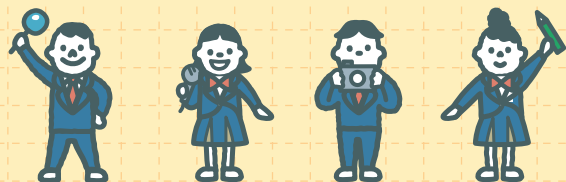


SDGs Action Report by JHS and HS Students



Junior and senior high school students took charge and created a page to describe their investigational studies, where they can have the opportunity to be the driving force in “Changing the Future” towards a sustainable society and can meet adults who are working on social issues in the community. One team of junior high school students and two teams of senior high school students from Ryukoku Junior and Senior High School, which have a partnership agreement with Global Citizen’s Association for the Promotion of SDGs Education, reported on the efforts of some of these companies and organizations in Saga Prefecture.

The interview articles in the following pages adhere to the learning process outlined below:

Lecture 1	Learn what the SDGs are.
Lecture 2	Learn how to conduct interviews and report.
Activity 1 Investigation	Research companies and organizations involved in SDGs work that you would like to cover in light of your own interests and decide on one.
Activity 2 Investigation	Think about questions to ask, deciding on the roles of the reporting team, making a preliminary inspection, etc.
Activity 3 The Report	Visit the interviewee, conduct interviews, take photos, etc.
Activity 4 Creating the Report	Create a report with photos and text. Think deeply about which SDG goals are related to the activities of the company or organization covered. Use your own expressions, verify contents with the interviewees, and refine the report several times before submitting it.
Activity 5 Presentations and Outreach	Introduce what you have learned through the interviews to the media and make presentations at events both inside and outside of school.

At Ryukoku Junior and Senior High School, we promote SDGs education with the mottos: “We Will Change the Future!” and “Be a 50cm Change Maker!”. Through this learning process, students came to strongly feel that they wanted to support the companies they visited and were eager to promote SDGs together with them. To all the schools in the prefecture, let’s work together with the students of Ryukoku Junior and Senior High Schools to create and implement SDGs action plans. -

Yoko Jinouchi, Vice Principal, Ryukoku JHS and HS



Kawasaki Spatial Laboratory

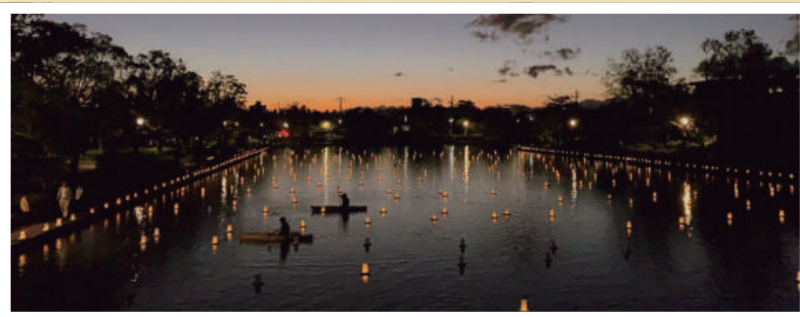
Report: Ryukoku JHS Year 1 and 2 students [Team SDGs]



Constructing with Saga Wood

Mr. Kawasaki, a first-class architect and president of Kawasaki Space Research Institute, is actively working on architecture using Saga wood. When I listened to him, I found that Saga has one of the largest number of planted forests in Japan. He decided to use Saga wood, which was planted by people 60 years ago, because of its high density and low transportation costs. Also, as Mr. Kawasaki himself experienced life in Tokyo, he realized that there are many historically valuable things in Saga, and designed building unique to Saga.

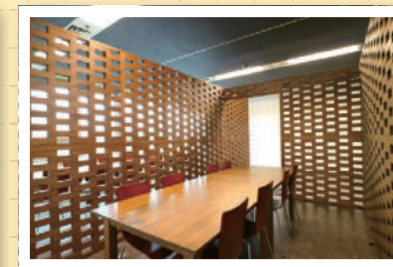
As a typical example, the interview room “EN” on the 1st floor of the main building of the Saga Prefectural Government Office utilizes trees which grow in the air of Saga, the culture of Saga, and the technology of Saga. The interview room “TSUM” on the 10th floor of the new building uses wood produced in the forests of Saga inherited from its predecessors.



The Water Mirror Project is annually held at the Saga Castle moat. This project is put together by the Akamatsu Community Center as well as the Saga Prefecture Architectural Society. We participated in his project in 2019. The lanterns used in the exhibit were in thanks to the cooperative efforts of people in the neighborhood and were very beautiful.

Regarding the relationship with SDGs, he said, “Architecture is connected to all 17 goals of the SDGs, but among them, Goal 11: “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, Goal 14: “Life Below Water”, and Goal 15: “Life on Land” are particularly relevant.

We were impressed by his passion for creating buildings that make use of Saga’s wood. And I realized again that the architectural work that is indispensable to our lives is deeply involved in the promotion of the SDGs.



The interview rooms “E N—エシー” and “T S U M—つむー” located in the Saga Prefectural Office were designed and supervised by Mr. Kawasaki. Saga-grown wood was used to build these rooms.



We interviewed Mr. Kawasaki at this workplace, the Kawasaki Spatial Laboratory.

Junior High School team members and Mr. Kawasaki, who is a Ryukoku High School alumnus. On the far right is Mrs. Yoko Jinouchi, the vice principal of the school.

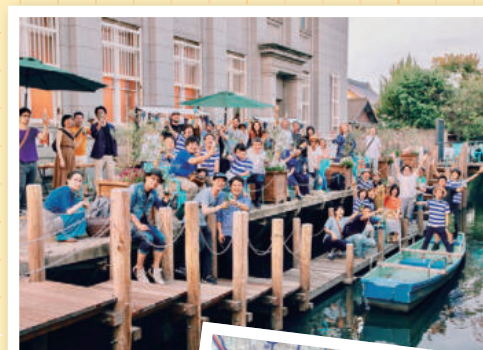


Utilization of Saga's "Rich" Creeks

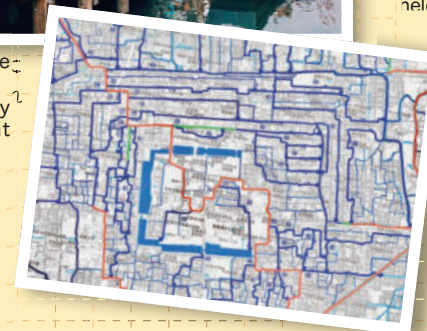
A citizen's group, "Saga Creeknet", headed by Mr. Kawasaki, wanted to further cultivate what Saga already had. In other words, they thought that since Saga has a lot of creeks, they could make others' lives richer by utilizing them. In the old days, people used creeks to do their laundry and travel by boat. Creeks were not dirty; they were something to be proud of. So, they are planning various initiatives to take down the "fences" around the creeks to make the most of them.

The slogan of Saga Creeknet, "Bringing the back to the front again, bringing history back to the future", expresses the wish to make creeks a part of our lives as they were in the past, and to bring the history of the creek to life in the future. Saga has a lot of resources including creeks. Mr. Kawasaki believes that utilizing these resources will lead to the revitalization of the town. He aims to create an affluent community where people can live as if they were in a relaxing luxury villa despite the small number of people, and where many people will be attracted by the creeks and resources.

We are very interested in creeks and have changed our way of thinking about creeks after hearing this story. In the future, we would like to pay more attention to creeks and gradually make them a part of our daily lives.



A "Toast at the Waterside" held on July 15th, 2018 at Urajukken Canal.



A map of the creek as it is now. There are 2000km long creeks around Saga castle. We need to make use of this space.



Mr. Kawasaki exploring a creek using a kayak at a workshop held on October 14th, 2019.

What We Can Do From "Knowing" and "Thinking" to "Do"ing

We have learned about SDGs and do many things with SDGs in mind. I think that we have a better understanding of SDGs compared to other junior high school students. Mr. Kawasaki said to us that "from "Knowing" SDGs, and "Thinking" about what we can do, we are able to "Do" something about the problems around us."



We are now learning about the SDGs and doing many things with SDGs in mind. I think we have a better understanding of the SDGs than junior high school students in other schools. That is why I think what we can do is not only to "know" about the SDGs, but also to "think" about what we can do. If we think about it, we can take action and "do" something. Mr. Kawasaki said, "Nature and mountains are connected to rivers, rivers to oceans, and oceans again to mountains. The 17 goals of the SDGs are all connected in the same way. We all want to work together to spread the SDGs not only to Ryukoku Junior and Senior High School, but also to the people around us and all over Saga Prefecture, to create one big link to change the future!

Interview Team : (Junior Highschool 2nd year) Iwano Rin Furukawa Renon Miyaguni Teruya
(Junior Highschool 1st year) Oka Natsumi Yoshida Risako

Sagan Tosu

Report: Ryukoku HS 1st year Team [Sagan Tosu Gambare]



The City where Sagan Tosu was Born

Sagan Tosu, with a play going beyond their limits, their players falling down on the pitch after the game is over, admire and strive under the motto of “砂岩 (sagan, sandstone) = small stone pebbles with the power of a large rock when they collect and join together” as their name suggests.



In relation to SDGs goal number 3: “Good Health and Well-Being”, Sagan Tosu’s focus is on health in its home stadium. In order to achieve the goal of “The Safest Stadium in the World”, they have deployed doctors and installed ARDS to provide medical care and safety to both players and supporters.

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People can walk around the circular concourse of the home stadium. Sagan Dreams started the project in 2019 which is named “The Safest Stadium in the World”.



Takehara Minoru is the Sagan Dreams director whom responded to our request for coverage.



Our coverage was conducted in the conference room in the Saga Prefectural Government Building. On the far right is Nagai Takayuki, who is the director of Sagan Dreams’ sales division.



School bag covers featuring Wintos-Kun, the mascot of Sagan Tosu, are given to all first-graders in Saga prefecture. The gift is used for traffic safety as well as promoting interest in the team.

The real estate stadium in front of the station is also a stadium where you can go around the concourse, which is rare in the J League. Being able to go back and forth between the home supporter area and the away supporter area allows everyone to share the same gourmet food and events, creating a richer spirit. In this way, they give consideration to both physical and mental safety and security.

Sagan Tosu aims to become a “common language” for the citizens of the prefecture by energizing the city itself. That means that the topic of Sagan Tosu will increase communication and make the city more active. Sharing various emotions through Sagan Tosu’s games and initiatives will lead to the development of sports culture and will increase the unity of the citizens of the prefecture.

As the number of companies conducting activities that lend to the SDGS increases, we too would like to actively participate in Sagan Tosu’s contribution to the community.

Let's Work Together to Create a City of Rich Partnership, Saga!

Sagan Tosu distributes school bag covers of the team's mascot character, Wintos-kun, to schools throughout the region, and Sagan Tosu supporters help pick up trash in the community. There are also concerts held for underprivileged children in difficult life circumstances. There is also a plan to make personal "My Bottles", from the idea of abolishing the use of plastic cups in stadiums as part of our efforts to be environmentally friendly. Although it may not be possible to achieve all 17 goals of the SDGs, but it seems that action plans related to many goals will be made.

Aiming to achieve the SDGs by 2030, I asked Mr. Minoru Takehara, president of the team's management company Sagan Dreams, what kind of city he would like Saga to be. "I want you to work together on "Kotozukuri" and "Tokizukuri" that Sagan Tosu is doing for town development. For that purpose, it is effective to incorporate the 17 goals of the SDGs into a concrete action plan. Why? Because when people who are full of smiles, people who are kind to both people and the environment, people who live healthy lives, people who eat well, and people who seek richness of mind come together, we will be able to create a city that is rich in partnerships, the 17th goal of the SDGs. After the interview, I felt once again that the existence of Sagan Tosu is having a great influence on the town of Saga. I also felt that I wanted to start something with Sagan Tosu.



The "Assist Club", consisting of many volunteers, gather at every Sagan Tosu game to help run the matches.

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Fundraising activities were also held at the stadium where many people gathered. A total of 931,661 yen in relief money was collected for the "Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund"

What We Can Do SDGS closer to you

Sagan Dreams is engaged in various community contributions projects as well as the sports business of professional soccer team management.

It also overlaps with SDGs goal number 17: "Revitalize the Global Partnership for



Sustainable Development". That is why we felt that feelings and small voices of the local people were important. In this interview, President Takehara said, "I would like Sagan Tosu and Ryukoku Junior High School and High School to come up with an SDGs action plan together". If it can be realized, more people will be involved in the SDGs. We hope you can realize it too. Through this interview, we were able to see the SDGs as a more familiar issue.

Interview Team : (High School 1st year) Kawano Kosei, Kaneko Tomohiko, Koga Keita, Uchida Mao, Kitamura Ayaka



Higashiyoka Tidal Flatlands

Report: Ryukoku Senior Highschool 2nd Year Student Team,
“How to Protect the Tidal Flatlands”

What is the Higashiyoka Tidal Flatland?

The Higashiyoka Tidal Flatland is located on the Higashiyoka Coast in Saga city, on the northern shore of the Ariake Sea. At low tide, a vast tidal flat appears as far as the eye can see. The tidal flat is home to many creatures unique to the muddy landscape of the Ariake Sea, such as mudskippers, warasubo eel gobies, and fiddler crabs, as well as being home to several endangered water island species such as black-faced spoonbills, saunders gulls, and common shelducks. For the purpose of preserving this natural environment, the Higashiyoka Tidal Flat was registered as a Ramsar Convention wetland in May 2015.

Conservation Volunteer Activities

The cyprinid is a valuable salt plant that is threatened with extinction. It's color changes as it grows, and in autumn it turns the coast a bright red. It is also known as the “Autumn-Red Leaves of the Sea”.

Higashiyoka town holds the cyprinid festival around that time, attracting tourists from other prefectures as well. However, due to garbage, driftwood, and other factors, the plants are beginning to die before they turn red, and their numbers are decreasing every year. There are various possible causes, with global warming being a chief factor among them.

The “Cyprinid Development Society” and the “Higashiyoka Town Planning Council” have been conducting volunteer activities to protect the cyprinid. In addition to picking up litter and other cleaning activities, they have been collecting seeds and sowing them for many years, but the situation has not improved. They also conduct educational activities to convey the importance of environmental conservation. They say that it is important for each and every one of us to do our part to prevent the environment from deteriorating.



Cyprinid growing in clusters off the Higashiyoka coast.



The beautiful sunset off the Higashiyoka Tidal Flatland



Many wild birds flock to Higashiyoka Tidal Flatland from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.



(From right to left) Mr. Kenichiro Haraguchi of Saga City Hall's Higashiyoka Branch Office, Mr. Yoshihiro Ishimaru, a member of the “Cyprinid Development Society”, and Mr. Seiji Higashijima, Chairman of the Higashiyoka Town Planning Council.

SDGs and the Tidal Flatland Garbage Problem

About 1,800 people participate in the Higashiyoka Tidal Flatland trash pickup activities every year, and about 13 tons of trash are collected every year. The trash collected includes not only man-made items such as plastic bottles, but also driftwood and other natural debris. Another problem is that of detergents and household chemicals that get dumped in the ocean. This has resulted in injuries and accidental ingestion to the wildlife that occupy the tidal flatland.

We also participated in picking up trash from the tidal flatland. At that time, it was mostly driftwood, and we filled two garbage bags in one hour. In order to achieve SDGs goal 14: "Life Below Water" and SDGs goal 15; "Life on Land", it is important not to pollute the environment. I also think that all people treat the environment with kindness. I would like more people to participate in picking up garbage in the tidal flatland.

"The Shorebird Rice Repayment Project"

"The Shorebird Rice Repayment Project" is an effort to coexist with migratory birds and other creatures that migrate to the tidal flatland through the "Ramsar branding" of rice and other products. Any rice cultivated in the vicinity of the Higashiyoka Tidal Flatland that reduces their use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers on their rice crops by more than 50% is given the branding of "Shorebird Rice Repayment" and is certified by the prefecture as a specially cultivated agricultural product. Safe, secure and sustainable agriculture is therefore promoted.

However, there are several issues to be addressed. The farmers need to review their cultivation methods and increase the number of people who know about the rice and sell it at events. We were told that in order to solve these problems, young people like us need to take action.



Garbage pickup at Higashiyoka Coast in August 2019

Trashed that has washed ashore on Higashiyoka Coast after the heavy rains in Saga, 2019.



Shorebird Repayment Rice. It was created in effort to ensure that people, living things, and the natural environment coexist in harmony, and that we can pass on beautiful nature to the future.

What We Can Do

Protecting the Tidal Flatland

Growing up in a coastal town along the Ariake Sea, we researched the Higashiyoka Tidal Flatland and produced a newspaper about the tidal flatland and distributed it at the cyprinid festival in order to spread its appeal, as well as participated in garbage collection along the coast. The Higashiyoka Tidal Flatland is a wonderful place, but through this interview, I was able to feel that the tidal flatland is what it is today thanks to the cooperation and volunteer activities of many people. I would like to continue to protect the tidal flatland by participating in small activities such as actively picking garbage on the coast.



Reporting Team: Hikaru Matsueda and Asuka Yoshida



Our published "Don't Neglect the Tidal Flatland Newspaper"