



EDU-Port Symposium  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,  
Science and Technology (MEXT)

# Achievements of EDU-Port and the Launch of New Initiatives


In Session 1, we will review on the past ten years of EDU-Port Japan and report on research projects concerning its effects of the internationalization and qualitative improvement of Japanese education, as well as research on the development of Japanese-style education in Africa.

In Session 2, we will exchange views on Japanese-style education, which in recent years has gained international attention for fostering non-cognitive skills (such as cooperation and independence, which cannot be measured by academic ability alone) and holistic education that balances 'Solid academic ability, Richness in mind, and Healthy body' and we will explore new initiatives of the EDU-Port project.

After the sessions, the implementing organizations will present posters to showcase specific initiatives and outcomes in various countries.

2026 **2.27** FRI  
13:30-16:00  
(16:00-18:00 Poster Session)

Venue

**In person**  Auditorium, 3rd floor, MEXT building

**Online**  Zoom

〒100-8959 3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
<https://www.mext.go.jp/en/about/address/index.htm>

**Organizer** Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

**Language** Japanese with English simultaneous translation



**Free  
of Charge**

## Program

- 13:00 Registration
- 13:30 Opening Remarks International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, MEXT

### Session 1 : Report on Research Projects: "The Impact of the EDU-Port Projects on the Internationalization and Quality Improvement of Education in Japan" and "The Horizontal Development of Japanese-Style Education in Africa"

- 13:40 The Impact of the EDU-Port Projects on the Internationalization and Quality Improvement of Education in Japan – Through Analysis of Reports on Past Projects and Interviews with Stakeholders HANBARA Yoshiko, Professor at United Graduate School of Professional Development of Teachers, NUMAJIRI Takuya, Special Assistant Professor at Division of Teacher Education, University of Fukui
- 13:50 The Horizontal Development of Japanese-Style Education in Africa -Through initiatives to Improve Basic Academic Abilities in Ghana SUZUKI Mariko, Assistant Vice President, Licensing Operations Promotion Department, Kumon Institute of Education Co., Ltd.
- 14:00 Q&A
- 14:10 Break

### Session 2 : Toward the Next Phase of EDU-Port Japan: "Establishment of an International Education Program Originating in Japan"

- 14:30 Establishment of a New International Education Program  
HIRAYAMA Naoko, Deputy Assistant Minister / Director, International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, MEXT
- 14:40 Non-cognitive Skills and Social Emotional Learning in International Education Discourse  
MIZUNOYA Suguru, The Head of the Technical Cooperation Team, UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)
- 14:55 Introducing JICA's Practices of Holistic Education  
HIGUCHI Hajime, Director, Basic Education Team 2, Basic Education Group, Human Development Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- 15:10 Discussion and Q&A Moderator: KITAMURA Yuto, Special Advisor to the President / Professor, University of Tokyo  
SUZUKI Kan, Professor, University of Tokyo HIRAYAMA Naoko, MEXT MIZUNOYA Suguru, UNESCO HIGUCHI Hajime, JICA
- 15:55 Looking Back on the Past Ten Years and Looking Ahead to the Next Phase of EDU-Port Japan SUZUKI Kan, Professor, University of Tokyo
- 16:00 Closing / Poster Session in the Foyer



### HANBARA Yoshiko

Professor at United Graduate School of Professional Development of Teachers, University of Fukui

Since 2014, she has been engaged in teacher education and educational practice research at the University of Fukui, with a primary focus on the education of children with foreign backgrounds and international students. She currently serves as the principal investigator for a research project under the EDU-Port Japan initiative, examining the development of teacher education models through international collaboration with countries in Africa and Asia, as well as their domestic dissemination and application in Japan.



### NUMAJIRI Takuya

Special Assistant Professor at Division of Teacher Education, University of Fukui

His primary area of expertise is educational development in developing countries, and he has conducted research at the JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development and research institutes at the University of Edinburgh. Since 2023, he has been engaged in teacher education and educational practice research at the University of Fukui, focusing on lesson study and professional learning communities.



### SUZUKI Mariko

Assistant Vice President, Licensing Operations Promotion Department, Kumon Institute of Education Co., Ltd.

She joined Kumon Institute of Education in 2003. She worked in support for Kumon Centers in Ibaraki Prefecture, subsequently worked in Public Relations Department and Research and Planning Team of Office of the President at headquarters. Since July 2021, she has been engaged in new business development for the licensing division in the current department and is responsible for operating projects undertaken with external partners, such as the collaborative project with BRAC in Bangladesh and the Social Impact Bond project with the Ministry of Justice and so on.



### HIRAYAMA Naoko

Deputy Assistant Minister / Director, International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, MEXT

She joined the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 1994. She has served as Director, Art and Curatorial Division of Agency for Cultural Affairs, Director, School Health Education Division, Director, Planning and Coordination Division of Agency for Cultural Affairs, and Minister, Permanent Delegation of the Government of Japan to UNESCO. She has been in her current position since July 2025.



### MIZUNOYA Suguru

The Head of the Technical Cooperation Team, UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)

He has over 25 years of experience in international education cooperation and policy, working in development and emergency contexts. He is Head of Technical Cooperation at UNESCO IIEP in Paris, leading education planning, Education Situation analysis, capacity building, education data use, and crisis and climate resilience. Previously, he served at UNICEF, Chinese University of Hong Kong, the World Bank, ILO, and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. He holds a PhD degree in Economics of Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.



### HIGUCHI Hajime

Director, Basic Education Team 2, Basic Education Group, Human Development Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Since he joined JICA in 2005, he was responsible for the formulation, operation and management of basic education projects in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region in the Basic Education Team 1, and higher and technical education projects in the Higher and Technical Education Team of the Human Development Department. He served at JICA Indonesia Offices and Egypt Office and held the current position since June 2025.



### KITAMURA Yuto

Special Advisor to the President / Professor, University of Tokyo

He graduated from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and received Ph.D. in Education. His research areas include comparative education and international education development. He started his current position after working at UNESCO, Nagoya University, and Sophia University. He also serves as a member of the Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education. His recent publications: "Education in the age of SDGs".



### SUZUKI Kan

Professor, University of Tokyo

After working at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and serving as associate professor at Keio University, he spent the following 12 years as a member of the House of Councillors. He served as the State Minister and the former Super Advisor to the MEXT. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Well-Being Society, Teach for All Global board member, Japan Football Association executive committee member, and representative executive director for NPO Renaissance of Japanese Education, etc.

## Participation application/contact information

Please register through the following URL.

<https://forms.gle/7MAebod5CApndJQq5>

Or register here



Registration  
Deadline:

Wed., February 25, 2026,  
noon (JST)

Contacts:

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(EDU-Port Japan Secretariat)

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