

Common Indicators and Targets

Internationalization

Promotion of study abroad opportunities for Japanese students & effective use of online tools

- The COIL educational program, for which preparations began from FY2020, was introduced and began offering modules (subject groups) together with Kansai University as part of the "Forum for Promoting Internationalization of Universities" project, in which the University participates. The program for 2022 Spring was completed by some 110 students from 11 countries including 6 students from the University.
- The University's overseas partner institutions has expanded to 227 institutions in 63 countries and regions with the addition of one new country, Uganda.

Enhancement of support for international students

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representation in Japan, the United Nations Association of UNHCR (J4U), and Soka University signed an agreement on a Graduate School Admission System for Refugee Students Based on Recommendations. Consequently, the University has become the first institution that concluded agreements for both undergraduate and graduate schools.
- In collaboration with the Pathways Japan (PJ) and the Japan International Christian University Foundation (JICUF), the University will accept a maximum of five Ukraine students who wish to continue their studies in Japan as the Ukraine crisis continues.



Nairobi liaison office opening ceremony

Attended by representative faculty/staff of the University of Nairobi including Vice-chancellor and Executive Dean of Faculty of Arts, Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan in Kenya, and Soka University alumni and others

Activities of overseas offices

- The "University of Nairobi - Soka University Liaison Office" was established on the campus of the University of Nairobi in Kenya in August 2021. This is Soka University's fifth overseas office, following the establishment of offices in China, South Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines. The liaison office plans to provide information and advice to Kenyan students who are considering studying in Japan, offer support for students of Soka University studying in Kenya, and strengthen partnerships with partner universities in Kenya.
- An online academic seminar was held on the theme of "SDGs and Education" jointly with Thammasat University, Thailand.
- The UE-Soka University Friendship Clock was inaugurated on the Caloocan campus of the University of the East where the Philippines liaison office is located for further development of exchange between the universities.
- 'Peking University Cherry Tree' is Forever (*working English title*), a whole book bilingually translated in Japanese and Chinese, was co-published by the Office of International Relations of Peking University and the International Department of Soka University to commemorate the 40-year exchange between the universities.



Liaison office established in the University of Nairobi

Governance reform

Development of Global Core Initiatives

- A new department "Global Initiatives Office" consisting of the research institutes and Global Core Center was established to further advance the globalization of the campus, such as globalizing campus management systems and decision procedures.

Full-fledged activities using BEVI-j

- In the project "Development and Dissemination of Objective Evaluation Tests for the Effectiveness of International Exchange Programs," the University has been selected as a partner institution (Hiroshima University is the lead institution), and plans to develop a wide range of cooperation with universities and other institutions in Japan and overseas.
- The BEVI-j tests will continue to be conducted for students studying abroad, and preparations are under way to assess the learning outcomes of all students in line with the diploma policies. This is scheduled to be implemented from April 2022 starting with the incoming students of FY2022.
- Started preparation to establish the Japan chapter of IBAVI (International Beliefs and Values Institute), which promotes activities using BEVI-j. Soka University will become the Japan chapter starting April 2022.

Enhancement of collaboration with other universities

- As a collaborating university of the project for building a network of Strategic Partnerships, which aims to strengthen international competitiveness, adopted as part of the "Japan Forum for Internationalization of Universities" project, Soka University is expanding its collaboration with other universities, sharing issues concerning strategic partnerships with overseas universities and the experiences/achievements of good practices and other activities.
- In the project's symposium held in March 2022, a faculty of Soka University presented a showcase example on the University's strategic partnership for English language education.

Educational reform

Initiatives to foster global perspectives

- A series of lectures, "Soka Global Perspectives," were launched with an aim to provide opportunities to deepen one's knowledge. Four lectures have been held so far by internationally recognized academics and leading experts, including the Slovenian Ambassador to Japan, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist of Asia Development Bank's South East Asia Department, the UNDP Representative in Japan, and Director of FAO Liaison Office in Japan.

New course: Lectures by the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

- Ambassadors to Japan and delegates from eleven SADC member countries paid a courtesy visit to the University as the SADC's special lectures will be offered as one of the General Education Courses for the 2022 Spring semester. The lectures held by inviting ambassadors to Japan and diplomats will help students expand their global knowledge on the bilateral relationships between Japan and SADC member countries as well as a wide range of fields such as culture, politics, and economy.



Commemorative photo of Ambassadors to Japan and delegates from eleven SADC member countries

University's own indicators and targets

○ Increase in the number of students advancing to overseas graduate schools

- The number of students admitted to overseas graduate schools increased from 54 in FY2020 to 58 in FY2021. Major graduate schools include Harvard University (U.S.), University of Bonn (Germany), University of Glasgow (UK), The University of Melbourne (Australia), The National University of Singapore (Singapore), University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (France), and Peking University (China).

Featured initiatives based on the characteristics of the University

○ Enhancement of collaborative research and partnership with exchange universities and institutions in Japan and overseas

- The "11th Daisaku Ikeda International Philosophy Academic Symposium" was held as part of the 50th-anniversary commemorative project. The first symposium was held at Peking University in 2005 with academics from 11 universities participating, and various themes around the philosophy of Soka University Founder have since been explored.
- For this 11th symposium, 80 research papers were submitted from 52 universities and institutions in 10 countries and regions under the theme of "Coexistence of Humanity and Global Citizen Education," and four English breakout sessions and seven Chinese breakout sessions were held.



Video messages from Dr. Gu Binglin, Former President of the Institute of Advanced Studies, Tsinghua University, China (left), and Dr. Neelakanta Radhakrishnan, President of the Gandhi Research Association of India (right)

○ Ranked in global and national rankings

- In the Times Higher Education (THE) Japan University Rankings 2022, the University was ranked 5th in the Internationality category, maintaining its top 10 position for three consecutive years.
- In the QS Asia University Rankings 2022 announced in November 2021, the University ranked as follows: International faculty: 54th (6th in Japan), Outbound exchange students: 101st (10th in Japan), Inbound exchange students: 119th (18th in Japan), and International students: 131st (25th in Japan).



Mr. Gaohong, Director of the China-Japan Society (left), and Prof. Jason Goulah, Director of the Daisaku Ikeda Institute of Education at DePaul University (right) gave keynote speeches on the philosophy of humanistic education that fosters 'global citizens.'

○ 50th Anniversary Commemorative Event: "Value Creation x SDGs" series

- As part of the 50th-anniversary commemorative project, the "Value Creation x SDGs" events were held under the theme of "Global Citizenship Education." Joint events with the partner universities such as the University of Alcalá and Soka University of America as well as student-organized exhibits, and other events were held.
- The event was attended by renowned specialists with diverse backgrounds from around the world, including a professor of Osaka University's Osaka School of International Public Policy, the Director of the Daisaku Ikeda Joint Research Institute for Education and Development at the University of Alcalá, Vice President of International Christian University, a professor and the Founding Director of the Development Education Research Centre at University College London Institute of Education as well as researchers from the partnership universities and institutions.



Panel discussion

Others

○ International conferences

- The 2nd South Asia Research Center Online International Symposium organized by the South Asia Research Center was held and around 350 faculty, staff, students, and researchers attended the event. The keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Atul Khosla, Vice-Chancellor of Shoolini University, India, followed by two-day discussions on each of the section topics.
- To commemorate its 45th anniversary, the Soka University Peace Research Institute (SUPRI) held a webinar series on "Promotion of SDGs and TPNW" to discuss initiatives to strengthen the effectiveness of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and drive nuclear disarmament.

○ Student activities

- A student was invited to give a speech as the student representative at the thematic session of a side event of The Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The presentation was on the importance of community empowerment in international development, referring to the student's experiences in a training course held in the Philippines as part of the Global Citizenship Program (GCP).
- Team SOBITS, consisting mainly of students from Prof. Choi's seminar in the Faculty of Science and Engineering, won in two leagues of the RoboCup Asia-Pacific 2021 Aichi Japan (a competition of Asia and the Pacific Region). The team also received an award presented by the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence. Furthermore, a student from the seminar developed "SOBIT Begin," a robot operation system using a visual programming language Scratch, and won the Best Presentation award at the "2021 5th International Conference on Education and E-Learning (ICEEL)."



SOBITS members

○ ICRC Exhibition on Humanitarian Principles

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Japan and the University hosted the exhibition "Humanitarian Principles. Here and Now" through partnership with the Embassy of Switzerland in Japan, the Institut Français de Recherche sur le Japon at Maison Franco-Japonaise (IFRJ-MFJ), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representation in Japan.



Tape cutting at the exhibition opening ceremony