



**Global Next Leaders Forum 2017**  
**Report**

**June 2017**  
**Global Next Leaders Forum Headquarters**



# Global Next Leaders Forum 2017 Annual Report

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# Section 1 About GNLF2017

## 1. Greetings

**G**lobal Next Leaders Forum (GNLF) 2017, started operation in the autumn of 2015, and we have acted for one year and a half. As a result of hard work during this period, we have finished the 2017 International Forum within success. We express our gratitude for your warm support and cooperation.

We have held International Forums, which are annual student conferences, as a place where university students who will be and who are already being actively involved in the international society assemble and mutually enhance one another. As one of our goals, we aim to provide a profound time in which youths from diverse cultural backgrounds stimulate each other through experiences that can be a turning point of their lives. We ardently hope that participants from this year and before will create a new big stream in the world with our forum as a start.

We challenged ourselves to change a lot this year. We have considered how we can concretely reflect our three fundamental principles - “Experience”, “Knowledge” and “Human Networks”- in our actual programs as a foundation to be a global leader. As a result of it, we successfully improved ourselves in aspects of our management structure or of the programs of the International Forum. Also, we energetically engaged ourselves in activities other than the International Forum such as collaborative projects with other organizations or enterprises, and events in Japan by ourselves, which helped GNLF’s principle spread. We hope the “Human Networks” we have established with everyone supporting us and students who have participated our events will let the Next Leaders grow more. For this purpose, we would like to launch events continually.

However, not all attempts succeeded. Our committee in Mexico, which held our first regional GNLF forum last year, had plans to hold it again in 2016. Nevertheless, we failed to actualize it due to the regional committee’s clumsiness and our lack of supervision as headquarters in Japan. We sincerely apologize for all the trouble we have caused to persons who provided us cooperation and also to who expect GNLF’s further development. We, GNLF, go forward one step at a time humbly learning from failures, to realize the future in which students we have been involved with will succeed globally,

GNLF’s activities are all based on the warm support by a lot of people including sponsors, supporters and lecturers. Once again, I am deeply grateful on behalf of GNLF.

GNLF 2017 ended with the report meeting on the last day of International Forum in February. I, Shohei Yamade, who have served as a president for a long time, one year and a half, will step down from GNLF Headquarters as of March. However, GNLF will keep progressing in order to achieve our aims, and we will strive to improve International Forum each year. We would truly appreciate your continuous warm support and advice.

March, 2017

GNLF2016 President

Shohei Yamade (The University of Tokyo, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Sophomore)

## 2. Our Aim

**A**s our world is becoming more globalized and society is becoming flatter, differences in culture, traditions and religions are highly valued. At the same time, these differences trigger friction among people. Understanding and respecting each other, regardless of our differences. In this globalized world and our diversified nations, this is the most valuable principal. With the end of the Cold War and the spread of globalization, an era where nations cannot survive without relations with other nations has arrived. The importance of building amiable and strong diplomatic relations with as many nations as possible, has increased for every nation.

Under our belief, "Relations between countries begin with relations between people", we are of the opinion that a person who strives to understand and respect others in this diverse global society and takes on the role of representing his/her own country and building amiable relations with other countries is the kind of person who is needed in Japan and in other countries around the world. We believe that such a person is the "global leader" that is needed in the 21st century.

It is not skills that are essential to become a global leader. The spirit of understanding and respecting each other, regardless of our differences, and an attitude to deal with problems flexibly in this rapidly changing environment are the most important elements of a global leader.

Therefore, it is impossible to create a global leader in as short period of time. This is because long-term relationships, personality development and education is vital to achieving the attitude and spirit that a global leader should possess. Therefore, we have decided to create a platform for university students who have the possibility of becoming future global leaders. We want the international forum where university students who have the potential and the will to lead the world gather to be the start line of a program where they can develop and become global leaders as well as strengthen relations with others.

We have three concepts that we value as the principles in creating such a platform. Those three concepts are, "a project that is not bilateral but carried out by multiple countries", "a long term project that does not end with just one forum", and "a project that puts emphasis on building relations between countries that have not had much involvement in the past".

Involving multiple countries in the project is essential to understanding diversity, and as mentioned above, it must be long term. On top of that, as past diplomatic frameworks are changing, we believe that there is a need to strengthen relations between countries that only had a weak or one sided relationship by establishing understanding and trust.

Then, what is the meaning for the Japanese, or for Japan to take the indicative in building this international platform?

In our country, the weakening of Japan's international presence poses a problem, and many have pessimistic views on Japan's future. Japanese people are said to be unsuited for diplomacy and introvert. Furthermore, in the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, the lack of the power to send out accurate information to the world as well as the lack of leadership to lead global views and actions to create a better international society became evident. It can be said that Japan is the country which most urgently needs global leaders who can represent their country and play an active role in the international society. In that sense, there is great meaning in the Japanese leading this program.

However, that is not it. Japan is the country that led the world in economic development after the Second World War and is now first handedly experiencing a fiscal crisis and an aging society.


Many of the problems that Japan has faced and is currently facing are problems that the world will face from now on. We should make the most out of the lessons that Japan has learned. Therefore, this Japan based platform has great meaning for Japan and for the world.

We will strive to create an environment where each and every participant can develop by providing them with “Experience”, “Knowledge” and “Human Networks” at this long term program. We aim toward creating global leaders that are needed in each country, building international human networks and establishing connections between nations.

July 1st, 2010  
 Global Next Leaders Forum  
 Founder Yusuke Morishita  
 (Revised January 1st 2013)

### 3. Management Team

**Adviser** Professor Mitsuki Endo (Professor, UT college of art and sciences)

| President   | Vice President  |   |
|---|---|---|
| Shohei Yamade<br>(UT, Sophomore)  | Shion Nakamura<br>(ICU, Sophomore)  | Masahiro Aono<br>(UT, Junior)   |
|  |  |  |









#### [Departments]

| Director of Partnership Department  | Director of Membership Department   | Director of Program Department   | Director of General Affairs   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Katsuaki Nobusawa<br>(UT, Sophomore)  | Rina Hashimoto<br>(Ochanomizu University, Sophomore)                                | Marina Eguchi<br>(UT, Sophomore)   | Yuka Sugiura<br>(UT, Junior)  |
|  |  |  |  |

\*UT: University of Tokyo

\*ICU: International Christian University

#### 4. Supporters and Sponsors

| Special Sponsor  | Sponsor   | Endorsed by   | Cooperation   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Yomiuri Shimbun</p>        | <p>Mitsubishi Corporation</p>  | <p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>  <p>Japan International Cooperation Agency</p>  <p>Amnesty International Japan</p> | <p>The Immigration Bureau of Japan</p>       |
| <b>Financial Support</b>   |   |   |   |
| <p>The Japan Foundation</p>  | <p>Sojitz Foundation</p>      | <p>Heiwa Nakajima Foundation</p> <p>The Tokyo Club</p> <p>The Ezo Memorial Foundation</p>   | <p>Shibusawa Eichi Memorial Foundation</p>  |

## Section 2 GNLF 2017 Forum in Yokohama/Tokyo

### 1. Outline of the Forum

**Name of Forum:** Global Next Leaders Forum 2017 in Yokohama/Tokyo

**Hosting Organization:** Global Next Leaders Forum (Student Organization)  
Atlas Bld. 6F, 6-1-4 Hongo, Bunkyo District, Tokyo, Japan

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup>~15<sup>th</sup>, February, 2017 (10 days)

**Location:**

6<sup>th</sup>~11<sup>th</sup> Toyoko-Inn. Yokohama Stadium 2

12<sup>th</sup>~15<sup>th</sup> Homeikan, Morikawa Annex

**Participating Countries:**

Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Hungary, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Tunisia,

**Theme:** Sustainability

### 2. Participating Countries/ Universities

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Australia</b>    | The University of Sydney   |
| <b>Brazil</b>       | University of Sao Paulo  |
| <b>Bulgaria</b>     | University of National and World Economy   |
| <b>China</b>        | Peking University  |
| <b>Egypt</b>        | Cairo University   |
| <b>Hungary</b>      | Budapest University of Technology and Economics, CEU Business School   |
| <b>Japan</b>        | The University of Tokyo, International Christian University, Ochanomizu University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Waseda University, Juntendo University, Chuo University |
| <b>Kyrgyzstan</b>   | Kyrgyz National University   |
| <b>Mexico</b>       | National Autonomous University of Mexico   |
| <b>Pakistan</b>     | Institute of Business Administration   |
| <b>Singapore</b>    | National University of Singapore   |
| <b>South Africa</b> | University of Pretoria   |
| <b>Tunisia</b>      | The higher Institute of applied science and technology of Sousse   |

### 3. Outline of Sessions

**theme:**

Sustainability




**background to theme:**

**T**he limits of the mass-production, mass-consumption paradigm has been realized, creating a new area, where sensitivity towards environmental issues are shared, especially among advanced nations. On the stage of international politics, international regimes for conserving our earth are adapted with United Nations taking the lead.

On the other hand, now-advancing nations are expanding their economy in a way that accompanies the destruction of its environment-just like Japan in the 1960s. The need of combining economic growth with the protection of earth's environment, or in other words, sustainable development, is an urgent issue the world today must address. This cannot be achieved only by advanced nations, or only by advancing nations. Both sides must understand each other's needs and demands, and reach a compromise. Participating in discussions as a student without restraints in speech, and thinking how to achieve sustainable development from a broad perspective, are experiences that will surely contribute to the growth of future global leaders.

**structure of forum:**

**I**n order to promote constructive discussions, this year the forum was designed giving weight to case studies. The entire forum is divided into the following sessions;

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Session 0 Introduction</b> : reviewing the theme sustainability from the context of the world today   |  |   |
| +  |  |   |
| <b>Session 1 From the social viewpoint</b> :<br>sustainable community<br> | <b>Session 2 From the scientific viewpoint</b> : water as a global risk<br> | <b>Session 3 From the economic viewpoint</b> : sustainability and cooperations<br> |

Aside from these sessions, time was spared on group works for the final presentation, professor lectures, sightseeing and cultural interchange as means to promote friendship and the understanding of different cultures.



## Session 0 -Introduction-

**A**s an introduction to this year's theme, "Sustainability", participants made presentations introducing the most serious sustainability issue of their home country. Participants took up the most serious problem which they think to exist in their country and spent about 10 minutes explaining the background and solutions of it. Since there were various topics to talk about, participants had a lively exchange of opinions.

In addition to presentations, there was a lecture about world affairs of 2016 by Mrs. Hiroko Kohno from Yomiuri Shimbun. Ms. Kohno gave an overview of quite a lot of topics: the world trend caused by the influence of climate change; the current situation of globalizing terrorism, the impact of Brexit, election in the USA, and the details about SDGs. The lecture was something that made us students to deeply reconsider the role of a global leader in the age of rapid changing and continuing conflict regarding sustainable development. After the lecture, participants analyzed the causes of social instability in group and made presentations. Governance and inequality were mentioned by almost every group. Session0 provided all participants an opportunity to recognize the importance of discussing sustainability in this forum.



## Session 1 -Sustainable community-

**T**he main theme of Session 1 was "the sustainability of communities". Since this forum was held in Yokohama, which is designated as a "Future City", fieldworks and the lecture given by a staff at Yokohama City hall made this session interactive. First of all, the students were divided into two groups for a fieldwork on Feb.8th. Group A headed for a tour at Fujisawa SST, Group B went to LED garden and Yokohama Port Museum.

Fujisawa SST(Sustainable Smart Town), where Group A inspected, tries to realize a better life within a 19ha-town enhanced with the newest technology, such as energy administration, security maintenance, car-sharing, and healthy life which is brought by medical composite facilities, and citizen-participation-type community making. At the beginning of the tour, we received a 20minute presentation at the reception room and after that we observed the exterior of the houses, commercial facilities, disaster prevention facilities, car-and-bicycle-sharing system in the eastside residential area. Next, we inspected a large scale solar power generation system along the periphery and the model houses on the west side.

**【From the foreign participants' point of view】**

Good points: As a living space, Fujisawa SST seemed easy to live in because it was really functional and adopted disaster prevention system and vehicle sharing.

Concern: It costed too much. It lacked the point of privacy because residents are monitored over everything such as electric power consumption, lifestyle and way of moving.



Group B visited Key Stone Technology Inc. to see a LED garden which is featured as a key to solve global issues such as desertification, global warming or food crisis that will be caused by population growth in the future, as well as the key characteristic issues to Japan, like the decline of food self-sufficiency and lack of successors in the agriculture. LED garden aims to make urban oriented food producing system which minimizes the food mileage. It makes agricultural producing sustainable and the environmental burden low, by introducing a cultivate system which combines LED and steam cultivation that uses water resources cyclically. There was enthusiastic discussion between participants from the countries which have soil pollution by chemical fertilizers about technical aspects.

Following the LED garden, Group B went to see how Yokohama developed on the landfill site and was given explanation about its history. The museum is divided into seven districts according to Yokohama's history, such as before and after of the port opening, recovering from Kanto great earthquake, the war and confiscation, and the era of rapid economic growth. We could see the overall history of Yokohama and the participants learned the developmental history of Yokohama along with Japanese history there. Learning about the Yokohama city, which overcame several trials like Kanto great earthquake and losing the Pacific war, the participants seemed to develop ideas associating with their countries' history.



After sharing both groups' findings from the fieldworks at the forum room, Mr.Nakayama from the Yokohama City General Headquarters of Global Warming Countermeasure, gave a lecture on the advanced measures of Yokohama as a "Future City". After the lecture, there were critical questions about the sustainability of this project.

**N**ext, participants were divided into some groups and had a debate considering these actions. Each group included students from position A and position B. Both positions aim to make a community like a smart city. However, to solve social issues, position A advocated for this approach: "every time an issue arises, seek a solution", and position B advocated for : "taking down the city to scratch and making a brand-new framework. " After the debate, all groups shared the point of their discussion to everyone.

#### **【Examples of discussion from position A】**

"Every time an issue come to the surface, we modify the plan, so steady growth is achieved."

"Making a brand new framework costs a lot and modifying direction is difficult, so the effect is not guaranteed."

"A new framework can easily lead to social extinction by the difference of age, economic strength and way of thinking. (ex.the old and socially vulnerable are easily left behind)."

#### **【Examples of discussion from position B】**

"It's impossible to handle an issue every time it arises."

"It takes too much time to launch a plan and tackle the issue after it surfaces."

"We must start by tackling several issues that are already regarded as issues and will become more and more serious, such as global warming and aging society."

Almost all groups reached a conclusion that approaches from both positions are required. There were a lot of participants who thought that underlying parts of society, like economic and political systems needs change.

After this debate, participants chose a case study from country-based presentations in Session 0 and talked about appropriate approaches for them. The topics chosen by participants were urbanization in Singapore, energy management in Pakistan and unemployment in Egypt. One group talked about some measures against heat island effect that is deteriorated by the trend of glazed buildings and air-conditioning. Another group talked about the solutions for issues such as the increasing unemployment rate because of the low education level caused by the concentration of population to urban areas. Each group suggested an approach to each issue.

## **Session 2 - water as a global risk-**

**L**iving in Japan, do we actually realize the water crisis? National water resources are abundant and hygiene facilities are well arranged. It seems that water is a resource that can be used without any limitations. However, that is an illusion. Even in Japan, the generation of our grandparents were not provided with enough facilities that enabled them to use clean water and there were many social problems due to the deterioration of the quality of water. Compared with that, the access to water resources in modern Japan is stable. Still, as you might see in the news, there are many problems like the aging of water infrastructures, the pollution of groundwater and seawater, and the issue of massive dams.

In session 2, we took a look at the water problems around the world. Water crisis ranks third in the list of world risk causes in 2016. The history of managing water is as old as human history, but the management of water is an ongoing problem in the sense that what problems occur depends on the region and epoch. It is not a simple issue, like water scarcity in arid regions are always inevitable; human beings have invented ways to make use of water sources even in the dry regions, problems arise from those practices. Water problems should be viewed in terms of how appropriately and fairly water sources are managed rather than the amount of water that exists. Approaches from society and science technology is needed in tackling the global water risk.

In GNLf's forum, students from 13 countries who will live in the future world gather. Our goal was to recognize that water problems in each country reflect the background of each respective area, and to share the common objective, the need to guarantee all humans the safe and stable access to water. In order to do that, this session deals with "water problems and global risk".

In order to have participants realize how closely water problems in their own country are related to its social structure, we asked them the following questions as a pre-assignment.

1. Please list up water problems in your country as many as possible.
2. Please explain the possible cause of them.
3. Please give the example of a water problem that you think the most serious and explain about it.

In the beginning of the session, participants from each country shared the information they gathered and opinion about that. Afterward, they did a presentation to summarize what they researched and discussed about their own country.

After sharing the knowledge of the water problems in each country, participants were divided into 4 groups according to the causes and items of different water problems.

(The person in charge of this session allocated participants based on the contents of the pre-assignments.)

1. Inequality in distribution of water
2. Risk management of floods and other problems
3. Agricultural production and water problems
4. Domestic and international conflicts over water resources

At the time, four professors who participated in the forum went round the groups and gave advice about the progress and direction of the group work and presentation.



All groups were supposed to give a presentation in front of participants and professor Oki. Professor Oki is a researcher of hydrology in the Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo and also is the vice-dean of the United Nation University.

Prof. Oki heard presentation by each groups and gave them a lecture on "Water Issue and Global Risks" for nearly one hour. After his lecture, each group shared and sorted out new discussion points which they found through the lecture, and had an intensive discussion with Prof. Oki visiting the groups one by one.

### Session 3 -Sustainability and Cooperations-

The theme of session 3 was "Relation between corporate activity and sustainability."

In the morning session, we invited one of the top-leaders in Japan who work in a global IT firm and she gave a lecture about her project to support the Eastern Japan area after the massive earthquake and tsunami. (We do not reveal her name and her affiliation due to her will.) Roughly six years have passed after the disaster and we thought many participants wanted to know the process of rebuilding in the affected area. We wanted the participants to learn something that can be learnt only in Japan, and this session was crucial to achieve that aim. One of the projects the lecturer has worked on in the area is building an online matching platform which connects those who need support for starting a new thing in the affected area and those who want to support them. Many of the participants major in humanities and social science, so we are confident that the project which believes in the power of technology gave them much inspiration.

After her lecture, the group discussion started. In the discussion, they discussed cases which actually happened at the first step to introduce that matching platform. Eventually, each group found and chose the solutions and gave a presentation. The solutions were evaluated from multiple viewpoints (Purpose, Content, Length, Achievement, Involvement). Before the session, it seemed that many of them had slight interest in the change in the affected area, but after finishing it, we think that they could be much more aware of the area still struggling to rebuild itself.

In the afternoon session, we invited an expert in the field of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). She works in RICOH, which is one of the leading companies in Japan. RICOH has been positive to emerge in the global market. Many companies in the world promote CSR, since CSR activity is essential for the company to survive in the long term. RICOH has been working on many projects to cooperate with the local communities and also NPOs, and she gave us insights from her own career. During the group discussion, the participants discussed how to tackle the social problem that they have interest in and how to integrate that with their dream career.



#### Lectures from Professors

On the night of 12th and 13th, professors from participating countries gave us lectures whose theme is involved in their profession and sustainability.

On 12th, Doctor Eva Fenyvesi from Hungary gave a lecture about the prisoners' dilemma and sustainability, under a lecture titled "Trap situation in sustainability." The students broke up into small groups and played a game. They learned that social sustainability is not ensured if we pursue immediate profits without respecting others or continue to use limited resources. They also shared the idea that the problem cannot be solved unless all the people think about it. To create a truly

sustainable society, every stakeholder has to bear this lesson in mind and make efforts for the long term benefits of the whole society. In addition, it is necessary for each person to appeal to others to behave with that awareness.

On 13th, Professor Gotchev from Bulgaria gave a lecture on policy evaluation based on the example of EU.



### Sightseeing in Tokyo

**A**s a recess in-between hard study, a day for sightseeing around Tokyo was spared in the schedule. Participants from overseas were clearly excited seeing the Japanese capital transforming as it prepares for the 2020 Olympics. The sightseeing was done dividing the participants into 4 groups, each with 7-8 members with one Japanese. Plans to visit sights of the group's' interest, such as Asakusa (traditional Edo-style city), Tokyo Tower (an Eiffel-Tower-like tower dating back to the previous Tokyo Olympics), or the Tokyo Sky Tree (the highest broadcasting antenna in the world when constructed) was made the day before.



One of the groups went on a trip visiting Akihabara and Shibuya (both centers of Japanese pop culture). This was in reflection of the group members' fascination in Japan's *anime* (cartoon) culture and the famous Shibuya scramble crossing. Time was spent in Akihabara on visiting a maid-café (a café where the waitresses are dressed in maid-looking costumes), a *anime* goods shop and a shopping center for electronic machine parts . In Shibuya, the group crossed the scramble crossing for themselves, dined, and shopped.

From the Japanese point of view, the participants seemed to be surprised, yet excited when experiencing the *moe* (a pop sense of cute) culture in the maid-café for themselves. They were also awed at the mass of people crossing without bumping into each other in Shibuya. When shopping for goods, Japanese brands were popular among them.

Since the sightseeing was conducted in groups, problems occurred when members wanted to visit different places, or had to move without getting lost in the Sunday crowd. However, that led to the talk between participants, and the process of finding a solution, creating a stronger bond between members. Although it was only a half-day tour, the sightseeing has surely become an opportunity for both Japanese and foreign students to dig into a new aspect of Tokyo and of their new friends at GNLf.

## Cultural Party

Commented as “awesome” by many participants, the cultural party on day3 was an event that certainly changed the mood of the forum in a positive way. Participants from each country appealed the charm of their home country with humorous presentations and traditional dances with everyone on the floor invited. After the presentations, each country made a booth by displaying the appetizers and crafts they’ve brought from home. Circling the room, each participant enjoyed the delicious dishes and also explaining their new friends the best way to enjoy the crafts and cuisine.

We are confident that this party is one of the opportunities only the GNLf community can produce. Encountering foreign cultures guided by someone of the same generation, and creating a night where 13 cultures around the world meet at once, surely is something special and invaluable.



However, there are several lessons to be learned for the management team. From the aspect of preparation, catering orders were done last-minute, and the location of the venue was not shared enough within the team. Time keeping was not carefully done. As presentations went on beyond the schedule, many participants started eating during presentations, leading to the presenting-students’ irritation. Also, some after-party students were noisy through the night, and this caused clashes between them and the management team. Managing time, creating a fun atmosphere yet casting the most basic rules, are essential to a successful cultural party next year.

## Movie Night

Movies are an important element of Japanese culture. It is said that only France, India and Japan are the countries where non-Hollywood films still attract people. To think about sustainability through Japanese culture, a movie night with Hayao Miyazaki’s “Nausicca of the Valley of the Wind” was scheduled in the program.

Though the movie’s unique expressions and high artistic values made it difficult for even the Japanese to enjoy, it seemed that foreign students found it amusing and its theme song ear-sticking.

After the movie, the Japanese management team did a presentation on the message the movie was casting on us. The movie is a product of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, yet it posed questions on the damage humans have done to earth’s natural environment, and the relationship between artificial

intelligence and humans. Today, there is already an artificial intelligence that stated its will to destroy humans. The movie left us thinking of what a sustainable civilization is.





## Contact Address

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The new GNLFF management team kicked off in April 2017.  
Now, members who were freshmen at the last forum have become executives.

Sometimes we feel helpless and miss the former members, but the wonderful days spent  
with all participants of GNLFF 2017 support us strongly.  
We will continue with our efforts to make next GNLFF 2018 fruitful and exciting.

See you somewhere in the world!!