely available to teachers nationwide. These virtual experiences allow students to engage with realities they cannot easily access in person. Within two years of launch, approximately 1,500 students from around 20 schools have participated. Teachers have reported positive feedback, including comments like: “Students discovered new research topics through the classes.”

In recent years, collaboration with corporations has also accelerated. Specifically, Cross Fields has developed and provided *Empathy VR* programs aligned with each company’s materiality—namely, issues of particular importance to the company and its stakeholders. By helping employees internalize social issues, the programs support the advancement of sustainability management within corporations. To date, Cross Fields has collaborated with about 15 companies and delivered programs to over 10,000 employees. Business professionals who have experienced the programs have shared feedback such as: “I realized the necessity of addressing both profitability and societal sustainability.”

Building on these achievements, Cross Fields aims to further develop the *Empathy VR* initiative by 2030, striving to cre-

ate a world where social issues are continuously addressed. They plan to scale these activities globally, providing opportunities for people around the world to internalize social challenges and inspiring action.

While it may be difficult to completely eradicate social issues as long as humanity exists, it is possible to create a world where, whenever social issues arise, individuals who are motivated to solve them also emerge, taking meaningful action toward resolution. The *Inochi* Forum shares this belief and will work with organizations like Cross Fields that leverage technology, offering many people the opportunity to internalize social issues as their own.

[References]

- Example of *Empathy VR* use in public schools, available for free via the STEAM Library:
<https://www.crossfields.jp/pressrelease/steam-library>
- Development of 360-degree experiential sustainability program for Mitsui & Co.:
<https://www.crossfields.jp/pressrelease/mitsui-program>
- Launch of *Empathy VR* (interactive e-learning) for promoting corporate sustainability management:
<https://www.crossfields.jp/pressrelease/vr-e-learning>

[Action Platform]
SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



5-2-4

Unleash humanity from the limitations of the physical body through avatars, and create a society where every individual is recognized, connected, and lives together in harmony.

Hiroshi Ishiguro, the producer of the Signature Pavilion *Future of Life* at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, has focused intensively on the research, development, and social implementation of avatars since accepting the role four years ago. He believes that avatars are the very technology that can save Japan’s future.

Avatars refer to remotely operated robots or computer-generated (CG) characters. The CG characters used by V-Tubers are a prime example. Methods of remote operation vary from directly transmitting speech and actions to conveying only intentions. In the latter case, AI interprets those intentions and generates speech and movements. In other words, avatars encompass all entities that act based on human intent.

Professor Ishiguro began his avatar research around 2000. Initially, his work in robotics focused on robots that move while recognizing their environment with a camera. Around that time, he resolved to advance his research further by developing robots that assist humans in daily life. He has now been pursuing this field for over 25 years.

Avatars are expected to address critical issues facing Japan’s future. Japan’s population is projected to decline by 30% in the next 50 years, leading to a severe labor shortage. Avatars offer a solution: they enable everyone, including older people and people with disabilities, to expand their physical, cognitive, and perceptual abilities and participate in diverse activities with superhuman capabilities. Work and education will become possible anytime, anywhere, reducing the need for commuting and enabling people to reclaim

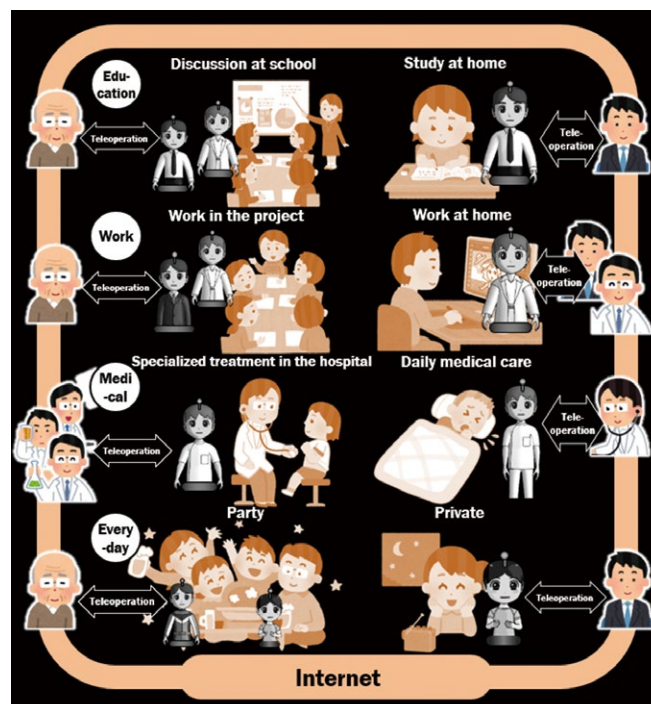
more personal time.

This vision is also reflected in one of the goals of the Japanese Cabinet Office's Moonshot Research and Development Program: to create a society by 2050 where individuals are liberated from the constraints of body, brain, space, and time through avatars. As a project manager of this initiative, Ishiguro has been deeply involved in avatar research and development. Simultaneously, he launched the startup company AVITA Inc. to implement CG avatars in society. These avatars are steadily taking root in Japanese society.

While avatars are built using cutting-edge technologies like AI and robotics, their purpose is to expand users' abilities and enhance productivity. They also provide employment opportunities in Japan for people with disabilities, older adults, and people living abroad, thereby alleviating future labor shortages. Moreover, avatars advance diversity and inclusion. Human beings have historically discriminated against one another based on their physical appearance. Avatars liberate us from the physical body, enabling the realization of a truly inclusive society. With avatars, we can build a society where everyone is recognized, connected, and coexists peacefully.

In essence, avatars offer a path to the evolution of humanity. Human evolution has not only been biological but also technological. For humanity to act more freely in an expansive world, we must continue evolving through science and technology. Avatars and other technologies will guide us into the future.

The *Inochi* Forum will work in partnership with organizations such as AVITA to engage the public in broad discussions on how science and technology can contribute to the evolution of individuals and society.



Education, work, healthcare, and daily life utilizing avatars

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<https://expo2025future-of-life.com/>
- Avatar Symbiotic Society
<https://avatar-ss.org/>
- AVITA
<https://avita.co.jp/>

[Action Platform]

Medical and Welfare / Education and Children / Economy,
Employment and Poverty / Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



Declaration 5-3

Re-examine the richness of *Inochi* and develop new indicators of value that capture culture, empathy, and connection with nature.

5-3-1

Aim for new forms of wealth based on value metrics that awaken the desire for symbiosis, ensuring the sustainable circulation and regeneration of the *Inochi* that embraces both humanity and the artifacts we create.

The affluence brought by industrial society has been achieved under an economic system based on the spiral-up of production and consumption: producing goods that enhance people's lives at lower cost, selling them in greater quantities, thereby increasing revenues and raising incomes, which in turn stimulates further consumption. Throughout this process, countless forms of *Inochi* nurtured by the Earth and the mechanisms that sustain them have been continuously extracted and consumed. However, today, the scale of this system's force has grown to surpass the regenerative capacity of the planet's *Inochi*^{*1}.

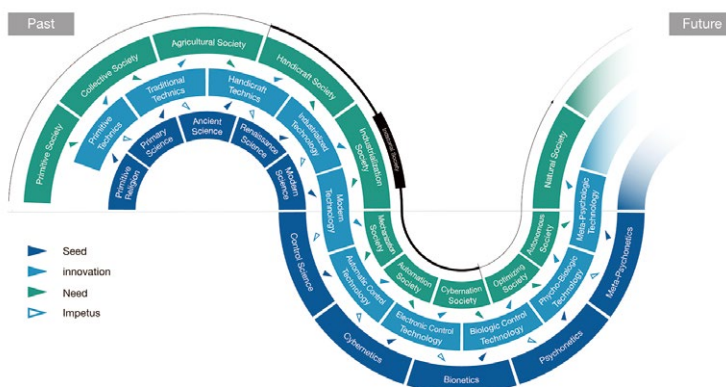
For this reason, transforming our economic system is one of the critical imperatives of the Inochi Declaration, and to achieve this, we must redefine our metrics of wealth. Instead of directing human growth ambitions solely toward competition based on material and monetary "quantitative economic indicators," we must foster a new orientation—one that awakens humanity's inherent desire for mutual aid and sustainability—guided by value metrics aimed at the regeneration, nurturing, and circulatory viability of *Inochi*, including human life itself.

To drive such social transformation, we can utilize future diagrams based on the SINIC Theory—a future forecasting theory^{*2}. This theory was presented around the time of the Expo 1970 in Osaka by Kazuma Tateishi, the founder of OMRON. Today, not only OMRON but also many young entrepreneurs, executives of large corporations, and national

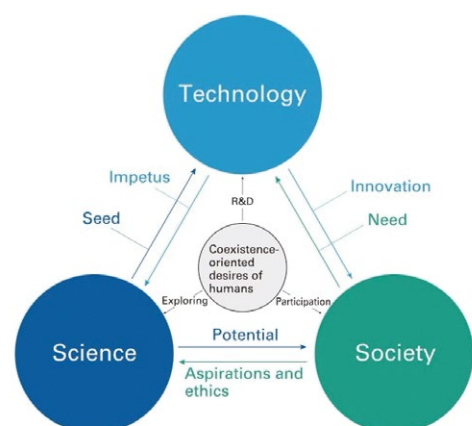
and local governments are increasingly resonating with and applying this model.

The SINIC Theory is characterized by its approach of retracing a million years of human history and predicting future societies based on the cyclical interactions among science, technology, and society. According to the theory, we are now at the "Optimization Society" stage—a major transition from the Industrial and Information Societies, which emphasized individual and material values, toward the "Autonomous Society" and "Natural Society," where the heart and community are revalued, ushering in new forms of affluence. Achieving autonomy requires setting a course toward decentralized networked societies, value creation through regeneration, and ethical capitalism, while developing new value metrics and economic systems.

In this context, the twin driving forces for the economic systems leading toward the future are envisioned as the "Regenerative Economy" and "Ethical Capitalism". The first, "Regenerative"^{*3}, is often misunderstood as synonymous with circular economy or sustainability. Originally, the term referred to agriculture that revitalizes degraded soils and restores diminished wildlife and plant species while producing food. Extending this concept beyond material and resource recycling and ecosystem restoration, the regenerative economy envisions economic activities that treat society as a living collective and support the regeneration of various forms of degraded *Inochi*—an economy that



Left: SINIC Theory Science, Technology and Society Diagram
Right: The Basic Model of SINIC Theory



enables every *Inochi* to unleash its radiant light.

The second, “Ethical Capitalism”, is a management philosophy where the purpose of business is good deeds, and the profits gained are invested in further good deeds. This concept resonates with traditional Japanese commercial ethics, such as the *Sanpo Yoshi* (good for the seller, buyer, and society) philosophy of the *Omi* merchants and Eiichi Shibusawa’s principles of balancing The Analects and Abacus. It aligns with contemporary ideas such as Markus Gabriel’s “Ethical Capitalism” and Tomonobu Imamichi’s “*Ecoethica*” (Ecological Ethics)⁴. The emerging trend of social entrepreneurship—businesses that integrate good deeds into their models—is directly linked to supporting the next generation’s efforts to build a better future.

Aiming to foster a society where future generations can unleash their *Inochi* and engage in the creation of a better world, the Human Renaissance Institute—a frontier institution of OMRON—has since the 1990s pursued initiatives aimed at realizing a decentralized networked society, the utilization of untapped resources, enhancement of agricultural values, and the extension of healthy life expectancy. Today, we continue to co-create new approaches such as *ridesharing*, remote diagnostics, and health-oriented management.

5-3-2

Let us address the limitations of current metrics like GDP by developing Integrated Flourishing Measures (IFMs) to capture non-material aspects of societal well-being, such as emotional resilience and cultural vitality.

The prevalent reliance on quantitative metrics, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), for assessing progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national level development remains problematic. This approach significantly limits the scope of understanding and fostering human and societal flourishing. True development encompasses far more than economic growth and material wealth; it includes the non-material dimensions of life such as emotional well-being, cultural and linguistic richness, and psychological as well as religious, spiritual and emotional fulfillment. These aspects, often qualitative and aspirational in nature, escape traditional measurement frameworks but are crucial for a comprehensive view of progress and well-being. Consequently, there’s a pressing need to expand the development paradigm beyond GDP and similar indices to include broader, more inclusive indicators that capture the full spectrum of human experience and societal health.

To address this measurement problem and transcend the limitations of GDP-focused metrics it is recommended to

The *Inochi* Forum, in collaboration with the Human Renaissance Institute and other organizations, will contribute to developing new value indicators that awaken the desire for symbiosis and help open pathways toward a future where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light.

[Notes]

- *1 Global evidence on planetary limits and environmental degradation:
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-023-39810-w>
- *2 OMRON Corporation, SINIC Theory:
<https://www.omron.com/jp/ja/about/corporate/vision/sinic/theory.html>
- *3 Explanation of regenerative economy (video):
<https://youtu.be/oZ-KyYnQhPw?feature=shared>
- *4 Tomonobu Imamichi, *Ecoethica*:
<https://opac.ll.chiba-u.jp/da/curator/900040690/42imamichi.pdf>

[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty

[SDGs]



develop and integrate new indicators that can more accurately reflect the non-material aspects of development. These indicators should aim to capture qualities such as community cohesion, cultural and linguistic vitality, environmental stewardship, and individual and collective well-being. Additionally, it is crucial to incorporate household production and non-market commodities into economic measures

to reflect true economic activities. Emphasizing qualitative outcomes alongside quantitative benchmarks, this approach advocates for a balanced assessment framework that values both material and non-material dimensions of flourishing. By including household production and non-market contributions, we can gain a more comprehensive understanding of economic activities and their impacts on societal well-being. Importantly, this framework should reconcile economic prosperity with environmental sustainability, ensuring that economic growth does not come at the expense of environmental health.

Incorporating household production and non-market commodities into economic measures is essential for capturing the true scope of economic activities and their impacts on societal well-being. Household production, such as caregiving, cooking, and volunteer work, and non-market commodities, like public goods and environmental services, contribute significantly to the economy but are often excluded from traditional economic indicators. By integrating these elements into our economic measures, we can develop policies that more accurately reflect the contributions of all economic activities, ensuring a more comprehensive and inclusive understanding of economic prosperity.

Household production represents a substantial portion of economic activity that remains undervalued in conventional metrics. Recognizing and measuring this work can highlight the critical role it plays in sustaining families and communities, and promote policies that support these often overlooked contributions. Similarly, non-market commodities, including environmental services like clean air and water, are vital to both human and economic health. Valuing these services within economic frameworks encourages sustainable practices and investment in environmental stewardship.

Integrating environmental sustainability into economic indicators can help create policies that promote green growth and resource efficiency. By recognizing the complexity and interdependence of these factors, policy recommendations can guide the formulation of a post-2030 development agenda that truly reflects the aspirations, needs, and challenges of our time. This shift towards a more integrative and systemic understanding of development requires innovative thinking and collaborative efforts among nations, communities, and individuals to redefine what progress means in the 21st century.

With this awareness of the issues at hand, the Society of Meta-Science aims to establish a research network focused on indicator-based and non-indicator-based measurement and the integration of non-material conditions. The network

will organize events and workshops involving policymakers. Based on the insights gained through these workshops and other initiatives, the Society will develop Integrated Flourishing Measures (IFMs) that encompass community cohesion, cultural vitality, and environmental stewardship.

The indicators to be included in the IFMs may include:

- Community Cohesion Index: Measures the strength of social bonds and the sense of belonging within communities.
- Cultural Vitality Index: Assesses the diversity and vitality of cultural expressions, as well as the accessibility of cultural experiences for all members of society.
- Language Vitality Index: Evaluates the use of multilingualism and languages in both oral and written forms.
- Environmental Stewardship Indicator: Reflects public engagement in environmental conservation efforts and sustainable lifestyle practices.
- Happiness Index: Includes measures of life satisfaction, emotional well-being, and fulfillment beyond economic status.

The Society of Meta-Science will work to integrate these newly developed IFMs into national statistical systems and international governance metrics. Additionally, it will collaborate with policymakers and stakeholders to promote the use of IFMs in decision-making processes.

In collaboration with organizations like the Society of Meta-Science, the *Inochi* Forum will actively promote the creation and application of new indicators to measure the flourishing of *Inochi*.

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty

[SDGs]



5-3-3

To create positive social change through business activities, it is the unquantifiable values that matter most. Let us revisit, reinterpret, and transmit these values to the world, beginning from various regions of Japan.

The year 2008, marked by the global financial crisis, exposed the dangers of excessive capitalism. The United States, which had emerged as the dominant economic force, exported a model of success based on financial engineering and wealth generation through money alone—a model Japan also pursued. At the same time, some of the most “successful” Western capitalists began expressing interest in Kyoto’s cultural and spiritual traditions, including Zen. Upon re-examining what was gaining renewed appreciation, one could see that the essence of these admired values lay in Japan’s traditional culture, its deep-rooted ways of living, and its spiritual richness—elements that had long formed the basis of Japanese society. These qualities, though often overlooked, may in fact represent Japan’s true strengths.

It is this “unquantifiable value” that has always been a unique strength of Japan. By deconstructing and reassembling these values to create new value, Japan—now a society facing population decline and increasingly seen as a forerunner of complex social challenges—can demonstrate to the world a renewed vision of success, earning once again global respect. With this in mind, the *Kyotostyle Protocol* was launched in 2008, with Kyoto, a microcosm of Japan, as its starting point.

Although Kyoto had long hosted many events filled with inspiring ideals, these efforts had often remained fragmented. The *Kyotostyle Protocol* aimed to overcome this fragmentation by bringing together a diverse mix of stakeholders: local government, businesses, academia, traditional artisans, religious leaders, and socially conscious young entrepreneurs—many of whom had yet to be identified as “social business” actors at the time. Through this diversity, the Protocol demonstrated that new value can emerge from inclusive collaboration.

The *Kyoto Protocol* Forum had the City of Kyoto as a co-organizer from its inaugural year. At the time of its launch, then–newly elected Mayor Kadokawa shared an anecdote that German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in an international conference, had used the phrase “*Do you Kyoto?*” to mean “Are you doing something good for the environment?” This was a story little known even among Kyoto residents. In response, the inaugural year adopted the theme “*Do you Kyoto? Do you Kyotostyle?*” and held a three-day series of seminars aimed at exploring the unquantifiable value that Kyoto possesses.



The *Kyotostyle Protocol* in session

Since then, the *Kyotostyle Protocol* has generated moments each year in which diverse individuals come together, discover overlooked local assets, and transform them into new forms of value. After 15 iterations, the Protocol paused in 2022, but it has already seeded a new generation of social innovators and inspired many regionally rooted initiatives across Japan.

The belief that “unquantifiable value matters” has long been promoted by Uedahonsha Co., Ltd., which originally launched the Protocol. Even after the event’s hiatus, this philosophy continues to guide *Uedahonsha’s* core work with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), underutilized facilities, and depopulated areas. Recently, growing attention in the U.S. has been given to “zebra companies” that pursue both social impact and economic viability—offering a counterpoint to unicorns focused solely on rapid growth. Japan, however, has long held such a balanced business philosophy at its core. Uedahonsha is now working to revitalize this embedded strength, particularly among SMEs, as a way of offering a new growth model for Japan and for other parts of Asia and the world that are also facing demographic decline.

The *Inochi* Forum aims to showcase examples like Uedahonsha Co., Ltd. as part of a broader initiative. By shining a light on the deep, original strengths of Japan, and fostering networks among value-driven enterprises, we will send a message to the world: that in the realm of business, it is the unquantifiable values that hold the greatest significance.

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[Action Platform]

Arts, Culture and Sports

[SDGs]



5-3-4

Create a world in which, regardless of where one lives, the knowledge, skills, and credibility gained through learning and working can be made visible, fairly evaluated, and used to pursue paths that align with one's passions and strengths.

According to numerous surveys conducted by government agencies and research institutions, many individuals today feel a lack of work engagement and fulfillment in their professions. One important approach to enhancing workplace satisfaction is to ensure that people can follow careers that align with both what they love and what they are good at. However, while *what we love* is subjective and personal, *what we are good at* requires objective visibility to lead to viable career opportunities. To achieve this, it is crucial to establish shared standards and frameworks that allow such abilities to be recognized across national and community boundaries.

The *Inochi* Forum envisions a future society—looking ahead to 2050—where individuals' knowledge, abilities, and credibility, nurtured through following their passions and strengths, can be made visible and fairly evaluated, regardless of national, community, or spatial differences. As learning and working styles evolve, and as perceptions of national and community identity shift, the expansion of human mobility and collaboration across both physical and digital spaces can foster a society where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light, revitalizing our social and economic systems.

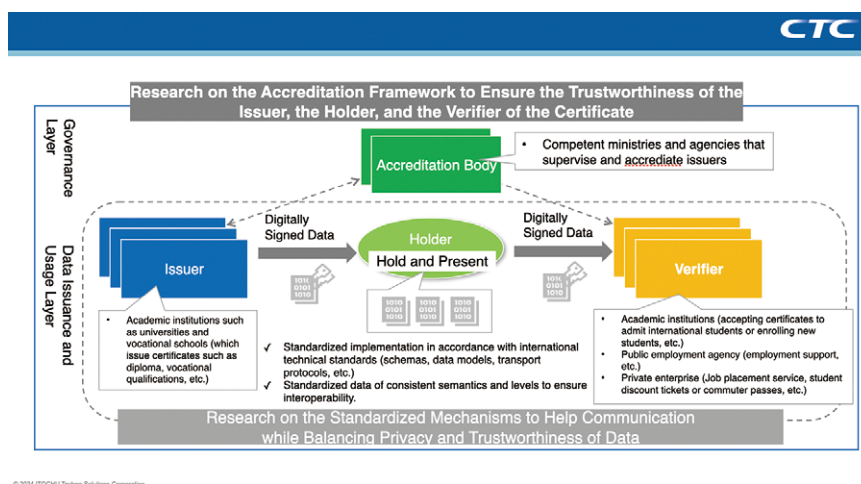
The internet, as a borderless global infrastructure—sometimes referred to as the “eighth continent”—is expected to play an increasingly vital role in this transformation. In digital space, it is imperative to build systems that allow fair recognition of individual capabilities, supported by technologies that ensure secure, trustworthy communication, regardless of distance or location.

To achieve this, we must overcome the following hurdles in international and cross-community consensus-building:

- Developing interoperable frameworks for the validation of knowledge, abilities, and credibility, including aligned definitions and levels
- Establishing accreditation schemes to ensure trust among certificate issuers, holders, and users
- Creating technical specifications that support interoperability

Given these challenges, a practical entry point is the field of academic degrees and professional certifications, particularly considering the increasing international mobility of higher education. UNESCO has adopted the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education, providing a foundational framework.

Although Japan currently lacks a nationally recognized qualifications framework, the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE) has developed a draft framework based on UNESCO standards. Furthermore, the Sustainable and Interoperable Digital Identity (SIDi) Hub—a consortium working toward cross-border identity interoperability—has convened experts from 22 countries, including international



Research on the Standardization and Governance of Academic Qualification Certification

standards bodies, nonprofits, and government agencies. Among its discussion topics is the review of academic and professional qualification systems in different countries.

ITOCHU Techno-Solutions Corporation, in collaboration with the National Institute of Informatics, is conducting joint research aimed at standardizing interoperability between domestic and international academic qualifications. In partnership with universities and related institutions, the project seeks to ensure multilingual support and trustworthiness of digital interfaces by adhering to international technical standards discussed in the Japanese government's Trusted Web Initiative.

The *Inochi* Forum, working together with diverse organizations including these, will explore a range of strategies—through information dissemination, education, and academic–industry collaboration—to make every individual's strength visible and rightfully recognized.

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- Trusted Web Initiative
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[Action Platform]

Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



5-3-5

Strengthen the capacities and competencies of the academic and research community to drive interdisciplinary systemic change, deliver evidence-based guidance, and foster global collaboration—to lead food systems transformation, improve nutrition, and tackle climate and health challenges, toward a healthier, more equitable future.

Today, the world is facing a polycrisis, with escalating conflicts, economic volatility, rising food prices, and intensifying climate-related extreme weather events and disasters threaten global stability. As multilateralism weakens and geopolitical tensions rise, progress towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is increasingly at risk.

Hunger and malnutrition—both undernutrition and obesity—remain global crises, driven in part by poor and unhealthy diets, with over 2.6 billion people unable to afford a healthy diet essential for nutritional well-being. Meanwhile, as the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic—the defining health crisis of the 21st century—new disease outbreaks (i.e. Mpox and Marburg) along with re-emerging diseases (i.e. avian flu), are compounding public health risks. Food insecurity is rising, diet-related diseases are worsening, and the urgent call for safe, healthy, and sustainable diets remains unmet, making decisive global action more critical than ever.

With just five years left to achieve SDGs, much stronger sense of urgency, commitment, and bold, accelerated efforts are required from every sector and stakeholder to fulfill their commitments and take transformative steps to tackle the pressing challenges of food security and nutrition. The Osaka Kansai Expo 2025 came at this pivotal moment, serving as a platform to explore innovative solutions for saving, empowering and connecting Lives — “*Inochi*” in Japanese

— by fostering dialogue, inspiring innovation, and driving the global community toward a more sustainable, interconnected future. In essence, it aimed to create resonance between humanity and nature, focusing on the pursuit of a sustainable and inclusive future for all as envisioned by the *Inochi* Forum.

National governments play a critical role in transforming food systems to foster resonance between humanity and nature, ensuring healthier diets and improved nutrition for all. This systemic change is vital for building a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future. To lead this transformation, governments must demonstrate decisive leadership by enacting and enforcing policies that strengthen nutrition security, promote sustainable agriculture and protect environment. Translating commitments into tangible results requires concrete actions that tackle the root causes of malnutrition, food insecurity, and climate-related challenges. Governments must ensure policy coherence across sectors to prevent conflicting priorities and maximize impact. Additionally, the strategic allocation of human and financial resources is essential for driving sustainable implementation, advancing research and innovation, and fostering cross-sector collaboration. With decisive leadership and unwavering commitment, governments can create lasting changes in food systems that nourish both people and the planet.

To effectively guide national governments, the academic and research community must possess key capacities and competencies. A deep understanding of novel systems, coupled with interdisciplinary expertise, is essential for tackling complex challenges in food systems, nutrition, public health, and climate change. The academic and research community must integrate insights from diverse fields to provide evidence-based policy *recommendations* and conduct high-quality studies, using advanced tools like big data and epidemiological analysis to generate actionable insights to shape impactful policy decisions.

Equally important are effective policy advocacy and communication skills to translate complex research findings into clear, actionable recommendations for policy-makers. Competencies in policy analysis and evaluation enable the assessment of existing policies and the identification of areas for improvement. Additionally, strategic thinking drive systemic change, while ethical and cultural sensitivity ensures that policies are equitable, inclusive, and socially responsible. These capacities empower the academic and research community to play a crucial role in tackling pressing global challenges of food insecurity, malnutrition, and public health.

Enhancing the capacities and competencies of the academic and research community is also crucial for counteracting the harmful effects of commercial determinants of health, such as the strategies, practices, and products promoted by corporations and industries that undermine public health and the well-being of individuals and populations.

The Health / Food group of the “*Inochi*” Forum, which was formed consisting of international experts from different disciplines and from different regions of the world, would therefore propose to implement the following two specific actions to strengthen the capacities and competencies of the academic and research community, with a view to effectively play its pivotal role and contribute to meet the above mentioned challenges: ^{**2}

1. Strengthen knowledge sharing through organizing a series of webinars during 2025–2026 to disseminate

information, foster discussions, and exchange insights on critical topics related to food systems, nutrition, public health, and climate change, specifically targeting the academic and research community in the Asia-Pacific and African regions

- A monthly webinar series will be organized, inviting members from national and regional food and nutrition societies, as well as scientific communities, with a special focus on participants from the Asia-Pacific and African regions.

2. Establish the Asia Pacific Collaborative Network on Food for Humanity in close partnership with Columbia University's Food for Humanity initiative (F4Hi), ^{*3} launched on 4 February 2025

- The network will focus on developing innovative solutions to transform food systems by advancing actionable research, education, policy, and programmes related to sustainable and equitable food systems.
- Interim progress of the network's work will be presented and discussed at a conference at the end of 2026.

[Notes]

*1 Nutrition and food systems transformation are vital to achieving the SDGs. Anchored in SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), they are critical for ending hunger, improving health (SDG 3), boosting learning outcomes (SDG 4), reducing poverty (SDG 1), and fostering economic growth (SDG 8). Sustainable, resilient food systems also support climate action (SDG 13) and responsible consumption (SDG 12), positioning nutrition and food systems as cross-cutting enablers of the entire 2030 Agenda and beyond.

*2 Schneider, KR, et al. The state of food systems worldwide in the countdown to 2030. *Nature Food*, 2023, 4 (21) : 1090 – 1110.

*3 <https://food.climate.columbia.edu/>

[Action Platform]

Medical and Welfare

[SDGs]



5-3-6

Looking ahead to 2050, initiate multi-stakeholder discussions grounded in science. Build momentum toward establishing post-2030 goals beyond the current SDGs timeframe.

The SDGs have fundamentally transformed the structure of global governance. Traditionally, global governance relied on a rules-based approach—international regimes formed through treaties, agreements, and protocols. However, many global challenges have lacked consensus or urgency among nations, stalling negotiations and progress.

Amidst this impasse, a new governance approach emerged: “governance through goals.” Rather than coordinating and aligning different sets of national rules, this model prioritizes shared goals. In the case of the SDGs, the primary objective was to agree on long-term targets set roughly 15 years into the future. By collectively committing to aspirational goals rather than waiting for binding agreements, countries, organizations, and individuals could take action, fostering partnerships through shared vision. This marked the beginning of a novel form of global governance.

In the decade since the SDGs were adopted, the world has experienced unprecedented events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the return of armed conflicts—developments few anticipated in 2015. Within this changing context, how has governance through goals evolved? The 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) provided a comprehensive assessment of global SDG progress. Findings revealed that progress toward achieving the SDGs remained below 20%, indicating the urgent need for transformative action. The report emphasized the necessity of developing new models of transformation and understanding how such transformation can be achieved.

Japan’s efforts were summarized in its 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR). Of the 244 global indicators, Japan was able to measure 173. Among them, 20 indicators had already been achieved, 53 showed improving trends, while 22 had regressed. The evaluation highlighted areas of progress, but also revealed institutional delays and a lack of leadership. Given these findings, the time has come to look *beyond* the SDGs. While efforts to achieve the 2030 targets must continue, we must also consider the goals and actions required for sustainability beyond 2030. The focus is now

shifting toward 2050.

In February 2025, the “Beyond SDGs Public-Private Forum” was launched under the leadership of Professor Kenji Kanie of Keio University. Bringing together stakeholders from government, industry, academia, NGOs, and youth organizations, the Forum has begun discussing long-term objectives and future visions centered around themes such as well-being and capabilities, a sustainable and just economy, resilient food systems and sound nutrition, decarbonization with universal access to energy, urban and suburban development, and global environmental commons. At the United Nations, deliberations on the post-2030 agenda are scheduled to begin in 2027. The Forum aims to submit proposals to these UN discussions. Equally important, however, is the process of dialogue itself—a critical opportunity for collective learning.

The *Inochi* Forum is actively participating in forums such as the Beyond SDGs Public-Private Forum and related *intia-tives*, engaging in reflective discussions on the SDGs and exploring the visions we must strive toward for the future of humanity and the planet. Through this collaboration, we will work to present to the world a pathway toward that vision and a new form of governance that ensures every *Inochi* can unleash its radiant light.

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- “Beyond SDGs Public-Private Forum” (Tentative name; presentation by Kenji Kanie, October 31, 2024)
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[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



Declaration 5-4

Use both sensitivity and intellect to explore the meaning of *Inochi* and walk together toward the common good.

5-4-1

Inherit the legacy of co-evolution between life and Earth, and now move into the next stage of co-evolution between humanity and the planet. Let us reframe the Anthropocene as the century of upgrading Earth's operating system by humanity, and awaken the intellectual creativity that is inherent in all of us.

Why don't we have a world map or globe that shows the Earth's current state in real time? This question inspired the Earth Literacy Program to develop the world's first interactive digital globe—"Sphere—The Tangible Earth". This globe displays real-time data on the Earth's condition and has been disseminated in educational and civic contexts across Japan and abroad.

While the information environment has evolved rapidly through social media and the metaverse, essential information related to our *Inochi* has, paradoxically, become harder to see. Where does our food, water, and energy come from? In today's world, we can order nearly anything from the other side of the planet with just a tap on a smartphone—but how sustainable is this "planet-sized lifestyle"? If our lives are unknowingly transforming the Earth's environment and human societies, shouldn't we build systems that make such impacts *visible*? We live in an age of *information overload*, which is also, paradoxically, an age of *informational deprivation*. What we need now is an update to our information environment—one that allows us to feel the "temperature and condition" of the Earth. It was in pursuit of such a sensory interface that we created this digital globe.

However, the purpose is not to simply visualize global environmental issues and stir anxiety. Rather, we must remember:

Earth is not only a planet that has nurtured life—life itself has nurtured the Earth.

For instance, cyanobacteria transformed the Earth 2.7 billion years ago by producing oxygen. This oxygen then formed the ozone layer, shielding life from harmful UV rays and allowing vegetation to colonize land, ultimately "terraforming" Earth into the lush, green planet we know today. Each of these moments marks a dramatic update of Earth's "operating system" (OS). At every step, life has transformed the environment while simultaneously addressing the new challenges it created—such as pollution from metabolic byproducts—thus upgrading the economy of the planetary biosphere.

We humans now stand at the threshold of writing the next



Sphere – The Tangible Earth

chapter of this ongoing story of co-evolution between life and Earth. Humanity may be in the process of adding a new *layer of self-awareness* to this magnificent planetary system—one that monitors the Earth's condition and contributes to its continued evolution. In terms of impact, we humans are not the first or only terraformers in Earth's history. But we are the first form of life capable of self-awareness in real time, capable of monitoring the planet's condition and intentionally altering its trajectory.

"Sphere—The Tangible Earth" is a first step toward creating this kind of sensory infrastructure for planetary self-awareness. It is a tool to know and feel the "now" of the Earth. Our long-term vision is to foster a world where everyone holds a "living Earth" within their heart—a cognitive evolution for humanity.

The technological civilization that brought great advancement in the 20th century is still immature when compared to the highly efficient, ambient-condition processes of the Earth's biosphere. Ironically, it is not the advancement, but the immaturity of human technology that has caused environmental damage. And yet, there are signs of maturity. Technologies that mimic photosynthesis to harness solar energy for human use, and the concept of a circular economy that emulates nature's closed-loop systems—where even waste and excrement do not exist—are beginning to emerge.

The internet, comprising AI and diverse IoT devices, may eventually function as a planetary nervous system, monitoring global material flows and connecting humanity with other life forms and ecosystems.

It is crucial that we pass on this vision—a hopeful future in which humanity contributes to the Earth’s evolution—to the next generation. The Earth Literacy Program’s initiatives, including the promotion of the digital globe, are intended to support this endeavor.

Together with organizations like the Earth Literacy Program, the *Inochi* Forum seeks to form creative “co-evolutionary” partnerships between humanity and the Earth, using vari-

ous tools to accelerate this transformation.

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[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



5-4-2

Exploring scientific knowledge alongside other ways of knowing - including people’s experiences, spirituality, philosophy and religion - empowers people (young and old) to make wise, values-based decisions that promote flourishing and strengthen society’s empathy, cohesion and inclusiveness.

In today’s increasingly scientific world, many look to science alone for understanding. However, questions about life, and what it means to live well, benefit from a holistic approach which listens to, and values, diverse insights from science, spirituality, philosophy, religion and personal experiences. For example, science can investigate environmental threats, and potential solutions, but it cannot, in and of itself, fix the problems and ensure a sustainable future for all. The response depends on human decisions and activity, based on our motivations and convictions about the world. People hold a range of religious and non-religious beliefs about their place and purpose in the world, about their responsibility to care for others and about the value and worth of all life. Engaging with these beliefs can lead to meaningful discussions which bring human motivation into dialogue with the scientific data to forge a way forwards.

Science has also enabled us to develop Artificial Intelligence and robotics with the potential to assist humans in almost every industry and societal activity – from education and farming, to health and social care. However, when unleashed for the pursuit of economic growth alone, there is a risk that such technologies are used to exploit and cause harm. To avoid these risks, we need to develop ethical principles alongside the science, informed by theological and philosophical ideas and human values. In order to use AI in compassionate and equitable ways that affirm human dignity, values and relationships, we need to understand the essence and purpose of life, the differences between humans and AI, and what is required for society and all humans to be able to flourish.



Training event for educators in the UK



A school event in the UK

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, UK, works to improve the public understanding of how science and religion interact, to unlock these deeper interdisciplinary discussions and the wisdom they hold for creating flourishing communities. This is done through

academically rigorous research, public outreach, education, training and the creation of resources.

As an important part of this, the Institute runs a programme focusing on children and young people, who hold the keys to solving societal challenges in the future. Research indicates that young people often lack suitable opportunities to explore their big, interdisciplinary questions about the world, which go beyond their classroom curricula—this is particularly true regarding discussions between science and religious worldviews. This can result in misconceptions which sow division and limit their effective engagement with society's important challenges and opportunities. By encouraging young people to explore their big questions about life through the lenses of science and religion, they are not only given the opportunity to reflect on, and express, their own individual thoughts, but are better equipped to become global citizens who listen to others and make decisions which build wise, respectful societal systems.

The Institute's experience in this field suggests that young people are best supported in this by direct interaction with enthusiastic experts (such as scientists, religious leaders, academics), alongside confident reinforcement from educators (including teachers, relevant religious leaders and others in important positions of influence). As such, since 2013, the Youth and Schools Programme have run over 1,400 interactive sessions, with over 46,500 children in schools, churches, festivals and other educational settings - creating spaces where they can explore big questions with different scientists of faith, religious leaders and theologians. Many educators are impressed to see how these sessions encourage deep questioning and sharing amongst their young people, saying that they unleash their curiosity and stretch their minds. The Institute has also trained and resourced

over 6,400 educators, with growing interest amongst teacher training programmes. Classroom resources cover topics like climate change, bioethics and racism, as well as the nature, power and limits of science.

The Institute's future action plan involves continuing to build upon this vital work, applying it to new scientific advances and relevant societal questions, and rolling out learnings and recommendations from their work on science and faith education in the UK to other parts of the world in culturally relevant ways. Their website will help facilitate this action plan amongst educators: www.faradayeducators.com. As an example, they will partner with the Brazilian Association of Christians in Science (ABC2), to support their new project to help young people nurture curiosity in faith and science in the Brazilian context.

In collaboration with diverse research institutes like The Faraday Institute, the *Inochi* Forum will actively promote the exploration of scientific knowledge alongside other ways of knowing—including personal experience, spirituality, philosophy, and religion—to empower people to cherish *Inochi*.

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[Action Platform] SDGs+Beyond

[SDG]



5-4-3

Compile and articulate the knowledge and aspirations accumulated in the field of social issues—through the lens of *Inochi* and incorporating academic terminology—so that these may be shared, discussed, and spread among a wider people.

The SDGs, aiming to address increasingly complex social issues and to realize a sustainable society, not only present 17 goals and 169 targets but are also intended to highlight the interconnectedness among these goals and targets. They serve as a roadmap to disentangle multifaceted problems that transcend fields and sectors. In contemporary society, addressing social challenges requires not only high-level expertise but also interdisciplinary knowledge, diverse skills, and, above all, strong human connections.

In response to this need, The University of Osaka estab-

lished the Social Solution Initiative (SSI) in January 2018 with "*Inochi*" as a central concept. SSI functions as a think tank led by scholars in the humanities and social sciences and provides a space where people engaged in addressing social challenges come together to design and implement projects that aim for real-world impact.

SSI hosts various platforms for collaboration. The "SSI Salon" brings together participants from across academia, business, and NPOs for the exchange of cutting-edge information and ideas on social issues. Other platforms include

the “SSI Roundtable” (*Kurumaza*), where people from businesses and NPOs gather to co-create solutions and new social ventures beyond organizational boundaries; the “SSI Community and Town-Building Forum,” which brings together municipal stakeholders and experts to exchange insights and collaborate on regional development; and the “SSI Student Forum,” where students engage with faculty and professionals to deepen their self-directed learning.

As part of its academic base, SSI also organizes the “SSI Researcher Forum,” where researchers from various disciplines share knowledge around designated themes and engage in cross-disciplinary dialogue to explore often-overlooked challenges for a sustainable future. Past topics have included “Information Technology,” “Community Norms,” and “Outer Space.” Through such initiatives, SSI has promoted the sharing of advanced knowledge from the field and visualized common issues across disciplines, thereby expanding a co-creation network of individuals committed to addressing social issues. This co-creation network—comprising over 200 organizations and individuals—is a circle of people who care deeply about *Inochi* and are willing to support one another. The activities of the *Inochi* Forum are based in this network.

SSI also disseminates its work through its website and SSI Annual Reports in both written and video formats. Furthermore, SSI holds internal seminar-style discussions to identify and articulate common issues across different social challenges, building the foundation for future activities. One of SSI’s essential roles as a think tank is to compile and transmit the knowledge and values nurtured on the field of social issues—through the lens of *Inochi* and with academic language—in ways that enable broader dialogue and understanding. In this way, SSI seeks to weave and transmit the Words of *Inochi*. This *Inochi* Declaration, too, must be continuously discussed, refined, and shared with the world as part of the Words of *Inochi*.

Looking ahead, SSI will expand its existing initiatives on a global scale and focus on advancing the creation and dissemination of the Words of *Inochi*. It will strengthen partnerships with international organizations and overseas



SSI: Building a future society where every *Inochi* unleashes its radiant light

academic institutions to globally expand the co-creation network. Initiatives such as publishing a journal centered on *Inochi* and enhancing outreach through media channels are being planned to help more people engage with the Words of *Inochi*. Building on the expertise and human networks cultivated through past activities, SSI will also develop and expand educational programs for nurturing future leaders who contribute to a sustainable society—not only for university students but also for middle/high school students and working adults.

The *Inochi* Forum will continue its collaboration with SSI, working to expand the co-creation network across universities, businesses, and NPOs. Through these efforts, we aim to weave the Words of *Inochi* and increase the number of individuals who resonate with the ideals of *Inochi* and strive together toward a sustainable future society.

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[Action Platform]

Education and Children / SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



5-4-4

Toward a resonant society where every *Inochi* intertwines and weaves the future as it is

The crises we face today—climate change, isolation, inequality, and division—are not merely isolated issues, but signs that the very systems of our society are reaching their limits. The concept of “Better Co-being”, proposed by Hiroaki Miyata, the producer of the Signature Pavilion for the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, offers a philosophical and

practical response to these crises through a redesign of the quality of relationships. What we now require is not uniformity or assimilation through empathy, but the nurturing of a structure of resonance, where we resonate while remaining different, cultivated across all levels of society.

At the core of “Better Co-being” is a framework in which entities with different rhythms and dimensions—such as humans and nature, human and non-human entities, present and future, health and death, emotion and language—overlap and intersect with friction, generating new meanings and actions. This is not a matter of institutional reform alone, but of designing “spaces of resonance” in various aspects of daily life, such as cities, education, art, technology, and welfare. For instance, in the “Great Roof Ring” and the “Silent Forest” of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, a spatial design has been developed where diverse cultures and beings intersect in their authentic forms. Within the silence, light, wind, and the flow of time, questions naturally emerge. The interaction between visitors’ behaviors and the surrounding natural conditions resonates, occasionally giving rise to artificial rain or rainbows—an experience that allows individuals to breathe in harmony with the world and contemplate the future in an unspoken, sensorial way.

Such “spaces of inquiry” can be extended to other fields like education, healthcare, and community development. In school education, for example, the focus should shift from obtaining correct answers to encountering differences and thinking together, fostering a sensitivity of resonance among children. Similarly, in healthcare, it is crucial to design systems where patients, families, AI, and social resources resonate with one another, enabling the sharing of meanings that transcend mere treatment.

Hiroaki Miyata proposes the following four pillars as a forward-looking action plan:

1. Designing Education and Inquiry

Fostering a learning space where people of all ages—children to adults—cherish questions over answers, and listen closely to untranslated otherness. Through poetry, art, physical expression, silence, and paradoxes, learners cultivate the capacity for resonance with heterogeneous beings.

2. Development of Resonant Infrastructure

Designing spatial, institutional, and relational systems that allow friction and dissonance to remain while intersecting. One example is the creation of temporary, co-existing spaces like “floating *engawa*” (verandas) or “plazas of silence”, where people can resonate without fixed identities or affiliations.

3. Sensory Technology and Data Infrastructure

Pursuing digital designs that enable connections to embrace ambiguity and openness, rather than uniformity or optimization. For example, developing design languages that poetically reinterpret errors and randomness, or embedding resonant data infrastructures that amplify the voices of future generations, non-human entities, and the socially vulnerable.



“Silent Forest” of Better Co-Being (Signature Pavilion at the Expo 2025)

4. International Collaboration and the Ethics of the Future

Institutionalizing “unfinished spaces of dialogue” that hold cultural and historical differences without forcing translation, allowing resonance to emerge organically. Valuing the presence of enduring questions over forced consensus. In order to institutionalize responsiveness to the future, Miyata suggests developing mechanisms to ethically relate to future generations and invisible others, such as systems of representation, fictional advocacy, and memory infrastructures.

Through these initiatives, we aim to reposition “Better Co-being” as a central concept for the SDGs+Beyond in the post-2030 era, facilitating the following paradigm shifts:

- From the greatest happiness for the greatest number to the greatest happiness for the greatest diversity
- From division to resonance
- From human being to “human co-being”

The *Inochi* Forum will serve as a Platform of Inquiry to share this vision across society. Acting as a hub that connects local practices, expressions, and institutional designs, we will cultivate an ecosystem of resonance in which all people can explore: “What do I value, and with whom do I weave the future?” This action plan does not aim to make every *Inochi* the same. Rather, it envisions a society where each *Inochi*, with its own rhythm and background, exists as it is, and resonates with others in fleeting moments, sparking clues to the future.

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[Action Platform]

SDGs+Beyond

[SDGs]



5-4-5

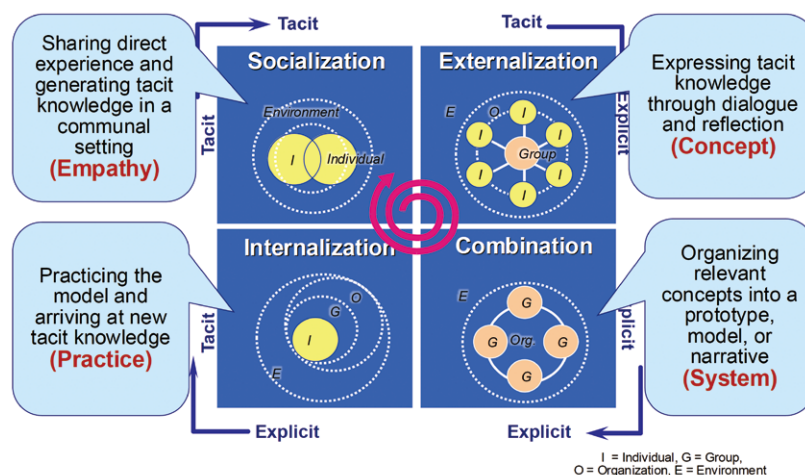
Humans are dynamic entities who co-create value with others in pursuit of the common good of the future. Let us become individuals who feel before thinking, empathize with differences, engage in dialogue, encounter leaps of insight, and persevere together as a united scrum.

The Knowledge-Creation Theory, constructed and advocated by the late Professor Ikujiro Nonaka, elucidates the principles of organizational innovation through the creation of collective knowledge. At its core lies the view that humans are dynamic entities who create meaning through interactions with others toward the common good of the future. Human beings live to create new meanings. Knowledge is the meaning that is subjectively created through relationships, and the dynamic process of co-creating value for the common good.

Modern management tends to be biased toward formal logic and numerical analysis. When explicit knowledge predominates, the innate human wisdom for survival—our wild instincts—deteriorates, and new knowledge fails to emerge. Humans feel subjectively, through direct experience, the meaning of “here”, “now”, and “me”. Science is the process of transforming these vivid subjective experiences into objective knowledge that can be shared anytime, anywhere, with anyone.

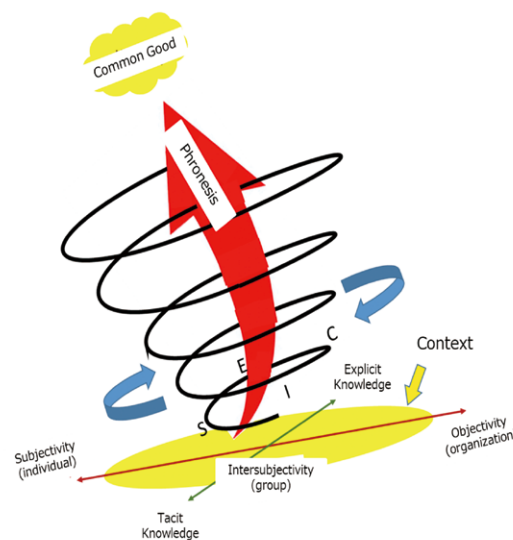
Knowledge creation is the spiral process of the mutual transformation of tacit and explicit knowledge. Tacit knowledge, including the unconscious, is the source of explicit knowledge. The SECI model (Figure 1) explains the principles of the tacit–explicit knowledge conversion process at the levels of individuals, groups, organizations, and society/environment. By standing in the other’s shoes, empathizing, sharing and co-creating tacit knowledge (Socialization); capturing the essence through dialogue and converting it into words and concepts (Externalization); mobilizing all knowledge to organize these concepts into theories, strategies, and narratives (Combination); and embodying the collective knowledge through practice (Internalization)—this dynamic spiral allows organizational innovation to occur.

For example, Eisai Co., Ltd., a pharmaceutical company, has applied the Knowledge-Creation Theory to management practices. Under the leadership of the Knowledge Creation Department directly under the president, employees globally dedicate 1% of their working time to activities that initiate



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Figure 1: SECI Model



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Figure 2: "Practical Wisdom Leadership"

the Socialization phase of the SECI model, regardless of their job type or department.

The concept of the common good provides direction to the vector of the organizational knowledge creation process and serves as the daily standard for judgment. It articulates a moral purpose—for the benefit of society and people—and serves to unify those who resonate with this ideal into a cohesive and committed force. Indeed, Eisai formally included its corporate philosophy in its articles of incorporation following the 2005 general shareholders' meeting and revised

it again in 2022. Through the practices of each employee, they continue to breathe life into the philosophy, grounding it not in slogans but in vibrant real-world contexts.

Empathy mediates between individual subjectivity and the objectivity of society and organizations. It is vital to create shared time-space among participants and engage in exhaustive, earnest dialogue until reaching a selfless state where we share the feeling of “We can only express in this way.” Through empathy, it becomes necessary to cultivate “intellectual combat” spaces within and outside organizations where people engage in uncompromising, heated discussions without self-censorship or compromise. This approach liberates and concentrates each individual's rich potential and enables the decentralized and autonomous practice of collective knowledge creation through all-hands-on-deck management by all across boundaries.

New meaning cannot be generated from trade-offs that discard opposites or from simple averaging and prearranged harmony between dichotomies. To generate breakthrough ideas that leap beyond existing frameworks, it is crucial to approach matters through “dynamic duality”—recognizing and seriously confronting the contradictions and tensions between extremes, including tacit knowledge. Facing conflict and contradiction head-on allows us to co-create new *narratives* and achieve self-transformation toward the common good.

What facilitates the organizational knowledge creation process is “practical wisdom leadership” (*Phronesis*) (Fig-

ure 2). Practical wisdom, as defined by Aristotle, is prudent judgment applied in practice. Each individual must have the resolve to live wisely (*a way of life*)—making the best judgments and taking timely actions dynamically within real-world contexts toward the common good of the future.

The *Inochi* Forum will carry forward and further develop Professor Nonaka's Knowledge-Creation Theory, expanding the arenas where individuals co-create value together toward the common good of the future.

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[Action Platform]

Economy, Employment and Poverty / Diversity and Inclusion

[SDGs]



Activities of the *Inochi* Forum

Organizer (including Co-organizer)

Symposium

- *Inochi* Forum Kickoff Symposium: “The *Inochi* Forum × ‘SDGs+Beyond’ – What We Must Do Now for the Future”
Date: March 21, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- *Inochi* Forum Kickoff Event: “Toward a Future Society Where Every *Inochi* Unleashes Its Radiant Light”
Date: April 26, 2025, Venue: Team Expo Pavilion, Expo Venue
- Mini Symposium: “*Inochi* Dialogue: Global Insights and Collaboration for a Sustainable Future”
Date: June 5–6, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- International Symposium: “Natural and Climate-change Induced Disasters’ Effect on Women and Under-represented Groups”
Date: August 5, 2025, Venue: Netherlands Pavilion, Expo Venue,
Co-organizers: Institute for International Initiatives, The University of Osaka
- TICAD9 Side Event “Co-creating the Future Society with Africa: Achieving SDGs and Beyond”
Date: August 22, 2025,
Venue: Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel,
Co-organizers: JICA, ADNJ, SSI
- “*Inochi* Declaration Festival”
Date: October 11, 2025, Venue: Festival Station, Expo Venue

Action Platform

- “Let Companies Engage in Educational Settings!” (Education and Children)
Date: June 19, 2023,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizer: KDKDK Network
- “Let’s Build a Symbiotic Economy Based on Empathy” (Economy, Employment and Poverty)
Date: July 18, 2023,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Nothing About Us Without Us: Protecting *Inochi* and Opening the Future” (Diversity and Inclusion)
Date: October 22, 2023,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- 1st *Inochi* Empathy Festival: “Gateway to a Radiant Future – Feeling *Inochi* Through Art” (Art, Culture and Sports)
Date: November 4, 2023,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- Study: Osaka Kansai International Art Festival “Cosmic Energy: Origins of the Universe” (Art, Culture and Sport)
Date: December 23–28, 2023,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Study: Osaka International Art Festival
- “Cambridge Faraday Institute’s First Lecture in Japan / Special Seminar” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: January 24, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Faraday Seminar Executive Committee
- “Naniwa-Suji Mix Music Festival: *Inochi* Empathy Square Event” (Art, Culture and Sports)
Date: January 27–28, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Naniwa-Suji Music Festival Executive Committee
- “Global Career Forum” (Peace and Human Rights)
Date: February 2, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: World Bank / IMF / ECFA
- “Challenges and Domestic & International Initiatives in Food and Agriculture—What Can We Do?” (Food and Agriculture)
Date: March 7, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Empathy Economy Led by Companies: Building a Symbiotic Society!” (Economy, Employment and Poverty)
Date: March 14, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Let’s Learn and Experience Social Issues Together in a Fun Way!” (Education and Children)
Date: March 30, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- “Expo Volunteer Information Session” (Education and Children)
Date: April 11 & 18, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus
- “Ronso Kansai Voluntary Group: Special Lecture by Ms. Hisae Shibusawa & Dinner Reception” (Economy, Employment and Poverty)
Date: April 20, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Ronso & Abacus Management School Kansai Chapter
- “Actions to Honor the Radiance of *Inochi*” (Medical and Welfare)
Date: April 25, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- “Takajin AWARD & FELLOW” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: May 25, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Osaka Akaru Club
- “Kansai SDGs Platform Academic Commons Exchange Meeting VOL.1” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: May 29, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Kansai SDGs Platform
- “Actions to Cherish the *Inochi* of the Planet” (Environment and Biodiversity Conservation)
Date: June 7, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online,
- “Let’s Experience Fairness and Inequality Through a ‘Quiz & Gamble’ Game to Achieve Diversity and Inclusion!” (Diversity and Inclusion)
Date: June 13, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- “Actions to Cherish the *Inochi* of the Planet vol.2” (Environment and Biodiversity Conservation)
Date: July 4, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “5th Annual Conference of the Haruno Yoshida Memorial Executive Committee (HYMEC)” (Diversity and Inclusion)
Date: July 7, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Haruno Yoshida Memorial Executive Committee (HYMEC)

- “Corporate Roles Toward Empathy Economy and Mutual Support Society – Focusing on the UN Global Compact and Global Compact Network Japan” (Economy, Employment and Poverty)
Date: July 18, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Japan Airlines’ Sustainability Initiatives – Utilizing SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel)” (Energy and Climate Change)
Date: August 1, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Role of Science and Technology in Food and Agriculture” (Food and Agriculture)
Date: August 8, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Exploring the Future Potential of Education – ‘Designing Future Education’” (Education and Children)
Date: August 22, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Kodomo Living
- “Environmental School for the Future: Learn, Share, and Spread the SDGs” (Environment and Biodiversity Conservation)
Date: August 23–25, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online,
Co-organizers: Osaka City Environmental Bureau
- “Gamba Osaka’s Contribution to and Support for Community Development – Walking Together with the Local People” (Art, Culture and Sports)
Date: September 5, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Can a Stone Have *Inochi*? Imagining the Future through Expo Architecture (‘Garden with *Inochi*’)” (Art, Culture and Sports)
Date: September 12, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Special Event by the Thousand Public Interest Project: Special Lecture by Chairman Miyata of Miyata Transport Co., Ltd. ‘*Kindness Creates the Future*’ & Screening of the Film ‘*Made with Love*’” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: September 18, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: 1000 Public Interest Project
- “KOA Corporation’s Philosophy and Founding Spirit in Practice – From ‘*Bringing the Sun to Ina Valley*’ and ‘*Integration of Agriculture and Industry*’ to the World” (Urban Development and Disaster Prevention)
Date: September 19, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Children and Adults Co-create Social Value!” (Education and Children)
Date: September 20, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Nurturing Children and the Future Through Community” (Urban Development and Disaster Prevention)
Date: September 26, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Protecting Our Earth and Future – Actions Against Plastic Pollution” (Resource Recycling)
Date: September 29, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Global Environment Centre Foundation (GEC) / UNEP-IETC / The University of Osaka Graduate School of Engineering, Uyama Lab / Girl Scouts Osaka Federation / Girl Scouts of Japan
- “How to Break the Cycle of Hatred? Learning from the Peacebuilding Initiatives of Accept International” (Peace and Human Rights)
Date: October 3, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- “Toward a Global Circular Economy – Especially from the Perspective of Plastic Recycling and Waste” (Resource Recycling)
Date: October 15, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “It’s Time to Seriously Think Together! The Carbon Neutral Future Society of 2050” (Energy and Climate Change)
Date: October 24, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Professor Ito and Get The Point – Metacognition Learned Through the SDGs Game” Kansai Chapter Regular Meeting (Economy, Employment & Poverty)
Date: November 17, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Japan Facilitation Association
- “Networking Event with Local Assembly Members” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: December 7–9, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Dot-jp, NPO
- Kickoff Symposium of the SSI Core Project “Biodiversity Conservation through Co-Creation between Universities and Communities” (Environment and Biodiversity Conservation)
Date: December 20, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “Creating Spaces for Students” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: December 17, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus,
Co-organizers: Kansai SDGs Platform Academic Commons
- SSI Community Development Forum “Urban Development and Science and Technology” (Urban Development and Disaster Prevention)
Date: December 20, 2024, Venue: Online
- “i-Gip 2024 Kansai After-Party” (Education and Children)
Date: December 22, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- “Improving Society – Academia’s Approach and Startup’s Approach” (Diversity and Inclusion)
Date: January 14, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus,
Co-organizers: WISER – Community for Young Female Researchers and Startup Support
- “Osaka Carbon Conference 2024” (Energy and Climate Change)
Date: January 16, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Osaka JCM Network / Global Environment Centre Foundation (GEC)
- Symposium of “Environmental School for the Future: Learn, Share, and Spread the SDGs – From EXPO 2025 Green Vision and Beyond” (Environment and Biodiversity Conservation)
Date: January 16, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Osaka City Environmental Bureau
- “The Power of Empathy Through Fashion and Music” (Art, Culture and Sports)
Date: January 23, 2025,
Venue: JICA Tokyo, Co-organizers: Artists in Project (JICA)
- “Meeting of the Kansai SDGs Platform Academic Commons” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: January 29, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus,
Co-organizers: Kansai SDGs Platform Academic Commons
- “Sumitomo Chemical: Putting the Sumitomo Business Philosophy into Practice” (Economy, Employment and Poverty)
Date: January 30, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
- “NPO Networking Event” (Diversity and Inclusion)

- Date: February 9, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Dot-jp, NPO
- “Practice Session of the Democracy Learning Card Game ‘Demopoly’” (Peace and Human Rights)
Date: February 7, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus
 - “Business and Human Rights” (Peace and Human Rights)
Date: February 13, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
 - “Dementia Prevention Program Beginning with Natural Therapies” (Healthcare and Welfare)
Date: February 24, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Dementia Prevention Activity Consortium
 - “Peacebuilding – Current Issues and Initiatives” (Peace and Human Rights)
Date: February 27, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
 - “Cross-Border Learning and Empathy – Connecting the Future Through Dialogue” (Diversity and Inclusion)
Date: March 8, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
 - “Naniwa-Suji Mix Music Festival” Satellite Event at The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center (Art, Culture and Sports)
Date: March 29–30, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Naniwa-Suji Music Festival Executive Committee
 - “Sakuya Working Community EXPO Leadership Talk Session (4th) – Legacy Connecting Beyond the EXPO” (Diversity and Inclusion)
Date: April 10, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Sakuya Working Community
 - “Issues and Initiatives in SDGs in ASEAN Countries and Mongolia” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: May 14 & 21, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
 - Talk Event “Designing a Society Where Every *Inochi* Unleashes Its Radiant Light Through Making Social Issues Personal – Experiencing Life Around the World via Empathy VR Theater” (Education and Children)
Date: May 15, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
 - “Experience Realistic Disaster Preparedness! Simulation Game ‘Direct Road’” (Urban Development and Disaster Prevention)
Date: May 20, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus
 - Special Event “Experiencing Diversity and Coexistence Through Serious Games and Music” (Education and Children)
Date: June 7, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Co-organizers: Friends of El Sistema Japan / SUNABA Corporation
 - “Building an Economy and Society Based on Empathy – Let’s Talk Together About How to Create Them” (Economy, Employment and Poverty)
Date: June 8, 2025, Venue: EXPO Site, Team Expo Pavilion
 - “Toward a Future Where Every *Inochi* Unleashes Its Radiant Light – The Future of Society as Discussed by Five NPOs” (Peace and Human Rights)
Date: June 12, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
 - “Toward a Future Where Every *Inochi* Unleashes Its Radiant Light – Young Government Officials Talk About Social Issues and Their Vision for Solutions” (Diversity and Inclusion)
Date: June 26, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
 - FY2025 First Public Seminar and Social Gathering of the Japan SDGs Association “Toward a Mutual Support Society: Required SDGs Management” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: July 30, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Organizers: Japan SDGs Association / *Inochi* Forum / SSI
 - “Railways Carrying Life: A Japanese Doctor’s First Participation in South Africa’s ‘Hospital Train’” (Medical and Welfare)
Date: August 5, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
 - “*Inochi* Fair for Adults” (Education and Children)
Date: September 25, 2025
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
 - “Become a Company Chosen by Your Business Partners! A Card Game Approach to Understanding the New Norms of Decarbonized Supply Chains” (Energy and Climate Change)
Date: September 30, 2025
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
 - “Enjoy Inclusivity Through Music, Culture, and Sports!” (Art, Culture, and Sports)
Date: October 5, 2025
Venues: Expo’ 70 Commemorative Park / National Museum of Ethnology / The University of Osaka Suita Campus,
Co-organizers: The University of Osaka Athletic Association Football Club

Youth Events

- “Future Society Envisioned by the Youth – The Role of Students as Future Leaders”
Date: May 1, 2023, Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus,
Co-organizers: The University of Osaka EXPO 2025 Promotion Office
- “Connections and Mutual Support for the Youth of the Future – Among Youth and Between Youth and Adults!”
Date: October 14, 2023
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- “atune x Co-Lab Gears Talk Event Vol.1”
Date: June 8, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- “A Future Society Envisioned by Youth 2: Imagining a Sustainable World in 2050”
Date: November 3, 2023,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus,
Co-organizers: The University of Osaka EXPO 2025 Promotion Office
- “A Future Society Envisioned by Youth 3: Can We Design a Future Without Conflict or Division?”
Date: May 2, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus,
Co-organizers: The University of Osaka EXPO 2025 Promotion Office
- “atune x Co-Lab Gears Talk Event Vol.2”
Date: July 19, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- “A Future Society Envisioned by Youth 4: Imagine Yourself and the Future Society After Experiencing the Expo”
Date: November 4, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus,
Co-organizers: The University of Osaka EXPO 2025 Promotion Office
- “Learn Smart Ways to Use Money Through the Card Game ‘from Me’”
Date: December 5, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus

- “Disaster Preparedness Card Game ‘Fusui Disaster 24’ Practice Session”
Date: January 15, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus
- “Let’s Think About Our Region with the Card Game ‘SDGs de Regional Revitalization’”
Date: April 7, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus
- “Space and *Inochi* – Space and Architecture”
Date: May 16, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus
- “A Future Society Envisioned by Youth: Toward the Reconstruction of Hamadori”
Date: May 24, 2025, Venue: Expo Exhibition Center,
Co-organizers: The University of Osaka EXPO 2025 Promotion Office
- “Kansai Future Dialogue Fest: Youth Weaving the Shape of Society”
Date: May 31, 2025, Venue: EXPO Site, Electric Pavilion Stage
- “*Inochi* Fair”
Date: July 12 / August 24 / 31, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- “77th Japan-America Student Conference SDGs Program”
Date: August 4, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center
- “A Future Society Envisioned by Youth 5: Let’s Share Our Japan with the World!” Date: September 7, 2025,
Venue: Expo Exhibition Center,
Venue: Team Expo Pavilion, Expo Venue,
Co-organizers: The University of Osaka EXPO 2025 Promotion Office

Collaborated, Cooperated and Supported events

Action Platform

- “Community-based Children’s Cafeterias Nurturing the Future”
(Urban Development and Disaster Prevention)
Date: September 6, 2023,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Organizer: The University of Osaka Social Solution Initiative
(Abbreviated as SSI) / Osaka Prefecture Children’s Cafeteria Network
Liaison Council
- Post-SDGs Seminar: “Envisioning a Future Society Where Every
Inochi Unleashes Its Radiant Light” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: December 1, 2023,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Organizer: Kansai SDGs Platform
- SSI Salon: “Now is the Time to Consider a Future Society Where
Every *Inochi* Unleashes Its Radiant Light and Carbon Neutrality
Together” (Energy and Climate Change)
Date: December 12, 2023,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online,
Organizer: SSI
- “Creating a Sustainable Future Society that Protects Life and
Livelihood” (Resource Recycling)
Date: February 5, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Organizer: The University of Osaka / Suntory Holdings
- “Protecting Living Creatures: Current Situation and Efforts in Shiga
and Lake Biwa” (Environment and Biodiversity)
Date: February 29, 2024,
Venue: Ritsumeikan University Biwako-Kusatsu Campus,
Organizer: Ritsumeikan University SDGs Promotion Headquarters /
Ritsumeikan Global Environment Committee
- SSI Symposium: “Living and Working – An Economy that Values Life
and Community-based Urban Development” (Economy, Employment
and Poverty)
Date: March 28, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online
(Metaverse),
Organizer: SSI / Global Sustainability Network (GSN)
- “Dementia Symposium to Benefit the Future of Children” (Medical
and Welfare)
Date: June 23, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Organizer: *Niyokatsu*
- “Industry-Academia-Government-Public Co-Creation Project –
DOIC (Digital-Open-Innovation-Campus): 1st Metaverse Regular
Meetup”(SDGs+Beyond)
Dates: July 11 & 16, 2024, Venue: Online (Metaverse),
Organizer: Cultural Capital Institute, Inc.
- SSI Salon: “Wisdom Close to *Inochi* — The Role of Classics in Social
Challenges” (Art, Culture and Sports)
Date: July 25, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center+Online,
Organizer: SSI
- “Cosmopolitan Campus 2024 with EXPO” (Education and Children)
Dates: August 5–9, 2024, Venue: Ikebukuro, Organizer: KCI
- FICCT Workshop #1: “Cultivating Resilience Through African Colors
and History” (Art, Culture and Sports)
Date: September 1, 2024,
Venue: Yamatedai Community Center, Ibaraki City,
Organizer: Future Intellectual Infrastructure Creation Base with Local
Communities (FICCT), The University of Osaka
- APIR Forum: “The Future of a Digital Empathy Society Created
Through ‘Oshi’ (Passion for Fandom)” (Economy, Employment and
Poverty)
Date: September 13, 2024,
Venue: Grand Front Osaka, Organizer: APIR
- SSI Salon: “From ‘Leave No One Behind’ to ‘Radiant *Inochi*’:
Approaches Beyond the SDGs” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: October 11, 2024,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus, Organizer: SSI
- Business Game Experience Event for SMEs: “Sustainable
Management Through Gaming” (Energy and Climate Change)
Date: November 26, 2024,
Venue: Osaka SAP, Organizer: SAP / OZCAF / SSI
- Sakuya Kirari Café: “What Does Working and Career Mean to Me?”
with Female Leaders (Diversity and Inclusion)
Date: February 6, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Organizer: SSI / Osaka Sakuyahime SDGs Study Group
- Workshop: “Real Places and Online Spaces of Belonging” (Education
and Children)
Date: April 2, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus,
Organizer: Musubie
- “The City of Tomorrow — Scales and Practices of Sustainable
Development” (Urban Development and Disaster Risk Reduction)
Dates: April 23–25, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Campus,
Organizer: RWTH Aachen University
- EXPO University Alliance Initiative Event: “Youth Transcending
University Boundaries to Think and Act Together—A Step That Can
Change the Future” (SDGs+Beyond)
Date: April 26, 2025, Venue: EXPO site, Team Expo Pavilion,
Organizer: Kansai SDGs Platform Academic Commons

- “Walking Football” (Art, Culture and Sports)
Dates: April 29, June 29, July 20, September 15, October 5, 2025,
Venues: Suita City and others,
Organizer: The University of Osaka Athletic Association Football Club
- EXPO 2025 Project: Japan’s First “*Ibasho*” to the World – “Cultural Co-Creation for the Future Through Art and Children’s Cafeterias” (Urban Development and Disaster Risk Reduction)
Dates: May 1, May 17, June 7, June 28, August 10, 2025,
Venue: EXPO site, FLV Pavilion, Organizer: Musubie
- Co-LaBo (Co-creation Launching Bridge Osaka) — Practical Global Leadership Development Program (Education and Children)
Dates: May 6–September 27, 2025, Venues: Various Locations,
Organizer: Junior Chamber International Osaka
- EXPO 2025 Project: Japan’s First “*Ibasho*” to the World – “Children’s Cafeterias and Disaster Recovery Support at Religious Facilities” (Urban Development and Disaster Prevention)
Date: May 17, 2025, Venue: EXPO site, FLV Pavilion,
Organizer: Musubie
- EXPO 2025 Collaboration Program with METI’s Fukushima Recovery Exhibition – “Youth-Driven Vision for Future Society: Toward the Revitalization of Hamadori” (Urban Development and Disaster Prevention)
Date: May 24, 2025, Venue: EXPO site, MESSE,
Organizer: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
- Osaka Sakuyahime EXPO International Women’s Conference – “From Osaka to the World! Achieving a Sustainable Society and Economy Through Women’s Leadership” (Diversity and Inclusion)
Date: May 27, 2025, Venue: EXPO site, Women’s Pavilion,
Organizer: Osaka Sakuyahime SDGs Study Group
- EXPO 2025 Project: Japan’s First “*Ibasho*” to the World – “Connecting Through Food and Cultures with JICA International Students” (Urban Development and Disaster Prevention)
Date: June 7, 2025, Venue: EXPO site, FLV Pavilion,
Organizer: Musubie
- EXPO 2025 Project: Japan’s First “*Ibasho*” to the World – “From Local Spaces to Global ‘Ibasho’: Connecting with a Diverse World” (Urban Development and Disaster Prevention)
Date: June 28, 2025, Venue: EXPO site, FLV Pavilion,
Organizer: Musubie
- The Gift for the Future: “Safety, Health & Well-being for All” (Economy, Employment and Poverty)
Date: July 16, 2025, Venue: EXPO site / ATC,
Organizer: Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun, Ltd. / Safety Global Promotion Organization
- Study: Osaka-Kansai International Art Festival Symposium “Study Meeting: Art & Impact — Where Are We (the Earth) Headed?” (Art, Culture and Sports)
Dates: July 21–22, 2025, Venue: International Conference Center,
Organizer: Osaka-Kansai International Art Festival Executive Committee
- EXPO 2025 Project: Japan’s First “*Ibasho*” to the World – “Rethinking Society’s Future Through Children’s Cafeterias” (Urban Development and Disaster Prevention)
Date: August 10, 2025, Venue: EXPO site, FLV Pavilion,
Organizer: Musubie
- Women Empowerment Summit 2025: “Our New Path to Growth — Creating a Society That Brings *Inochi* to Life” (Diversity and Inclusion)
Date: August 23, 2025, Venue: EXPO site, Women’s Pavilion,
Organizer: Haruno Yoshida Memorial Executive Committee
- “Practical Global Leadership Development Program — Final Presentation at EXPO Site” (Urban Development & Disaster Risk Reduction)
Date: September 17, 2025,
Venue: EXPO site, Electric Power Pavilion Stage,
Organizer: Junior Chamber International Osaka
- SSI Salon: “Truth, Goodness, and *Inochi* – The Role of Scientific Knowledge in Solving Social Challenges” (Art, Culture & Sports)
Date: September 18, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Toyonaka Campus, Organizer: SSI
- “Our Actions Protect the Planet – Plastics and a Resource-Circulating Society” (Resource Circulation)
Date: September 21, 2025
Venue: EXPO Site Theme Week Studio,
Organizer: Global Environment Centre Foundation (GEC)
- “LIFE INOCHI with Super Kids Orchestra” (Art, Culture & Sports)
Dates: September 27, 2025,
Venue: EXPO Site Shine Hat, Organizers: Feel&Sense

Youth Events

- “Cosmopolitan Campus 2024 Spring with EXPO”
Date: March 26–27, 2024, Venue: Kamiyacho,
Organizer: KCJ Group
- “*Inochi* Forum by High School EXPO Team”
Date: June 15, 2024, September 13, 2025,
Venue: The University of Osaka Nakanoshima Center,
Organizer: Osaka Prefectural Board of Education
- “MUIC•CVCC (Co-Value Co-Creation Program)”
Dates: October 10, November 28, 2024,
Venue: MUIC+Online, Organizers: MUIC Kansai / KANDO Co., Ltd.
- “SDGs Youth Action: 6th Kansai SDGs Youth Meeting 2024”
Date: February 24, 2025, Venue: Various locations in Osaka Umeda,
Organizer: Kansai SDGs Platform
- “Cosmopolitan Campus 2025 Spring with EXPO”
Date: March 26–28, 2025, Venue: ONC and other locations,
Organizers: SSI / Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University / KCJ GROUP Inc.
- “MUIC•CVCC” (Customer Value Co-Creation Program) (Education and Children)
Dates: May 2, 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025,
Venue: MUIC+Online,
Organizer: MUIC Kansai / KANDO Co., Ltd. / SSI
- “Junior EXPO 2025 Education Program Presentations”
Dates: July 28, August 8, August 26, 2025,
Venue: EXPO Site, Junior SDGs Camp,
Organizer: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition
- High School EXPO Team “Challenge by Osaka High School Students Toward a Future Where No One Is Left Behind”
Date: July 29, 2025, Venue: EXPO Site, Gallery EAST,
Organizer: Osaka Prefectural Board of Education
- High School Expo Team: “Selected High School Dance Team”
Date: July 30, 2025, Venue: Expo Site, EXPO Hall “Shine Hat”,
Organizer: Osaka Prefecture Board of Education
- “Cosmopolitan Campus 2025 spring with EXPO”
Date: August 7, 2025, Venue: EXPO site, EXPO Arena “Matsuri”,
Organizer: KCJ Group
- High School EXPO Team “High School Students’ *Inochi Declaration*” & “*Goumusuhiya*”
Date: August 23, 2025, Venue: EXPO Site, Osaka Healthcare Stage,
Organizer: Osaka Prefectural Board of Education
- “MUIC•CVCC (Customer Value Co-Creation Program)”
Date: October 10–December 3, 2025, Venue: MUIC+Online,
Organizer: MUIC Kansai / KANDO Co., Ltd. / SSI

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Editor's Note

The *Inochi* Forum was officially launched in March 2023. However, the roots of this initiative go back to January 2018, when The University of Osaka established the Social Solution Initiative (SSI), a think tank dedicated to addressing social issues through the lens of *Inochi*.

In November of that same year, Osaka-Kansai was selected to host Expo 2025. This moment inspired SSI members to envision a “soft legacy” leading toward 2030, and thus the idea of creating the *Inochi* Declaration was born.

Over time, the network of supporters and collaborators extended beyond SSI and The University of Osaka, eventually leading to the launch of the *Inochi* Forum.

The drafting of these Action Plans has spanned approximately seven years, and the number of individuals who supported and sustained the effort far exceeds those whose names appear in this document. I would like to take this opportunity to once again express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to this journey.

It is my sincere hope that the network of people who resonate with the values expressed here—and who are moved to take action—will continue to expand and flourish.

I deeply appreciate your continued support.

October 11, 2025

Takuo Dome

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