

ASPnet Interschool Exchange Report (English)

School name	Showa Women's University Junior-Senior High School
Partner school country/region (city)	Republic of Korea / Busan
Partner school name	Busan International High School (BIHS)
Exchange period	From 18 December 2024 (Wed) to 18 December 2024 (Wed)
Method(s) of interaction	☐ Letters ☐ Emails ☐ Videos ☒ Online tools / e.g. Zoom, Teams etc. ☐ Conference ☐ School visit ☐ Other / Please specify 90-minute Zoom session. Prior to the exchange, students uploaded self-introductions using an online tool. After the exchange, photos and presentation slides were uploaded and proved effective.
Study area(s)	☒ Global Citizenship ☐ Cultural Heritage ☐ Culture of peace ☐ Disaster risk reduction ☒ Gender Equality ☐ Human rights ☐ Justice and democracy ☐ Learning to live together ☐ Media and Information Literacy ☐ Migration and refugees ☐ Intercultural Dialogue ☐ Preventing violent extremism ☒ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ☐ School violence and bullying ☐ Sustainable development ☐ Sustainable lifestyles ☒ Other / Please specify

	Activities for “Creating a Sustainable School” (e.g. initiatives to solve environmental issues on campus), and education in Korea.
Objective(s)	To share the content and insights of inquiry-based learning (SDGs-related studies) at both schools. Through dialogue and exchange, students deepened their understanding of each other’s schools and enhanced their own learning and future activities.
Details	• Teachers from both schools met a couple of times via ZOOM in advance to coordinate the exchange. Based on SDGs themes, Showa focused on “Gender” and “Environmental Issues,” while BIHS focused on “Education.” Each school gave presentations, followed by group discussions and Q&A sessions based on the themes. The session began with school introductions, including each school’s UNESCO activities. • BIHS participants were 16 members (mainly aged 16–17) of their UNESCO Club. From Showa, 16 volunteer students participated, including members of SDMs (Speech, Debate, and Model UN society), the environmental group “Operation Green,” the “Inquiry Labo” team, and students from the international course. Participants included 1 second-year junior high student, 3 third-year junior high students, 1 first-year senior high student, and 11 second-year senior high students. • After the event, the teachers from both schools had a meeting via ZOOM to reflect the session, and to discuss future ideas.
Results	• As all participants were volunteers, both the preparation and the exchange itself were marked by high motivation. The Q&A and discussions were lively, providing an excellent opportunity for each student to deepen their inquiry. • Students gained a better understanding of the Korean education system, particularly in subjects such as mathematics, literature, Korean language, and music. • Presenting Showa’s initiatives in gender education and environmental protection prompted students to reflect deeply on their own learning. • Beyond the main themes, students enjoyed discussing school life and current trends, such as favorite artists and music, which made the exchange lively and enjoyable. • Prior to the exchange, BIHS sent an English-language journal published by their UNESCO Club, as well as gifts for our participants and our school. The high quality of the journal was inspiring for our students. Showa plans to

	reciprocate with similar gifts, and we were deeply impressed by BIHS's thoughtful gestures and enthusiasm for the exchange. • Through the exchanges during preparation, the teachers of both schools came to know each other, and by successfully completing a joint project, a relationship of trust was established. This outcome is considered a valuable foundation for future collaboration. After the Zoom session, the teachers held a "reflection meeting," which provided an opportunity to discuss the potential for further development of future exchanges. • We believe that this exchange served as a meaningful starting point for the younger generation to build a friendship with our important neighboring country in the future.
Challenges and how they were overcome	It took time to coordinate the exchange schedule. This was resolved through multiple rounds of communication via email and Zoom meetings.
Future plans and visions	• A second Zoom exchange is currently being planned for December 2025 (tentative theme: "War and Peace"). • BIHS hosts the "Busan Global Forum," where high school students from across Asia gather to discuss global issues. Schools from Japan, China, Vietnam, India, Singapore, and others have participated in the past. Showa has also been invited, but due to scheduling and budget considerations, participation is still under discussion. • BIHS has also conducted annual visits to Tsukuba University's Junior and Senior High School as part of the "Japan-Korea High School Exchange Program." They have expressed interest in forming a sister school agreement with Showa and visiting our school during future trips to Japan. We are currently exploring the possibility of hosting them from the 2026 academic year onward.
Photos	Photos
Others (names of files or URLs of attachments, if any)	Timetable of the exchange day