

June 25, 2013
AEON CO., LTD.

Aeon to Form a Partnership with the Kanda Gaigo Group on Thursday, June 27

Aeon will conclude a partnership agreement with the Kanda Gaigo Group and the Kanda University of International Studies on Thursday, June 27. Based on the common recognition of the need to understand local values, cultures, and customs (expertise in the humanities), which is indeed essential for Aeon to provide customers in the Asian region with the best products and services, the two parties—the business entity and the university specializing in the study of humanities—decided to form a partnership.

Outline of the partnership

- The Aeon Group will accept students of the Kanda Gaigo Group under the internship program, support them in finding jobs, and hold workshops in Japan and overseas in cooperation with the Kanda Gaigo Group.
- Aeon will give open lectures (on the distribution and retail industry and on CSR) and also hold symposiums as part of the events organized by the Kanda Gaigo Group for local residents and students.
- The Kanda Gaigo Group's teachers and lecturers will provide employees of the Aeon Group with linguistic and cultural training (for English, Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian, Vietnamese and Thai languages).
- Students of the Kanda Gaigo Group will translate the educational materials on Aeon's management philosophy for its employees.
- Aeon will invite students of the Kanda Gaigo Group to participate in its CSR activities and hold events jointly with the Kanda Gaigo Group.

On Thursday, July 25, students of the Kanda University of International Studies will lead the organization of the event called Kodomo Sankanbi* for Aeon employees at the head office of the company, as part of the internship program implemented based on the partnership agreement. Moreover in the future, Aeon will hold workshops in various countries in Asia by making use of the overseas networks of the Kanda Gaigo Group, which is making academic exchanges with 66 universities in 19 countries across the world. Also at the campus of the Kanda University of International Studies located in Chiba City, Aeon will give open lectures for students and local residents. In addition to the aforementioned industry-academia cooperation, the two parties will also jointly conduct activities, such as CSR activities in a localized manner as the organizations based in the Makuhari district of Chiba City.

Aeon is proactively forming partnerships with both Japanese and foreign universities with a view to finding human resources who will help the Aeon Group foster “shift to Asian markets,” which is one of the Group's common strategies and to developing the next generation of managers for the Group. Specifically, the company formed a partnership with Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Vietnam in September 2011, with the University of Malaya in Malaysia in January 2013, and with Tsinghua University's School of Humanities and Social Sciences in April 2013.

With the Kanda Gaigo Group and the Kanda University of International Studies, Aeon will work to develop human resources with more expertise and higher quality, which are the attributes required for the next generation of leaders, as well as human resources who can display their abilities for the international society.

***Kodomo Sankanbi for Aeon employees**

This event has been held since March 2007. In this event, the company invites children of employees to visit the workplaces of their parents to provide them with an opportunity to deepen the parent-child relationship. The event is held every year with the participation of more than 100 children and the seventh round will be held this year.