

SDGs Q&A

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- Q** What are the SDGs?
- A** They are 17 goals that we are trying to achieve by 2030, such as eliminating poverty and protecting the global environment. In 2015, all 193 countries that are members of the United Nations (UN) adopted them. Under the 17 main goals, the SDGs have 169 concrete "targets."
- Q** Do both developed countries and developing countries participate?
- A** Yes they do. For example, SDG 1, "No Poverty," is an issue even for developed countries including Japan. Also, since the air and the ocean are connected around the world, global warming, ocean garbage, and other problems cannot be solved without cooperation.
- Q** SDGs stand for Sustainable Development Goals. What does "sustainable" mean?
- A** It means that happiness, enjoyment, and other important things will last into the future. This involves a lot of things like being able to breathe clean air, exercise outdoors, go to a school without bullying or a company with a good work environment, and others. For example, SDG 11, "Sustainable Cities and Communities," includes disaster-resistant urban development. When there is a major earthquake, we cannot live like normal. Therefore, it is necessary to think how to reduce damage and recover even before an earthquake comes.
- Q** We have only about 10 years until 2030. Can we achieve the SDGs?
- A** It's not about whether we can do it. We must

- do it. If you postpone problems, they will be more difficult to achieve. It is like debts continuing to increase.
- Q** What do we have to do to achieve them?
- A** National and local governments, companies, and others all have something they can do. Companies should work for innovation. They can find ways to profit from new ideas to solve problems. One clothing company started making products from eco-friendly organic cotton. Organic cotton is expensive, so they thought that sales would decrease, but actually sales increased, and with ingenuity products can be sold at a high price. Working towards the SDGs is becoming evidence that companies are trustworthy. Public institutions such as local governments have the role of informing people about the direction of the SDGs and bringing people together. Since the SDGs cover many fields, it is necessary to have a flexible and broad perspective. I think this where government and administration can help.
- Q** How is the achievement of the targets measured?
- A** At the global scale, the UN collects and evaluates various data. Private foundations and research institutions do their own evaluations. At a more local level, national and local governments are also doing assessments. In 2019, the UN issued its first comprehensive report on progress since the SDGs' start in 2015.

- Q** What can young people and children do?
- A** First of all, please read the 17 goals and 169 targets and check if adults are working on not leaving "debts" for the future. Also, if you have ideas for innovation, please do not hesitate to propose them. Children may sometimes come up better ideas. I think the SDGs are more like "17 sets of questions," or maybe "169 sets of questions." The answers are provided, but the question is how to reach them, and there is no single way for the whole world. It will test our abilities, but these are problems worth solving.



Student Reporters' Thoughts on "What We Can Do"

Yuna Ishii (5th Grade, Ando Elementary School)
I kept an eco-diary for 3 months in my fifth grade class and made a newspaper to put on the wall. My friends and I studied hunger and energy problems. Everyone had their own interests. I realized that it is important to listen to everyone's opinions, to work and cooperate with everyone.

Kotono Otsu (5th Grade, Ando Elementary School)
"Sakana-kun" told us we should appreciate things. It would be good to actually go to the sea and pick up garbage. If we do this kind of thing, we can help the environment, even if it is only a 0.1% contribution.

Mina Kuroda (5th Grade, Ando Elementary School)
What I can do is SDG 12 on "responsible consumption and production." In my house, we put food waste in the garden to make fertilizer. We also recycle waste paper, PET bottles, trays, and others. And in the summer, we use bath water for watering the plants. In winter, I use a hot water bottle every day, and use it for washing the next day. I would like to continue these things in the future.

Chihiro Takeda (5th Grade, Ando Elementary School)
The SDGs also include cleaning up the sea. For this, the first step is to

not litter. If you properly dispose of any garbage around you, less garbage will be washed into the sea, and you can clean the sea without even going there. I think the sea will become cleaner if everyone does this.

Sana Tsuchiya (5th Grade, Ando Elementary School)
I think there are things that even I can do. For example, SDG 6 is "Clean Water and Sanitation." I can start with simple things like not wasting water and cleaning up oil with kitchen paper. If many people do these things, the SDGs can be achieved.

Akari Nakajima (5th Grade, Ando Elementary School)
There are things we can do to make the oceans beautiful. The first is to not buy plastic products. Plastic becomes small in sunlight, and then fish eat it. The second thing is to not throw garbage into the sea. Third is picking up garbage. If we do this, there is no worry that garbage will enter the ocean.

Yuri Hiraoka (5th Grade, Ando Elementary School)
I think that what we can do is to spread the word to lots of people. First, I would talk to my family and friends. It is difficult to realize all 17 goals, but we need to work towards doing even one thing. I try not to use plastic products as much as possible, in order to help

achieve SDG 12, "Responsible Consumption and Production."

Saki Minato (5th Grade, Ando Elementary School)
What we can do is to work together to achieve the 17 goals, starting gradually from what we can do now. People from various backgrounds such as society, the environmental field, and our personal relationships need to cooperate. Everyone can help to make our country better.

Noa Yamamoto (1st year, Shizuoka Salesio Junior High School)
I visited United Nations Headquarters and UNICEF in New York when I was in sixth grade. The picture of the girl lying on the ground with a vulture looking down on her was shocking and is still stuck in my mind. I have learned that what I think of as normal is not normal in much of the world. So, what can I do now? I don't try to look away. I try to understand the real situation in the world, and since last year I have donated some of my pocket money to UNICEF. I hope this will help.

Anna Hoshino (2nd year, Shizuoka Salesio Junior High School)
I would like to learn more about the targets for achieving the SDGs and understand them better. That is the first step. Then

there are many things that we can do, such as buying eco-friendly products and reducing food waste. I hope to make efforts to communicate what I have learned to my family and school friends.

Miki Otawa (3rd year, Shizuoka Salesio Junior High School)
I am involved in activities on the SDGs at school. I am interested in SDG 17, "Partnerships for the Goals," and I am interested in doing volunteer work. First, I need to start by having the courage to freely express my opinions.

Natsumi Kido (3rd year, Shizuoka Salesio Junior High School)
I thought it was difficult to do anything as a junior high school student. However, I have found that there are many things I can do. For example, there are various things like picking up marine garbage, not using straws, and sorting garbage. I want to be part of a sustainable world.

Ayaka Sasada (3rd year, Shizuoka Salesio Junior High School)
What I can do is spend more time with people. When you spend time with another person, you can forget about the cold as though you are getting exercise. You don't need to use air conditioning or heating, which is good for the environment. Sharing at a café reduces waste. I have realized by

sharing our happiness, we can all live more ecologically.

Miu Suzuki (1st year, Shizuoka Eiwa Girls' Senior High School)
I think that what we can do is to start with what we know. The biggest difference is between "doing" and "not doing." There are things we can do just because we are young. I want to start doing from today, rather than saying I will start tomorrow.

Moe Nishizawa (1st year, Shizuoka Eiwa Girls' Senior High School)
If I didn't have a chance to think deeply about the SDGs, I would never know the meaning of "ethical consumption," or know about the problems that are happening in Japan and around the world, or know about the wonderful ideas and activities that are spreading in Japan and around the world. I want to find the problems that are hard to see and deal with them.

Hikari Mori (1st year, Shizuoka Eiwa Girls' Senior High School)
I once made the mistake of calling my teacher a "gaijin" ("foreigner"), and was corrected by the teacher. From this, I was able to recognize it as a discriminatory word. I think that just by paying attention to this kind of thing at school or in everyday life, we can take an important first step.

Getting to Know the SDGs Feb. 2019

静岡市 × 朝日小学生新聞 × 朝日中高生新聞

Shizuoka City, The Asahi Gakusei Shimbun

No one will be left behind

17 Goals to Make the Whole World Prosper by 2030



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



SDGs Week in Shizuoka City, Japan 16 Students Report on the Week

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 goals to be achieved by 2030. They were adopted at the United Nations Summit in 2015.

Shizuoka City, Japan is incorporating the SDGs into its urban design to achieve its vision of "a city of world standards".

SDGs Week was held in Shizuoka City in January 2019, and 16 student reporters covered it and considered what students can do for the 17 goals.