

UNESCO Activities in Japan



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
日本ユネスコ国内委員会

日本ユネスコ国内委員会

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO



Contents

1	UNESCO's Overview	1
2	UNESCO's Programmes	3
3	Activities of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO	7
4	Japan's Cooperation (Education, Science, Culture and others)	10
5	Non-governmental UNESCO Activities	18
6	Activities of Local Government Bodies	19
7	History of UNESCO Activities	20

1 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.

Its decisions are made by the General Conference, which meets once in every two years. It determines the policies of UNESCO, approves the programmes and the budget and appoints the Director-General 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 since the following year after Japan joined UNESCO.

Designation	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Foundation and History	*Constitution: adopted on 16 November 1945 *UNESCO: founded on 4 November 1946 *Japan: admitted on 2 July 1951
Headquarters	Paris, France
Member States	195
Director-General	Ms. Irina Bokova term of office: 4 years (November 2009-November 2013)

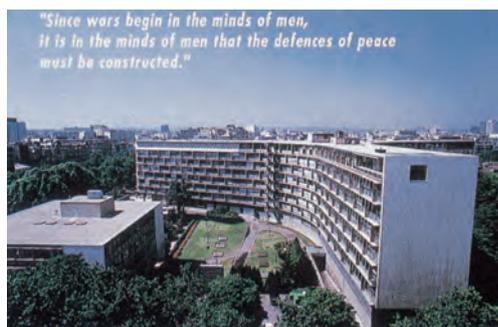
Finance (2012-2013)

Regular Budget: US\$653 million

【 Japan's contribution:
approximately US\$82 million (12.531%) 】

Extrabudgetary resources: US\$541 million *1

【 Contribution from MEXT : approximately ¥440 million
Contribution from MOFA : approximately ¥370 million
(as of FY2011) 】



*UNESCO Headquarters Building ©UNESCO

*1: The actual amount is the sum of voluntary contributions from the Member States and other resources.



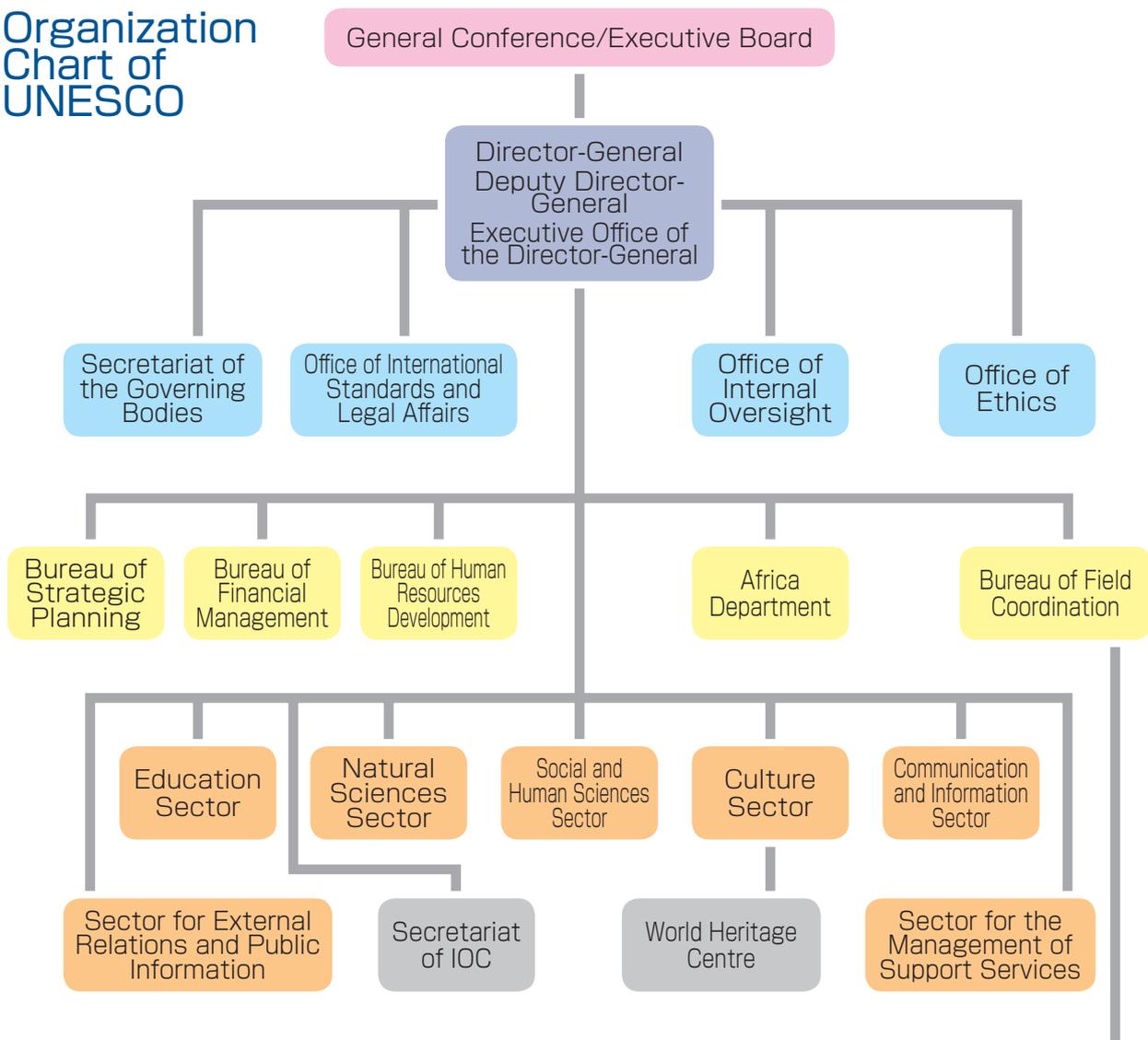
*The 36th General Conference (at UNESCO HQs, October 2011)



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

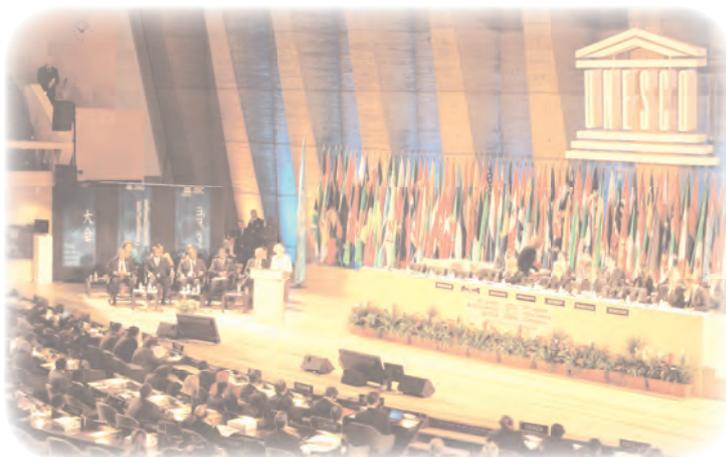


Organization Chart of UNESCO



53 Field Offices
 27 Cluster Offices; 21 National Offices;
 10 Regional Bureaux (incl. 9 having double duties); and 4 Liaison Offices

(as of December 2011)





Education

Overarching Objective:

**Attaining quality education for all
and lifelong learning**

2008-2013 Strategic Programme Objectives:

- ① Strengthening UNESCO's global lead and coordination role for EFA and providing support to national leadership in favour of EFA
- ② Developing policies, capacities and tools for quality education for all and lifelong learning as well as promoting education for sustainable development

● Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) was proposed as an issue of high priority at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, and was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly. UNESCO, designated as its lead agency, formulated the International Implementation Scheme for the UNDESD in 2005, and has since been promoting educational and awareness-raising activities.

● UNESCO Associated Schools

The ASPnet (UNESCO Associated Schools Project network) was established with the objectives of delivering the ideals set forth in the Constitution of UNESCO and promoting peace and international cooperation through practices in schools. Approximately 9,000 schools from 181 Member States join the Network as of June 2011.

● Education for All (EFA)

EFA movement is a global commitment to ensure the opportunities to quality basic education for all children, youth and adults. The Dakar Framework for Action, adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000, sets forth the goals to be achieved, such as improvement of literacy rate, elimination of gender disparities in education and improvement of the quality of education.



Natural Sciences

Overarching Objective:

**Mobilizing science knowledge and policy
for sustainable development**

2008-2013 Strategic Programme Objectives:

- ① Leveraging scientific knowledge for the benefit of the environment and the management of natural resources
- ② Fostering policies and capacity-building in science, technology and innovation
- ③ Contributing to disaster preparedness and mitigation

(Major programmes)

● International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

The International Hydrological Programme promotes international cooperation in water research, water resources management, education and development.

● Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission coordinates the programmes of the Member States and promotes international cooperation in such fields as research on marine and its resources, sustainable development, environmental protection, and capacity building for marine management.

● Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

The Man and the Biosphere Programme is an intergovernmental joint programme to conduct scientific research on sustainable utilization and protection of natural resources with the objective of the protection of biodiversity. One of its major programmes is to designate the Biosphere Reserves (BR).

※In January 2010, the 22nd MAB Committee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO decided to call BR as “UNESCO Eco Park” in Japan.



Social and Human Sciences

Overarching Objective:

Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges

2008-2013 Strategic Programme Objectives:

- ① Promoting principles, practices and ethical norms relevant for scientific and technological development
- ② Enhancing research-policy linkages on social transformation
- ③ Fostering research on critical emerging ethical and social issues

(Major programmes)

● International Bioethics Committee (IBC)

The International Bioethics Committee is an advisory body to reflect the life sciences and its applications in order to ensure respect for human dignity and freedom.

● World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)

The World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology is an advisory body to reflect social issues emerging from scientific and technological advancements from ethical and cultural points of view.

● Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme

The Management of Social Transformations Programme promotes poverty elimination and social disparity adjustment, fosters research on social transformations caused by global environmental changes such as climate change and natural disasters, and seeks to bridge between research and policy-making.



Culture

Overarching Objective:

Fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace

2008-2013 Strategic Programme Objectives:

- ① Strengthening the contribution of culture to sustainable development
- ② Demonstrating the importance of exchange and dialogue among cultures



to social cohesion and reconciliation in order to develop a culture of peace
③Sustainably protecting and enhancing cultural heritage

(Major programmes)

● **Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**

The Convention was adopted by the 17th UNESCO General Conference in 1972 to establish a system for international cooperation and assistance to protect and preserve cultural and natural heritage from the threat of damage and destruction.

● **Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

The Convention was adopted by the 32nd UNESCO General Conference in 2003 with the objective of establishing a system for international cooperation and assistance to safeguard intangible cultural heritage.

● **Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**

The Convention was adopted by the 33rd UNESCO General Conference in 2005 in order to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions.



Information and Communication

Overarching Objective:

**Building inclusive knowledge societies
through information and communication**

2008-2013 Strategic Programme Objectives:

- ①Enhancing universal access to information and knowledge
- ②Fostering pluralistic, free and independent media and infostructures

(Major programmes)

● **Information for All Programme (IFAP)**

The Information for All Programme aims to narrow information divide, and thereby establishing an information-based society for all.

● **Memory of the World (MoW) Programme**

The Memory of the World Programme was launched by UNESCO in 1992 with the objective of facilitating preservation of important documentary heritage which should be kept in the memory of the people in the world.

3 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 fields of specialization, including education, science and culture.

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

Main Activities of JNCU

- Providing advice, planning, communications and study regarding UNESCO activities in Japan
- Conducting study and deliberations, in order to advise the related Ministers on such issues as the selection of the Japanese government representatives and matters related to the agenda for the UNESCO General Conference, and those related to the conclusion of treaties and conventions
- Formulating basic policies for UNESCO activities in Japan
- Exchanging information with UNESCO-related organizations and groups in Japan



The 130th General Assembly of JNCU held on 15 February 2012, where Ms. Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO addressed and discussed UNESCO's priority and future cooperation with Japan



JNCU Organization

Structure

- JNCU is composed of up to 60 members who represent such domains as 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.
- The members include seven Diet lawmakers (four of the House of Representatives and three of the House of Councilors) and four senior government officials (Vice Ministers of Finance, of Foreign Affairs, and of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, as well as Director-General for International Affairs of MEXT).

General Assembly

The General Assembly of JNCU is held biannually, with specialized committees called before the General Assembly. At the General Assembly, participants discuss, for each specialized area, reports and evaluations of UNESCO programmes, reports and policies regarding UNESCO conferences, as well as reports and plans regarding UNESCO activities in Japan.

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 Director-General for International Affairs serves as Secretary-General of JNCU.



Recommendations and Proposals from the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

○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. The proposal was adopted at the 129th JNCU General Assembly held on 3 August 2011, and then submitted to UNESCO on the occasion of its 36th General Conference. (2 November 2011)

○Recommendation to the Japanese Government concerning actions for concluding the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Based on the understanding that it is of utmost importance to understand, respect and appreciate the diversified cultures of different nations, the recommendation is to request the Government to take necessary actions in a positive manner for concluding the Convention. The recommendation was adopted at the 126th JNCU General Assembly held on 2 March 2010 and then submitted to the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. (8 March 2010)

○Proposal to UNESCO regarding the strategy formulation for the second half of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD)

The proposal is to request UNESCO, as the lead agency of the DESD(2005~2014), to take necessary actions to accomplish the goals of the DESD, by formulating effective strategies for the second half of the DESD in terms of the successful conclusion. The proposal was adopted at the 126th JNCU General Assembly held on 2 March 2010 and then submitted to UNESCO. (4 March 2010)

○Recommendation to the Japanese Government for further dissemination of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and promotion of support to ESD

The DESD marks the mid point in 2009. Based on the recognition that Japan, as a proposer of the DESD, should further strengthen its efforts to promote ESD, the 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. The recommendation was adopted at the 124th JNCU General Assembly held on 9 March 2009, and then submitted to the Ministers concerned. (23 March 2009)

○Proposal regarding effective utilization of UNESCO Associated Schools for promotion of dissemination of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Based on the recognition that ASPnet can be effectively utilized for the dissemination of ESD at schools, the proposal shows concrete ways and means to utilize the network. The proposal was deliberated by the working group attached to the JNCU Education Committee, and then adopted at the 122nd JNCU General Assembly on 28 February 2008.

○Proposal to UNESCO regarding further promotion of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD)

These proposals were submitted to UNESCO in order to present new approaches for the further promotion of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The proposals were deliberated by the working group attached to the JNCU Steering Committee, and then adopted at the 121st JNCU General Assembly on 30 August 2007.

Note: For the details of the above-mentioned recommendations and proposals and those made before 2005, see the JNCU website: <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/unesco/>



4 Japan's Cooperation

Education

Japan provides assistance and cooperation in the field of education in close collaboration with UNESCO headquarters, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, and other agencies. Japan is also making efforts to disseminate and promote UNESCO activities within the country.

① Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

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

Japan also provides assistance and cooperation toward the dissemination of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD), which began in 2005 following the proposal at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002, and at the United Nations General Assembly in the same year. Furthermore, the Japanese government established the Interministerial Meeting on the UNDESD within the Cabinet. The Interministerial Meeting drew up a National Action Plan for the UNDESD in March 2006, and is taking the initiative, based on the Plan, in coordinating various stakeholders in order to promote ESD in Japan. In 2014, the last year of the Decade, UNESCO will convene jointly with Japan the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in Nagoya (Aichi) and Okayama, Japan.

② Education for All (EFA)

Japan supports UNESCO's efforts to secure opportunities for basic education in developing countries, by contributing funds-in-trust to UNESCO. Above all, Japan puts emphasis on the dissemination of literacy and primary education for adult illiterates in the Asia-Pacific region, who constitute 70% of 770 million adult illiterates in the world.

③ UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Network

These programmes aim to improve the quality of higher education in developing countries, by conducting human resources exchanges between developed and developing countries, as well as among developing countries themselves, and research studies which benefit for social development of developing countries.

Addressing global issues, UNESCO Chairs have been established at universities and other academic institutions to accept international students and trainees, and to build a network for research exchange through the interchange of researchers and students, information exchange, joint research, seminars, and etc.

The University Twinning and Networking Programme (UNITWIN) is an undertaking to enhance capacity development of institutions for higher education and research studies through knowledge interchange and sharing among universities and research institutions.

UNESCO Chairs in Japan

	Title	University	Established Year
1	UNESCO Chair on Environmental Management and Infrastructure Development Engineering	Saitama University	1997
2	UNESCO Chair on Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering	Hiroshima University	1997
3	UNESCO Chair on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management	Ritsumeikan University	2006
4	UNESCO Chair on Research and Education for Sustainable Development	Okayama University	2007

UNITWIN Networks in Japan

	Title	University	Established Year
1	UNITWIN Network on Distance and Multi-Media Education	Bunkyo University	1999
2	UNITWIN Network on Landslides Risk Mitigation	Kyoto University	2003
3	UNITWIN Network on Emergency Preparedness and Responses	Waseda University	2005
4	UNITWIN Network of Africa-Asia University Dialogue for Educational Development	Hiroshima University	2010

UNESCO Associated Schools

The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) was established with the objectives of delivering the ideals set forth in the UNESCO Constitution, and promoting peace and international cooperation through practice in schools. Japan is working to disseminate and promote ESD and education for international understanding at educational institutions including elementary, junior high and high schools.

JNCU, placing UNESCO Associated Schools as a base for ESD promotion in Japan, is engaged in increasing the number of the Associated Schools, and in promoting exchange among the member schools. As of June 2011, 308 member schools are practicing various cross-cutting and comprehensive ESD activities, each reflecting the unique feature of each school, by analyzing on-going educational programmes from ESD point of view.

The 3rd National Meeting of UNESCO Associated Schools, held in November 2011, was attended by approximately 400 participants including those from the member schools and educational officers. The Forum deliberated intensely the issues concerning ASPnet and ESD, and the participants were actively engaged in the exchange of opinions and experiences.



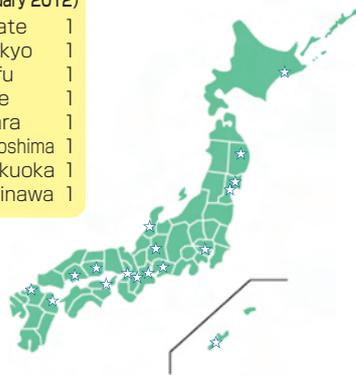
The 3rd National Meeting of UNESCO Associated Schools



Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPUnivNet)

Number of participating universities by prefecture (as of January 2012)

○Hokkaido 1	○Iwate 1
○Miyagi 2	○Tokyo 1
○Ishikawa 1	○Gifu 1
○Aichi 1	○Mie 1
○Osaka 1	○Nara 1
○Okayama 1	○Hiroshima 1
○Tokushima 1	○Fukuoka 1
○Oita 1	○Okinawa 1



What is ASPUnivNet?

Universities are capable of providing intellectual resources on ESD. The Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPUnivNet) is a network of universities that utilizes these resources to support the activities of UNESCO Associated Schools as their partners.

Why was it established?

In November 2008, the "Gathering of UNESCO Associated Schools" was held in Sendai to consider the need of universities' cooperation across Japan to assist the spread of UNESCO Associated Schools, which set for the establishment of an interuniversity network. In December of the same year, the ASPUnivNet was officially announced to the world at the International Forum on ESD Dialogue 2008 in Tokyo. There were 8 member universities at that time, and the number has increased to 17 member universities today.

Member universities

Hokkaido University of Education's Kushiro Campus (ESD Promotion Centre), Iwate University, Tohoku University Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Miyagi University of Education, Tamagawa University's College of Education, Kanazawa University, Gifu University, Aichi University of Education, Mie University, Osaka Prefecture University, Nara University of Education, Okayama University, Hiroshima University Graduate School of Education, Naruto University of Education, Kyushu University Graduate School of Languages and Cultures, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, and Okinawa Christian University and Junior College.

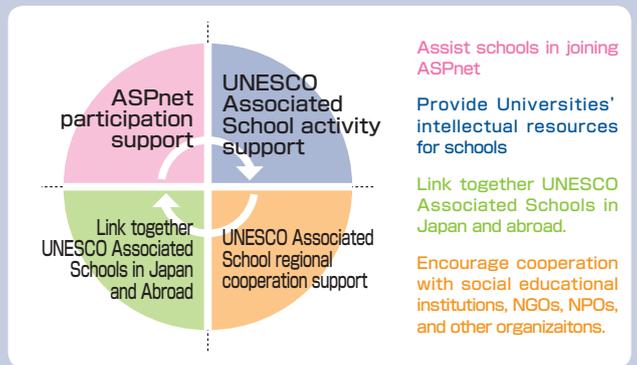
Major activities

Although the activities of ASPUnivNet differs depending on the region, the following are the main activities:

1. Assist schools in joining ASPnet (application and activities)
2. Provide intellectual resources held by universities for use in activities at UNESCO Associated Schools
3. Help schools network with other UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan and abroad.
4. Foster regional cooperation between local educational institutions and UNESCO Associated Schools.

What can ASPUnivNet Do?

1. Assist schools in joining ASPnet (application and activities)
2. Provide intellectual resources held by universities for use in activities at UNESCO Associated Schools
3. Help schools network with other UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan and abroad.
4. Foster regional cooperation between local educational institutions and UNESCO Associated Schools.



Science

Japan contributes resources to the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust for Scientific Programme on Global Challenges in Asia and the Pacific Region, and thereby offering workshops and training courses for the IHP, IOC and MAB in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as programmes for capacity-building in the fields of science and technology policy.

○International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

Japan implements training courses for human resources development in the field of hydrology, and holds steering committee meetings for the Asia-Pacific region in cooperation with universities and research institutions. In 2005, the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) was established in Japan as a cooperating organization under the auspices of UNESCO (Category 2 Centre), and has since been actively engaged in the efforts for water disaster prevention.

Note: The Category 2 Centres are established and financially managed by the Member States under the name of UNESCO through formal arrangements approved by UNESCO.



Training for creating flood hazard maps ©ICHARM

International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)

(Located in the Public Works Research Institute in Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan)

Launched by a resolution of the 33rd UNESCO General Conference in 2005, ICHARM has since implemented research, training and information networking activities in an integrated manner, with the objective of helping to prevent and reduce the world's water-related disasters, such as floods, landslides, tsunamis and flood tides.

○Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission / Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC/WESTPAC)

The Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) is one of the regional bodies established under the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). WESTPAC implements projects aiming at enhancing scientific knowledge and developing human resources in the related fields in the West Pacific region. Japan is engaged in the projects, such as oceanographic surveys and educational trainings.



WESTPAC observation project
©Japan Coast Guard



○Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Japan implements basic research, surveys and training programmes concerning eco-system preservation and management in East Asia and South-East Asia. Under MAB, UNESCO conducts a programme to designate Biosphere Reserves (BR) in the Member States for the purposes of bio-diversity preservation, the promotion of sustainable development and support to scientific research activities. From Japan four sites (Mt.Odaigahara & Mt.Omine, Shiga Highland, Mt. Hakusan and Yakushima Island) have so far been designated as BRs. In September 2011, Japan nominated Aya Area of Miyazaki Prefecture as its fifth BR.

Culture

○Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Japan implements cooperative projects to preserve the world cultural heritage and the intangible cultural heritage of each country.

○Cooperation for the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

ICCROM was established in 1959 under a resolution of the 9th UNESCO General Conference. Japan joined ICCROM in 1967 and has since contributed to its programmes by promoting research on the preservation and restoration of cultural property, and by training researchers and technicians.

○World Heritage

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (The World Heritage Convention) was adopted by the 17th UNESCO General Conference in 1972. Since signing the Convention in 1992, Japan has seen many of its properties inscribed on the world heritage list, and has promoted international cooperation and assistance for the preservation and protection of world heritage - common assets of mankind.

- No. of States Parties: 188 (as of October 2011)
- No. of World Heritage sites: 936
(725 cultural, 183 natural and 28 mixed properties, as of June 2011)



Ogasawara Island ©Hiromi Umeno/OVTB



Hiraizumi - temples, gardens and archaeological sites representing the Buddhist Pure Land (provided by the Kawashima Publishers Co.)

World Heritage Sites in Japan 16 properties (12 cultural and four natural properties)

Cultural Heritage Sites	Yr/Mo of Inscription
Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area	1993.12
Himeji-jo	1993.12
Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto	1994.12
Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama	1995.12
Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome)	1996.12
Itsukushima Shinto Shrine	1996.12
Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara	1998.12
Shrines and Temples of Nikko	1999.12

Cultural Heritage Sites	Yr/Mo of Inscription
Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu	2000.12
Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range	2004. 7
Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape	2007. 7
Hiraizumi – Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites Representing the Buddhist Pure Land	2011. 6

Natural Heritage Sites	Yr/Mo of Inscription
Yakushima	1993.12
Shirakami-Sanchi	1993.12
Shiretoko	2005. 7
Ogasawara Islands	2011. 6

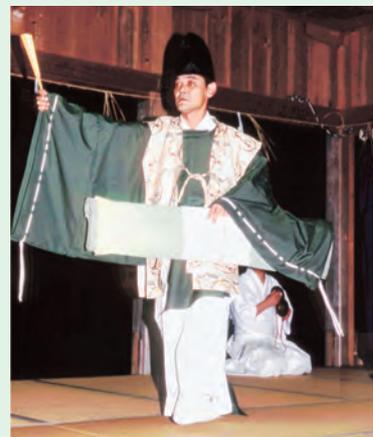
○The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Convention was adopted in 2003 at the 32nd UNESCO General Conference to safeguard intangible cultural heritage such as performing arts, music, manners and customs and traditional craftsmanship, and Japan ratified the Convention in June 2004. Under the Convention, the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (the Representative List) and the List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (the Urgent Safeguarding List) were formulated, and international cooperation and assistance are promoted through the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

In October 2011, the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region was established in Sakai City, Japan, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. Thus, Japan promotes, in close partnership with UNESCO, international cooperation and assistance for the preservation of intangible cultural heritage.



Mibu no Hana Taue ©Kita-Hiroshima City



Sada Shin Noh ©Board of Education, Matsue City

Nogaku Theatre, Ningyo Johruri Bunraku Puppet Theatre, and Kabuki (proclaimed by the Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity and incorporated to the Representative List), Gagaku, Ojiya-chijimi and Echigo-jofu: techniques of making ramie fabric in Uonuma region, Sekishu-Banshi: papermaking in Iwami region, Hitachi Fuyumono, Yamahoko: the float ceremony of the Kyoto Gion Festival, Koshikijima no Toshidon, Oku-noto no Aenokoto, Hayachine Kagura, Akiu no Taue Odori, Chakkirako, Dainichido Bugaku, Daimokutate, Traditional Ainu Dance, Kumiodori: traditional Okinawan musical theatre, Yuki-tsumugi: silk fabric production technique, Mibu no Hara Taue: ritual of transplanting rice in Mibu, and Sada Shin Noh: sacred dancing at Sada Shrine



- No. of States Parties: 142 (as of January 2012)
- No. of elements inscribed on the Representative List: 232 (as of November 2011)
- No. of Japanese intangible cultural heritage inscribed on the Representative List: 20 (as of November 2011)

○ Creative Cities Network

The Creative Cities Network, launched in 2004, connects cities who wish to share experiences, ideas and knowledge in such fields as literature, music, and arts. It seeks to vitalize cities by strengthening cultural industries, and to expand understanding of cultural diversity through the partnership among cities.

Japan is positively engaged in promoting the Network.

- No. of member cities: 29 (as of August 2011)
- Major member cities:
 - Design: Kobe, Nagoya, Seoul, etc.
 - Crafts and Folk Art: Kanazawa, Santa Fe, etc.
 - Literature: Edinburgh, Melbourne, etc.

○ Memory of the World (MoW) Programme

The Memory of the World Programme started in 1992 with the objective to strengthen the preservation and dissemination of valuable documentary heritage. The Memory of the World Register lists such documentary heritage with permanent value and significances as original manuscripts, books, posters, maps, photographs and films. Japan is keen to promote the preservation and utilization of documentary heritage.

- No. of Registers: 245 (as of October 2011)
- Major Registers: Original Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (France), Diaries of Anne Frank (Netherlands), and Sakubei Yamamoto Collection (Japan)

Other Activities

○ JNCU Fellowship Programmes

JNCU implements fellowship programmes which invite staff members of the National Commissions for UNESCO in the Asia-Pacific region, to provide them with opportunities to deepen understanding to the UNESCO activities in Japan through discussions with the people concerned as well as visits to UNESCO-related organizations and educational, scientific, and cultural institutions in Japan. Thus, the programmes contribute to the furtherance of cooperative relationships between JNCU and other National Commissions in the region for the future.



2011 Fellowship Programme at the Secretary-General's office in January 2012

5 Non-Governmental UNESCO Activities

National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ)

NFUAJ is a federation of non-governmental UNESCO associations in Japan, established in 1947 by the Japanese people motivated by the philosophy of the UNESCO Constitution, as the world's first non-governmental UNESCO movement. Based on the principles of the Constitution, NFUAJ carries out various activities aiming for the international peace and the common welfare of mankind.

Major Activities

● World Terakoya Movement

The World Terakoya Movement provides opportunities for literacy education, and implements technical trainings and living standards improvement programmes, thereby supporting learners' independence.

● UNESCO Association Scholarship for 3.11 Disaster Stricken Children and Students

NFUAJ launched the Scholarship for the children victimized by the Great East Japan Earthquake who are facing financial difficulties to continue education.

● "Heritage for the Future" Movement

In order to pass local cultural and natural heritage on to the children in 100 years, ten local properties are to be inscribed on the "Heritage for the Future" Project List every year.

● World Heritage Preservation Support Programmes

NFUAJ supports the preservations of the World Heritage in danger.



Rice-planting experience, from 2010 Heritage for the Future Project ©NFUAJ



Children learning at a Terakoya ©NFUAJ

Website: <http://www.unesco.or.jp/en/>



Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

ACCU is a non-profit organization established in 1971 by the joint effort of the Japanese government and the private sector. On the basis of a close partnership with UNESCO, who declared “the peace must be founded upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind” in the Constitution, ACCU implements various capacity-building and exchange programmes in the fields of culture and education for the Asia-Pacific region.

Major Activities

“Connecting People and Futures”

● Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

- Production of multi-media learning materials (PLANET)
- Convening of ESD Photo Caravans and workshops

● Promotion of UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) and Support to its Secretariat

- Technical supports to schools who apply for ASPnet, running of the website and production of relevant educational materials
- Planning and convening of local gatherings of ASPnet

● Planning and Implementation of Teachers Exchange Programmes

- Exchange programme between Japanese and Korean or Chinese teachers
- Japan-United States Teacher Exchange Programme for ESD

“Education for All, a Smile for All”

● Implementation of SMILE Asia Project (Supporting Maternal and Child Health Improvement and Building Literate Environments)

● Supports to LRCs (Literacy Resource Centres for Girls and Women)

“Carrying on Cultures and Traditions”

● Cooperation for Preservation of World Cultural Heritage

- Convening of technical training courses and international conferences for experts of cultural heritage preservation
- Implementation of World Heritage Lectures for high-school students



Learners with gift bags full of learning materials at a SMILE Asia literacy class in Cambodia ©ACCU



Individual training course for cultural heritage preservation ©ACCU

Website: <http://www.accu.or.jp/en/>

6 Activities of Local Government Bodies

It is stipulated by law* that UNESCO activities are to be carried out not only by the national government, but also by local government bodies in Japan. According to this principle, more and more local government bodies, such as the boards of education, are positively engaged in UNESCO activities themselves, and support non-governmental activities as well.

* The Law concerning UNESCO Activities (1952), Act on the Organization and Operation of Local Educational Administration (1956)



ESD Seminar 2011 for elementary and junior high schools in Tama City (held by the Board of Education, Tama City, in August 2011)



UNESCO Associated Schools Forum in Kanazawa (held by the Board of Education, Kanazawa City, in August 2010)

7 History of UNESCO Activities

UNESCO Activities in the World		UNESCO Activities in Japan
Adoption of the Constitution of UNESCO (Conference of Allied Ministers of Education)	1945	
Enactment of the Constitution of UNESCO (Foundation of UNESCO)	1946	
	1947	Launch of the Sendai UNESCO Cooperation Association (the World's first UNESCO association)
	1948	Formation of the Federation of National Cooperative Associations (renamed the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, NFUAJ, in 1951)
	1951	Japan admitted to UNESCO
	1952	Proclamation of the Japanese Law concerning UNESCO Activities Establishment of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO
Launch of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)	1961	Establishment of the Centre for East-Asian Cultural Studies for UNESCO
Launch of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)	1971	Establishment of the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)
	1972	The 3 rd World Conference on Adult Education (Tokyo)



UNESCO Activities in the World		UNESCO Activities in Japan
Launch of the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP)	1973	
Launch of the Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID)	1974	
Launch of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)	1975	
Launch of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC/WESTPAC)	1977	
Withdrawal of the United States of America (USA) from UNESCO	1984	World Convention of the Non-governmental UNESCO Movement (Sendai)
Withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) and Singapore from UNESCO	1985	
Launch of the Asia-Pacific Programme for Education for All (APPEAL)	1987	
	1989	Launch of the World Terakoya Movement by NFUAJ
World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand)	1990	
Amendment of the Constitution of UNESCO (Executive Board system reform)	1991	
	1992	Ratification of the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage
Launch of the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) Programme	1994	Launch of the Project of Literacy Resource Centres for Girls and Women by ACCU
	1995	Commemorative Ceremony for the 50 th anniversary of UNESCO (Tokyo)
	1996	3 rd General Conference of IOC/WESTPAC (Tokyo)
Return of UK to UNESCO (July 1)	1997	Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Higher Education (Tokyo) Asia-Pacific International Conference for Information Infrastructure Improvement (Tokyo) Commemorative Ceremony for the 50 th anniversary of Non-governmental UNESCO movement (Tokyo)
World Conference on Higher Education (Paris)	1998	Asia-Pacific Environmental Education Seminar (Tokyo) 22 nd Annual Convention of the World Heritage Committee (Kyoto)
World Conference on Science (Budapest) Koichiro Matsuura inaugurated as UNESCO Director-General	1999	
World Education Forum (Dakar, Senegal)	2000	
	2001	Commemorative Ceremony for the 50 th anniversary of Japan joining UNESCO (Tokyo)
	2002	Ratification of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Property
Launch of the United Nations Literacy Decade (~2012) Return of USA to UNESCO (Oct.1)	2003	Closing of the Centre for East-Asian Cultural Studies for UNESCO
	2004	Ratification of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
Launch of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, ~2014) Re-election of Koichiro Matsuura as UNESCO Director-General (~2009)	2005	
	2006	Establishment of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM, Tsukuba)
Return of Singapore to UNESCO (Oct. 8)	2007	Ratification of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
	2008	International Forum on ESD Dialogue 2008 (Tokyo)
Koichiro Matsuura resigned as UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova inaugurated as UNESCO Director-General	2009	The 1 st National Meeting of UNESCO Associated Schools
Official visit of Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General, to Japan	2010	
Palestine admitted to UNESCO (Nov. 23) International Conference of States for the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (Nov. 25-26, Tokyo)	2011	Establishment of International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (Sakai, Osaka)

Contact

- **Organization and Programmes of UNESCO**

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

- **UNESCO World Heritage**

UNESCO World Heritage Centre Website

<http://whc.unesco.org>

- **UNESCO Activities in Japan**

Secretariat of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

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

- **UNESCO Activities of Local Government Bodies**

Boards of Education of prefectures and government-designated cities