



Rits Super Global Forum 2019 (RSGF2019)

November 12 – 16, 2019
Ritsumeikan High School, Kyoto, Japan

Detailed Information

August 1, 2019

Dear All,

We are pleased to announce that we have set the main theme for RSGF2019: **“Towards a Better World: Reducing Problems Related to Garbage”** and the five topics/stages to be used to realize the goal. We will discuss the issue from the viewpoints of the five different stages of production and consumption. For all stages/topics, please make your posters and prepare for the discussions based on the information given below.

RSGF2019 Main Theme: **“Towards a Better World: Reducing Problems Related to Plastic Waste”**

- Five Stages/Topics:
1. Production
 2. Distribution / Retailing
 3. Consumption
 4. Disposal
 5. Movement of garbage

★Poster submission:

We would appreciate it very much if you could print out your students' posters before arrival. *Note: Use the following parameter: [Size; A0-sized paper]. We are not planning to print them out for you.* For those who are unable to bring their pre-printed posters, please let us know in advance.

★Preparation for poster presentations:

Please choose one out of the five stages/topics (See attached information about this year's main theme and stages/topics.) and focus on it while making your posters. Also, **answer the following questions in your posters: (1) What kind of problems are there in your local area/country? (2) What has been done to help solve the issues? You can involve what you have done at your school, community and so on.**

★Preparing for group discussions:

Students should develop their arguments using critical thinking skills. Go beyond the initial question of “How do we solve this problem?” and simple answers such as “Aid is needed” or “It is important to know about this.” We expect participating students to have researched about the actual global conditions ahead of time and are able to hold discussions about their assigned topics.

★Dividing your school's RSGF2019 participants:

If you have 5 or more participants, please put at least one person into each of the five stages/topics. Please try to place people equally into each stage/topic. **If there are less than five participants, please make sure that each should join different stages/topics.**

If you have any inquiries about this or need additional information, please contact Ms. Misa Nakanishi at Ritsumeikan High School by emailing misa@fkc.ritsumei.ac.jp or rsgf2019@fkc.ritsumei.ac.jp, or by calling +81-75-323-7111.

Yours sincerely,

Miki Horie, PhD.
Principal

2019 THEME:

“Towards a Better World: Reducing Problems Related to Plastic Waste”

There are many significant problems facing our world today. One of them being garbage. About 90% of plastic waste is not recycled in the world. Approximately 8 million tons of plastic enters the sea every year, and at this rate, we face a future with more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050. Our plastic addiction and waste mismanagement are condemning countless marine birds and animals to death by entanglement or poisoning, and even leading to chemical contamination of the fish we eat. At the United Nations Environment Assembly in 2017, a resolution was passed aimed to end marine plastic pollution, and tackling plastic pollution including microplastics. This became more of a global priority after China, which had been accepting large amounts of the world's waste, banned imports of recycled waste at the start of 2018. Many countries and organizations are trying to solve the problems of garbage by focusing on the 5 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, and Repair). Then, we all can seek broader solutions that deal with the issues at many levels, such as recent movements for ending single-use plastic. Our search for the solutions and actions we take will be a part of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the year 2030. So, let us put our heads together at RSGF2019 and share our ideas about “**What we can do to move towards a better world?**” For this forum, we are focusing on “**Reducing problems related to plastic waste**”, and we have set up five stages/topics to help us better grasp the issues from different aspects. Please choose one out of the following five stages/topics below and focus on it while making your posters and when holding discussions during the forum.

Note: We are going to focus on “plastic waste,” and we are not going to include “food waste” as a topic for discussions.

Five Stages/Topics [related to SDGs #1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17] :

1. **Production**

(Key terms: extraction, product producers, factories, industrial waste, biodegradable products, biomass plastic, zero-waste design, smart design)

- What are the problems/situations related to production – involving product producers and factories?
- What are the effects on others / the environment?
- What has been done to help solve these issues?
- Are the current practices /actions related to production sustainable?
- How can SDGs help improve these issues?
- What changes are needed in production in society at large?

2. **Distribution / Retailing**

(Key terms: disposal of unsold products, packaging, fast-fashion, micro fiber, waste management)

- What are the problems/situations related to distribution - shipping, transportation, and stores?
- What are the resulting effects on others / the environment?
- What has been done to help solve these issues?
- Are the current practices /actions related to distribution **really sustainable**?
- How can SDGs help improve these issues?
- What changes related to distribution are needed in society at large?

3. **Consumption**

(Key terms: consumers, single-use, Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Refuse • Repair (5Rs), awareness, shopping bags, etc.)

- What are the problems/situations related to consumption - in households, schools, etc.?
- What are the effects on others / the environment?
- What has been done to help solve these issues?
- Are the current practices /actions related to consumption **really sustainable**?
- How can SDGs help improve these issues?
- What changes are needed in consumerism at large?

4. **Disposal**

(Key terms: material recycling, chemical recycling, thermal recycling, energy recovery, landfill, dumping, water treatment)

- What are the problems/situations related to disposal - in garbage disposal sites?
- What are the effects on others / the environment?
- Are the current practices /actions related to disposal sustainable?
- What has been done to help solve these issues?
- How can SDGs help improve this issue?
- What changes are needed in disposing garbage at large?

5. **Movement of garbage**

(Key terms: trans-border flow of garbage, garbage imports and exports, potential disputes)

- What are the problems/situations related to the movement of garbage across borders- imports and exports?
- What are the effects on others / the environment?
- What has been done to help solve these issues?
- Are the current practices /solutions in dealing with these problems *really* sustainable?
- How can SDGs help improve these issues?
- What changes are needed in importing and exporting of garbage at large?

	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES
Day 0	Nov 11 (Mon)		Arrival at Kansai International Airport Transfer to Ritsumeikan Nagaokakyo Campus Orientation
Day 1	Nov 12 (Tue)	a.m. p.m.	Opening Ceremony School Presentation from each school 1 - 5-minute presentation - Presentation from Ritsumeikan about the theme (actions) Lunch Party Poster Presentation Icebreaking Activities Group-based Discussion 1
Day 2	Nov 13 (Wed)	a.m. p.m.	One Day Field Work Keynote Lecture, workshops
Day 3	Nov 14 (Thu)	a.m. p.m.	School Presentation from each school 2 - 5-minute presentation Group-based Discussion 2 Mini-plenary Discussion 1 Mini-plenary Discussion 2 Campus Tour and Japanese Culture Experience
Day 4	Nov 15 (Fri)	a.m. p.m.	Mini-plenary Discussion 3 Mini-plenary Discussion 4 - Preparation for the presentations - Finalizing presentations Cultural Performance - 5 minute cultural performance from each school
Day 5	Nov 16 (Sat)	a.m. p.m.	Presentations by Mini Plenary Groups Plenary Session & Panel Discussion Farewell Party Closing Ceremony
Day 6	Nov 17 (Sun)		Departure from Kansai International Airport

*Schedule may change. The itinerary will be provided later.