



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

SENDAI

# Sendai UNESCO Association





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## Sendai UNESCO Association

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Photo courtesy : Sendai-city Tourism Division / Sendai Tourism, Convention and International Association / JOZENJI STREETJAZZ FESTIVAL Association / Sendai Aoba-matsuri Sponsorship

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Greetings from the President

## From Sendai to the World

As Sendai UNESCO Association is the very first non-governmental UNESCO association established in the world to support the activities of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), Sendai is sometimes referred to as the sanctuary of the non-governmental UNESCO movement. By upholding the UNESCO Constitution, we are working towards a “peaceful world” and “building a sustainable society.”

Sendai UNESCO Association, which has a history of more than 70 years, has its own activities such as support for ESD activities at children’s camps, UNESCO Colleges as informal education, and UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet), as well as the “Future Heritage Movement” and the “World Terakoya (Japan’s traditional community learning centre system) Movement” to support literacy education. We also carry out collaborative projects with the UNESCO Associations nationwide.

In recent years, the activities of the youth club by young members have become active, and it is highly expected that young members will play an active role from a global perspective.

On the other hand, however, there are many global issues such as ethnic conflicts, global warming, climate change and human rights that become obstruct to the creation of our “sustainable society”. The United Nations has set up “SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)” and is actively promoting ESD (Education for Sustainable Development), as UNESCO is one of the leading organisations.

As a public interest corporation, Sendai UNESCO Association is actively working on ESD and SDGs, and is committed to work as one of the active stakeholders to achieve sustainable development goals in collaboration with the public and private sectors.

Dr Kazuyuki Mikami  
President

## What is UNESCO?

UNESCO is a United Nations organisation which stands for:

**United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation**

Under the philosophy of “*Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed*”, UNESCO promotes international cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and communication for creation of peaceful world.

## What is Non-governmental UNESCO Movement?

For citizens to voluntarily engage in activities to create global peace in sympathy with the UNESCO Constitution of the United Nations.

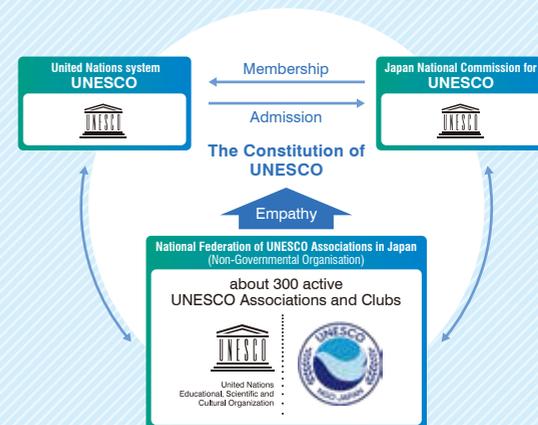
We work independently to achieve peace at the local level in collaboration with the UNESCO and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. We, Sendai UNESCO Association, are the very first non-governmental UNESCO association in the world. There are currently about 300 non-governmental UNESCO associations in Japan and about 3,500 associations/clubs in the world.

## Collaboration with the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan

National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan is a federation consisted of about 300 active UNESCO Associations and Clubs in Japan.

The education passes love and care on history, culture and nature to the future.

We are actively working on the following activities to protect and nurture the spirit of “The minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”:



- World “Terakoya” Movement
- World Heritage Activities/Heritage for the Future Project
- Post-Natural Disaster Educational Support and Disaster Prevention & Reduction Education
- Youth Programmes for Achieving SDGs

\*Terakoya=Japan’s traditional community education system

# History of Sendai UNESCO Association

On 19th July 1947, over 600 citizens gathered at the Assembly Hall of the Tohoku University to celebrate establishment of Sendai UNESCO Cooperative Association, where the "Declaration of Establishment" was sent to the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. This is the very beginning of the Non-governmental UNESCO Movement and spread to the world.

**Declaration at the opening of the UNESCO Cooperative Association**

The Japanese people who have abandoned the ways of war, now desire very earnestly a lasting peace; and hope to contribute to its advancement by joining the international cultural movements. The people repent from their former attitude and are determined to advance in a new direction cherishing love of truth and hoping for the realization of a universal culture.

"Since war begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defense of peace must be constructed." The importance of this passage in the preamble of the UNESCO Constitution we feel most deeply especially after our experiences in the last Great War. We also think, especially in Japan, this educational movement to eliminate the cause of war and foster peace must not be entrusted to national leaders and a few representatives, but must be started even now in the mind of every man. This is the reason why the UNESCO Cooperative Association has been set up as our mental preparation, before we can be officially admitted to the UNESCO. We expect that this movement will presently be developed all over the country. The present Japanese have been emancipated from the past militarism, are trying hard to contribute to the establishment of peaceful thought, and sincerely request universal sympathy and assistance for this exertion.

**1947**

- Establishment of the UNESCO Cooperative Association (July: the first in the world)

**1948**

- 2nd National Congress of Non-governmental UNESCO Movement in Sendai

**1951**

- 1st Sendai UNESCO Summer School

**1955**

- 1st Sendai UNESCO Summer School

**1957**

- Completion of Sendai UNESCO House
- Designated UNESCO publication deposit library

**2006**

- Launching of Non-governmental UNESCO Movement Day
- Launching of UNESCO College (Miyagi Prefectural Citizen College: informal education)

**2005**

- Launching of "Let's convey it with a painting! Treasure of my town" Painting Exhibition

**1977**

- Launching of UNESCO Women's University (informal education)

**1991**

- Friendly mutual visit between Japan and the US

**1989**

- Launching of International Exchange Festival (bazaar etc)
- Friendly visit to Morocco and UNESCO headquarters in Paris

**1984**

- 1st World Congress of UNESCO Clubs and Associations in Sendai
- Launching of a bronze sculptures "Young Girl" created by Churyo Sato

**1967**

- 1st UNESCO Member Country Flags Parade

**1958**

- 14th Non-governmental UNESCO Movement National Assembly in Sendai

**2011**

- East Japan Great Earthquake/Tsunami Disaster UNESCO Kids Camp
- "Kizuna" Message from the World
- Co-hosted "Ainu Fair in Sendai"

**2012**

- Visit by UNESCO Director General, HE Irina BOKOVA for inspection of the tsunami affected area
- 1st International Student Exchange Meeting (Youth Branch)

**2016**

- Demolition of Sendai UNESCO House and relocation of the office (May)

**2017**

- 70th Anniversary of Non-governmental UNESCO Movement Memorial Ceremony in Sendai
- Lecture by Dr Rajendra K Pachauri, a Nobel Laureate

**2018**

- UNESCO College ESD Class in "Climate Change"

**2019**

- Study Tour (Youth Branch. September)
- "World Peace and Disaster Prevention Project" (November)

**2020~**

- SALON & ZOOM Lecture (July)

**2021**

- 1st Miyagi UNESCO Kids Camp (Youth Branch)



## Non-governmental UNESCO Movement Day

Contribution to the World Peace & Passing on the UNESCO Philosophy

Nationwide memorial functions are held to commemorate establishment of Sendai UNESCO Cooperative Association (now Sendai UNESCO Association) on 19th July each year.



## UNESCO College (informal education)

Cultural Heritage for the Future Generation and Preservation of Natural Heritage

An informal education programme to study local heritages. History on natural disasters and disaster prevention are added after the Great East Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Disaster.



## "Let's convey it with a painting! Treasure of My Town" Painting Exhibition

Development of Youth – the Future Leader

This popular event is held to develop the spirit of love and care to one's hometown by paintings made by the pupils of primary and junior secondary schools.



## International Understanding & Exchange

To Live in Multicultural Co-existing Society

International exchange programme began with support to foreign students in Sendai has now advanced to support to realisation of multicultural co-existing society. Also, we participate the Sendai World Festa organised by Sendai Tourism, Convention & International Association (SenTIA) to spread the UNESCO Philosophy and introduce Japanese culture.



# Peace for Tomorrow

Spread the Sprit of Peace. Leave No One Behind

For Non-governmental UNESCO Movement based on co-learning and co-acting in collaboration with the people and organisations that share the common value for "Creation of Peaceful and Sustainable Society"

Activities to Assist Fulfilling SDGs (Sustainable Development Goal)

Citizens Participation Activities Prompted by Partnership

## "UNESCO College ESD Class" & "From the Disaster Hit Area to the Future connected by SDGs"

Co-Learning for Sustainable Global Environment

As a Local ESD Promotion Focal Point, we provide opportunities for studying local and social issues. In particular, Sendai being the severely affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Disaster, we are vigorously promoting the awareness programmes with a theme of "From the Disaster Hit Area to the Future connected by SDGs".



## SALON & ZOOM Lecture

Diversified Co-Learning using Internet

Newly introduced activity in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic for co-learning. Taking advantage of ICT we have been inviting guest speakers even from afar and overseas for many times. The courses provided are education, science and culture; very UNESCO.

## Overseas Grassroots UNESCO Movement

UNESCO Future Co-creation Platform Project

We will expand and deepen contact and exchange with the Republic of Kiribati in the Central Pacific in Non-governmental UNESCO Activities and education in both countries in partnership with institutes and UNESCO Association nationwide in Japan.

