SDGs and Role of Academic Community

Special Symposium for the UNU 40th Anniversary
Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Outline

1. SDGs and Roles of Academic Institutes
2. Development of International Higher Education
   1) Cultural connectivity in the context of Higher Education
   2) Possibility of Trans-disciplinary approach
3. Case Study
4. Significance of International Higher Education as cultural connectivity for the SDGs
SDGs and Roles of Academic Institutes

1) Human Resource and Capacity Building
2) Curriculum Development
3) Research Development
4) Academic Contribution to Society

Solving Issues from Multi-disciplinary Approach for the SDGs
Cultural Connectivity in the context of Higher Education

- Internationalization of Higher Education (HE)
- Diversification of HE with cross-border program mobility (students, staff, program, institution)

- Formation of Education Hub
- Formation of Network
Higher Education Program as Cultural Connectivity
---- a possibility of trans-disciplinary approach

- Separate Approach of Natural/Social/Human Sciences
- Trans-disciplinary approach
  --- theme-based, evidence-based
  --- cross-border global issues related with many countries and regions
  --- necessity of cooperation in network
United Nations University

- global think tank and postgraduate program
- to contribute, through collaborative research, education and capacity building
- to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States.
- a bridge between the international academic community and the United Nations system.
Sophia University

- Private Jesuit University celebrated 100th Anniversary in 2013
- Long history of offering English-based programs
- Annually welcomes about 1,100 international students from more than 60 countries
- 251 Partner Universities in 50 countries

------ Connecting Academic Hub with Cultural Diversity

------”Men and Women for Others with Others”

------“Sophia bringing the World Together”
Lecture

--- The Case of Sophia ASEAN International Mobility for Students Program

- Environmental Science
- Conservation
- Sustainable Development
- Urban Ecology
- Environmental Change and Human Development
- A Critical Approach to Sustainable City
- Introduction to Trans-Disciplinary Human Development (TDHD)
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Active Learning

- Providing the Asia-centric themes
  - SATOYAMA concept
    - Conservation dilemma
  - Water resources in Asian regions
    - Sustainable water use of irrigation
  - Japanese economic development and accompanied problems
    - Lessons learnt for the coming era
- field trips
  - Rice planting (2014 spring)
  - Sumiyaki (2014 autumn)
Fieldwork

- **Fieldwork Seminar: Human Ecology “Rivers”**
  - ✔ Two-week intensive course for further learning of TDHD
  - ✔ the seminar focused on the ecological system of Kushiro river, Kushiro Wetland, and Akkeshi Bay in Eastern Hokkaido.
Significance of International Higher Education as cultural connectivity for the SDGs

International Higher Education’s new function for cultural connectivity
--- bringing young leaders together beyond national boundaries
--- thinking together about cross-fields issues from the multi-disciplinary approach

Preparing for an academic platform to discuss and to cooperate together
(ex) UNU and Sophia---MOU for Academic Credit Transfer