

# Application for Participation

## *Associated Schools Project (ASP) for Promoting International Education*

### **Outline of the way the Project(s) will be implemented in the institution**

(please use extra sheets if necessary)

#### **Description of the Project** (プロジェクトの概説)

The school is located in the northern part of Toyohashi, blessed with and surrounded by nature. The people living in the region are blessed with beautiful summer nights glowing with lights from the fireflies underneath a starlit sky, clean water flowing and fields of persimmon that is known to be the best in Japan. Hence, learning has been mostly focused in understanding nature and the earth.

In addition, the symbol of the school is the “blue-eyed doll, Koneta.” Koneta, the blue-eyed doll was once a gift from the North Ridge Elementary School in Wapakoneta, Ohio, United States to the ambassador as a sign of friendship and ambassador of goodwill between Japan and the US. Many “blue-eyed dolls” were sent to elementary schools in Japan in 1927 but during the World War II most of these were lost or burned. Saigo’s doll was saved because a staff managed to hide it. Up to this day, the doll has become a symbol of peace and friendship as the two schools continue to do international exchange and be sister schools.

For the purpose of promoting “Education for Sustainable Development” (ESD) the subjects on Life and Environmental Studies and Integrated Study are reviewed and revised. We believe that to be able to promote “Education for Sustainable Development”, it is important to get to know, about nature and the history of the region in order to promote awareness, appreciation and willingness to protect in the hearts and minds of the children of Saigo Elementary School.

#### **Objectives of the Project** (プロジェクトの目的)

① Learning about the Environment

To know, appreciate and value the protection of Nature especially Saigo’s environment and surroundings (starry night, rivers, fireflies).

② International Understanding

To advance and promote international understanding through the values connected with the “blue-eyed doll, Koneta” and to keep the present peace for many years to come.

③ Disaster Prevention

Based on the region’s and disaster prevention map, to be able to predict the possible areas of disaster occurrence and to continue participation in disaster prevention activities.

## **Execution (プロジェクトの実施)**

(e.g. through a specially designed course, through an existing course(s) or as an extracurricular activity)

### **① Nature Awareness Activities**

#### **• Starry Sky Observation**

This is held at the school every year in winter, where children and their guardians or parents enjoy and appreciate the stars. An expert of the stars and other celestial bodies is invited to give a lecture or relay stories that involve stars and constellations.

Then, children can look at the stars using an astronomical telescope. This is best place in Toyohashi to observe the stars so children and parents alike can really appreciate the beauty of the view. This activity not only promotes awareness of nature but also develops closer family ties.



Starry Sky Observation Assembly

#### **• Fireflies Observation Assembly**

In Saigo, the rivers of Yasu and Aida flow. In both rivers, fireflies abound. It is known that rivers where fireflies live are said to have clean waters. Thus, the fireflies and the beauty of these rivers are the pride of the people of Saigo.

There, an assembly is set for parents and children to learn about the fireflies and other organisms which serve as their food through hands-on lectures of a resource person familiar with the fireflies. This will be followed by taking a walk around the two rivers to observe fireflies. Through these activities, both parents and children not only will develop appreciation but also motivate them to continue protecting and keeping the beauty and nature of Saigo.



Fireflies Observation Assembly

- **Water quality investigation and biological observation of rivers**

We observe the organisms that live in both rivers (fireflies, other insects, fish, etc.), examine their ecology and kinds and study the water quality. Through these activities, the children can develop attitudes that would motivate them to continue protecting and keeping the river and nature clean and beautiful.

- **Mt. Kichijo Climbing**

In Saigo, Mt. Kochijo is called “the beautiful four-season mountain”. The people in the community have a high regard and love for this mountain. These local people volunteer to help construct and develop mountain trails. The fourth graders of this school join them in a once a year mountain climbing event. This helps children discover the beauty of Mt. Kichijo. By knowing the facets of this mountain, students’ appreciation of nature and sense of gratitude towards the local volunteers will be developed and enhanced.

## ① **International Understanding**

The school has a symbol – the “blue-eyed doll, Koneta”. Koneta, the “blue-eyed doll” was a gift from North Ridge Elementary School, Wapakoneta, Ohio, given in 1927 as a sign of friendship and ambassador of goodwill. During World War II, many of “the blue-eyed dolls” which were sent to elementary schools in Japan were burned on the ground, lost, or broken. But the one in Saigo was hidden by one of the staff members and was saved. Up to this day, it has become the symbol of friendship and connection between the two schools as they continue doing the international exchange activities and being sister schools.

Every year, this school send children’s made paintings and calligraphic arts to North Ridge Elementary School. It also started the “Koneta Assembly”, an international understanding education lecture-exhibit based assembly.

In this once a year gathering, the significance and history of the doll is discussed to the next generation.

These activities are vehicles to impart values essential in keeping a peace both for now and the future.

## ② **Study on Disaster Prevention**

Learn from the Regional Disaster Prevention Chief Officer’s lecture on the organized activities for Tohoku earthquake. Foster awareness by utilizing the disaster prevention map of Toyohashi City to identify hazardous places in the region where the probability of disaster occurrence is high, and to be able to deliberate necessary preparation which includes involvement in the disaster prevention activities.

## **Type of materials to be used and organizations tie-ups (使用する教材)**

### 1. Learning Environment

Astronomical Telescope

Chemical Kit for water quality testing

Protect Mt. Kichijo Association

(Protecting Aidagawa River, Yasukawa River, and Mt. Kichijo.)

### 2. Education for International Understanding

The “blue-eyed doll, Koneta”- a gift from the North Ridge Elementary School in Wapakoneta, Ohio, USA.

### 3. Disaster Prevention Education

Saigo School District Disaster Management Chief Officer

Toyohashi City Disaster Prevention Map

## **Is there any type of evaluation to examine the effects of the project on students' comprehension and attitudes?**

(プロジェクトに対する生徒の理解と姿勢の評価方法)

- Evaluation of the on-going events and activities are ensured; and children's self-assessments are also taken as important and valuable component of the evaluation process.
- The impressions and data coming from the Starry Sky and Fireflies Assemblies including the feedbacks from parents who participated in the events are also added into the evaluation components.
- In classes, students' motivation level and extent of interest in a particular class will also be evaluated.

*On behalf of my institution, I apply for participation in the UNESCO Associated Schools Project and give the assurance that this institution will make an active contribution to the Project, as outlined above, for a minimum period of two years. At the end of every year, I shall submit a report of the Project to the ASP National Co-ordinator of my country.*

(本学校を代表して、ユネスコASPの参加申請をし、少なくとも2年間は上記概要にそってASPに貢献する活動を行うことを確約します。また、毎年ASPコーディネーター(※日本の場合は日本ユネスコ国内委員会)に活動のレポートを提出します。)

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**Date**

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**Principal's name**

**Position      Principal**

**Institution's name**

**Toyohashi municipal Saigo Elementary School**

