

# Sustainable Development of Regional Societies



## Won a Contract for SDGs Promotion Planning Support Operations from Inabe City (Hyakugo Research Institute)

Hyakugo Research Institute, a group company of the Bank, accepted a contract for SDGs promotion planning support operations from Inabe City in FY2020, and engaged in raising awareness and promoting SDGs among business operators in Inabe City.

After Inabe City was selected as a "Model Project for Local Government SDGs<sup>\*1</sup>" and an "SDGs Future City<sup>\*2</sup>" by the Office for Promotion of Regional Revitalization in the Cabinet Office in July 2020, Hyakugo Research Institute, which has strengths in regional revitalization, began support operations in October 2020.

Specifically, the institute incorporated opinions from external experts in industry, academia and government, formulated an "Inabe City SDGs Evaluation Sheet" enabling business operators in Inabe City to recognize their own initiatives related to the SDGs, and held workshops and built

a dedicated website for the purpose of promoting the utilization of business operators within the city and broadly communicating knowledge and information on SDGs.

This initiative led to 76 responses to the SDGs check sheet from business operators within Inabe City throughout the duration of the project. In addition, communication such as a workshop enabling people to have fun learning about the SDGs concept by playing a card game led to fostering awareness that familiar initiatives are linked to SDGs.

The institute will continue to engage in a variety of initiatives enabling Inabe City to further develop as an SDGs future city.



<sup>\*1</sup>: Inabe City was certified from among SDGs future cities as a "Local Government SDGs Model Project" due to being a city conducting particularly pioneering initiatives. Ten projects nationwide, including Inabe City's, were certified in July 2020.

<sup>\*2</sup>: A system established by the Office for Promotion of Regional Revitalization in the Cabinet Office to select cities engaged in the achievement of SDGs. In July 2020, 33 cities nationwide, including Mie Prefecture and Inabe City were certified. Shima City was certified in June 2018.

### List of Events Related to SDGs

Month	Theme	Target	Number of Participants
Dec. 2020	Basic lesson on the SDGs in a workshop on regional revitalization through SDGs	Business operators and residents within Inabe City	Around 20
Jan. 2021	Basic lesson on the SDGs using a card game in a workshop for junior high school students	1st year students of Fujiwara Junior High School	33
Available online from Mar. 2021	Understanding an overview of the SDGs and learning their relationship with business activities	Released on Inabe City YouTube channel	



## Volunteer Activities

### Cooperation with UNICEF's "Coin Aid" campaign

We support the activities of UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) engaged in community development focusing on children in developing countries. Since April 2007, the Bank has set up UNICEF's "Coin Aid" donation boxes at 19 branches. Foreign coins donated by numerous customers who visited our branches are collected at the headquarters of the Bank once a year and delivered to the Japan Committee for UNICEF on a regular basis.

The coins that are collected are converted into cash and used in support activities such as improving health, ensuring nutrition, spreading primary education and providing emergency aid for children in over 150 countries and regions worldwide.



### Participation in UNESCO's "Miswritten Postcards" campaign

Every year, we participate in the "Miswritten Postcards" campaign run by the UNESCO Liaison Council of Mie Prefecture. A call is put out within the bank to collect unused postcards and New Year's cards that have not been posted, and the collected postcards are sent to the UNESCO Liaison Council of Mie Prefecture.

These postcards are converted into cash, and the funds are used for making places to learn\* for children who cannot go to school and adults who cannot read in locations such as Afghanistan, India, Cambodia, Nepal and Laos.



\* Miswritten postcards can be cashed. Eleven miswritten postcards make money needed for a child in Cambodia to go to school for one month.

## Financial Education

### Mie competition of Economics Koshien

Every year since 2011, the Bank has held the Mie competition of Economics Koshien, a national finance and economics quiz tournament for high-school students, under the joint sponsorship of the Association for the Promotion of Financial Literacy, a non-profit organization.

With financial knowledge becoming increasingly necessary amid diversifying financial and economic conditions, the tournament aims to provide an opportunity for high school students to have fun learning about finance and economics.

We were not able to hold the 10th Mie competition in December 2020 in person due to the impact of COVID-19, but we held it online. Thirty high school students in 15 teams

from high schools within Mie Prefecture participated and competed with their financial knowledge. The team from Akatsuki High School in Yokkaichi won the competition, and attended the nationals held online in February 2021.



## Sports Promotion Initiatives

### Achieving a rich regional society through the performance of top athletes

In the run up to the National Sports Festival scheduled to be held in Mie Prefecture (Mie Tokowaka Kokutai) for the first time in 46 years, there are high hopes for regional development through sports.

Since 2018, the Bank has employed top athletes active in Japan and abroad in order to further increase the momentum of sports in the region. Currently, six top athletes are active in Japan and abroad, including Hisayoshi Harasawa, who is performing well in men's judo (over 100kg division) in international competitions.

By sharing joy with local residents through significant achievements of top athletes, we hope to contribute to achieving a richer regional community.

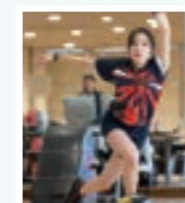


### Messages from Top Athletes



Women's bowling

**Mirai Tanihara**



I am from Mie Prefecture, so I have been participating in games with the goal of producing good results at the Mie National Sports Festival since Mie was chosen as the prefecture to host the festival a decade ago. We won in the doubles event at the last event, so I will try to get a place in other events so we can win back-to-back.



Women's archery

**Haruka Furuta**



I moved to Mie three years ago, and the reason I am still able to compete like this is the support of the people of Mie. I would like to show my gratitude through results at the National Sports Festival. I am working hard to win in the archery group event. I appreciate the support.



Men's judo (over 100kg division)

**Hisayoshi Harasawa**



Mie Tokowaka Kokutai will be the first National Sports Festival for me to participate in. I would like to share a variety of courage and excitement through the event. I would like to make a solid contribution to ensure that Mie wins, and appreciate the support of the people of Mie.



Women's judo (78kg division)

**Miyu Hama**



I was unable to practice as I wanted due to COVID-19, and it was a very difficult period, but I have been supported by many people and have finally been able to produce results in competition. This is the culmination 18 years of competing in judo. I don't want to have any regrets. I will fight to the last for myself and the people of Mie and ask for your support.



Men's sailing (laser class)

**Kenji Nanri**



A lot of the news has been dark in Japan due to the impact of COVID-19, and I think the National Sports Festival will take a new format due to restrictions. Under such conditions, it will make me happy if watching us makes people feel better. I would like to do my best like everyone else and hope that people will support me too.



Women's hockey

**Mei Morikawa**



There was a time when I couldn't work as I would like because of COVID-19 pandemic, but new members joined and we are all working as one to win at nationals. I will do my best to excite Mie with hockey as captain. I appreciate the support.