



UNESCO &

The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO



(provided by Shizuoka and Yamanashi Prefectures)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

日本ユネスコ国内委員会

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO



UNESCO's Overview

"Since Wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." (Extracted from the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, for the purpose of enhancing international peace and the common welfare of mankind through promoting collaboration and exchange among nations in the fields of education, science and culture.

UNESCO's decisions are made by the General Conference, held once in every two years, where its policies are determined, its programmes and budget are approved, and the Director-General is appointed on the recommendation of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board, consisting of 58 Member States, meets twice every year. Japan has been continuously serving as its member ever since the following year after Japan joined UNESCO.

Designation	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Foundation and History	The Constitution adopted on 16 November 1945 UNESCO founded on 4 November 1946 Japan admitted on 2 July 1951
Headquarters	Paris, France
No. of Member States	195 [as of April 2014]
Director-General	Ms. Irina BOKOVA Term of office: 4 years (currently in the second term: November 2013-November 2017)
Finance (2014-2015)	
Regular budget: US\$653 million	(Japan's contribution: approximately US\$70 million (10.834%))
Extrabudgetary resources: US\$402 million	(Contribution from MEXT: approximately ¥280 million) (Contribution from MOFA: approximately ¥190 million)
	(as of FY2014)



UNESCO Headquarters Building © UNESCO



The 37th General Conference (at UNESCO HQs, October 2013)



Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO © UNESCO

Highlights of UNESCO Activities in Japan

Japan joined UNESCO in 1951. At present, Japan is the provider of the second largest financial contribution to UNESCO, and is making vital contributions to UNESCO in various aspects.

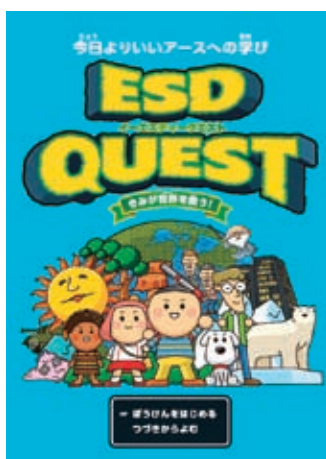
Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Japan supports ESD programmes by contributing funds-in-trust to UNESCO in order to facilitate such global tasks as building a sustainable society and developing human resources for future generations.

Japan also provides assistance and cooperation toward the dissemination of the United Nations Decades of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD 2005-2014), which Japan proposed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002 and the UN General Assembly adopted in the same year. As for the UNESCO Associated Schools, which serve as a base for ESD promotion, Japan is positively engaged in both quantitative and qualitative improvement of the Associated Schools. It is expected that Japan will continuously take a leading role in promoting ESD among UNESCO Member States, and also make further efforts for ESD promotion within the country.

An ESD story book, “ESD QUEST”

A story book suitable for elementary school upper graders up to adults, to explain ESD in a easy-to-understand manner by a role-playing method using charming characters



Your everyday life will make a future.

MEXT-MOE
collaboration characters

UNESCO World Conference on ESD

In November, 2014, the last year of UNDESD, Japan and UNESCO co-organize the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture and Okayama City, Japan.

The Conference will be attended by the ESD stakeholders from 195 UNESCO Member States including the cabinet members of the respective states, and it will review the UNDESD and discuss how to make further promotion of ESD.



Promotion of Sustainability Science

In 2011, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU) submitted to UNESCO a proposal to promote “Sustainability Science”, an interdisciplinary scientific approach aiming at building a sustainable society, and its importance was duly recognized. Japan will take both domestically and internationally a vital leadership in this field, and will formulate concrete activities and render possible supports to them.



Biosphere Reserves (known as “UNESCO Eco-Parks” in Japan)

The programme called “Biosphere Reserves (BRs)” was launched in 1976 under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme conducted by the Science Sector of UNESCO.

While the World Natural Heritage aims to protect and preserve natural areas of outstanding universal value, this programme aims at harmonizing the preservation and the sustainable use of ecosystems, as well as academic researches. Emphasis is, therefore, on harmonious coexistence of nature and human society, rather than mere protection or preservation.

From Japan, seven sites (Shiga Highland, Mt. Hakusan, Mt. Odaigahara & Mt. Omine, Yakushima Island, Aya, Tadami and Minami-Alps) are on the list of BRs as of June 2014.



Natural Beech (*Fagus crenata*) forest at Tadami, Fukushima Prefecture



The summit of Mt. Kita, Minami-Alps, Yamanashi Prefecture

World Heritage

In 1992, Japan became a party to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), which was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 1972. Since then, a number of properties in Japan have inscribed on the world heritage list as cultural and natural heritage while the Government has promoted international cooperation and assistance for the preservation and protection of world heritage which are common assets of mankind.

In 2013 “Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration” and in 2014 “Tomioka Silk Mill and Related Sites” were inscribed on the list respectively.

■ States Parties: 191

■ World Heritage sites: 1,007 (cultural: 779, natural: 197, mixed: 31)

■ World Heritage sites in Japan: 18 (cultural: 14, natural: 4)

(as of June 2014)



East cocoon warehouse of Tomioka Silk Mill (provided by Gunma Prefecture)



Minamijima Island of the Ogasawara Islands (provided by MOE)

Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted in 2003 in order to safeguard intangible heritage such as performing arts, rituals and festive events, and traditional craftsmanship. Under the Convention, the “Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” was established and international assistances has been promoted through the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

Japan became the third State Party in 2004, and is promoting international cooperation and assistance for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.

In 2013, “Washoku, traditional dietary cultures of the Japanese, notably for the celebration of New Year” was inscribed on the Representative List.

■ States Parties: 161

■ Inscribed heritage on the Representative List: 281 in total, 22 in Japan (as of August 2014)



Washoku, traditional dietary cultures of the Japanese, notably for the celebration of New Year (provided by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)

Financial Contributions to UNESCO

In order that Japan plays a leading role in international society through contributing to the UNESCO's mission to work for realizing world peace and the common welfare of mankind, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) provides UNESCO with funds-in-trust, and thereby implementing cooperative programmes for the Member States through UNESCO in the fields of education and science.

Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Promotion of Education in Asia and the Pacific Region

- to support literacy rate improvement and life skills acquisition
- to support formulating international frameworks for the capacity building of planning and management in educational systems
- to support education for natural and man-caused disaster preparedness

Japanese Funds-in-Trust for Scientific Programmes on Global Challenges

- to support policy-making
- to support professional capacity building and human resources development in the fields of freshwater and ocean
- to support the promotion and networking of education utilizing Biosphere Reserves
- to support information gathering and sharing on scientific programmes

Japanese Funds-in-Trust for Education for Sustainable Development

- to support materializing and implementing strategies for the last 5 years of the United Nations Decades for Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD, 2005-2014)
- to support formulating international frameworks for the dissemination and promotion of ESD in view of the World Conference on ESD

Promotion of Non-Governmental UNESCO Activities

In Japan, non-governmental UNESCO activities started in 1947, far earlier than Japan joined UNESCO. Up to present, they have been driving forward non-governmental activities in the world. It is also recognized that the world's first non-governmental UNESCO association was launched in Japan.

The National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ)

NFUAJ is a federation of non-governmental UNESCO associations in Japan, the first of which was established in Sendai in 1947 by the Japanese people moved by the philosophy of the UNESCO Constitution. NFUAJ carries out diversified activities, together with nearly 280 UNESCO associations throughout Japan, in line with the principles of the UNESCO Constitution, expressed as "...it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed."

(Major activities)

- World Terakoya (Community Learning Center) Movement
- World Heritage Activities
- Youth Activities
- "Heritage for the Future" Movement
- Exchanges with overseas UNESCO-related organizations
- "ESD Passport" for the promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)



Senior high school students with ESD Passports ©NFUAJ



Children learning at a Terakoya ©NFUAJ

Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

ACCU is a non-profit organization established in 1971 by the joint effort of the government and the private sector of Japan. In a close partnership with UNESCO, ACCU implements various capacity-building and regional cooperative/exchange programmes for fostering learning in the fields of education and culture, and connecting the people of the Asia-Pacific.

(Major activities)

- Educational cooperation programmes
 - Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
 - Education for All (EFA)
 - UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet)
- International teacher exchange programme
- Cultural heritage protection cooperation programmes
- High school model UN Conference programmes



SMILE Asia Project (literacy programme) in Cambodia ©ACCU



Individual Training Course for Cultural Heritage Protection ©ACCU

The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO is determined to make continuous efforts to promote UNESCO activities in Japan.



Activities of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

About JNCU

The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU) is a special organization attached to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), in accordance with the Law Concerning UNESCO Activities (1952 Law No. 207). JNCU is comprised of up to 60 members who represent their respective competences in the fields of education, science and culture.

Note: JNCU is not under the direct control of UNESCO.

Main Activities of JNCU

- to provide advice, make plans, serve as a liaison and conduct studies concerning UNESCO activities (activities to realize UNESCO's objectives) in Japan
- to conduct studies and deliberations in order to advise Ministers concerned on such issues as the selection of the Japanese government representatives for the UNESCO General Conference as well as matters related to the Conference agenda, and those related to the conclusion of treaties and conventions
- to draw out the basic policies of UNESCO activities in Japan
- to exchange information with UNESCO-related institutions and organizations in Japan

Organization of JNCU

[Structure]

- JNCU is composed of up to 60 members who represent various domains in education, science and culture. Their term of office is three years.
- The members are appointed by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, upon the recommendation of JNCU and with the approval of the Cabinet.

[Secretariat]

In accordance with the Article 18 of the Law Concerning UNESCO Activities, the secretariat of JNCU is attached to the Office of the Director-General for International Affairs of MEXT, and the Director-General for International Affairs serves as Secretary-General of JNCU.



The 135th General Assembly of JNCU held on 24 July 2014

Organizational Chart of JNCU



Recommendations and Proposals from JNCU (Extracts)

(Note: For the details of the following recommendations and proposals and those submitted before 2007, see the JNCU website: <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/unesco/>)

- **Proposal regarding invigoration of UNESCO Activities in an Era of Diversity**
This proposal addresses how to mobilize youth and business enterprises in UNESCO activities as indispensable actors for vitalizing them, and how to further promote ESD in view of the UNESCO World Conference on ESD, to be held in November 2014 in Japan. (Adopted at the 134th JNCU General Assembly held in March 2014)
- **Guideline for UNESCO Associated Schools**
The guideline consolidates important matters for schools which are already registered as Associated Schools to conduct more fruitful activities, as well as for those which will join in the near future to plan more effective activities. (Reported at the 131st JNCU General Assembly held in September 2012)
- **Proposal to UNESCO concerning "Sustainability Science"**
"Sustainability Science" is an interdisciplinary scientific approach aiming to solve urgent global challenges by linking segmentalized academic disciplines from a comprehensive and integrated point of view, for the purpose of building a sustainable global society. The proposal is to request UNESCO to introduce the concept of Sustainability Science when formulating its programmes. (Adopted at the 129th JNCU General Assembly held in August 2011)
- **Recommendation to the Japanese Government concerning actions for concluding the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**
This recommendation is to request the Government to take necessary actions in a positive manner for concluding the Convention. (Adopted at the 126th JNCU General Assembly held in March 2010)
- **Proposal to UNESCO regarding strategy formulation for the second half of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD)**
This proposal is to request UNESCO, as the lead agency of UNDESD, to take necessary actions to guide an international society so as to accomplish the goals of UNDESD, by formulating effective strategies for the second half of the Decade in view of bringing a successful conclusion. (Adopted at the 126th JNCU General Assembly held in March 2010)
- **Recommendation to the Japanese Government for further dissemination of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and promotion of support to ESD**
Based on a firm recognition that Japan, as the proposer of UNDESD, should further strengthen its efforts to promote ESD on the occasion of the midyear of the Decade in 2009, this recommendation requests the Japanese Ministers concerned (the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of Finance, of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and of the Environment) to take necessary actions to attain the goals. (Adopted at the 124th JNCU General Assembly held in March 2009)
- **Proposal regarding the effective utilization of UNESCO Associated Schools for the promotion and dissemination of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**
This proposal addresses how to concretely utilize UNESCO Associated Schools in order to disseminate ESD at schools. (Adopted at the 122nd JNCU General Assembly held in February 2008)
- **Proposal to UNESCO regarding further promotion of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD)**
This proposal presents to UNESCO new approaches for further promotion of UNDESD (2005-2014). (Adopted at the 121st JNCU General Assembly held in August 2007)

UNESCO's Organization and Programmes:

UNESCO Website: <http://www.unesco.org>

UNESCO World Heritage:

UNESCO World Heritage Centre Website: <http://whc.unesco.org>

For administrative matters regarding the world heritage in Japan, please contact the following offices:

Cultural Heritage: Monuments and Sites Division, Cultural Properties Department, Agency of Cultural Affairs

Natural Heritage: Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment

UNESCO Activities in Japan:

Secretariat of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU)

Office of the Director-General for International Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959, Japan

Tel: +81-(0)3-5253-4111 (Ext. 2937)

http://www.mext.go.jp/english/unesco/ e-mail: jpnatcom@mext.go.jp

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jpnatcom>

JNCU is an organization to give advice, make plans, serve as a liaison and conduct studies regarding UNESCO activities in Japan, and is not under the direct control of UNESCO. Please note that JNCU is not in a position to answer all the questions concerning each and every programme of UNESCO, and related data and facts.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

ESD Portal Website: <http://www.esd-jpnatcom.jp/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/esd.jpnatcom>

UNESCO Activities of Local Government Bodies

Boards of Education of prefectures and government-designated cities