

Call for Applications

Participation in the Kyōsō Sankaku Tanken Net (*) “Regional Ecosystem Unit”

* English title to be determined in due course.

June 2021

1. About the Kyōsō Sankaku Tanken Net

Kyōsō Sankaku Tanken Net (henceforth “KSTN”) is a new network of multiple regional stakeholders who, sharing the principles of the OECD Future of Education and Skills (Education 2030) project, collaborate to deepen and strengthen the research and practice of education and to co-create a desirable future of education. By disseminating outcomes, it also aims to improve the well-being of individuals and societies.

KSTN was established in 2021, based on the ideas of the students who planned and organized the OECD-Fukushima University Joint Workshop “Since Then. From Now On,” commemorating 10 years of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Kyōsō Sankaku Tanken Net literally has multiple meanings and it implies several key principles, values and missions of this network.

- Kyōsō means co-creation and concerted efforts
- Sankaku means participation and triangle-partnership (please see below item 7(3))
- Tanken means inquiry, research and exploration

KSTN Steering Committee governs the KSTN. This committee is an internal body for decision-making through dialogue and agreement.

2. Background

KSTN operates with the support of the OECD Education 2030 project. This is why there is a bilateral joint research agreement (April 2021 to March 2024) between the OECD and Japan, including the voluntary contributions from Japan (Tokyo Gakugei University) to the OECD. This joint research agreement specifies the following KSTN's planned activities:

- To promote and support the interaction and collaboration among various stakeholders who are part of autonomous but connected regional ecosystem units
- To form the consortium of universities being composed of researchers from the participating regional ecosystem units
- To promote collaboration / alignment between the Japanese research agendas and the OECD Education 2030 project Phase 2 (please see below item 4(6))
- To share with the OECD relevant policies and practices in line with the policy priorities of the OECD Education 2030 project, e.g. co-creation of Teaching Compass 2030
- To organise periodical meetings between the university consortium researchers to exchange their ideas with MEXT officials so the research to be conducted by the university consortium can effectively contribute to Japan’s policy research
- To ask regional ecosystem units to measure and monitor collective impact of curriculum changes

- To organise periodic workshops to disseminate the research outputs the OECD Education 2030 (e.g. new publications) as well as new scientific research findings from abroad and within Japan

The goal of this joint research agreement is to explore the possibility of new indicators that measure the effectiveness of education other than academic performance, such as students' agency and school well-being based on the actual situation or practices at school and research / policy needs, through the measurement and monitoring of collective impact by the regional ecosystem unit.

3. Goals of the KSTN Regional Ecosystem Unit

KSTN, as an open network, welcomes "regional ecosystem units" that coordinate, in a variety of forms, education-related projects of local jurisdictions, corporations, organizations, researchers, as well as practices in schools to promote those projects, research, and practices with an aim to co-create the future of education by involving multiple regional stakeholders. We encourage those who support the aims of the KSTN to organize a regional ecosystem unit and to participate in KSTN activities.

A steering committee governs the KSTN. Two representatives (1 adult, 1 student) from each selected regional ecosystem unit will take part in the steering committee. Researchers from the selected regional ecosystem units may participate in cross-regional consortium to contribute their research.

4. Eligibility Criteria to Apply as a Regional Ecosystem Unit

All of the following criteria must be met in order for candidates to apply as a Regional Ecosystem Unit:

- (1) The goals of the Regional Ecosystem Unit must be aligned with the goals and principles of the OECD Education 2030 project (please see below item 4(3)).
- (2) A participating Regional Ecosystem Unit must be composed of three stakeholder groups:
 - 1) school representatives: students, teachers, school leader and/or other school members, of which a student member is a must;
 - 2) researchers; and
 - 3) stakeholders other than the above: e.g. local policymakers, foundations, NGOs/NPOs, and/or other organisations;
 Two or more individuals from each of these stakeholder groups must form the Ecosystem Unit.
- (3) In order to ensure that the applicants have shared values and missions, the 2 representatives (1 adult, 1 student) of the Regional Ecosystem Unit must meet one of the criteria below:
 - 1) He or she must have contributed to either the [2021 OECD-Fukushima Workshop](#) or the [OECD Education 2030 project](#) (please note that mere participation will not be considered as 'contribution'), or
 - 2) The goals of his or her affiliated organisation (e.g. school) are somehow explicitly aligned with some of the key concepts of the [OECD Learning Compass 2030](#)
- (4) The 2 representatives of the Regional Ecosystem Unit are willing to participate in the KSTN steering committee
- (5) To embrace diversity, the research and practice of the Regional Ecosystem Unit must collaborate with a school(s) in a country(ies) other than their own

- (6) The focus of the research and practice of the Regional Ecosystem Unit must be aligned with one of the five themes of the OECD Education 2030 project Phase 2 Thematic Working Groups
 - 1) TWG1: Future vision of teachers & teaching
 - 2) TWG2: Aligning teacher education/training with curriculum change
 - 3) TWG3: Aligning pedagogies & assessment with curriculum change
 - 4) TWG4: Hub of E2030 Experimental Schools
 - 5) TWG5: Engaging & growing with Learning Compass 2030
- (7) To ensure collective efforts towards the shared goals, all members of the Regional Ecosystem Unit must fully understand the goals of the OECD-Japan Joint Research Project and be prepared to share their school practices and research outcomes through the KSTN research meetings and the OECD Education 2030 project's meetings
- (8) The Regional Ecosystem Unit must document and, if possible, evaluate the collective impact of its Regional Ecosystem Unit's collaborative efforts
- (9) The Regional Ecosystem Unit must have the capacity and a structure in place, as an independent and autonomous unit, to promote its research and practice as well as to coordinate and communicate with internal and external partners for this activity.

5. Duration of Activity and Planned Number of Regional Ecosystem Units to be selected

- (1) Duration of the Activity
From the selected date as a Regional Ecosystem Unit until March 31, 2024
- (2) Number of Regional Ecosystem Units to be selected
Approximately 5 to 7 units
(This number is subject to change based on the number of applications received and the final decisions made by the Selection Committee)

6. Procedure for the Submission of Application

- (1) How to apply
Please fill out the "Regional Ecosystem Unit Application Form" and submit your application to the email address below by the application deadline
- (2) Where to apply
Kyōsō Sankaku Tanken Net Secretariat (located in Tokyo Gakugei University)
Saori Amemiya, Yuka Hasegawa
kyososankaku@gmail.com
- (3) Application form
Regional Ecosystem Unit Application Form (please see attached document)
The application form must be submitted in English. Japanese applicants must submit it both in English and in Japanese.
- (4) Application deadline
July 18, 2021 18:00 (CET) = July 19 01:00 (JST)

7. Selection Process and Criteria

Selection Committee

The Executive Fellow of KSTN and the OECD staff representatives will decide the composition of the Selection Committee based on the principles of fairness and transparency.

Members of the Selection Committee must not be members of any Regional Ecosystem Unit taking part in the call for application at the timing of selection to avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts of interest.

The names of the Committee will not be disclosed to ensure neutrality in the decision-making process.

Selection process and criteria

The Committee will select the candidates among the applicants that meet all the eligibility criteria stated in item 4 above.

Each Committee member will evaluate the application based on a scale of 1 through 4 for each of the selection criteria below. The final selection will be made by the Selection Committee members based on the applicants that obtain the highest overall total score across all criteria.

- (1) Goal setting perspective (Relevance of the goals set for research and practice of the regional ecosystem)
- (2) “Kyouso (co-creation and concerted efforts)” perspective (What kind of new knowledge is expected to be co-created with concerted efforts towards a better future, going beyond ‘status quo’?)
- (3) “Sankaku (participation and triangle-partnership)” perspective (Degree of diversity of participants, e.g. inclusion of different types of students, inter-sectoral collaboration, interdisciplinary approach, public-private-partnership, etc.)
- (4) “Tanken (inquiry × research and exploration)” perspective (What kind of inquiry and research will be conducted as a regional ecosystem? What kind of collective impact is the regional ecosystem aiming for?)
- (5) International perspective (How does the regional ecosystem unit design ‘meaningful’ international collaboration for students and teachers? Please note: international collaboration is not the goal but it should be used as a means to support student agency and well-being)
- (6) Financing perspective (How does the regional ecosystem unit plan to secure operational budget to take part in the activity as an independent and autonomous regional ecosystem? Please note this activity can be embedded in the general school budget or supported by in-kind contributions; if this is the case, please describe.)
- (7) Governance / Managing perspective (Who will make the final decision and how will the regional ecosystem operate?)

The results of the selection (be selected or not be selected) will be emailed to all applicants individually after the selection has been made.

8. Schedule

- (1) Open call for application: June 18 2021
- (2) Open: For a month
- (3) Application deadline: July 18 2021 18:00 (CET) = July 19 01:00 (JST)
- (4) Applicant selection: End of July 2021
- (5) Selection announcement: After end of July 2021