



University students from 9 Asian countries to learn about building a recycling society

## **9th “Asian Students Environment Platform” to be held online**

AEON Environmental Foundation (Chairman: Takuya Okada, Honorary Chairman and Advisor of AEON Co., Ltd.) will be holding the 9<sup>th</sup> “Asian Students Environment Platform (ASEP)” online from Monday, August 9 to Wednesday, August 11.

Organized through an agreement between the Foundation and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), ASEP is marking the 9<sup>th</sup> forum this year.

This program provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students from Japan and other Asian countries to learn about environmental issues, exchange opinions, and formulate proposals using English as a common language, with the aim of developing human resources who can take a globally active role in the environmental field. Total number of participants reaches 681 students, including participants of this year.

The event will be held online over three days, with 90 students participating remotely from nine universities in nine countries. The program prepared by the host university, Universitas Indonesia, will see students attending lectures before being divided into nine multinational teams for group discussions. Faculty members from the universities will join as facilitators to help deepen discussions. Students from AEON TOWA Research Center\*, established in collaboration with WASEDA University, will also assist.

On the final day, teams will make presentations on how to build a recycling society, and for the first time this will be widely available online for all students from participating universities.

AEON Environmental Foundation will continue to actively engage in environmental education and other environmental activities to help protect our Planet.

(\*) In 2020, AEON Environmental Foundation and WASEDA University established AEON TOWA Research Center in order to address timely environmental issues. By combining the knowledge and academic research of both parties, the center aims to realize a sustainable society through the creation of new values, including human resource development and addressing regional issues related to the environment and other areas.

### Details

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| 1.Dates:   | Monday, August 9 – Wednesday, August 11, 2021 (held online)  |
| 2.Organizer:   | AEON Environmental Foundation  |
| 3.Host University:   | Universitas Indonesia (Indonesia)  |
| 4.With Assistance from:  | WASEDA University, WASEDA University AEON TOWA Research Center   |
| 5.Participating Universities:<br>(In the alphabetical order for country) | Royal University of Phnom Penh(Cambodia), Tsinghua University (China), Universitas Indonesia (Indonesia), WASEDA University (Japan), University of Malaya (Malaysia), Korea University (South Korea), University of the Philippines (Philippines), Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), Vietnam National University, Hanoi (Vietnam) |

6.Nominal Support: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan, The Mainichi Newspapers Co., Ltd.

7.Participants (Tentative)

Opening Ceremony:

Prof. Ari Kuncoro, S.E., M.A., Ph.D., Rector of Universitas Indonesia  
Mr. Takejiro Sueyoshi, Special Advisor to UNEP Finance Initiative,  
Chairman of WWF Japan, Trustee of AEON Environmental  
Foundation

Keynote Lecture:

H.E. Ir. Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Environment and Forestry,  
Republic of Indonesia

Closing Ceremony:

Dr. Agustin Kusumayati, M.Sc., Ph.D, Secretary to the University,  
Universitas Indonesia  
Prof. Dr. Masahiko Gemma, Vice President for International Affairs  
and  
Professor of Faculty of Social Sciences, WASEDA University

8.Main Program:

August 9 (Mon) Opening Ceremony, Keynote Lecture, Group Work  
August 10 (Tue) Lecture, Field Trip, Group Work  
August 11 (Wed) Final Presentation, Closing Ceremony, Farewell

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Reference

**ASEP Activities from 2012 to 2019**



1<sup>st</sup> ASEP (2012, Japan)  
Theme: "Changing the Environment through Culture"  
60 participants from China, Japan, and South Korea



2<sup>nd</sup> ASEP (2013, South Korea)  
Theme: "The Environment and Humans"  
79 participants from China, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam



3<sup>rd</sup> ASEP (2014, China)  
Theme: "Water and Humans"  
80 participants from China, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Vietnam



4<sup>th</sup> ASEP (2015, Vietnam)  
Theme: "Biodiversity and Humans"  
72 participants from Cambodia, China, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Vietnam



5<sup>th</sup> ASEP (2016, Japan)  
Theme: "Biodiversity and Wisdom"  
84 participants from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Vietnam



6<sup>th</sup> ASEP (2017, Japan)  
Theme: "Biodiversity and Renovation"  
64 participants from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam



7<sup>th</sup> ASEP (2018, Malaysia)  
Theme: "Gift from Tropical Rain Forest"  
72 participants from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam



8<sup>th</sup> ASEP (2019, Cambodia)  
Theme: "Sustainable Peacebuilding"  
80 participants from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam

### [About AEON Environmental Foundation]

AEON Environmental Foundation was established in 1990 under AEON's Basic Principles of "Pursuing peace, respecting humanity, and contributing to local communities, always with the customer's point of view at its core." Ever since, the foundation's main projects have been focused on reforestation, biodiversity, and the provision of grants to NPOs/NGOs undertaking environmental activities. Including the foundation's efforts, the Aeon Group has planted approx. 12.23 million trees (as of end of February 2021) since 1991.

AEON Environmental Foundation website: <https://www.aeon.info/ef/en/>

### [AEON Environmental Foundation Projects in Indonesia]

#### [Tree Planting Activities]

##### ■2011-2013 Jakarta Tree-Planting

As part of Indonesia's remarkable economic progress in recent years, development in Jakarta's northern coastal areas has led to the degradation of mangroves and other trees throughout tidal forests. By planting mangrove trees in the wetlands of northern Jakarta, this three-year project aimed to protect nearby residential areas and highways from flooding and other disasters, as well as to revegetate the coastal areas.

Over three sessions, 5,068 Japanese volunteers and locals planted 63,000 trees.



2011 Jakarta Tree-Planting

##### ■2018- Jakarta Tree-Planting

A new three-year project is underway to plant trees in areas adjacent to previous planting sites. Third-year activities planned for 2020 have been postponed due to the spread of COVID-19 infection.

By 2019, 2,000 Japanese volunteers and locals had planted 20,000 trees.

### [About the Aeon 1% Club Foundation]

Founded in 1989 by Takuya Okada, then president of Jusco, the club became a public interest incorporated foundation in 2015. In order to sustain the club's activities regardless of company performance, the group's main companies contribute 1% of their pre-tax profit, enabling work in the following key areas: Sound Development of the Next Generation, Promotion of Friendship with Foreign Countries, and Sustainable Development of Regional Communities.

#### ■ AEON Scholarship

Running since 2006, this program helps university students from Asian countries to realize their dreams by offering scholarships. To date, 7,426 students have studied through the program, including 195 students from Indonesia.

Since 2013, AEON has been granting scholarships to students at Universitas Indonesia and Institut Pertanian Bojor (IPB University) in Indonesia, supporting a total of 69 students.



#### ■Asia Youth Leaders

This program brings together the Japanese and foreign students, the next generation of leaders, to discuss the host nation's environmental and social issues. Through series of discussions, students from different backgrounds deepen their understanding of solutions to these problems as well as the diversity of values. The program concludes with the students proposing solutions to the government of the host city. This program has been conducted annually throughout Asia since 2010, with 994 student participants from Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, China, Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Laos. It was held in Indonesia in 2013.

Indonesia has participated every year since 2012, with a total of 157 students to date.



Final Presentation during 2013 program in Indonesia

### ■ Teenage Ambassadors Program (TA)

High school students exchange program that began in 1990 with the aim of fostering mutual understanding between Japanese and foreign students. During the week-long program, participants build friendships and deepen their understanding of each other's history and culture through courtesy visits to the host country's government, classes at local schools, and homestays. To date, 2,421 high school students from 18 countries have participated in the program.

In Indonesia, the program has been held four times (2002, 2012, 2015, and 2017) with 136 high school students from Indonesia and Japan participating.



2012 Japanese TA made a courtesy call on President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia



Homestay during 2017 Indonesian TA visit to Japan