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## International Nursing Seminar "Thinking about Strategies to achieve SDGs"

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Principle 6: Encouraging global citizenship through education

Principle 9: A commitment to promoting sustainability through education;

### 1. Description

In the International Nursing Seminar of the School of Nursing, the goal is for students to be able to take initiative in identifying issues in the health and nursing area from an international perspective and to consider the role of the nursing profession. The students chose a theme based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN), and worked in groups on strategies focusing on the health aspects that are particular to nursing students.



Prior to the group work, historical background about the adoption of SDGs was explained to students. Specifically, in consideration of content that would be familiar and easy to understand for a young generation like college students, they were introduced to the charity projects by British and American musicians performed at the time of the Great Famine in Africa in 1980s. One of the main messages included in the project was: "Just do what you can. We are to blame if we do nothing." The students then learned about the transition of the UN Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals and the intentions behind them. They were also made aware of harsh realities around the world detailed on the UN fact sheet. In addition, they learned about ongoing projects being performed by companies, organizations, and communities in Japan, and deepened their understanding that the SDGs are not just a story from distant countries, but are actually close at hand.

After this, students were asked to contemplate the following statements: "Let's think of strategies for health-related issues at the national, regional, university, and individual levels." and "Unexpected strategies are welcome". The groups were then told to choose a theme.



The students were able to find “seeds” of greater understanding from their own daily lives. They researched the topic carefully on their own through group work, and organized various information from interdisciplinary approaches. They seemed to be learning as they progressed, and also were developing the ability to look at their own lives objectively. Some of the strategies proposed by the students were developed by referring to initiatives that were already in practice, others were based on their own original ideas, and others were things that they could start to implement on a personal level today. After the presentations, there was enough time to discuss the interesting points of each group's presentation, their impressions and opinions, and to give feedback. Prior to taking this course, the students said that they had heard of SDGs but did not know the specifics. However, by the end of this course they were able to think about their responsibilities as human beings living on the earth and also to share original strategies to address these issues for which there is no single right answer in a lively manner.

