

[Sophia University's Top Global University Project (TGUP) Initiatives and Achievements]

[AY2014-AY2023]

■ Purpose of the TGUP at Sophia University

The Project aimed to develop and implement pioneering global education programs and establish an environment that nurtures individuals who embody the university's educational philosophy of "For Others, with Others" and boldly tackle global challenges.

SGU

Project Overview

Under the framework and three core pillars of Sophia University's Top Global University Project (TGUP), various initiatives were undertaken with the aim of enhancing "international competitiveness" and "global compatibility."

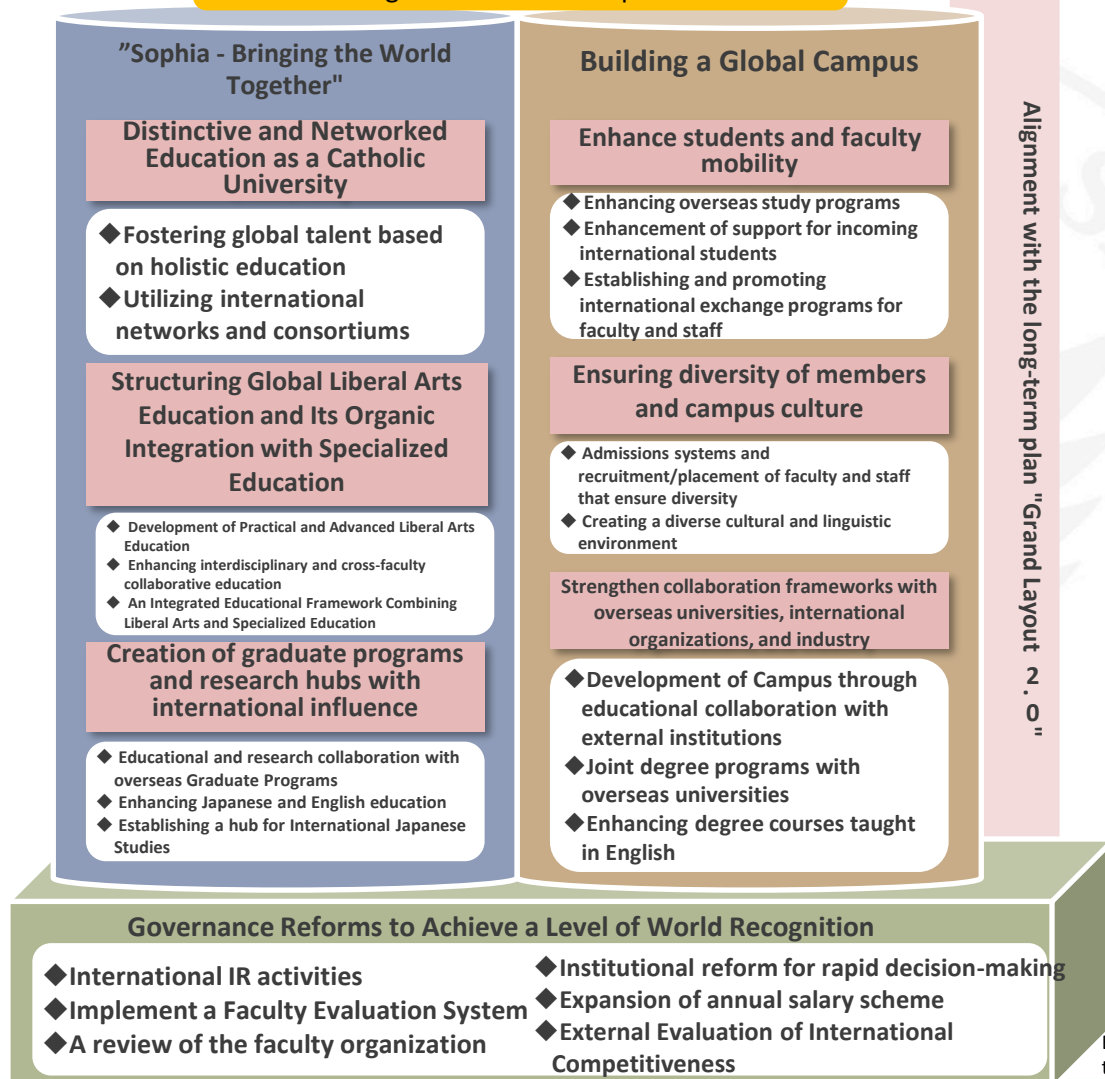
Title: "Creating a Global Campus with Multiple Hub Functions and Supportive Governance"

Three pillars:

- ① "Sophia - Bringing the World Together"
- ② Building a Global Campus
- ③ Governance Reforms to Achieve a Level of World Recognition

Creating a Global Campus with Multi-layered Hub Functions and Establishing Support Governance

Strengthening international competitiveness and Enhancing International Competitiveness



Excerpt from
the Project Proposal

Sophia University Good Practices (1)

First Pillar: "Sophia - Bringing the World Together": Initiatives and Achievements in Developing Global Education Programs

The University worked on expanding pioneering global education programs that embody the Catholic Jesuit educational spirit and nurture individuals capable of tackling global-scale challenges. The Center for Global Education and Discovery was established to provide study abroad support and global education courses, while also expanding partner universities and global education programs. In addition, the Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures (SPSF), an English-based program connecting six departments focused on sustainable futures, was newly launched. These efforts have contributed to fostering individuals capable of embracing diverse values and practicing the mission of "Sophia - Bringing the World Together."

■ Expansion of Diverse Global Education Programs

The Center for Global Education and Discovery was established as the driving force behind global education programs, providing diverse opportunities for students to acquire expertise and a well-rounded education, fostering the skills needed to thrive in the international community. The number of partner institutions increased to 343 universities across 63 countries, leading to the expansion of study abroad programs. Additionally, efforts were made to enhance internship courses at international organizations, global companies, and foreign embassies in Japan, both domestically and internationally. Furthermore, leveraging the expertise and networks of the university's faculty, numerous social engagement programs were developed and implemented to provide students with firsthand knowledge of local realities abroad. These include training programs to study international organizations in locations such as New York and Geneva, as well as programs in Southeast Asia and Africa. As a result, the number of participants in these social engagement programs increased fourfold compared to before the project began, reaching approximately 200 participants. The university will continue to expand opportunities for learning across diverse regions and themes.



United Nations Intensive Training (New York, USA)

■ Strengthening Collaborative Programs with Overseas Graduate Programs (double degree and 3+2 programs)

The University established the "Special Admission for Overseas Graduate Schools" to support students in pursuing advanced studies at prestigious overseas graduate schools, as well as the "3+2 Program," which connects three years of undergraduate study in Japan with two years of master's study abroad. Between the 2016 and 2023 academic years, a total of 14 students advanced to overseas graduate schools through the former program, and 7 students through the 3+2 program.



The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

■ Establishment of the Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures, a Degree Course Taught in English

The University launched a new English course, the Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures (SPSF), which focuses on a sustainable future. Although it started amid the pandemic, the program began accepting students in four departments - Education, Social Studies, Economics, and Department of Global Studies - in the fall of 2020, and by autumn semester 2023, as originally planned, the program have grown to include approximately 170 students enrolled in six departments. In addition to the specialized fields of each department, students took common courses under the theme of "Sustainable Future," aiming to cultivate global human resources capable of contributing to the global challenge of sustainability.



SPSF class scene



■ Enhancement of Global Education Courses on Campus

Efforts were made not only within English-taught programs, but also in University-Wide General Studies Courses and in each faculty to improve the number of courses offered in foreign languages. As a result, the proportion of courses conducted in foreign languages increased approximately twice, from 924 courses (13.6%) at the start of the project in 2013 to 1,847 courses (23.5%) in the final year. From the AY2018, efforts were made to develop collaborative programs with overseas universities utilizing online platforms. Under the "Inter-University Exchange Project," a student exchange program through COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) was launched, involving three Japanese universities (Sophia, Ochanomizu University, and the University of Shizuoka) and ten universities in the United States. Additionally, programs were implemented that combined COIL-based learning before and after short-term study abroad experiences. Exchange events were also held to connect exchange students from partner universities in the U.S. with our students planning to study abroad, fostering awareness of long-term study abroad opportunities and alleviating concerns for students from both Japan and the U.S.

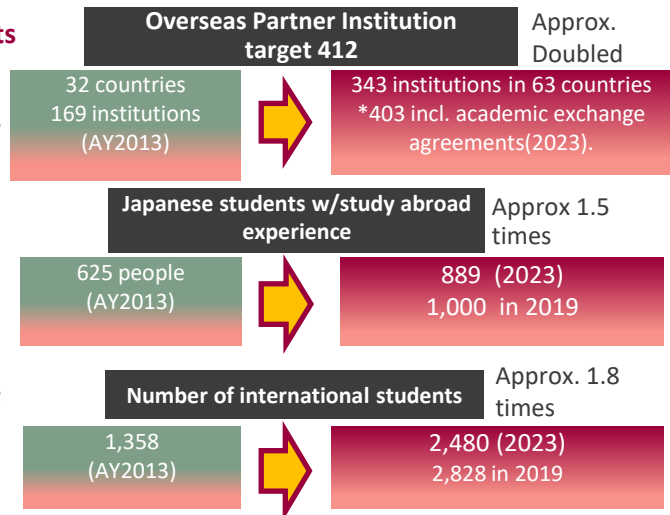
Sophia University Good Practices (2)

Second Pillar: Initiatives and Achievements in Creating Building a Global Campus to Support Education and Research on a Global Level

■ Increase in the Number of Outbound/Inbound Students

The number of student exchange partner institutions expanded, not only in quantity but also regionally, providing students with a broader range of options. By offering a variety of study abroad programs tailored to meet the diverse needs of students, the **annual number of Japanese students with study abroad experience increased to approximately 1.5 times the figure prior to the TGUP implementation.**

The University enhanced support for students preparing to study abroad by assigning study abroad counselors and English learning advisors and strengthening crisis management education. With more partner institutions, the number of incoming exchange students steadily grew. Despite a temporary suspension during the COVID-19 pandemic, **the annual number of international students increased, surpassing the target of 726 and reaching 1,000.**



■ Enhancement and Strengthening of the International Student Support System

In addition to **introducing external examinations and establishing a designated school system for overseas admissions** to diversify the student intake process, the University promoted the enhancement and strengthening of both academic and living exchange environments. This included **establishing international student dormitories and developing programs to foster interaction between Japanese and international students.**

To strengthen career support for international students, the University conducted over 20 job support programs annually, **including job guidance and individual consultations in Japanese, English, and Chinese**, English-language career fairs, and **career seminars at international dormitories.** The University established and expanded various scholarship programs to support students from developing countries, **offering reserved admission and full tuition waivers.** In AY2022, the university accepted 10 Ukrainian refugee students and provided them with financial support. The development of a system capable of flexibly supporting international students from diverse backgrounds represents a significant achievement.

■ Creating Learning and Interaction Opportunities for All Students

The Sophia Student Integration Commons (SSIC) was established in December 2017 as a base for the Student Integration Program (SIP), which promotes exchanges between international students and Japanese students. SSIC holds exchange programs once or twice a month where Japanese and international students can deepen mutual understanding through experiencing Japanese culture. To date, **123 programs have been held**, including off-campus overnight programs. More than 1,500 students participate each year, and it serves as a platform where diverse members can share experiences and have various exchanges.



International and domestic students experience tea picking together in SIP

■ Expansion of Overseas Offices

The University established overseas offices in Bangkok, Cologne, New York, Beijing, and Los Angeles, adding to the existing locations in Luxembourg and Shanghai, resulting in the development and enhancement of a total of seven overseas offices. These offices leverage their unique locations **to form 'multi-layered hubs' through public relations, recruitment, and educational program development.** The Bangkok office, in particular, has grown to become a key hub in the ASEAN region for Sophia, actively planning and implementing local social engagement programs. Since its **incorporation as a local entity in 2019**, it has provided global learning opportunities for our university, other universities, and high school students.



Social engagement program in Vietnam

■ Enhancing Faculty, Staff, and Student Exchanges via the Catholic Jesuit Network

The University is part of international Christian networks, including AJCU-AP (Association of Jesuit Universities in Asia and the Pacific), ASEACCU (Association of Catholic Universities in Southeast and East Asia), ACUCA (Asian Association of Christian Universities), and SACRU (The Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities). These networks offer educational programs for students and opportunities for research collaboration and capacity development for faculty and staff.



November 2023 hosted AJCU-AP International Officers' Meeting

Sophia University Good Practices (3)

Third Pillar: Initiatives and Achievements of Governance Reform

International advisory board meetings
were held regularly

■ Establishment of Systems for Promoting Globalization

As part of efforts to strengthen the President's leadership in academic management, the President will now set criteria for selecting candidates for Deans and Directors of graduate programs. This has created an environment where leadership can be more effectively exercised in both academic management and overall university administration.

Global Promotion Headquarters Council was established within the school corporation, including a trustee, the president, vice presidents, faculty members from each department and graduate school, and directors of each bureau. This structure promoted globalization through university-wide collaboration. The Sophia Committee for Promotion of Globalization discussed student mobility and campus internationalization. In AY2023, the focus was on post-project globalization, enhancing international compatibility, and necessary measures to achieve these goals. These discussions led to initiatives such as making university meeting documents available in both Japanese and English and implementing training to improve staff response capabilities. To obtain internationally recognized evaluations and recommendations on globalization efforts, an 'Advisory Board (External Evaluation Committee)' was established, consisting of experts from both domestic and international backgrounds. Through 17 sessions held over four terms, both in-person and online, the university gained international and multifaceted perspectives on globalization and specific initiatives. These sessions provided numerous insightful recommendations.



■ IR (Institutional Research): Analysis and Disseminating Survey Results, and Fostering an IR Mindset

An "IR Promotion Office" responsible for advancing Institutional Research (IR) was established in 2015. To promote IR initiatives and disseminate analysis results, regular IR subcommittee meetings are held with the participation of relevant faculty, staff, and management. These meetings provide opportunities to share various data analyses and results, such as course evaluation surveys and student perception surveys. The results of the analysis were also shared on campus at information sessions for all faculty and staff.

As a result, objective data can now be linked to educational and management policies in each department. Additionally, the IR mindset, which is essential for promoting globalization, has permeated the faculties and departments, contributing to its dissemination and the development of personnel.

IR office also created a fact book, conducted surveys within the IR University Consortium, and co-hosted IR symposiums with other universities. These efforts have been widely shared both within and outside the university, contributing to the introduction and spread of IR across higher education institutions in Japan.



Co-hosted Symposiums on Quality Assurance in Education through IR



SOPHIA GLOBAL
EDUCATION & DISCOVERY

■ Expansion of Practical Learning through the Incorporation of Overseas Office as a Local Entity and Dissemination its Outcomes

To further develop the "Sophia University ASEAN Hub Center" in Bangkok, Thailand, which began as an overseas office for university public relations and study abroad support, a new company focused on educational support, Sophia Global Education and Discovery Co., Ltd. (Sophia GED), was established in April 2019 with partial investment from the school corporation. Aiming for self-sufficiency in management, it enhances our university's social engagement programs in Southeast Asia and develops and implements programs for other universities in Japan.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sophia GED implemented many online programs from local locations, supporting the continuation of global learning at Sophia and other universities in Japan.

Starting in AY2020, Sophia GED has been running a new revenue-generating program: an online learning program called "Sekai Tankyu-bu" (World Exploring Club), where Japanese high school students choose a theme and engage in a 10-month research project. Currently, around 60 fifth-term students are engaged in activities to deepen their interests, and over 150 students have completed the program to date in four cohorts.

Sophia GED also organizes study tours for Catholic high schools in Japan, contributing to the dissemination of this project's outcomes. Additionally, it creates opportunities for the younger generation to engage with and experience overseas environments.



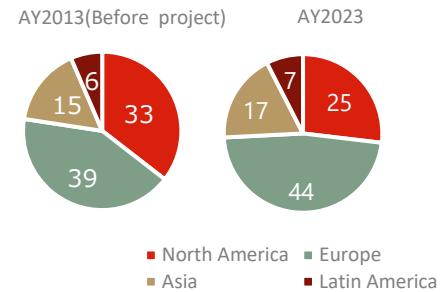
Outcomes obtained through TGUP Initiatives at Sophia

Under the president's leadership, various initiatives have enhanced networks and programs recognized as good practices, improved infrastructure and governance, and created positive cycles in organizational management. These efforts have strengthened the foundation for promoting the university's globalization.

■ Promoting Globalization in Alignment with the University's Future Plans

In the mid- to long-term plans, Grand Layout 2.0 and 2.1 (2015-2023), the promotion of globalization was established as a key policy for the entire university. The university's mid- to long-term plans were aligned with this project to ensure coordinated efforts. As a result, **approximately 80% of the target indicators for the TGUP were achieved, with some results significantly exceeding the targets.** While enhancing Sophia's unique strengths and promoting globalization within the institution, it has grown into a university that also contributes to the advancement of internationalization in Japan. In the new mid- to long-term plan, Grand Layout 3.0 (2023-2030), which began in the 2023 academic year, the university's initiatives remain closely tied to the promotion of globalization. Efforts to enhance international compatibility continue even after the project's completion.

Changes in the proportion of regions hosting student exchange programs



■ Promotion of Diversity

The promotion of **geographical diversification of overseas partner universities** has **expanded the range of options for study abroad programs.** Compared to before the project began, the proportion of partner universities in North America has decreased, while the proportion in European countries and Latin America has increased. This has led to an increase and **diversification in both the number of outbound and inbound students.** The diversification of the timing and content of global education programs has enabled students to gain global experiences tailored to various stages of their student life and their individual goals.

The increase in faculty members with degrees from overseas, the higher proportion of female faculty, and the rise in international students have enhanced campus diversity. This has **fostered an environment where diversity is respected and learned from, even while on campus.**

As a foundation for supporting diversity, the University has strengthened its diversity promotion activities, enhanced the global responsiveness of faculty and staff through Faculty Development (FD) and Staff Development (SD) programs, bilingualized various internal documents, and fostered collaboration among faculty, staff, and students.

■ Collaboration and Sharing of Outcomes with Other Universities in Japan, and Providing Global Learning Opportunities for High School Students

The development of globalization across Japan requires not only individual efforts by each university but also coordinated responses. During the project period, opportunities for collaboration with domestic universities increased, facilitating the sharing of knowledge and expertise among faculty and staff from different institutions.

Sophia Global Education and Discovery Co., Ltd. (Sophia GED), established as a business entity from our overseas office in Bangkok, Thailand, not only provides global programs to other universities in Japan but also offers opportunities for high school students. Through online learning programs where Japanese high school students engage in research and study tours, Sophia GED fosters interest in global issues and the ability to think about solutions from the secondary education stage.



"World Exploring Club" participating students

■ Sophia Futures Design Platform (SFDP) Promotion Office

In the AY2023, the **Sophia Future Design Platform (SFDP) Promotion Office** was **established with the aim of creating a hub for emergent learning.** The platform allows diverse learners, including high school students, university students, and working professionals, to design their own learning experiences and learn from each other. Through collaboration with various stakeholders, including companies, overseas universities, and alumni, the University is advancing the provision of multi-layered educational programs. These include lifelong learning courses (Global Citizenship Courses), liberal arts and expert training courses for working professionals (Professional Studies), entrepreneurship education for students, and a short-term business course in collaboration with overseas university business school. Sophia is actively involved in the establishment and operation of these diverse educational programs.

Some of the connections and outcomes gained through these programs are utilized in the university's regular courses. Additionally, by developing revenue-generating projects, the University aims to diversify the university's revenue structure.