

Chapter 2 SSEAYP Youth Conference

1 Schedule

Date	Time (UTC+9 / Japan Standard Time)	Program
November 28 2021 Sunday	14:00-14:45	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by Mr. WAKAMIYA Kenji, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office • Introduction of staff members of the Cabinet Office and the Center for International Youth Exchange • Introduction of PYs • Introduction of facilitators • Explanation of SSEAYP Youth Conference 2021 • Introduction of Peer Learning Sessions
	14:45-15:45	Keynote Speech Speaker: Ms. TATSUNO Madoka (Japanese PY of the 28th SSEAYP, CEO / Founder of GiFT (Global Incubation × Fostering Talents))
	16:00-18:00	Group Discussion I (by DG)
December 5 2021 Sunday	14:00-15:15	Peer Learning Session I
	15:30-18:00	Group Discussion II (by DG)
December 12 2021 Sunday	14:00-15:15	Peer Learning Session II
	15:30-18:00	Group Discussion III (by DG)
December 19 2021 Sunday	14:00-15:15	Peer Learning Session III
	15:30-18:00	Group Discussion IV (by DG)
January 9 2022 Sunday	13:30-14:00	Movie showing of the introduction of each country
	14:00-16:45	Presentation of Discussion Results, Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Discussion Results by DG • Remarks by Mr. YOSHIDA Dai, Deputy Director, Office for the International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office
	17:00-18:00	Self-Evaluation (by DG)

Note: Lecture by Guest Speaker (by DG) was included during either Group Discussion I, II, III or IV (by DG).

2 Remarks by Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office

Mr. WAKAMIYA Kenji, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office

I would like to extend a few words here at the opening of the SSEAYP Youth Conference 2021.

The Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP), together with the governments of the ASEAN member states, has been conducted continuously for more than 40 years. I recognize the importance of mutual understanding and friendship among participating countries. At the same time, I also recognize that the development of human resources in each field is essential to sustain national development.

I visited Lao P.D.R. in 2019 as the State Minister for Foreign Affairs. Through those constant engagements with ASEAN member states, I have been committed to building good relations between Japan and ASEAN.

I am pleased to hold today's program, filled with so many passionate participating youths.

Recently, there are hopeful signs in the situation

surrounding COVID-19; however, the situation is still unpredictable. So, we have decided to host the program virtually again this year.

In the previous online program, many participating youths told that they could experience self-development through discussions. I understand that they had fulfilling discussions and their active exchanges continue until now.

This year, to have even more fulfilling experiences, we will introduce a new program "Peer Learning Sessions" where participating youths share and discuss their knowledge and experiences freely.

I would like to conclude by wishing that everyone here achieves your personal development through active participation in the program. Thank you.

November 28, 2021
Opening Ceremony

3 Keynote Speech

Ms. TATSUNO Madoka

(Japanese PY of the 28th SSEAYP, CEO / Founder of GiFT (Global Incubation × Fostering Talents))

First of all, I am deeply honored and grateful to be invited as the keynote speaker for this program. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to meet the ambassador of goodwill and also the young global leaders from ASEAN member countries and Japan. I have been so excited to meet you all. Today, what I am going to talk about is to co-creating a better future through global citizenship.

First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is TATSUNO Madoka. I am the CEO and founder of GiFT. I established GiFT nine years ago with my friends. GiFT is an educational organization. Our mission is to promote global citizenship education. I am also a visiting professor at Toyo University, and I published a book on global citizenship education. I am working with UNESCO, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), and universities to promote global citizenship education. And yes, I am an ex-PY of SSEAYP and I actually traveled with this program in 2001, which means 20 years ago! So, I feel like I am getting very old, but I had an amazing experience, of course, in this program and I made life-long friends. I learned what global citizenship is as well as what leadership is from this program. And I am very happy because you have been chosen to be a participant in this program.

Here is a question. What is your global citizenship? Global citizenship is a kind of goodwill to make the world better, or ambition or mindset or passion to make the world better. Now is the time for you to discover your global citizenship. I would like to see all your smiling faces, and, I would like to see your energy level. If you are fine, very excited and ready for this program, show me your paper. If you are so-so, or neutral, show me your scissors. If you are still so nervous, it is okay; nervousness is very important; show me your stone. All right. So, how are you today? I can see many excited participants and also some neutral. And, wow, nobody is nervous. That is amazing. You gave me very positive good energy. Now I am ready to continue my presentation.



■ What are Global Citizenship and SDGs?

First, I would like to explain what global citizenship and SDGs are. Even though we are having an online program right now, we can imagine that all of us are on board a ship. You can use your imagination. Now, imagine we are riding in a spaceship instead. Are you ready to go to space together? Please imagine that we are all traveling to space and seeing our planet together. How do we see the world? If we see our planet from the universe, how do we feel?

This is a real voice from an astronaut in 1985. He was traveling with his teammates from many countries.

“The first day or so, we all pointed to our countries. The third or fourth day, we were pointing to our continents. By the fifth day, we were aware of only one Earth.”

If I had been there, I would have pointed to Japan first. But, on the fifth day, all astronauts realized that the Earth is our home. It is not only an island, a continent, or one area, but this huge globe, the planet is our home. It is a real voice from astronauts. I really want to go to space someday.

“We, as people who have the same home, what can we gift to the global society?” This is my question to you today.

Since I started my organization, GiFT, we have been asking the same question. What can we gift to society for the future? Our mission is to connect the world through global citizenship. I believe that all of us have the goodwill to make the world better. If we can connect all our global citizenship, I am sure that we can co-create a better future. That is why I started this organization and promote global

citizenship education.

I am sure that everybody knows the SDGs. These are important goals, such as no poverty, zero hunger, etc. The 193 member states of the United Nations decided to have this future together. But, don't you think it is hard to achieve all these goals? We even don't know how we can start. That is why we need global citizenship. Actually, there is a word of "global citizenship" in the SDGs. Before tackling all the issues and goals, we can think about what our goodwill is. We can discover how we want to see the world, what we really want to do, and what we like. Those kinds of things are so important to achieve all the SDGs. That is why we made a global citizenship process like this. These are very simple steps.

Step 1 "Knowing and accepting yourself"

Step 2 "Connecting with others with empathy"

Step 3 "Co-creating through collaboration"

Step 4 "Participating in the global society for a better future"

These are very useful steps, and the process is so simple. The message from these steps is what we can focus on before thinking of SDGs.

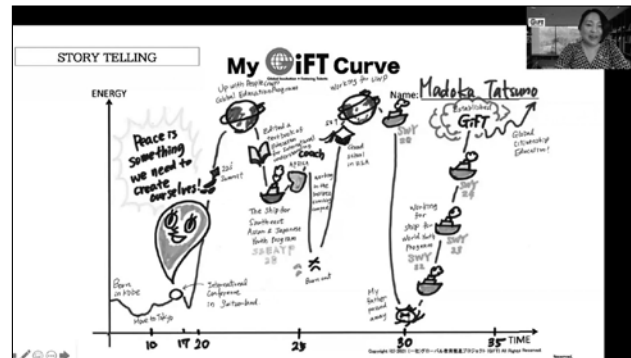
Why am I here? What do I want to do? How do I want to see the world? What kind of future do I want to see? Those questions are very important to achieve all goals. That is why Step 1 is knowing and accepting yourself. So, let's discover your global citizenship; the answer is inside you. Global citizenship is the mindset to make the world better.

Following these steps, what I do involves projects with seven different countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao P.D.R., Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Bhutan. We do the SDGs project in each country and work with partner organizations. We are following the SDGs together. Now we are having online programs like the SSEAYP Youth Conference. We are also working with the Government of Japan in a program called Tobitate! (Leap for Tomorrow) Study Abroad Initiative. This program is very popular in Japan; it offers a scholarship for about 1,600 students to study abroad every year. We provide the training for all the high school participants in this program. And, of course, we use the global citizenship process for that. We also work with JICA, and we work with teachers to promote this kind of education for students. We enjoy working with them to promote SDGs and global citizenship. We are so passionate about discovering our global citizenship to make the world better. That is why

I am so excited to learn about your global citizenship this time.

■ Storytelling: Create a Better Future through Global Citizenship

Before discovering your global citizenship, I would like to share my story and how I discovered my own global citizenship. Since I have already shared what I did with GiFT, you may think "Oh, you did a good job." But, here is my life.



We often use this sheet to show people's lives; here is my age starting from zero to now. You see the energy level. If I felt happy, my energy level was higher. And, if I felt sad, my energy level was lower. You can see my crazy up-and-down life. I was born in Kobe, Japan, and all my family members are from the area. When I turned five years old, I moved to Tokyo. At that time, I had a very strong accent. Because of that, my friends in Tokyo said "Oh, Madoka is speaking strange Japanese!" and I was so shocked. Even though it was in Japan, I had a huge culture shock.

After that, my life was smooth. I loved my school. I loved my friends. I just enjoyed my life. But once I entered junior high school, I had classmates who had lived in other countries. Many of my friends had that kind of experience and spoke perfect English. I could speak Japanese with a strong accent, but not English. And then, what happened was that I gave up studying English, because I didn't think I could compete with those who used to live abroad and spoke perfect English. The sad thing was that I had two excuses for why I didn't study English from age 13 to 17. First, I wasn't interested in other countries. Second, as a Japanese person, I thought I should only speak my native language. I didn't study English at all; I just avoided it for four years. But I could survive, so that was OK. I just got a low score and that was it. But something happened here. You can see that. I experienced a hugely shocking moment when I turned 17 years old.

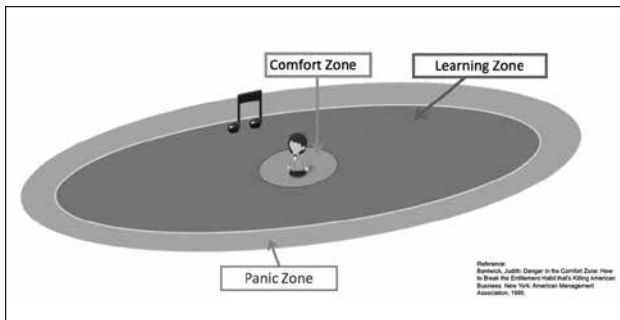
On the morning of my 17th birthday, my mother came

into my room and she was very excited; she said, “Happy birthday, Madoka! You know what? Seventeen is so important. So, I prepared a special gift for you! This gift is for summer vacation.” I was like “What is that?” And she said, “The special gift is going to Switzerland alone to attend an international conference organized by an international NGO. You will stay there for three weeks!”

I said, “Alone? Three weeks is too long! Switzerland!? I don’t think I can attend an international conference because I think that conference is for adults.”

And she said, “Yes indeed. This international conference is for adults. NGO leaders, politicians, business-people, and representatives of countries, all the professionals will join the conference. But, I assume that some of them will bring their children, so you can pretend to be one of their kids and sneak in.”

Of course, my parents didn’t come with me. So, I needed to go there alone.



Here is a very useful image. Have you ever seen this image before? At that moment, I was in my comfort zone. I was with the same group of friends in the same school routine, with the same daily life. I often said I wanted to be the same as other people. That means I was in my comfort zone at that time. But, if people step out of their comfort zone, there is a learning zone. In the learning zone, we can have new experiences, meet new people, and discover new things. That means by meeting differences, not just staying in the same environment, we are able to develop our potential. So, I can say that all of you who are participating in the SSEAYP Youth Conference are already in this learning zone. I admire all of you. You are very brave to step out of your comfort zone. But actually, there is a panic zone outside of the learning zone. So, if you step out too far, too fast, you may panic. At that time, I was totally in the panic zone because I went there alone.

The venue for the international conference was a castle, and there were about 300 participants from all over the world. I still remember that once I got into the conference room, there were so many people with different colors of skin, hair, and eyes, and they were also wearing national

costumes. It was very colorful, and I could say that it was a real international conference. I was very nervous at that time.

Imagine that a small 17-year-old Asian girl came into the room, and the adult attendees noticed that small girl and started talking to me in English. And I still remember that at the entrance of the conference room, I said “I cannot speak English at all,” and the people said, “Oh, you don’t speak English. That means you speak French?” They started speaking French to me. I was so shocked. I really wanted to go home immediately, but unfortunately, I didn’t have a way to go home; I needed to stay there for three weeks.

During the conference, now I know what they discussed was all about the SDGs. They talked about the issues of poverty, discrimination, environment, climate action, and how we could build peace together. I used my dictionary and I tried to understand what they were talking about. That year was the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. That was why the people were talking about how we could avoid that kind of situation and how we could build peace. During the conference, I was very impressed by the attendees because every single day, they talked about how we could build peace. I felt that thanks to them, I could live in a very peaceful world; the professional people were amazing.

What happened at the end of the conference was that since I had stayed at that conference for three weeks, an organizer asked me to share my thoughts from the conference. I, of course, said, “No, no, no, no. No, I cannot do it.” But, he said, “You can share your feelings with your group mates.” There were about 15 people from different countries, both young and old. In a small group, I shared how I felt, what I had learned from this conference. “I was very impressed by this conference where people discussed how to build peace in the world. I hope this kind of conference will exist forever!!” After sharing this, I felt very relieved. I even thought I had shared a very good comment. But, right after sharing this comment, all of sudden, an old lady was shaking her head and I was thinking that something had happened to her. The lady called out to me, “What are you talking about!?” Did I say something wrong? And, she said again, “What are you talking about!/? Don’t say ‘I hope this kind of conference will exist forever!’ You should be the one who will make this last forever!” Actually, this was my turning point.

At that moment, I realized that peace is something that we need to create ourselves. I felt that I was such a useless person because I didn’t speak English at all. And also, I

didn't know the history and culture of the world at all. But, as the youngest participant, I felt that I should be the one who continues these values forever. I thought some people in history made efforts to create a peaceful world; that was why we were in this world.

Then, my life changed. You can see the globe and the ships, and you can see I traveled to many countries. If I didn't know the world well enough, what I needed to do was to try to know more! I said, "1,000 swings for international understanding," and stepped out of my comfort zone! Then, I took one year off to participate in the Up with People World Smart Program, and I traveled to 70 cities with 120 students from 22 different countries. We did volunteer activities, homestays, and also musical shows. I did this for a year, and I learned a lot from my teammates and also the host families; I learned a lot about the world. After that, I participated in SSEAYP. I had such a great time with my SSEAYP friends. And I also had good learning experiences, because you can imagine that after joining the American program for a year, I realized that the culture was a bit different. I learned how to do projects with people from various cultures in harmony. So, that was an amazing experience for me. I went to Africa as well, and I traveled to many countries. Because I really wanted to travel to all the places in the world, I had many part-time jobs; I earned a lot of money and spent it all doing this during summer and spring vacations. After graduation, I started working as a business coach and went to graduate school in the U.S. to study global citizenship education. I also worked for Up with People, which I had participated in when I was 21 years old.

When I turned 29 years old, I became a facilitator of the Ship for World Youth (SWY), which is a sister program of SSEAYP. I saw the moment when there were 270 participants from 13 countries talking about how they could build peace together. I realized that my dream had come true. Since I was 17 years old, I had been chasing my dream, and I really wanted to do something good for global education. I was happy indeed. I felt very satisfied.

However, right after the program, all of sudden, my father passed away. It was the hardest moment in my life because my mother was a homemaker. I needed to find out how my family could survive without my father. We needed to find a new house to live in, and I needed to quit all my jobs to take care of my family things. At that time, I didn't have time to think about my dream at all because I needed to focus on my family. It was so hard. But what happened at that time? Since the age of 17, I'd been chasing my dream, and I said that all the time.

Actually, I said "I really want to promote global citizenship education to make the world a better place." Many friends of mine were from international exchange programs. They remembered my dreams and said to me, "We know you are in a very hard situation, but don't give up. We know that you have been chasing your dream. We can support you." Because of my friends' encouragement, I could overcome my difficulties; it took three years to recover, but fortunately, I was able to work for SWY. My colleagues were amazingly nice people, and my heart was healed. After working with the program for three years, finally, I was able to start an organization called GiFT. Finally! I really want to share that many core members of GiFT are from SSEAYP and SWY especially in GiFT's early stage. It's obvious, right? I didn't need to explain anything to them. I just said, "I really love this program. I really want to promote this kind of education for many people." My friends said, "Yes, let's do that together!" What we are doing in GiFT is promoting these values, SSEAYP and SWY. So I can say that we are ambassadors of SSEAYP and SWY. We are working with seven countries, and some of our partners in those countries are also from SSEAYP. So, I really want to tell you that the friendships you establish here will continue even after 20 years, and you can work together and support each other's dreams. I am so happy that you could join this program because you've already got that treasure for your life. Thanks to SSEAYP, I was able to start this organization, and I really enjoy working with amazing people.

At the age of 17, although I needed to step out of my comfort zone, my journey started from there. I'm sure that your journey has started already. So enjoy your program!

■ Time Machine Workshop

All right, so now it's your turn. Now I would like to start the time machine workshop. Are you ready? I already asked you that what your global citizenship is and what you want to gift to society in the future. What kind of world do you want to leave for the next generation? I know it is not an easy question to answer. Now we can ride on the time machine instead of the ship. Are you ready for that? Now we are heading to November 28, 2030, nine years from now. So, please add nine years to your current age. If you are 20 now, you will be 29 years old.

Now we are all in 2030 and there is breaking news which says, "Congratulations! We have completed our mission! Amazingly, we have achieved all our SDGs! We live in the ideal world in 2030!"

All of us are living in the ideal world. Please use

your rich imagination. This is the situation: You will be interviewed on the news as a person who contributed to this achievement. You are a very successful person and all your dreams have come true. Please change your manner of sitting and pretend to be a successful person. I will ask some questions as an interviewer. So, please write down your answer on your blank paper. Here are the questions:

- What does the world look like in 2030?
- I know that you are having a happy life. What do you do? Where do you live? Who is around you?
- I heard that you attended SSEAYP Youth Conference nine years ago. How did this program affect your life?
- What have you gifted to society since 2021?

Thank you very much for answering all the interview questions. Allow me to move to the next one. Again, what is your global citizenship? Please write your ideas and thoughts regarding your global citizenship. For example, “Madoka’s global citizenship is connecting the world through global citizenship.” Any word is okay; refer to your answers to the interview session. You can write your dream, such as: to be an effective leader to achieve the SDGs; to become a doctor to help people. You can also write down your action on the SDGs, such as: to preserve nature; to make friends everywhere in the world; to think globally and act locally. Or, you can write your values, such as: to promote cross-cultural understanding; to smile to everyone, etc. Whatever you feel, it would be a gift to

the next generation for the future.

So, if you finish writing your global citizenship, you can read through other people’s global citizenship. Wow, this is so valuable. Perfect! Thank you very much!

- *My global citizenship is knowing what is going on in our world, and find ways to make it better, a safer world for every living thing on this earth!*
- *My global citizenship is collaborating with the world to achieve common purposes.*
- *My global citizenship is to promote empathy among everyone in the society and globally.*
- *My global citizenship is to promote the education and green environment to the world.*
- *My global citizenship is to promote a sustainable lifestyle and empower people.*

What I really want to do is to connect the world through global citizenship. There are 300 global citizenship messages. If we can connect our goodwill to make the world better, I am sure that we can create that amazing better future together.

I strongly believe that we will co-create an amazing future with global citizenship! Please enjoy your program, and I would like to co-work with you in the near future to make the world a better place. I would like to say “Bon voyage!” Thank you very much for your active participation and I am so happy to meet you all!