

**38th UNU Global Seminar Student Report**  
**by Saki Saito**

## **1. Introduction**



My name is Saki Saito. I am a second-year student at Kuwanseigakuin University. My major is Policy Studies. In particular, I am focusing on environmental policy studies at my university. Since I entered the university, I had wanted to participate in an event that discusses environmental issues with other university students or students from foreign countries. So, as soon I found the announcement on the school website, I decided to enter the UNU 38th

Global Seminar.

## **2. Summary of keynote speech by Prof. Seita Emori**

The theme of the keynote was Climate Crisis and Social Transformation. As many people have already known, now global warming is considered to be caused by greenhouse gas emission by human beings. The Paris Agreement says that we have to keep temperature rise below 2°C, but we have to make efforts to keep it from rising above 1.5°C. If we fail, many creatures, including humans, will face a crisis and no longer will we live a normal life. Now we need to transform our lifestyle. It seems hard, but it does not mean it is impossible. As smoking is now unacceptable in many countries, human customs or common sense could change. I got hope from this example of human success to change their lifestyle to realize a better society.

## **3. Group discussion summary**

Coincidentally, all members of my group were Japanese. We could talk in Japanese, but we decided to try talking in English. My English skill is not so high, but senior students helped me well so I could enjoy discussing. Our team focused on policy remake and education to promote that remaking. During the research, surprisingly we all found many ineffective policies, so we decided to introduce some examples in our presentation with educational solutions, because we considered that many of them

were built based on wrong information and people's ignorance. One of the difficulties was making presentations with members in a second language. We could agree on the outline of our presentation, but minor adjustments were really difficult. So, we used a chat app and attempted to make minor adjustments. Finally, we accomplished our presentation, and I felt such a sense of accomplishment.

#### **4. Overall feedback on the seminar**

I found this seminar on the website of my university. At first, I was really worried whether I could follow the other members because my English skill is not so high, and this is the first time to talk to each other in only English in such a long time. However, now I'm so glad I joined. I had an excellent time during this seminar. Of course, sometimes it was difficult for me to understand everything, but I noticed it is not such a large problem that my English skill is not high. Rather, my motivation to study English increased because I got a new objective to acquire enough English skills to enable me to talk about such a specific topic with people who have various backgrounds. If there is someone who want to experience such a great time, I really recommend participating in this seminar!