



**UNESCO Week 2023**  
***Connecting Local to Global:***  
***Value Creation through UNESCO Initiatives and Activities***

## **Concept Note**

‘Since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed.’ These words form the renowned preamble to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) constitution, which formally declared the establishment of the UNESCO that exists today. UNESCO’s founding principles highlight the importance of diversity, tolerance, dialogue, and cooperation, which are particularly apt in our current age of intensifying global division and conflict. Further, the ongoing climate crisis and proliferation of widespread infectious diseases are reminders that our individual lives are intricately linked to, and affected by, the societies and communities around us, as well as the world at large. In light of the above, it is safe to assume that UNESCO’s overarching mission to ‘contribute to peace and security by promoting cooperation among nations through education, science and culture’ is now more pertinent than ever.

The private sector in Japan has had a history of spearheading UNESCO activities, making significant progress in this area relative to its global counterparts. Many organisations in the Japanese private sector thus place emphasis on international cooperation and exchange. This has been demonstrated not only through their frequent interaction and collaboration with developing nations, but also in their support of local communities through the utilisation of natural and cultural resources.

As the secretariat for the Platform for Future Co-Creation of UNESCO activities, we seek to create a joint platform for these UNESCO activities based in Japan, thereby connecting stakeholders of diverse backgrounds, communities, and generations. The aforementioned objective, coupled with our endeavour to generate opportunities for the dissemination of outcomes of UNESCO initiatives, has given impetus to the organisation of the upcoming *UNESCO Week 2023*. It is our desire that a wide range of attendees will participate in *UNESCO Week 2023*, including but not limited to youth who wish to deepen their knowledge of UNESCO and UNESCO’s activities, stakeholders overseeing or managing local UNESCO activities, as well as practitioners striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through collaborative partnerships. We sincerely look forward to your active participation!

# UNESCO Week 2023 MAIN EVENTS

## 1. Dates and Times (Japan Standard Time)

**DAY 1** Monday, 13 February 2023, 16:00-18:30

**DAY 2** Wednesday, 15 February 2023, 16:00-18:00

**DAY 3** Friday, 17 February 2023, 16:00-18:00

\*Attendees are **not** required to avail themselves for all three days to participate. For more information on the details of each day's events, please refer to the programme below.

## 2. Venue:

Online (Zoom·Youtube) ※ No translations will be provided for the live stream on Youtube.

## 3. Programme:

### **DAY 1: Webinar**

#### **An introduction to UNESCO: Learning about UNESCO from UNESCO staff members**

**Objective:** To raise awareness about UNESCO's values, ideals, initiatives, and activities.

**Language:** Japanese only

MC: Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO

Time	Details/Speakers
16:00-16:15	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Opening remarks</li> <li>■ Explanation of the objectives of the event</li> <li>■ Ice breakers</li> </ul>
16:15-16:40	<b>Presentation</b> Title: <u>What is UNESCO?</u> (tentative) <i>Jun Morohashi</i> (Chief of Section of Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO Headquarters)
16:40-17:40	<b>An introduction to UNESCO's sector-based initiatives and field offices</b> <b>Education:</b> <i>Toshiya Kai</i> (JFIT Programme Coordinator, UNESCO Bangkok) <b>Culture:</b> <i>Masanori Nagaoka</i> (Programme Specialist, UNESCO Phnom Penh) <b>Natural Sciences:</b> <i>Ai Sugiura</i> (Programme Specialist, UNESCO Beijing)

17:40-17:55	<b>Roundtable discussion with UNESCO staff members (discussants):</b> <b><i>Expectations for young people in UNESCO member states</i></b>
17:55-18:00	<b>Closing Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Information about other UNESCO Week 2023 events</li> <li>■ Announcement regarding the interactive session to follow</li> </ul>
18:00-18:30	<b>Interactive session between UNESCO staff members (discussants) and participants</b>  <div style="text-align: right;">Moderator:</div> Youth Committee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

## **DAY 2: International webinar**

### **Fostering deep, meaningful cross-sectoral partnerships through UNESCO**

#### **activities: Domestic and international case studies**

**Objective:** To further enhance understanding of UNESCO while encouraging the exploration of possibilities for collaboration and co-creation across multiple sectors.

**Language:** Japanese and English (simultaneous interpretation)

MC: Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO

Presenter/Moderator: *Kazuyuki Mikami*

(Emeritus Professor, Miyagi University of Education)

Time	Details/Presenters
16:00-16:15	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Opening remarks</li> <li>■ Explanation of the objectives of the event</li> </ul>
16:15-16:35	<b>Presentation 1</b> <b>Title:</b> <u>Integrating UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks as the platforms for intergenerational learning</u> <i>Aida Mammadova</i> (Associate Professor, Kanazawa University)
16:35-16:55	<b>Presentation 2</b> <b>Title:</b> <u>Cooperation and collaboration for youth development in Asahikawa, a UNESCO Creative City</u> <i>Tomoko Hayashi</i> (President, Asahikawa UNESCO Association)
16:55-17:15	<b>Presentation 3</b> <b>Title:</b> International case study (to be determined)

17:15-17:35	<b>Presentation 4</b> <b>Title:</b> International case study (to be determined)
17:35-17:55	<b>Panel Discussion: The synergistic effects of, and potential for, collaborative partnerships</b>
17:55-18:00	<b>Closing Ceremony</b> ■ Information about other UNESCO Week 2023 events.

### **DAY 3: International Symposium**

#### **From Local to Global: Creating value through collaborative approaches**

**Objective:** To facilitate UNESCO-based panel discussions that foster the creation of global solutions for local issues and vice versa, thereby drawing strong connections between the local and the global.

**Language:** Japanese and English (simultaneous interpretation)

MC: Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO

Presenter/Moderator: *Nobuko Kayashima*

(Senior Research Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA))

<b>Time</b>	<b>Details/Speakers</b>
16:00-16:15	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> ■ Opening remarks ■ Explanation of the objectives of the event
16:15-16:30	<b>Short Speech 1</b> by <i>Maoko Kobayashi</i> · <i>Akitosh Nagasawa Pati</i> (Leaders, Youth Committee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO)
16:30-16:45	<b>Short Speech 2</b> by <i>Kazuo Tase</i> (CEO, SDG Partners)
16:45-17:00	<b>Short Speech 3</b> by <i>Supranee Khamyuang</i> (Expert on International Cooperation Policy Development, Thai National Commission for UNESCO (TNCU))
17:00-17:50	<b>Panel Discussion</b> Panelists: • <i>Yuji Suzuki</i> (Chairman of the Board of Directors, National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan) • <i>Kazuo Tase</i> (CEO, SDG Partners) • <i>Robert Parua</i> (Programme Specialist, UNESCO Beijing)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Maoko Kobayashi</i>· <i>Akitosh Nagasawa Pati</i> (Leaders, Youth Committee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO)</li> <li>• <i>Supraanee Khamyuang</i> (Expert on International Cooperation Policy Development, TNCU)</li> </ul>
17:50-18:00	<b>Closing Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Closing remarks</li> </ul>

#### 4. 【Main Organiser】

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) (Commissioned by MEXT)



#### 【Co-Organisers】

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)



#### 【Collaborative Partners】

- National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ)
- Nature Conservation Society of Japan (NACS-J)
- Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN)
- Youth Committee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO
- International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI), National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH)

#### 5. Participant Registration Form



<https://forms.office.com/r/jcTC4HEyVM>

※Interested participants may register for the main events hosted by ACCU, as well as the associated thematic events using the above link.

#### 6. For inquiries, please contact:

Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

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Email: [education@accu.or.jp](mailto:education@accu.or.jp) / [wakayama@accu.or.jp](mailto:wakayama@accu.or.jp)

## UNESCO Week 2023 Associated Thematic Events

※All events listed below will be held online.

Event	Date and Time (Japan Standard Time)	Organiser	Language	Notes
<i>Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Cities and Communities : The first international symposium</i>	Wednesday, 1 February 10:30-16:45	International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI)	Japanese and English (Simultaneous interpretation)	Registration to be made via the <a href="#">official IRCI website</a> by 30 January
<i>The connection between us and Geoparks: Promoting Learning through Oki SDGs Cards</i>	Sunday, 12 February 10:00-12:00	Youth Committee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (Science sector working group)	Japanese	
<i>Understanding sources of pride and frustrations within our town: Creativity hidden in the everyday life</i>	Wednesday, 15 February 19:00-20:30	Youth Committee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (Culture sector working group)	Japanese	
<i>Envisioning the future: The potential role of the performing arts in fostering diversity and multi-culturalism</i>	Thursday, 16 February 18:00-19:30	Youth Committee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (Education sector working group)	Japanese	
<i>Promoting Teacher Education for Climate Change Education through Collaboration between Asian Centres of Excellence on Education for Sustainable Development</i>	Tuesday, 21 February 13:00-17:00	Okayama University UNESCO Beijing Office	English	
<i>ESD Evaluation Forum: Creating and shaping sustainable societies through the assessment of ESD initiatives by schools and communities</i>	Thursday, 23 February (National holiday) 16:00-18:00	Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)	Japanese and English (Simultaneous interpretation)	

### 【Participant Registration】



<https://forms.office.com/r/1NuFVfbGqJ>

※Interested participants may register for the main events hosted by ACCU, as well as the associated thematic events, using the above link.

### 【Inquiries】

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