

Earth Youth Summit 2024 in Kyoto (for junior high and high school students)

Application Guidelines

Purpose of the Project

Eight years have passed since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the year 2030, the first turning point, is approaching. People who can see the structure of social problems, discuss and examine solutions, and put these into action are necessary to achieve goals of the SDGs by 2030 and create sustainable society by 2050. To this end, Kyoto University has been offering Kyoto University SDGs Leadership Development Program since 2020, and an annual program that combines online seminars, hands-on learning, and camps to nurture junior and senior high school students who will lead the next generation. In addition, we held “Earth Youth Summit 2023 in KYOTO” in March 2023, aimed to help students acquire global perspective, exchange their ideas in English, and proactively link the discussion results to proposals. Participants not only from Japan but also from overseas have discussed, and the results were disseminated at several venues including 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit.

In this year, Kyoto University SDG Leadership Development Program and Earth Youth Summit in KYOTO will be integrated, and participants will be invited from Japan and overseas to join in Earth Youth Summit 2024 in KYOTO, an one-year-long program designed to sincerely consider, discuss, and communicate about the SDGs in English. The aim of this program is to foster human resources who can collaborate and play an active role in global society, transcending barriers such as nationalities, and to promote networking. In a global society, it is essential to acquire communication and discussion skills in English, but it is even more important to have the ability to deliver what you want to accomplish in cooperation with others, to gain empathy, and to obtain skills to make it happen. Throughout this one-year-long program, students will be encouraged to actively use English, and put their ideas into practice rather than keep them on the table, with the support by mentors from diverse fields. We aim to implement ideas discussed by junior and senior high school students from all over Japan and the world in their own respective communities!

We hope this program will be a place where prospective future leaders to deepen their thoughts about diverse social issues and acquire abilities to communicate their ideas considering EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

Outline of Implementation

Earth Youth Summit in KYOTO will be in two parts: a pre-seminar to improve abilities for English conversation and knowledge, and a main-seminar to develop discussions for proposals.

【Pre-seminar】

Discussions using an online meeting application will be held on the second Saturday of each month from September 2023 to February 2024. After watching the lecture videos (in English) in advance, a wide range of topics related to the SDGs will be discussed mainly in English.

【Main-seminar】

From February 2024 to July 2024, group works will be conducted using an online meeting application by discussions within small groups. Each group will set one topic related to sustainability, which will be discussed for a period of six months.

In addition, an overnight training session will be held in Miyazu City, Kyoto Prefecture in August 2024. Each group will bring the results of their discussions to this session for further refinement and presentation.

(Examples of topics from Earth Youth Summit 2023 in KYOTO: carbon neutrality, resource circulation, biodiversity, diversity, SDGs, and sustainable living)

* We also plan to continue dissemination and make proposals on the discussions of each group after the end of this seminar. For more information, please see the Earth Youth Summit 2023 in KYOTO Case Study.

(<https://eco.kyoto-u.ac.jp/sdgs/kyoto-times/4516/>)

Dates and times

【Pre-seminar】

*The 2nd Saturday from September 2023 to February 2024: 14:00-16:00, 22:00-24:00 (Japan Standard Time: UTC+09:00)

Two time slots are arranged to allow participants from overseas to attend.

Discussion topics will be the same regardless of whichever you attend in a day.

【Main-seminar】

The date, time, and other details will be announced in December 2023.

Application Requirements

- ① Applicants must be in their 3rd year of junior high school, 1st year of high school, or 2nd year of high school (* 3rd, 4th, or 5th year in the case of secondary schools) at the time of application.
- ② Those who are interested in the leadership for the next generation, and activities related to environmental issues and the SDGs.
- ③ Those who can prepare to participate seminars by using the online meeting application.

Application Process

The application process will be conducted in two stages: a pre-seminar and a main-seminar.

- ① Online application for the "pre-seminar" from the Earth Youth Summit in KYOTO website

Please apply for the lecture via homepage (<https://www.kyoto-youthsummit.com/entry/>)



Application form

- ② Participation in the pre-seminar at least once

At least one time of attendance to the pre-seminar is required to apply for the main-seminar. If your attendance is not confirmed, you will not be able to proceed to the next step. The final session of the pre-seminar is scheduled at February 10, 2024.

There is no upper limit on the number of times you can participate in the pre-seminar.

- ③ Application for the main-seminar

The secretariat of Earth Youth Summit in KYOTO will inform participants for the pre-seminar about the main-seminar. The outline and application form for main-seminar will be released in December 2023. A selection process will be conducted at the time of application for the main-seminar.

【Pre-seminar】 (September 2023 ~ February 2024)

【Overview】 Online content using online meeting application

- Sessions will be held on the second Saturday of each month
- Discussions between participants after watching lecture videos (in English)



Applicants can apply for the main-seminar after participating in the pre-seminar.

***Participation of at least one pre-seminar session is required.**

【Main-seminar】 (February 2024 ~ August 2024)

【Overview】 Workshops in small groups

- Each group will be assigned with university, graduate, and international students as mentors to assist discussions.
- The results from discussions will be brought to an **overnight training session at Miyazu City in the summer of 2024** and be refined for proposals.
- Proposals from discussions in the main-seminar will be continuously released.

Handling of Personal Information

Personal information submitted at the time of application will be used only for the purpose of registration to this program. A person in charge for the management of personal information will be appointed, and security measures will be implemented to prevent loss or leakage of personal information.

Notes on participation in the program

① In principle, English will be the language used during the period, but contents of the discussions as well as participants' motivation, enthusiasm, and thoughts are the most important points. We are also considering the possibility of interpreter assistance by mentors.

② Since the program covers across fiscal years, participants are requested to confirm their schedule for the next fiscal year before apply to this course.

If it is difficult to participate until August due to examinations, etc., it is possible to participate only in the pre-seminar.

③ Minors must obtain prior consent from their parents or guardians before application.

A parental consent form must be submitted later.

④ Participation fee

There is no charge for attending the seminars, though the communication expense is to be borne by the participant.

Management Structure (partially planned)

Organizers: Kyoto Beyond SDGs Consortium



Contact

Contact information

Earth Youth Summit in KYOTO homepage

(<https://www.kyoto-youthsummit.com/contact/>)

All staff members are looking forward to receive applications from all of you who wish to take up the challenge of join activities that will change the future.