

SDGs NATIONAL FORUM 2022 SHIGA • LAKE BIWA

Summary Report

- Date and time : Saturday, 12th of November, 2022 9:45-15:45
- Venue : PIAZZA OMI and Online
- Number of participants in total : Visit 133 people / Online 490 viewers
- Archive : 332 total views (as of December 22, 2022)



- Organizer : Shiga Prefecture / Japan Center for Local Autonomy
- Supporters : Cabinet Office / Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry / Ministry of the Environment / Regional Revitalization Public-Private Partnership Platform / United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) / National Governors Association



Shiga Prefecture supports
the Sustainable Development Goals.

Toward the realization of "Sampo-Yoshi",
"good for the future" that is chosen by the world.

SDGs Future City SHIGA





■ Opening Remarks

Taizo MIKAZUKI **Governor of Shiga Prefecture**



In Shiga, with the basic philosophy of "Shiga changes, Happiness will last", we are promoting prefectural government so that the economy, society, and the environment can be balanced, and everyone, including future generations, choose their own "flexible and diverse life course" while feeling a new sense of affluence, and become good ancestors. In 2019, Shiga Pref. was certified as an SDGs Future City, and everyone, including local governments, companies, NPOs, universities, and citizens of the prefecture, has been working on the SDGs.

Shiga is alive with the spirit of "Sampo-Yoshi", which is "good for the seller, good for the buyer, good for society" of Omi merchants, and it is congenial to the SDGs.

We hope that this forum will provide an opportunity for everyone to start and accelerate their SDGs actions by learning about practical examples of the SDGs and feeling the thoughts of those who are working on the SDGs, including the younger generation.

■ Supporters Remarks

Shunsuke TAKEI **State Minister for Foreign Affairs**



Seven years have passed since the SDGs were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as goals for the entire international community aiming to realize a sustainable world. Due to COVID-19, climate change, and disruption of energy and food supplies due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it is becoming more difficult to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Now is the time to test the cooperation of the international community.

In order to realize a agile and resilient society with a virtuous cycle of economy and environment that achieves the SDGs, we need a chain of further behavioral changes.

We, the government, will continue to cooperate with local governments and other stakeholders in various fields to further accelerate all-Japan efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Kaoru NEMOTO **Director of United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)**



For the people of Shiga, who live with the blessings of Lake Biwa, I believe that the SDGs have been an issue that they can sympathize with from the beginning.

The great shock caused by the new coronavirus infectious disease has plunged people who were barely making ends meet into a difficult situation at once, and sympathy for the major principle of the SDGs, which is to leave no one behind, has spread. Japan is no exception, and the problems of single-parent households and child poverty have been brought to the fore in the wake of the coronavirus.

The 15-year implementation period of the SDGs is early, and we will reach the halfway point next year. I think it is extremely important to think of the practice of the SDGs not as a burden, but as a joy and a gateway to a better future.

If you make your own choices and work on actions that will lead to putting the brakes on climate change and increase the number of friends, society will change and a new normal will be born. I hope that such social changes will occur.

It is my hope that today's forum will serve as an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and involve many people.



The business field plays a major role in the SDGs. A panel discussion was held with five panelists who are active at the forefront of business under the coordination of Mr. Kenji FUMA. They discussed how SDGs are rooted in the region, the challenges and problems of SDGs that companies have been doing so far, the global trends of SDGs in business, the future possibilities of SDGs and gave some advice to companies working on SDGs in the future. And finally, They sent us a message for the future so that the SDGs will be achieved.

● Coordinator



Kenji FUMA

Neural Inc. CEO



Prefectures and municipalities across the country are discussing how to get the SDGs into full swing in their local areas. It is said that there is a need for local companies, large companies that can see things from their perspective, start-up companies that create the future, and financial institutions that are in a position to coordinate the entire economic world. And the sports world has a big role to play. There are many points of contact with local companies and local fans. I think that the five panelists today are all necessary actors.

I honestly feel that Shiga is amazing. I think that "Sampo-Yoshi" is a business practice and a culture that everyone has cultivated over a long period of time in Shiga. I hope that you will take pride in Shiga, and that is why I believe that Shiga will become a prefecture full of expectations.

● Panelist



Shojiro TAKAHASHI

THE SHIGA BANK, Ltd. President



滋賀銀行

Among the 17 goals of the SDGs, goals 7 to 12 cannot be achieved unless companies work on them. Shiga has a very high environmental awareness, and there are many companies that accept environmental initiatives. It is a challenge to translate the role that companies are taking into business, but we believe that we can rely on the fact that such an atmosphere is fostered. The value of a company is the sum of the economic value it must earn and the social value it must have for the community and society. Addressing the SDGs through business means increasing the value of each company over the medium to long term.

For post-COVID19-era management, I would like you to take on the challenge of incorporating initiatives that solve social issues into your business. Behind the 17 goals are environmental problems and social disparities, so it is difficult for individuals to work on them, but even small efforts will lead to the future.





Jin UEHARA

Shiga lakestars Co., Ltd. Chairman



Shiga Lakes has become a beloved member of the community, and we believe that we can contribute more effectively to the community and to the SDGs, if we continue to promote social contribution activities based on the strong community. Shiga Lakes has set the theme of becoming a club that leads the SDGs, and focusing on the activities related to the environment, education, and healthy life expectancy.

I run a professional sports club with the desire to make Shiga a place admired by the world. However, there are many things that Shiga alone cannot reach. I think that Lakes can be a booster of SDGs in the region, but it is a waste to divide and work on each region. I would like to collaborate side by side, connect nationwide, and work as a booster for the SDGs. Everyone involved in professional sports clubs, let's connect!



Megumi KODAMA

Taneya Co.,Ltd. General Manager



Not only making sweets, but looking at the producers who make the raw materials and beyond the sweets sold will lead to the SDGs, "leave no one behind." Before the SDGs came out, people didn't pay attention to what we were doing, the buildings we were building, and the words we were sending out were harming someone in unseen way. It is very important in the inclusive way of thinking of SDGs,

and our next goal and step is to change the idea that corporate activities themselves should be nurtured rather than retaining what they have now.

If we don't think that each and every one of us is happy, we won't be able to pay attention to the happiness of those around us, the local community, and the environment. I think such healthy thoughts come from the sense of one's own happiness.

What do you want to be in 2030, 2050? What do you want to do with yourself? So, first of all, I think it would be good if we could think about the SDGs with our own initiative and take action.



Hiroko TADA

ITOCHU International Inc. Director of Washington Office



In Europe and the United States, there is absolutely no sense of compulsion, patience, or imposition on the SDGs.

The reason why they choose the SDGs lifestyle is because it's cool. Because it's comfortable. I feel that one of the major characteristics of Europe and the United States is that it is green as a result and SDGs as a result. It would be great if we could do it because we want to do it, rather than because we have to do it because our boss tells us to do it. I feel that the SDGs will take root in Japan in a natural way if such a form that naturally emerges becomes more and more widespread.

As a Japanese, I will continue to work on the SDGs. Please keep in mind that the SDGs are very important.

I realize that Japan has really beautiful words related to SDGs. "Mottainai", "Itadakimasu", "Gochisousama", and Sampo Yoshi. I believe that there is no country other than Japan that has such beautiful words and concepts.

I think the basis of the SDGs is the business of local production for local consumption. They are launching more and more businesses like shining stars to improve their hometowns, and a trading company like ours will connect them and disseminate them to the world. I think it would be great if we could collaborate like that.



Miyu IMOTO mitei,LLC Representative employee

I have often seen people say, "It's in fashion," or "We have to do it because it's a social trend," or "It's appealing," even from my perspective as someone involved in supporting data science and DX. I want to do something, but what should I do? "I don't have anything in particular that I want to do, and I'm consulted that I have to do it anyway."

I think that it's any entry point for tackling the SDGs is fine, and whether or not it goes well from that entry point depends on whether you can think about it in the long term and whether you can correctly define success and failure. I think there are some difficult aspects, such as the cost involved and the need to obtain the understanding of the employees, but in the medium to long term, there will be profits and the employees will be happy.

The definition of success, even in data science, can fail, or give up when data is scarce. However, knowing that this is not enough is also a success, and it is important to connect it to the next.

I don't know if a company has succeeded in appealing that it is working on the SDGs through a certain initiative, but I think it has succeeded in appealing the SDGs themselves to society as a whole. This is because the fact that large companies do such things has become the advertising power of the SDGs.

I believe that this will enable the younger generation and those who do not understand the SDGs well and want to learn more about them to think about the essence of the SDGs.





Shiga has formulated Shiga's version of the SDGs, "Mother Lake Goals (MLGs)," and is thinking about and implementing SDGs through the familiar Lake Biwa. We introduced actual examples of SDGs initiatives in Shiga, including quiz-style videos.

● Commentator

Akira SAKANO ZERO WASTE JAPAN Representative Director

Picking up trash, trying not to leave food behind, and so on, I can't help thinking it's a very small thing, and I wonder if it's meaningful to do this alone, or if I'm doing it alone. It is also important to expand the area and the scope of oneself and start working together with several people in order to continue it, and it will continue because everyone will work together, not just the efforts of one person. I think it's important to say. It may sound like a big deal, but just pick one thing and continue. By all means, everyone, please pick up one thing that interests you from today.



Nobuhiko MIWA
Director of Shiga, Lake Biwa policy and MLGs promotion

Now that I have reached a reasonable age, I am in a position to pass on various things to young people, and there are many people who do not know about various historical facts and the soap movement. For that reason, I would like to convey the idea of thinking scientifically.

Marina HATA
Ritsumeikan Univ., College of International Relations / Impact Lab. Director

I hope that there will be more opportunities for young people to see what adults are doing, and for adults to see how young people are moving forward. I would like to increase the activities and momentum of young people from now on, so I would like everyone to do their best to aim for a sustainable society.

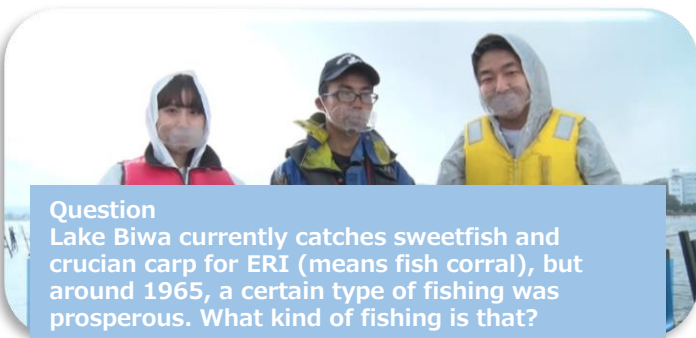


Question
YAMAMURO Co.,Ltd. uses a biomass boiler that uses woody biomass chips to produce agricultural products in greenhouses. What is it?

Answer : Mango

MC What are the current garbage issues in Japan and how can we reduce garbage in the future?

SAKANO In industrial waste, wood chips account for a very small proportion, about 3%. In the case of household waste, there are surprisingly many things that should be returned to nature, and organic matter accounts for about 30% to 40%. The term "food loss" is being heard a lot these days, but I hope you can imagine that there are many things you can do, such as checking your refrigerator frequently so that you don't waste it.



Question
Lake Biwa currently catches sweetfish and crucian carp for ERI (means fish corral), but around 1965, a certain type of fishing was prosperous. What kind of fishing is that?

Answer : Ikechogai (Hyriopsis schlegelii)

MC Please tell us about changes in the ecosystem of Lake Biwa, recent trends, and initiatives related to Lake Biwa.

MIWA I feel that changes in the environment and society are having a major impact on the fishing industry. Recently, the water quality itself is getting better, but the ecosystem and creatures are strange. Therefore, efforts are being made to remove non-native aquatic plants. In terms of fisheries, the cycle of visiting Lake Biwa and eating fish from Lake Biwa has continued for a long time, so I think it is important for us to make effective use of local resources.



In Session 2, Mr. Haichi, an educational YouTuber, and Mr. Azuma from Ritsumeikan Moriyama High School and Mr. Imanaka from Torahime High School held a roundtable discussion online. They talked about SDGs activities while looking back at the quiz.



HAICHI I watched the quiz, but I failed both questions. I didn't know about ERI (means fish corral). In fact, I learned that there is such a fishery, and there is a keyword that is kind to Lake Biwa. I watched it while feeling that it would become important to let people know that there are different ways to catch fish.

AZUMA Mr. HAICHI, do you have a goal among the SDGs that you want to solve the most?

HAICHI If I had to pick one, since I provide free educational videos on YouTube, number 4 is "Quality education for everyone", so if I were told that it would be the best, I think it would be there. If you let me be greedy, I can sympathize with all of them, and I feel positive, but there are two more, one is number 2, "Zero hunger". "Food" is a very important part of life. We can eat a proper meal every day. Hunger is not a keyword in Japan, but the number of poor households is increasing even in Japan, so I would like to solve the problem of hunger. The other one is number 5, "Let's achieve gender equality." This was originally a hot keyword for me, and I would like to stick to these three.

AZUMA Mr. HAICHI, what is important in solving social problems?

HAICHI When solving a big problem, unexpectedly, there are people who act individually and have their own thoughts, but individuals are "dots". But when you connect the dots, it becomes a line. If you connect more of them, it becomes a "face". The impact will be greater if everyone does it together, not as an individual, but as a community. Since the impact is great, it is absolutely necessary to have a flow that will lead to other things. I guess I'll need someone to coordinate the outside rather than the inside. If that's the case, I think it's very important for everyone to disseminate information.

IMANAKA Mr. HAICHI, who has posted various educational content, I would like to know about your thoughts on education.

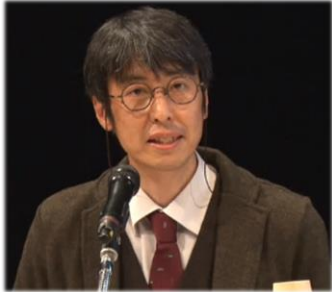
HAICHI I think it would be nice if there were more "choices". But don't be mistaken, there will be more new "choices". New things look good. Glittering. But, for example, why do we learn mathematics? While thinking "Why?", there is definitely "learning". It's something that can't be lost, so there's value and meaning in existing things, but we also need new options. I'm working while thinking that it's important to increase the number of options while maintaining that balance.



In Shiga, young people, including high school and university students, are actively working on the SDGs. The SDGs National Forum 2022 Shiga · Lake Biwa Student Executive Committee played a central role in sending out proposals for new connections using the Metaverse, as well as activities and thoughts on each person's SDGs under the theme of "Tsunagari".

*"Tsunagari" (it's Japanese) means "connect".

Moderator



Yohei UEDA

The University of Shiga Pref.
Regional Symbiosis Center
Lecturer

We nourish our bodies by interacting with nature and the environment, nurture our hearts by interacting with people, and let our souls fly by interacting with the past and future, that is, with time. Even though we should be fully aware of this, environmental destruction, social destruction, and destruction of the future do not stop. People and the environment, people and people, people and nature, it seems, "the tsunagari is sick."

If "the tsunagari is sick", there is no choice but to "cure it with the tsunagari".

If there is no tsunagari, tie it again, and if the tsunagari has been torn off, return the twist. If it's too tight, untie it once, and if it's finally tangled, sometimes try cutting it off. We will listen to stories about tsunagari from people who tie, untie, tangle, and tangle in various ways in various places. On top of that, we will try to weave together hints and manners for the integration of people and the environment, people and people, and people and the future. First up to the seven. Let's count the "seven rules for connecting people and the environment, people and people, and people and the future".

In order to bring together knowledge and create "seven rules for mutual interaction between people and the environment, people and people, and people and the future, six panelists and Governor Mikazuki, moderator announced what they thought was this.

Panelist



Yuto KUNITAKE VIRTUAL RIGHTS Chairman ※ online participation

Trying to work on various things freely, trying to create something new, or just trying to find something interesting, I get a lot of realizations that things are actually useful in some way, isn't it? Then, when I think about how to make it easier to create such a place of awareness, it is very important that there is a place for self-expression.

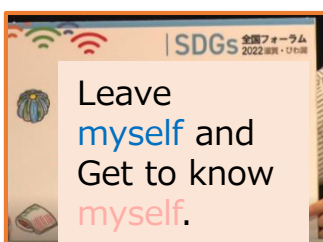
What I think about working on the Metaverse is that you can easily and reliably converse with people in distant areas. When I think about how to increase the number of examples of new ideas and initiatives that lead to the SDGs, I think it is important to secure a forum that promotes exchanges using digital technology.



Ayaka SATO Ritsumeikan Univ., College of Gastronomy Management Student

To find my identity, connecting with others is very important. It is the same with the heart of caring for others, but first of all, I need to understand myself why I say such things and what I think. I think it is important to accept the differences of others, but it is also necessary to accept my own differences.

So, when I think about what I need to do for that, I can't understand what I am without talking to other people, so I think it's very important to face myself. However, I think that there are many things that I can notice through dialogue with others, such as how I feel, how I can find my own identity by comparing myself to others. I thought it might be important to step away from myself for a moment and think about how I exist in the context of relationships with other people.





Yo YAMAKAWA Ryukyu Univ., Faculty of Science Student

Nowadays, the number of resort facilities in Okinawa is increasing, and the number of seas that cannot be entered freely is increasing year by year, and there are many places where fishing is prohibited, so you cannot freely catch shellfish and fish. People with bad manners will end up fishing even in places where it is prohibited, such as throwing garbage into the sea instead of taking it home, parking the car in a place where it should not be parked, and even if it is prohibited. Only those who keep good manners are losing. Instead of banning it, I think there must be another way.



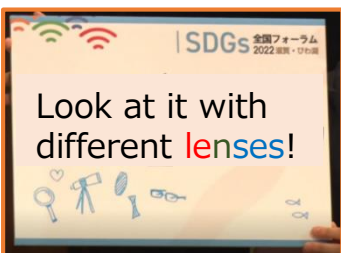
In Northern Europe, there is a system called the right to enjoy nature, which allows you to freely enter and enjoy the forest even if you are not the owner of the forest.

If you ban it, the connection between the sea and the local people will decrease, and the opportunity to think about the sea will decrease. If you go into the sea more often, you will soon notice that the number of fish has decreased, or that you have only seen the same type of fish recently.



Sara HAYASE Torahime high school Student

I thought of the lens as a tool that can be used to get hints and solutions to solve problems and issues. There are several types of lenses; magnifying glass that has a strong meaning of "searching", a telescope that looks at values that are separate from yourself, lenses we wear on a daily basis like the glasses I am wearing now. By using these lenses properly, I can see what kind of meaning my words and actions, myself, and in my heart, or the activities of the committee have for society, and what kind of things I can do in the future. I think it will be an opportunity to reconsider.



Shintaro TAGUCHI Seian Univ. of Arts and Design Assistant Professor

[] means "margin", and I thought it would be good to take care of this margin.

I thought that the four people were the opinions that symbolize today's youth. Mr. Kunitake expresses the fun of digital. Ms. Sato was of the opinion that the effect and importance of dialogue are understood at this age. Ms. Yamakawa thinks that there is no point in suppressing it from the top, rather, people who break it will break it, and based on that, how can we change society? Ms. Hayase's lens analogy is also interesting, and he has the idea that multiple viewpoints are important and that problems cannot be solved without various viewpoints. When we were little, we listened to the stories while wondering if we had received such an education.

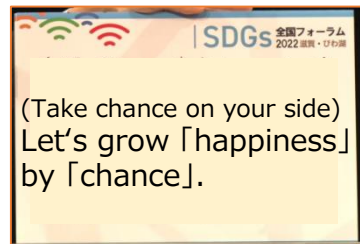


I think young people are too busy these days. There is really no margin. I don't hang out at all, it's getting harder and harder to connect with people due to the covid 19, and it seems like it's only natural that we don't have drinking parties, so I think it's really serious. I think that Mr. Ueda and I were playing around with nothing but blank spaces at university, but I think that blank spaces are necessary when creating something new in a good way. I think that what you are working on is originally a playful desire to solve a problem or to tackle a problem. Before you know it, it becomes a sense of duty, and it becomes like you're doing something because someone told you to do it, and it gets harder and harder. That's why I want you to be conscious of margins and play.



UEDA : When I asked Governor Mikazuki to write something out of the blue, he wrote this immediately. As the link between history and the future, between me and you, between myself and everyone, let's put love in the middle. For Shiga Pref., this middle "love" may be changed to "Lake Biwa". It is a thing where everyone is facing in that direction and connected.

Taizo MIKAZUKI
Governor



UEDA : There is research that says that 80% of the development of a life story is determined by unexpected coincidences. Curiosity, adventurousness, optimism, flexibility, and continuity attract good coincidences. On the other hand, we happen to be born in this era and we happen to be here. It's all a coincidence, but in order to participate here, I'm tuning in a little bit and I'm there. From now on, what should we do based on the seven hints given today, based on what we have heard from each other through this "Coincident" place? "Let's get along."

Yohei UEDA

And the completed 7 rules —

7 rules for mutual interaction between people and the environment, people and people, people and the future

1. **Make space for self-expression!** (KUNITAKE)
1. **Leave myself and meet myself!** (SATO)
1. **Let's not start with a 「prohibition」!** (YAMAKAWA)
1. **Look at it with different 「lenses」!** (HAYASE)
1. **[] Let's cherish the margins!** (TAGUCHI)
1. **Put 「love」 in the middle!** (MIKAZUKI)
1. **(Take chance on your side) Let's grow 「happiness」 by 「chance」!** (UEDA)

UEDA : By all means, let's all think about the eighth and lead to the achievement of the SDGs and the realization of great freedom. I would appreciate it if today was one of those opportunities, where happiness starts from being present.





In parallel with the main forum, aiming to widely share precedent examples of SDGs 24 companies, organizations, and students disseminated their efforts through posters etc., and people gathered and exchange opinions.

● Exhibiting companies, organizations, schools

• **EINS Co., Ltd.**

Introduced carbon-free printing, plastic-free printing, and SDGs events.

• **NIPPON TRAVEL AGENCY Co., Ltd.**

Under the themes of "People," "Landscape," and "Culture," introduced various initiatives that have been promoted while always thinking about what tourism can do now.

• **BSC WATERSPORTS CENTRE**

Introduced to investing in the future involving children.

• **AMORU+**

Introduced the Shiga pref. version of the SDGs board game, which collects examples of SDGs from companies and individuals in Shiga pref., and the Cultural Festival Event for Children and Adults, where students can interact with companies that practice SDGs.

• **THE SEA BEUTIFICATION SOCIETY Nagoya branch**

What happens to the garbage in Lake Biwa? Introduced the necessity of underwater cleaning and keeping garbage out of the lake.

• **and step**

Introduced activities such as hands-on classrooms for children and SDGs and on-site workshops.

• **SAMPO-YOSHI Institute**

Introduced examples of Omi merchants, their successors, successor companies' management and social activities, and what we should inherit.

• **Shiga lakestars Co., Ltd.**

Introduced the SDGs that the professional basketball team "Shiga Lakes" is working on.

• **THE SHIGA BANK, Ltd.**

Introduced actions to achieve a sustainable society by balancing social problem solving and economic growth in the region.

• **ITOCHU Corporation**

Introduced the efforts of Shiga and ITOCHU Corporation, and foreign language picture books donated to the Shiga Prefectural Library are also displayed.

• **Shiga Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Promotion Council coexisting with Lake Biwa**

Introduced the "Lake Biwa System," which has been certified as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS).

• **Kao Group Customer Marketing Co., Ltd.**

Introduced "Attack ZERO's Challenge" such as adopting 100% recycled PET for the bottle.

• **Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Ltd.**

Kyoto branch, Kyoto-Shijo branch and Otsu branch

Introduced the ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) project with the theme of "Thinking about communities and life from the perspective of SDGs", and Kyoto City, users of Kitayama cedar, and producers conclude an agreement to promote the use of Kitayama cedar in buildings etc..

- **OSAKA GAS Co., Ltd.**

Introduced the Daigas Group's low-carbon and decarbonization initiatives and next-generation education.

- **Lake Biwa Conservation and Restoration Division · ONESLASH**

Introduced Shiga's version of SDGs "Mother Lake Goals (MLGs)".

- **KOKUYO Product Shiga Co., Ltd.**

Introduced the "ReEDEN Project" to produce stationery using reeds from Lake Biwa.

- **Torahime high school**

- **Newspaper club · Pink Mask Day Executive Committee**

Introduced a newspaper coverage of Nagahama City's decarbonization and MLGs, and a movement with a pink mask inspired by Canada's Pink Shirt Day.

- **Minakuchi-Higashi high school, Super Global Club (MSGC)**

Introduced the "Disaster Prevention Carta" initiative.

- **KAN-BIWAKO Univ., Regional consortium**

Introduced "SHIGA SDGs Studios" as a student support project.

- **Ritsumeikan Univ., MLGs illustration**

Introduced MLGs dissemination activities through manga production about MLGs.

- **Yuzu - town General Incorporated Association**

Introduced the "Metaverse Student Whereabouts Support Program" that utilizes the VR Metaverse.

- **Ritsumeikan-Moriyama high school**

In order to develop the relationship between the school and the community through the creation of diversity through the Metaverse, introduced the redefinition of the way schools should be through the Metaverse-type campus of Ritsumeikan Moriyama high school, Metamori.

- **SDGs NATIONAL FORUM 2022 SHIGA · LAKE BIWA, Student Executive Committee**

Introduced the tourism map and activity details created by the SDGs National Forum Student Executive Committee.

- **The University of Shiga Pref.**

Introduced "Omi Rakuza," a place where students can learn, grow, and contribute to the community by making the most of their abilities.





■ Message from the next generation

Sayaka TOMISU Ryukoku Univ., Faculty of Sociology
Student

Shiga has Lake Biwa in the center of the prefecture and rich mountains that occupy half the area of Shiga. In Shiga, where we live, it is said that the "Sampo-Yoshi" culture of Omi merchants has taken root, and people have lived in harmony with nature in harmony with the SDGs since ancient times.

Despite the fact that the concept of SDGs is deeply rooted in Shiga, through the activities of the Student Executive Committee, we have heard from our friends that although they know about the SDGs and MLGs, they do not know what to do.



Kenta NAKAI Representative

One of the reasons is that we do not have the "courage" to take the SDGs as our own and take a step forward. At this forum, we, the student executive committee, which includes some members of society, will play a central role in disseminating SDGs initiatives using VR as a tool and challenging poster exhibitions held at other venues. I think that I was able to show many people the possibility that "I can do something" and create an opportunity to take action.

In this way, we will build Shiga, and Japan, so that the next generation and future generations can be proud of the "step" we have taken.

Yo YAMAKAWA Ryukyu Univ., Faculty of Science Student

The next SDGs National Forum will be held in my hometown, Okinawa. Through today's forum, we will learn that it is necessary for us, who will be responsible for society in the future, to transcend age, region, gender and values, connect with various people, and work together toward the future.

First of all, I will take over the baton so that I can connect my experience here to Okinawa.



■ Remark from the prefecture holding the next forum (Video message)

Denny TAMAKI Governor of Okinawa Prefecture



Good day to all ladies and gentlemen.

The next SDGs National Forum is scheduled to be held in Okinawa in 2024.

Under the subtropical oceanic climate, this prefecture is rich in biodiversity and has a unique natural environment, and various traditional cultures such as performing arts, crafts, music, food culture, etc. are rooted in history and climate.

We hope that many people will join us and experience the prefecture's rich natural environment, diverse traditional culture, and unique local charms. We also hope that it will be an opportunity to lead to various specific activities and partnerships aimed at achieving the SDGs. By all means, let's think about the SDGs together, take action, and work together to realize a society that leaves no one behind.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Okinawa.