



UNESCO &

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

日本ユネスコ国内委員会

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO's Overview

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed. (Extracted from the Preamble to Constitution of UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations intended to enhance international peace and the common welfare of humankind through the promotion of collaboration and exchange among nations in the fields of education, science and culture.

UNESCO's decisions are made by the General Conference held once every two years, where its policies are determined, its programmes and budget are approved, and the Director-General is appointed on the recommendation of the Executive Board.

In addition, the Executive Board, consisting of 58 Member States, meets twice a year, and Japan has been continuously serving as one of its members since joining UNESCO.

The UNESCO Constitution states that each Member State shall preferably form a National Commission for the purpose of associating its principal bodies interested in educational, scientific and cultural matters with UNESCO's projects. Based on this statement, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU) was established in 1952.

In 1947 shortly after the creation of UNESCO and without waiting for Japan's accession to UNESCO, the world's first private UNESCO association was established by local volunteers from Sendai who identified with the spirit of the UNESCO Constitution. Later, numerous UNESCO associations were founded in various parts of Japan, and due partly to the drive of this private-sector movement, Japan joined UNESCO in 1951. This preceded Japan's accession to the United Nations in 1956, and UNESCO became the first United Nations agency that Japan joined after the war. In this way, for Japanese citizens seeking peace in the aftermath of the war, the existence of UNESCO was a hope for the future, and support for UNESCO was a way of contributing to world peace.

Today, 270 UNESCO associations are active throughout Japan, and UNESCO activities are being practiced in all regions of the country as exemplified by over 1,000 UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan, one of the largest number of UNESCO Associated Schools in the world.

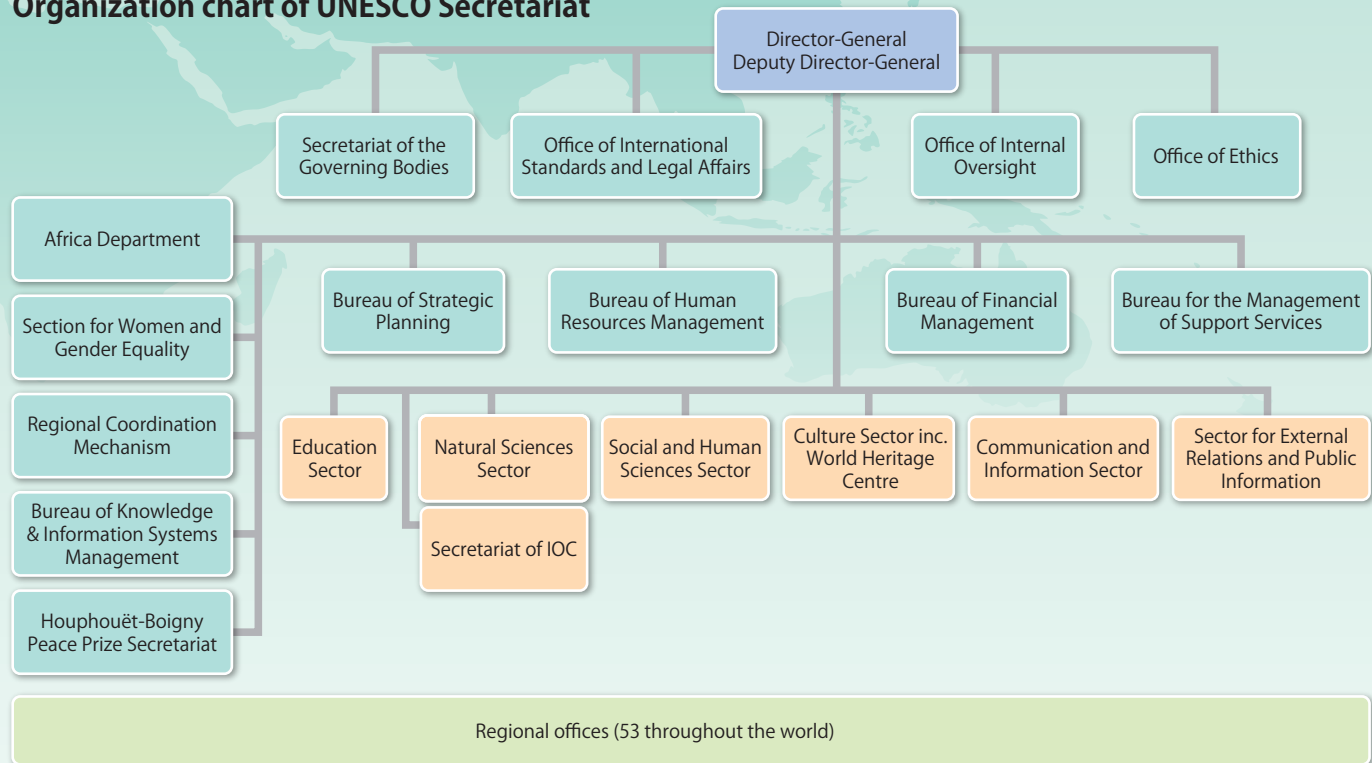


UNESCO Headquarters (November 2017)



Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO @ Christelle ALIX

Organization chart of UNESCO Secretariat



February 2018

Name:	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Establishment, etc.:	Adoption of the UNESCO Constitution: November 16, 1945 Established: November 4, 1946 Japan's accession: July 2, 1951
Headquarters:	Paris (France)
Number of Member States:	195 countries as of February 2018
Director-General:	Ms. Audrey Azoulay Term of office: 4 years (1st term) November 2017 - November 2021



UNESCO Headquarters@UNESCO



About the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

What is the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO?

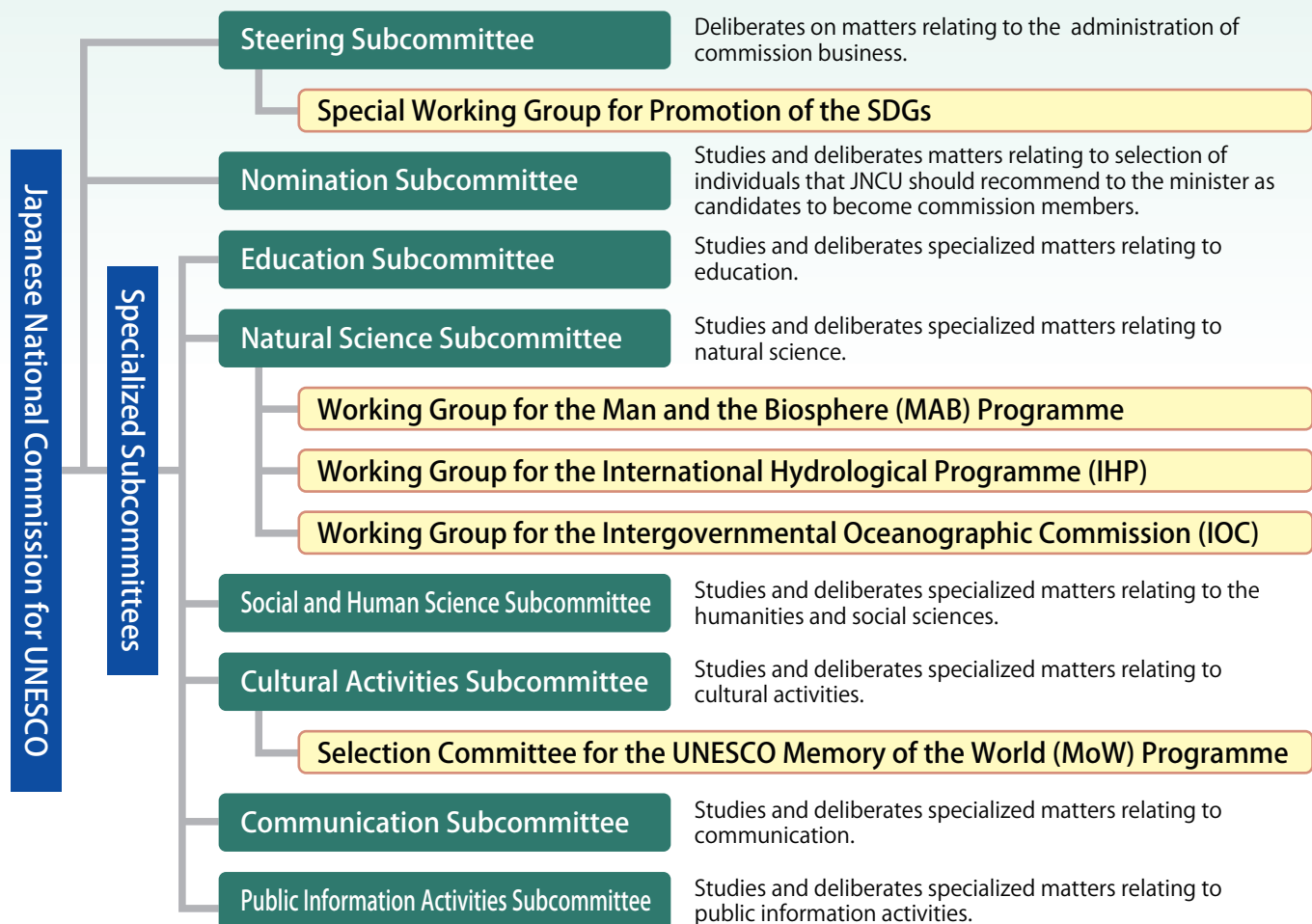
The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU) is a special organization attached to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in accordance with the “Act on UNESCO-Related Activities” (Act No. 207 of 1952), and is comprised of 60 members who represent their respective competences in the fields of education, science and culture (appointed by the Minister of MEXT for a term of three years, excluding members of the House of Representatives, members of the House of Councilors, and government employees). In addition, JNCU shall have one chairperson and two vice-chairpersons.

* The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO is not a direct entity of UNESCO.

* The secretariat of JNCU is located in the Office of the Director-General for International Affairs of MEXT, and the Director-General for International Affairs serves as the Secretary-General.

Organization of JNCU

There are a number of subcommittees comprised of JNCU members under JNCU, and these subcommittees are made up of the Steering Committee, the Nomination Committee, and other specialized subcommittees, and where necessary in terms of managing the subcommittees, further working groups may be established under these subcommittees. The details of each subcommittee are as follows.



Main Activities of JNCU

JNCU mainly engages in the following activities based on the “Act on UNESCO-Related Activities”

- Provides advice, and implements planning, liaison and study regarding UNESCO-related activities (activities to achieve the objectives of UNESCO) in Japan.
- Studies and deliberates the selection of government delegates to the UNESCO General Conference and matters relating to the business and the conclusion of conventions etc. in response to consultations by the relevant Ministers.
- Establishes a basic policy for UNESCO-related activities in Japan.
- Exchanges information with organizations and entities with UNESCO-related activities in Japan.
- Undertakes studies relating to UNESCO-related activities and collects and prepares materials.
- Implements necessary matters to popularize the purpose of UNESCO-related activities.

The Chairperson convenes a general assembly of JNCU twice a year in order to deliberate these matters.



The 141st General Assembly of JNCU (September 12, 2017)

Recommendations and Proposals from JNCU

As part of the above activities, JNCU formulated the proposals given below. For details, please visit the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO website (<http://www.mext.go.jp/unesco>).

- **“Learning to Build a Better Earth than Today’s: Towards Further Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) – Message from the Education Subcommittee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO to ESD Practitioners in Schools”**

With regard to the ESD that Japan has been promoting for a long time, and bearing in mind the development of the Sustainable Development Goals and publication of the new national curriculum standards, the views of the Japanese National Commission were compiled to serve as a useful tool to be used by stakeholders for future ESD promotion.

(September 2017, Education Subcommittee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO)

- **“Towards Further Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)” (Report of the Special Working Group on ESD of the Education Subcommittee of the Japanese National Commission)**

Looking back on the achievements of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and based on the organization of the tasks in each respective field as well as international trends, and based on discussions on efforts relating to strategies enabling Japan to promote further concrete ESD practices, promotion strategies have been proposed dividing the efforts into (1) efforts to publicize ESD, (2) efforts to deepen ESD (to improve practical skills), and (3) efforts to promote ESD worldwide.

(August 2015, Special Working Group on ESD of the Education Subcommittee of the Japanese National Commission)

- **Respect for Diversity and a Sustainable Society - UNESCO’s 70th Anniversary Statement by the Chairperson of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO**

In view of the fact that 2015 is the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, consideration was given to what UNESCO activities are suited to the future, and UNESCO’s new roles were compiled in the Chairperson’s statement in the form of the following three points: (1) Serving as an intellectual leader of the global community in the new era, (2) contribution to building a sustainable society, and (3) Contribution to paving the way to a society that respects diversity.

(Adopted at the 137th Japanese National Commission for UNESCO in July 2015)

(Main proposals up to FY2014)

- Proposal regarding invigoration of UNESCO activities in an era of diversity (March 2014)
- Proposal to UNESCO concerning “Sustainable Science” (August 2011)
- Proposal regarding the effective utilization of UNESCO Associated Schools for the promotion and dissemination of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (February 2008)
- Proposal to UNESCO regarding further promotion of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (August 2007)
- Emergency proposal to UNESCO concerning disaster prevention – responses to the recent Sumatra–Andaman earthquake and tsunami (July 2005)
- Proposal regarding the International Implementation Scheme drawn up by UNESCO concerning the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (July 2003)
- Proposal to UNESCO relating to the reconstruction of Afghanistan (March 2002)



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Activities in Japan

Field of education

JNCU strives to promote and disseminate education for sustainable development (ESD) in Japan towards promoting UNESCO's efforts in the field of education, and Japan was the proponent, which first proposed the UN Decade of Sustainable Education (2005-2014), and has since been taking the lead in worldwide efforts. In addition, Japan has been working on achieving the 17 goals given as SDGs through the promotion of ESD. Moreover, one example of projects targeting at the stage of higher education is the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme.

■ Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Since proposing the UN Decade of ESD (2005-2014), Japan has been working on promoting ESD, which is education that fosters the creators of a sustainable society through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust and various other domestic measures. Specifically, as well as formulating proposals to contribute to the promotion of ESD, we have been promoting efforts to publicize ESD throughout the region with the cooperation of various stakeholders, and to deepen ESD with setting themes.

■ UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPnet schools)

These are schools that practice peace and international collaboration to realize UNESCO's ideals. Over 11,000 schools in 181 countries, and 1,033 schools in Japan (as of February 2018) have been certified by UNESCO. In Japan, the UNESCO Associated Schools serve as promotion centers for ESD, and we have been working on disseminating and deepening ESD through various support initiatives.

■ Efforts to achieve the SDGs

In order to achieve the SDGs in the field of education, Japan has been cooperating in various ways to implement the Education 2030 Action Framework with UNESCO as the lead agency.

In addition, we have been contributing to achieving the SDGs in the field of education in the Asia-Pacific region through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust contributions to the UNESCO / Bangkok Office.

■ The UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

The UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme is a programme which aims to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work. Currently, over 700 institutions have been established worldwide, and higher education institutions wishing to establish are eligible to apply through the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO.



6 Students studying at a non-formal educational institution at the secondary school level in Myanmar © UNESCO Bangkok/Hyunjeong Lee



UNESCO Eco Park [Forest Therapy Tour of Hinokage Town in Miyazaki Prefecture]

Field of Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciencehumanities

The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO participates in international collaborative projects such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), as well as registration projects such as Man and the Biosphere Programme and UNESCO Global Geoparks. Through these efforts, we aim to contribute to achieving the SDGs by promoting harmony between people's lifestyles and nature, and conservation of the ocean and water environment.

■ Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

This commission aims to provide a scientific foundation for the rational management of ocean resources through international cooperation. A General Assembly is convened once every two years and an Executive Council is convened annually. Japan actively takes part in these statutory meetings by sending experts including the chair of the IOC subcommittee under the JNCU, which is Japanese National Committee for IOC.

■ International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

This programme is a project, which aims to provide a scientific foundation for optimum management of water resources through international cooperation, and Japan is a member of the Intergovernmental Council comprised of 36 countries. The Intergovernmental Council is held once every two years. Japan actively takes part in the Council by sending experts including the chair of the IHP subcommittee, which is the Japanese National Committee for IHP Japan.

■ Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)

In this programme, we promote activities to protect biodiversity and aim for symbiosis between sustainable nature and human beings. As part of the activities, practical approaches are being taken throughout the biosphere reserves ("UNESCO Eco Parks" in Japanese) certified by UNESCO, which reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with sustainable use.

■ UNESCO Global Geoparks

The UNESCO Global Geoparks is a project where the geological heritage of strata, rocks, terrain, volcanoes and faults of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of symbiosis between nature and human beings, and sustainable development, and are utilized in such areas as science, education and regional development.

Field of culture and information, and communication

The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO conducts projects related to cultural fields through projects such as the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, and also cooperates with the Communication and Information Sector with the "Memory of the World" programme.

■ The UNESCO Creative Cities Network

This project enables partnerships with other cities in such fields as literature, music, and the arts, and utilizes its international network to promote the invigoration of cities and the promotion of cultural diversity by placing cultural industries at the heart of their development plans. Since its inception in 2004, there have been an increasing number of cities in Japan that have joined this network. Cities that wish to join this network are asked to apply to the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO.

■ "Memory of the World"

This project was started in 1992, with the aim of enhancing awareness of internationally important records, and promoting preservation and access.

In addition to the abovementioned efforts of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, the main efforts in Japan concerning the field of culture are related to World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage.

■ World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage

Japan has been engaged in protecting the tangible and intangible cultural heritage within its borders. As a State Party to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, it also proactively supports the protection and promotion of cultural heritage in foreign countries and promotes international exchange and dialogue through cultural heritage.

PR Ambassador Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO has appointed “PR Ambassadors” for the purpose of making it easier for a larger number of people to familiarize themselves with UNESCO’s philosophy and activities.

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO Public Information Ambassador (2018-19)



©2018-PMV 写真 461m
SAKANA-KUN
Ichthyologist



Keiko HIRANO
KATARIBE=Catalyst (story teller)



Rika SUEYOSHI
Ethical Consumerism Promoter

For inquiries about UNESCO activities

- **The UNESCO organization and individual projects**

UNESCO website <http://www.unesco.org>

- **UNESCO activities in Japan**

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO Secretariat (within MEXT)

3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959

TEL: 03-5253-4111 (Ext. 2937, Office of the Director-General for International Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)

<http://www.mext.go.jp/unesco> e-mail: jpnatcom@mext.go.jp

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/jpnatcom>

* The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO is an organization which gives advice, and plans, communicates and inspects UNESCO activities in Japan, but it is not a direct entity of UNESCO. Therefore, please understand that we may not be able to respond to inquiries about individual projects that UNESCO is conducting, or give out individual data, facts, etc.

- **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

ESD portal site <http://www.esd-jpnatcom.jp/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/esd.jpnatcom>

- **UNESCO activities run by local governments**

Boards of education of prefectural governments and Cabinet-Order designated cities