



CENTERYE
Center for International Youth Exchange



A message from our President



Since its establishment in 1994, the Center for International Youth Exchange (CENTERYE) has been dedicated for three decades to supporting the growth of youth and fostering intercultural understanding and global perspectives through a wide range of initiatives, including international exchange programs commissioned by the Cabinet Office of Japan.

Over the years, we have engaged with youth from more than 100 countries and regions, reaching a total of over 25,000 participants. The accomplishments of our alumni, who are now active in many parts of the world, together with the network that has expanded both domestically and internationally, form a valuable foundation nurtured in partnership with related parties.

This network continues to serve as a vital bridge connecting Japan and the world.

Even amid the unprecedented challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020, our staff—united as one and supported by generous encouragement—continued to take on new challenges with determination. In 2024, we proudly celebrated our 30th anniversary, a milestone made possible through the continued belief in the significance of international exchange and the unwavering support of all who have shared this journey with us.

Building on the experience and trust we have cultivated, we remain committed to nurturing youth who learn across borders, respect diversity, and create new value in society. By working together with diverse organizations that share the same aspirations, we aim to explore new and inclusive models of international exchange suited to the next era. We firmly believe that youth who experience personal growth and meaningful encounters through exchange will bring vitality to their communities, expand Japan's appeal and trust across the world, and ultimately contribute to peace and sustainable development.

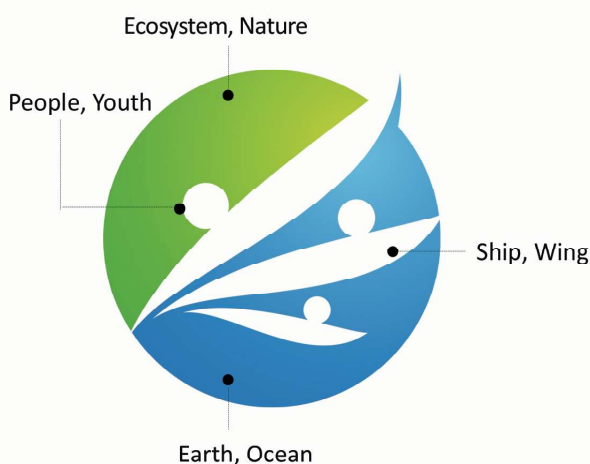
KOMAGATA Ken-ichi
President
Center for International Youth Exchange

Celebrating Diversity

"Everyone is different, everyone is the same"

The main purpose of Center for International Youth Exchange, abbreviated to CENTERYE is to foster young leaders who are actively involved in the global society through international exchange and to build up a human network among these youths.

The CENTERYE Logo Symbolizes Our Vision and Mission



The wing-shaped design evokes both a ship and wings, symbolizing our spirit of innovation and forward momentum. Its form represents strength as well as the power to make the world a better place.

The circular shapes of different sizes represent diverse people and youth, suggesting a future filled with new possibilities. This design emphasizes that people are at the heart of our activities and highlights their vital role in supporting growth and development.

The green color represents the ecosystem, and nature, underscoring our commitment to creating a sustainable cycle of youth development.

The blue symbolizes the Earth, the ocean, and the world as a whole, reflecting our vision of engaging in activities with a truly global perspective.

Together, these elements express our philosophy and our ongoing challenge toward the future.

Our Vision



To create a better world together with youth through international exchange

Our Mission

We provide:

- Opportunities for cross-cultural interaction and youth development
- Life-changing experience
- Networking opportunities beyond borders, cultures and generations



Our Value

We value:

- Believing in youth
- Celebrating diversity

Our values:

We have extensive experiences of organizing international exchange programs; the total accumulated number of participants has risen to 24,000+ from over 100 countries.

We have local and global networks.

We have diverse human resources with a wide range of expertise and professional experience.

What We Do

We provide opportunities for international exchange and community contribution to foster young leaders by closely collaborate with International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan.

Support / Consulting

- Consultation on International Exchange
- Dissemination of Information

Education / Training

- International Exchange Leader Training Seminar
- Multicultural Understanding Seminar
- International Exchange Study Tour
- International Understanding Educational Support

Collaborative Projects

- Cabinet Office, Government of Japan
- International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)
- Statistical Information Institute for Consulting and Analysis (Sinfonica)

Research / Study

- Accumulation of Knowledge and Experience
- Research and Networking

International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan

International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan, abbreviated to IYEO, is a voluntary organization formed by people who mainly participated in the International Youth Exchange Program hosted by Cabinet Office, Government of Japan started in 1959. IYEO was established with the aim of developing and strengthening international exchange activities in the local areas. There are its voluntary groups in all 47 prefectures, and they implement various activities. The number of IYEO members is approximately 10,000.

as of Oct. 2025

CENTERYE in NUMBERS

 Countries
107

107 countries were involved in the programs which CENTERYE hosted or supported.

 Participants
25,375

More than 25,000 youths around the world participated in programs which CENTERYE hosted or supported.

 Founded
1994

Established in 1994 with the aim of nurturing youths and fostering international exchange, supported by International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO), and became a general incorporated foundation in 2013.

as of Oct. 2025

Support / Consulting

Implementing international exchange programs involving over 25,000 participants from 107 countries, and have built a unique network both in domestically and globally.

Our team consists of highly specialized staff with extensive international experience will support your business.

Consultation on International Exchange

Provide consultation for companies and organizations wishing to implement international exchange programs.



Arranged a cooperative project by the Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils of Sri Lanka, the Asian Development Bank, local government officials and representatives of the bank visited Japan.

Dissemination of Information

Introduce related organizations and programs to youths who are interested in international cooperation and contribution.



Our website
(<https://centerye.org>)

Published the information magazine "MACROCOSM" that mainly introduces international youth exchange programs.

Education / Training

Support youths through our platform with the aim of improving their intercultural understanding, international perspective, and leadership skills.



International Exchange Leader Training Seminar

Seminars to develop knowledge, planning and executing skills and the ability to empathize as a leader in the field of international exchange practically.



Ms. LILY Noriko, a simultaneous interpreter for IT executives, gave a lecture on global communication strategies.



Workshop by Ms. TATSUNO Madoka, CEO of Global Incubation x Fostering Talents Project(GiFT) gave a workshop style lecture on Global Citizenship Education.

Multicultural Understanding Seminar

Provide opportunities to experience various cultures, such as lectures, cooking classes and inspections to accept diversity. One of our programs focuses on Islamic culture.



Cooking class with a chef of the Turkish restaurant.



Mr. Haroon Qureshi, Secretary General of the Japan Islamic Trust explained their activities at Otsuka Masjid.

International Exchange Study Tour

With the aim of promoting international exchange, we conduct various study tours. Participants visit foreign countries and interact with locals.



Participants of the study tour in Thailand with local children.



Participants receiving a briefing from staff at a visited facility in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

International Understanding Educational Support

We send people both from Japan and overseas who are passionate about education for international understanding to schools in Japan, and they give classes to promote international understanding. Our experienced staff coordinate the program based on the client's request, such as selection of lecturers, consultation of program planning and preparation of materials.



Lecturers from various countries presenting their national cultures.

Collaborative projects

Engaged in international exchange programs hosted by various organizations since our establishment and have collaborated with them.



The Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

Commissioned by the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan we have carried out the International Youth Exchange Programs. The programs are composed of the International Youth Development Exchange Program, the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program, Japan-China Youth Friendship Exchange Program, Japan-Korea Youth Friendship Exchange Program, and the Ship for World Youth Program.



Visiting a local elementary school and interacting with children through soccer during the program in the Dominican Republic.



ASEAN and Japanese youth attending a welcome reception during the port-of-call activities of the "Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP)."



Around 80 Japanese participating youths and 100 foreign participating youths engage in the various activities, such as discussions and seminars, in the Ship for World Youth Program.

International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan

Co-host the CENTERYE Forum for International Youth Exchange and the Block Events with IYEO.



(Kyushu Block Event 2023 hosted by Oita IYEO)
Participants exchanged their own views on their activities and concerns.



(International Exchange Tour by Yamagata IYEO)
Japanese and foreign people living in Yamagata took part in outside activities together and stayed one night.

Statistical Information Institute for Consulting and Analysis

The Statistical Information Institute for Consulting and Analysis, abbreviated to Sinfonica, hosts the programs with the aim of human resource development in the field of official statistics in the countries of Africa and Asia since 2022.



Statistical officials in Africa and Asia visit Japan and receive lectures in Tokyo and other areas for 10 days to 3 weeks.



Since 2024, in collaboration with Sinfonica, CENTERYE launched the Next Leader for Statistics and DX Exchange Program 2024 (NextStatX2024) , aiming to contribute to the mutual development of Statistics and Digital Transformation (DX) fields between Republic of Latvia and Japan by inviting the youths from Republic of Latvia, where many IT start-ups grow up and DX field is advanced, to Japan and discussing and sharing efforts in Statistics, Data Science, and DX by both countries.

Research / Study

Collect information and knowledge gained through international exchange programs, and conduct research and studies to implement international exchange programs effectively.



Accumulation of Knowledge and Experience

Accumulated information, knowledge and networks through the preparation, planning, implementing and managing of various international exchange programs.



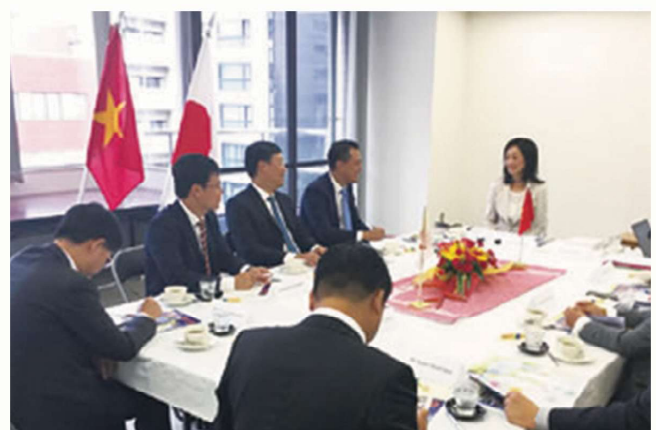
Our staff participated in the International Youth Policy Dialogue, abbreviated to IYPD, every year since its first time. The representatives of organizations who implement governmental measures for youth gather at IYPD from various countries mainly in Europe and discuss priority areas and trends in measures.

Research and Networking

Carry out surveys the previous participants of the International Youth Exchange Programs hosted by the Cabinet Office and build up a human network among them. In addition, we strengthen cooperation between various countries and people through exchange our views on international exchange.



Ms. Balcáser, Minister of Youth in the Dominican Republic, visited CENTERYE.



The delegation of Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union visited CENTERYE.

30 Years of Our History

Since its establishment in 1994, the Center for International Youth Exchange (CENTERYE) has, for 30 years, provided opportunities for young people to learn and grow through the implementation of international exchange programs in cooperation with the Cabinet Office of Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC), and various private organizations.

Over the years, we have engaged with more than 25,000 young people from 107 countries and regions worldwide, dedicating our efforts to nurturing the next generation of leaders — a record that continues to sustain and inspire our activities.

Throughout these three decades, our international exchange programs have diversified in response to changing times and evolving social needs. By working hand in hand with partners both in Japan and abroad, we have shaped the path of our organization through steady, collaborative efforts.

Drawing on the experiences and connections we have cultivated, we remain committed to fostering the next generation of leaders who will bridge communities and the world — continuing our journey toward a better and more inclusive future.



History of the Organization

Before Establishment

- 1959 Commencement of the “Youth Overseas Dispatch Program” as a commemorative project for the marriage of Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita
- 1961 Establishment of the “Japan Youth Overseas Alumni Association” by returned participants of the program
- 1967 Launch of the “Ship for Youth” Program by the Prime Minister’s Office (now the Cabinet Office)
- 1968 Formation of the post-program alumni association “Ship for Youth Alumni Association”
- 1974 Launch of the “Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP)” by the Prime Minister’s Office (now the Cabinet Office)
- 1979 Launch of the Japan–China Youth Friendship Exchange Program by the Prime Minister’s Office (now the Cabinet Office)
- 1985 Integration of post-program organizations into the “Japan Youth International Exchange Organization”
- 1987 Launch of the Japan–Korea Youth Friendship Exchange Program by the Management and Coordination Agency (now the Cabinet Office)
- 1988 Launch of the “Ship for World Youth Program (SWY)”

1994

Establishment of the Center for International Youth Exchange (CENTERYE) as a Foundation

Launch of the International Youth Exchange Program by the Management and Coordination Agency (now the Cabinet Office) as a commemorative project for the marriage of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan

- 1995 Cooperation in the “Gathering to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Postwar Period” Project organized by the Prime Minister’s Office (now the Cabinet Office)
- 1999 Operation of the “Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (SSEAYP),” “Ship for World Youth Program (SWY),” Japan–China Youth Invitation Program, and Japan–Korea Youth Invitation Program
- 2001 Operation of the “21st Century Renaissance Youth Leaders Invitation Program”
- 2002 Operation of the “Youth Social Activity Core Leaders Development Program”
- 2003 Launch of the “International Exchange Study Tour to the Kingdom of Thailand”
- 2004 Launch of the “International Understanding Educational Support”
- 2007 Co-hosting of the “Japan–ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit”
- 2008 Operation of the “JENESYS Japan–China–Korea Youth Exchange Program” commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 2009 Cooperation in the “50th Anniversary Forum for Former Participants of the International Youth Exchange Programs” organized by the Cabinet Office
- 2011 Cooperation in the Relief Port of Call Activities of the Nippon Maru in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake
- 2013 Transition to a General Incorporated Foundation
- 2020 Launch of the “Multicultural Understanding Seminar”
- 2024 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of CENTERYE
Launch of the “Next Leader for Statistics and DX Exchange Program” (NextStatX)
- 2025 Co-hosted the “Thank You, Nippon Maru Cruise” with IYEO

Board Members and Organization Chart

as of Nov. 2025

Director (Chairman)

KAMIMURA Tomoaki

Former Cabinet Secretary For Public Affairs

Director (Vice Chairman)

KAWAKAMI Kazuhisa

Professor, Reitaku University

President (Representative Director)

KOMAGATA Ken-ichi

Chairman, Public Interest Incorporated Foundation
Statistical Information Institute for Consulting and Analysis

Director (Vice President)

SAKATA Seiichi

Former Advisor to International Youth Exchange
Organization of Japan

Director

OKAWARA Tomoko

Advisor to International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan

KIHARA Koshi

Representative Director and President of Toto Kotsu Co., Ltd.

KOGUCHI Hikota

Former President of Edogawa University

HAYASHI Mikio

Former Director of Okinawa Development Finance Corporation

FUKUSHITA Yuji

Former Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination of Cabinet Office

MIURA Hiroshi

Managing Director, Japan Manners and Protocol Association,
a specified non-profit organization

YAKENO Katsuhito

Former Advisor to International Youth Exchange Organization
of Japan

Auditor

TAGUCHI Kazuya

Former Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission

YOSHIOKA Makoto

Auditor to International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan

Councilor

ISHIKAWA Sachiko

Advisor to International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan

ISHIKAWA Makiko

Representative Director and President of Toto Kotsu Co., Ltd.

UESUGI Seiji

Former President of Edogawa University

KAWANAMI Yoshizumi

Former Director of Okinawa Development Finance Corporation

KOKUBUN Yuka

Former Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination of Cabinet Office

SHIRAKI Kunisada

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a specified non-profit organization

TAKEO Shigeki

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of Japan

NAGAHISA Toshio

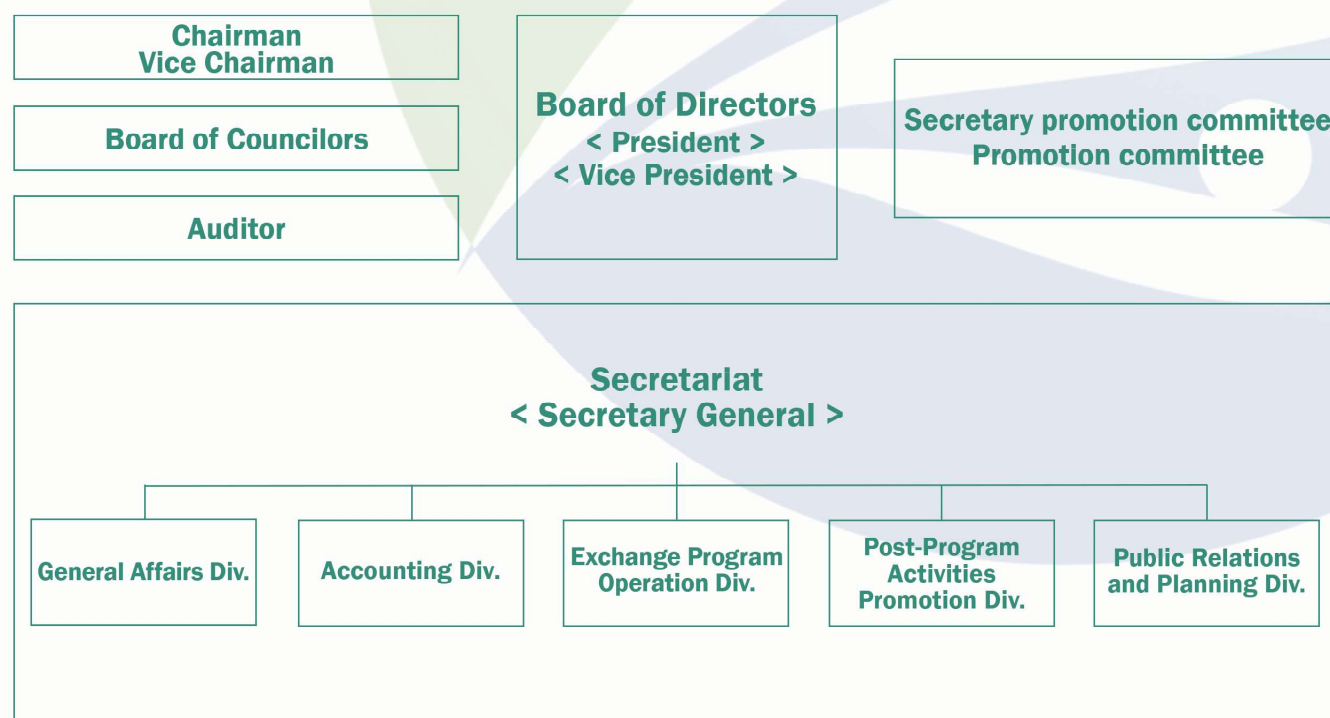
Professor, Faculty of Economics, Nagoya University of Commerce
& Business

HIRAYAMA Makoto

Former Director-General for Policy Planning, Ministry of Internal
Affairs and Communications

BEPPE Atsuhiko

Former Deputy Director-General of the Cabinet Office





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