



Global Students' Idea Factory 2025

Program Report



What Is Global Si-Fa?

Global Students' Idea Factory (Global Si-Fa) is an international program that brings together graduate students from diverse countries and disciplines to co-create innovative ideas addressing global social issues.

Built on the success of the domestic **Students' Idea Factory (Si-Fa)** in Japan, Global Si-Fa extends the model onto an international stage—where cultural diversity, interdisciplinary teamwork, and shared purpose generate powerful new ideas. The program is organized by the **Japanese Association for the Advancement of Science (JAAS)**, in collaboration with the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** and **Students Innovation Nexus Advancement Platform Systems (SINAPS)**.

Global Si-Fa is designed to:

- **Empower students** with the skills to identify, frame, and propose solutions to social issues
- **Foster global collaboration** among peers across regions, cultures, and academic fields
- **Build a sustainable international community** of future innovators and leaders



2024/25 Program at a Glance

- **Program duration:** November 2024 – August 2025
- **Participants:** 32 graduate students
 - 15 international students studying in Japan
 - 9 Japanese students
 - 8 international students joining from abroad
- **Format:** Hybrid (in-person workshop + online global workshops)
- **Core components:**
 - Team formation
 - Research & ideation
 - Global collaboration
 - Mentoring by experts
 - Final Presentation at JICA Headquarters

Participants represented a wide variety of research fields—from engineering and agriculture to social sciences, health, sustainability, and AI—making Global Si-Fa a unique space for interdisciplinary co-creation.

Program Journey : A Three-Stage Learning Experience

Stage 1: In-Person Workshop (March 2025, JICA Tokyo)

The journey began with a two-day residential workshop hosted at **JICA Tokyo**.

For many students, this was their first time collaborating with peers from vastly different cultural and disciplinary backgrounds.

Day 1:

Students rotated through facilitated discussions in multiple breakout rooms, discovering shared interests, concerns, and motivations.

Day 2:

Six interdisciplinary teams formed organically based on the issues that resonated most deeply with the participants.

“It felt like finding teammates who care about the same future as you.” – Participant





Stage 2: Global Collaboration (March – July 2025)

After the in-person workshop, **eight students from partner universities abroad** joined, turning the teams into truly global groups.

Despite different time zones, languages, and academic cultures, the teams collaborated continuously through Slack and online meetings.

Two signature workshops shaped this stage:

Global Workshop 1 – Peer Mentoring (May 2025)

An innovative structure where teams mentored each other.

Rather than competing, they engaged in mutual learning—challenging, refining, and expanding one another’s ideas.

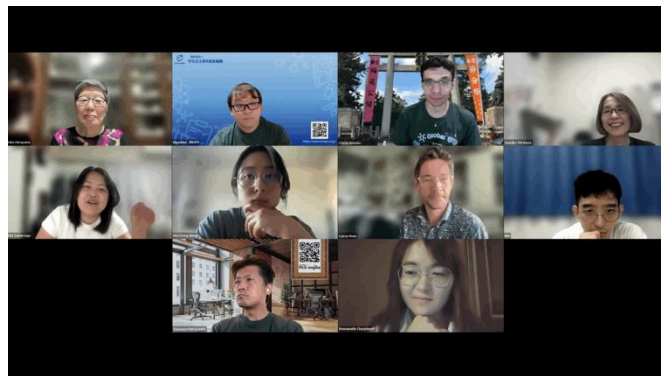
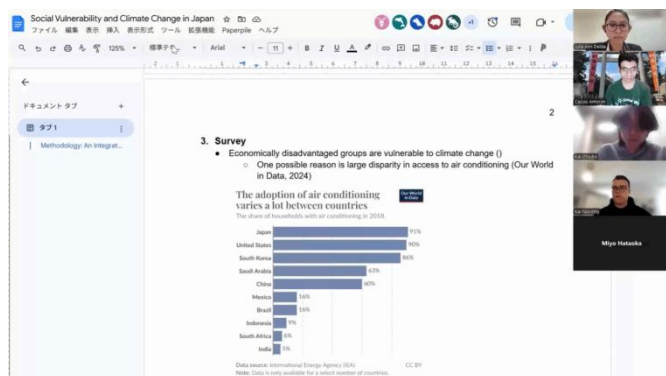
Global Workshop 2 – Expert Guidance (July 2025)

Distinguished academics and practitioners offered strategic feedback on:

- feasibility,
- positioning,
- societal relevance,
- and implementation pathways.

This workshop helped teams transform broad ideas into more concrete, actionable proposals.

We extend our sincere gratitude to mentors **Rene Carraz** and **Sawako Shirahase** for their invaluable guidance throughout this process.



Stage 3: Final Presentation (7 August 2025, JICA Headquarters)

The journey culminated in the Final Presentation at **JICA Headquarters**, where all teams presented their proposals before a distinguished Selection Committee chaired by **Prof. Beverley Yamamoto** (former Vice President of the University of Osaka).

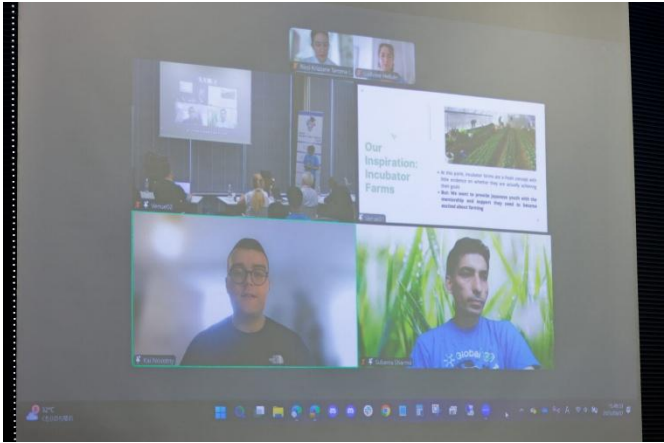
The atmosphere was a unique blend of academic seriousness and creative energy.

Award Results:

- **JAAS Prize:** Climate Justice Team
- **JICA Prize:** Building Future-ready Farms Team

Each participant received a **Certificate of Completion** signed by JICA Vice President **Hiroo Tanaka**.







Six Teams Tackling Six Global Challenges

The 2024/25 cohort developed **six project proposals**, each addressing a different dimension of global social issues:

1. Climate Justice

Equitable strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations.

2. Building Future-ready Farms

Solutions for sustainable, resilient agriculture under shifting environmental and socio-economic conditions.

3. Greenprint

Urban sustainability frameworks that make cities more livable, green, and community-centered.

4. Flexible Working Arrangement

Rethinking how work, learning, and training should evolve in a rapidly changing world.

5. AI & Mental Health

Exploring the potential and risks of using AI for mental health support and early intervention.

6. Caring for the Carers

Improving workplace mental health and promoting equality for caregivers.

Each proposal demonstrated creativity, interdisciplinary insight, and a strong desire to generate real-world impact.

What Students Gained

Collaboration & Leadership Skills

Participants learned how to co-create ideas across cultures and disciplines—an experience rarely accessible within traditional academic programs.

“I learned how to navigate different working styles and grow as a teammate.”

Communication & Storytelling

Students practiced crafting compelling narratives that combined research, logic, and vision.

“I learned how to present a proposal as a story, not just data.”

Intercultural Understanding

Working with peers from different countries deepened their appreciation of diverse viewpoints and values.

Professional & Personal Growth

Many broadened their career perspectives, gained confidence, and discovered new academic interests.

Participant Satisfaction

A post-program survey showed highly positive feedback:

- **55%:** “Exceeded expectations”
- **36%:** “Met expectations”
- **0%:** Dissatisfied

Participants especially valued:

- networking with international peers,
- interdisciplinary teamwork,
- exposure to real-world perspectives from experts,
- and the supportive environment created by the organizers.

Participant

Team	Name	Affiliation
1. Climate justice	Lei Li	Sophia University
1. Climate justice	Md Nazmul Haque	Hiroshima University
1. Climate justice	Kai Otsubo	The University of Tokyo
2. Building Future-ready Farms	Julie Ann Gunayon Delda	Keio University
2. Building Future-ready Farms	Subarna Sharma	Iwate University
2. Building Future-ready Farms	Ryunosuke Yamada	Kanazawa University
2. Building Future-ready Farms	Tomoya Akiyama	The University of Tokyo
2. Building Future-ready Farms	Kai Novotny	Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm (Germany)
3. Greenprint	Maina Ngare Maina	The University of Osaka
3. Greenprint	Shubham Dey	The University of Osaka
3. Greenprint	Miyo Hataoka	Ochanomizu University
3. Greenprint	Ryotaro Watanabe	Hitotsubashi University
3. Greenprint	DANIELOU QUENTIN	University of Western Brittany (France)
3. Greenprint	Shreyasi Alapati	University of Hyderabad (India)
4. Flexible Working Arrangement	Jirasukprasert Jirarit	Iwate University
4. Flexible Working Arrangement	Ricci Krizzane Benemerito Taroma	International University of Japan
4. Flexible Working Arrangement	Ritzi Buena Zaldarriaga	Rikkyo University
4. Flexible Working Arrangement	Tatsuya Yoshizawa	Yokohama City University
4. Flexible Working Arrangement	Chia Chi Kuan	Universiti Malaya (Malaysia)
5. AI & Mental health	Fahima Tabassum	The University of Osaka
5. AI & Mental health	Ta Phuong Linh	Kyushu Institute of Technology
5. AI & Mental health	Mitsuki Shibagaki	Hokkaido University
5. AI & Mental health	Nanami Yagishita	Kanazawa University
5. AI & Mental health	Emmanuelle CHARGHINOFF	Catholic University of Paris (France)
6. Caring for the Carers	Balinskaia Aleksandra	Kanazawa University
6. Caring for the Carers	Batsaikhan Oyundari	Hiroshima University
6. Caring for the Carers	Wong Wai Cheng	The University of Osaka
6. Caring for the Carers	Rumi Mikami	Tokai University
6. Caring for the Carers	Ludivine Helluin	EHESS: École des hautes études en sciences sociales (France)
6. Caring for the Carers	Luo Yan	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Hong Kong)

Partners and Supporters

Global Si-Fa was made possible through essential partnerships.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

A core partner providing:

venues at JICA Tokyo and JICA Headquarters,

expert participation,

strategic alignment with global development goals.

JICA representatives described the program as “highly meaningful in fostering cross-border collaboration to solve social challenges.”

Connection with Students’ Idea Factory Alumni

Domestic Si-Fa alumni joined as Executive Committee members and session contributors.

A “Global Si-Fa Students Meet Si-Fa Students” dialogue session connected cohorts across programs and years.

Experts from Academia, Publishing, Industry, and Development

Including guest experts from Springer Nature, Tokyo Electron, S&T Diplomatic Circle, 3M and others—broadening the participants’ views of how science and technology link to society.

Why Join Global Si-Fa?

For Students

- Work with peers from around the world
- Solve real social problems using interdisciplinary approaches
- Receive guidance from international experts
- Gain skills that academia alone cannot teach—leadership, collaboration, storytelling
- Become part of a global community that continues long after the program ends

For Companies & Organizations

- Meet highly motivated, globally minded graduate students
- Explore new ideas aligned with sustainability, technology, and social impact
- Support the next generation of innovators
- Strengthen partnerships with universities and international organizations
- Contribute directly to global problem-solving

Why Join Global Si-Fa?

Global Si-Fa 2024/25 has shown that when students from different cultures and disciplines come together with openness and curiosity, they can design powerful ideas for a better world.

As the program moves into its next cycle, it will continue to:

- expand its international network,
- deepen cross-sector collaboration,
- and nurture young leaders capable of addressing complex global challenges.

Global Si-Fa is more than a program.

It is a growing community of young innovators co-creating a brighter future—together.

Selection Committee

Selection Committee

Position	Name	Affiliation
Chair	Mao MINOURA	Rikkyo University, Vice President
Member	Beverley Anne YAMAMOTO	Osaka University, Executive Vice President, International Affairs (Education)
Member	Hiromitsu URAKAMI	Springer Nature Group, Academic Engagement Director for Japan
Member	Katsumi EMURA	Fukushima Institute for Research, Education and Innovation (F-REI), Vice President (R&D Management)
Member	Yuji OGINO	Tokyo Electron Limited, Global Head of Sustainability

Final Presentation Selection Committee

Position	Name	Affiliation
Chair	Beverley Anne YAMAMOTO	Osaka University, Executive Vice President, International Affairs (Education)
Member	Atsushi Udagawa	3M Japan Innovation Limited, Director, Japan Leader, Corporate R&D Operations
Member	Hiromitsu URAKAMI	Springer Nature Group, Academic Engagement Director for Japan
Member	Monte CASSIM	Akita International University, President
Member	Yuji OGINO	Tokyo Electron Limited, Global Head of Sustainability

As of August 7, 2025

Executive Committee

Position	Name	Affiliation
Co-Chair	Yuko Harayama	JAAS, Tohoku University, Yamaguchi University, National Institute of Information and Communications Technology
Co-Chair	Cassio Amorim	JAAS Board member, CJS Inc.
Vice Chair	Tomonori Fukasawa	Co-Chair of JAAS, Emerging Technologies Corporation
Vice Chair	Wataru Ota	JAAS Fellow, Yokohama City University
Member	Shuji Kitahara	Co-Chair of JAAS, Tokyo Women's Medical University
Member	Seiko Miyahara	JAAS
Member	Toshitaka Higashino	SINAPS President

※JAAS : The Japanese Association for the Advancement of Science, SINAPS : Students Innovation Nexus Advancement Platform Systems

As of August 7, 2025

Global Si-Fa FRIENDS

Host



Cooperating Organization

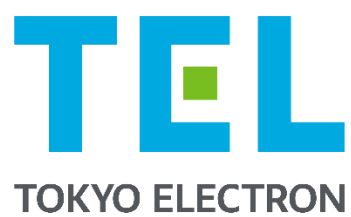


**Students Innovation Nexus
Advancement Platform Systems**

Supporting Organization



Sponsor



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