From the viewpoint of nurturing science communicators

For students striving to become a science communicator, participation in this summit will be an opportunity to think about how to deliver what they have learned about environment in a practical way as a familiar problem and how to deal with the awareness of the issues from the students' perspective. The four themes raised by them, “water environment and environmental measures,” “disaster: measures and resilience,” “technology and creation of industry,” and “symbiosis of culture and nature” contain invisible issues that will emerge as problems in the future, and the experience of discussing ways to solve them with students of the world will surely be inspiring to them.

As ten years have passed since the launch of the WSEN Global Summit, I am looking forward to seeing the young generation approach global environmental issues using new technologies and ideas.

Shoichi Ishiura
Special Visiting Professor, Graduate School of Life and Medical Sciences, Doshisha University
Instructor of Science Communicator minor course
Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

Masaru Sato
Writer / Visiting Professor, School of Theology, Doshisha University / Former Senior Analyst of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Global ecosystem is at risk in a dual sense: firstly due to the increasing exploitation and deprivation of nature by humans caused by the rapid industrial development, and secondly because North Korea’s development of nuclear and ballistic missiles and multiplication of nuclear warheads in major countries like the United States and Russia have increased the risk of nuclear war that will destroy the global environment and cause catastrophic damage to humankind. Politicians and diplomats do have a serious awareness of this crisis, but are trapped inside the walls of national sovereignty and the inertial thinking pattern. Under these circumstances, it is very important for young students to hold the WSEN Global Summit on their own initiative in order for us all to survive this era. I urge as many people and organizations as possible to offer their support to this event. I myself am also in full support of this meaningful event.

From the viewpoint of environmental conservation activities by students

Doshisha University is currently working to nurture global leaders based on its education of conscience in the ALL DOSHISHA spirit. The year 2008 when the first WSEN Global Summit took place was also the year that saw the establishment of the Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences, where I currently work at. As the Director of the Center for Environment and Laboratory Studies Support Services who has supported the activities of Doshisha Eco Project and sent student delegates to the annual WSEN Global Summit for the past few years, I am delighted that the WSEN 2018 Global Summit will be held once again at Doshisha University. Seeing the collaborative effort between the students who have been involved in environmental conservation activities and the students taking the humanities/sciences interdisciplinary Science Communicator minor course (Faculties of Life and Medical Sciences, Economics and Social Studies) preparing for the summit together makes me aware of the strength of Doshisha as a university offering diverse academic disciplines.

Noriko Noguchi
Professor, Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences, Doshisha University
Director, Center for Environment and Laboratory Studies Support Services, Doshisha University

Supporters and Advisors

写真提供/文藝春秋

We are looking for supporters and contributors.
Doshisha University has been organizing WSEN Global Summits, which promote students' independent and international environmental issues. The WSEN Global Summit is an international conference that provides a platform for students to discuss the sustainable development of social environment and issue a proposal for improvement to the world. The WSEN Global Summit was initiated by a group of interested students of Doshisha University in 2008. Students from 14 universities in 11 countries around the world gathered in Kyoto for the first WSEN Global Summit with the aim of submitting a student proposal to the G8 Summit in Touyako held in July that year. The conference gained support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of the Environment, Kyoto Prefecture and other organizations, and was highly praised as an astonishing endeavor of students by the parties concerned, including the press. This year, on its 10th anniversary, the conference will be held once again at Doshisha University.

I myself attended the WSEN Global Summit held in the UK in 2016 and was deeply impressed with the enthusiasm shown by outstanding student participants who engaged in passionate discussions and worked really hard to overcome conflict and form a consensus. I became convinced that this conference is the perfect extracurricular program to cultivate global citizens who will take the leadership in social activities in addressing domestic and international environmental issues.

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Doshisha University will host the World Student Environmental Network 2018 Global Summit in August 2018. It is an international conference “by the students and for the students” where students from around the world discuss the sustainable development of social environment and issue a proposal for improvement to the world.

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Breakout Session “Technology and Creation of Industry”

Concept: Double face of science and technology

Science and technology have been developed for improvement of our lives and global future, but is the future beyond the development of technology really looking bright? The more advanced technology is applied in our lives, the more likely it gets to affect nature and culture in both good and bad ways. While technology is essential in leading a cultured life, on its background are the risks of damaging environment or disappearance of culture. We must therefore discuss these issues and where the limit of using technology is. With the rapid technological improvement happening in all fields, now is the time to face its positive and negative aspects and discuss with students from different countries about the usage and presence of future technology as well as its relation with society and industry in hopes of finding a key to realize a safe and prosperous global future. At the same time, students will attempt to use their unique perspective for proposing a plan to create new industry using science and technology.

Common theme for all breakout sessions “Symbiosis of Culture and Nature”

Concept: Sustainability of “invisible environment”

As a whole of this environmental summit, the conference will review the contents of discussions in three breakout sessions (water environment and environmental measures, disaster: measures and resilience, technology and creation of industry) from the perspective of sustainability of the invisible environment of “tradition and culture,” as well as re-examine the familiar environment of “daily life” and seek ways for “symbiosis of culture and natural environment.” Through these discussions, the conference will issue its conclusion on the sustainability of the broader global environment.

Concept of WSEN 2018

“Consider global sustainability through cultural, traditional sustainability”

Unique “culture” inherited in countries and regions has a strong connection with its “environment” and they affect each other. What should we do to maintain this good interaction? In today’s society, it is necessary to see things from multiple perspectives. Participants are expected to start with the discussion on the sustainability of the invisible but familiar “culture” and consider the sustainability of a larger scale “environment.”

Breakout Session “Water Environment and Environmental Measures”

Concept: Relationship between human activity and water environment

Drinking, Cultivating, Creation of Energy … Water is essential for human. As we use enormous amount of water every day, maintaining its supply and quality is also essential.

In addition, water is deeply related with local traditional industries like fabrics and sake in Kyoto, where this summit is held.

Through discussions on various water issues by students with different backgrounds from the perspective of sustainability, ideas for future global sustainability are expected to emerge.

Breakout Session “Disaster: Measures and Resilience”

Concept: Symbiosis of culture and countermeasures against disaster in terms of protection and reduction

Japan is one of the countries with most natural disasters in the world, and its culture shows how the people have coexisted with them through history. Earthquakes do not occur in some countries, while other countries suffer their own unique natural disasters. In every country, its countermeasures against disasters are a part of its culture.

This breakout session will regard natural disasters as “inevitable” and seek ways to protect each country’s own culture from them on the basis of “protection” and “reduction” through short presentations and discussions.

Schedule

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Breakout sessions are for discussions from various perspectives and include workshops and lectures.
As a delegate of the WSEN 2016 held in the University of Sussex and Keele University, I had the opportunity to learn more about the concept of sustainability through various lectures conducted by scholars and professors as well as workshops, while interacting with other delegates from different parts of the world. This not only made me more knowledgeable about sustainability and environmental conservation, but it also enabled me to communicate and share my ideas with others, which I believe is a more practical and effective way of learning.

In this year’s WSEN, I hope that more delegates will come together to share this experience while being immersed in Kyoto, where the Kyoto Protocol was first established, and is also a city that actively promotes sustainable living with networks like “Do You Kyoto?” I believe that having the WSEN held in this city will inspire many delegates to continue a sustainable lifestyle and become more socially responsible individuals. In addition, since Doshisha University is a very diverse and inclusive institution where the WSEN conference all began, I believe that many delegates will not only create lifelong friendships with people from different backgrounds, but also have a strong foundation on sustainability and the conservation of the environment, which they will be able to apply into their daily lives and even incorporate it into their future careers.

Aki Takeda
4th year student, The Institute for the Liberal Arts
Participant in 2016

Participating in the WSEN 2016 Global Summit has renewed my idea of “what I value and what I want to achieve.” For the single theme of environmental issues, students from different backgrounds gather at the summit. The experience of engaging in discussion and interaction with people of my generation with different viewpoints was very stimulating and gave me not only some new knowledge in environment but also the opportunity to reflect on myself from various perspectives. Through the summit I also gained a “real connection with people of the world with common awareness of the issues,” which is what I think makes this summit really meaningful. Environmental issues cannot be solved or dealt with overnight. The international person-to-person network will surely work as a firm step towards solving the problems.

Satoshi Nishiyama
2nd year student, Master’s Program
Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Doshisha University
Participant in 2016

The World Student Environmental Network was established by a group of students of Doshisha University in 2008, with its first Global Summit also taking place at the university. It will return to its origin after ten years, and in its theme “revist” we include our aim to “address the issues once again and discuss ideas for improvement and amendment.” The word “environment” not only refers to natural environment, but may be the whole of all the relationships surrounding human activities including social environment. On its 10th anniversary, this year’s summit is expected to shed light on this ambiguous and invisible environment. Having participated in WSEN 2016 as a delegate of Doshisha University, I will now make use of my own experience in preparing for the summit, this time in cooperation with younger fellow students. Please look forward to the sustainable future in which our activities flourish and raise awareness of students around the world.

Hiroshi Ueno
1st year student, Doctoral Program
Graduate School of Life and Medical Sciences, Doshisha University

The WSEN 2018 Global Summit will be held at Doshisha University with the support of its “ALL DOSHISHA” initiative. Having won the intense competition with other countries, Doshisha will host the event for the second time after a decade. The main theme of this year’s summit is “revist it”: in addition to the summit returning to its first host university Doshisha, the theme also implicates having the discussion with students from around the world once again on the issues of “environment” that can be viewed from multiple perspectives. I am certain that students with different values and backgrounds exchanging opinions will produce innovative ideas. Taking the advantage of the location in Japan, Kyoto and Doshisha University, we aim to make this conference an opportunity to both reflect on the past ten years as well as pass the outcomes on to the future. Please look forward to this year’s WSEN Global Summit which is also the stage of our youthful endeavor.

Yoko Tsurimaki
3rd year student, Department of Medical Life Systems
Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences, Doshisha University

In addition to the above, more than 90 universities from 40 countries around the world have participated in the WSEN Global Summit.

Host University: Doshisha University
Student Representatives:
Yoko Tsurimaki (Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences)
Hiroshi Ueno (Graduate School of Life and Medical Sciences)
Student Committee: WSEN 2018 Global Summit Student Committee (currently about 30 students)
The members of the above Student Committee and faculty and staff members of Doshisha University comprise the WSEN 2018 Advisory Committee of Doshisha.
Masaru Sato
Writer / Visiting Professor, School of Theology, Doshisha University / Former Senior Analyst of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Noriko Noguchi
Professor, Faculty of Life and Medical Sciences, Doshisha University
Director, Center for Environment and Laboratory Studies Support Services, Doshisha University

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