

Report on the FY2025 Activity Reporting Session for the Student Communities Project

Date and Time	Tuesday, March 18, 2026, 10:00–11:30
Venue	Online
Organizer	GPAI Tokyo Expert Support Center
Co-organizers	Tokyo College, The University of Tokyo; Faculty of Information Sciences and Arts, Toyo University; Work Environment and Science/Technology Research Center, Doshisha University

Overview

The GPAI Tokyo Expert Support Center (hereinafter, the Tokyo Center) has been implementing the Student Communities Project, with the aim of deepening consideration of the nature of responsible AI, through students taking the initiative to investigate and analyze cases of AI implementation in society. With the objectives of consolidating and sharing the outcomes of student research on the current state and challenges of AI utilization in various fields, and of exploring through discussions with students and supervisors the issues and implications faced by companies and organizations implementing AI, the Activity Reporting Session was held online on March 18, 2026.

Opening Remarks

At the outset, Deputy Secretary General HISHIDA Mitsuhiro (Tokyo Center) spoke of the importance of human judgment and agency in an era when AI is permeating society and the development of AI human resources is a pressing priority. He noted that this project, in which students themselves take the lead in exploring how to engage with AI, represents a meaningful initiative that responds to the challenges of our time. He also reported that, following the Mini-Innovation Workshop held as an official side event of the AI Impact Summit in India in February 2026, co-hosted with CEMCA (Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia), an India-based educational institution, a student community based on Japan’s model has been launched in India as well. Secretary General HARAYAMA Yuko introduced the background of this project, which Japan’s team has led since 2021, including its precursor activities, and noted that it has since grown into a transcontinental initiative linking 3 Expert Support Centers in Tokyo, Paris, and Montreal. She further stated that bridging student discussions and insights to GPAI’s international forums is the project’s ultimate goal.

Research Overview

HIRASAWA Yae, Assistant Chief at the Tokyo Center, presented an overview of this year's research. Approximately 40 students under the supervision of 4 supervisors conducted interview-based research with more than 15 companies and organizations on the theme of "AI and Society." The fields covered were broadly divided into 3 categories: (1) publishing and editing; (2) media, advertising, and digital technology; and (3) industry, public sector, and IT.

In the field of publishing and editing (field 1), research was conducted at publishers handling academic books, general-interest titles, and regional publications, as well as university presses. Cases were identified in which AI is being utilized to rapidly generate and compare multiple candidate titles for books, and to check for typographical errors. At the same time, a consistently cautious approach was observed regarding responses to copyright issues and final editorial judgment calls. In the manga industry in particular, it was found that mimicking the artistic style of popular authors is treated strictly as an infringement of rights.

In the field of media, advertising (field 2), and digital technology, research targeted translation companies, news organizations, advertising agencies, and companies working on the digitalization of traditional performing arts. Advanced initiatives integrating technology and culture were also identified, such as AI applications for defect detection and Japanese pattern generation in Nishijin textiles in Kyoto. However, multiple organizations indicated that aspects requiring sensitivity and judgment—such as on-site reporting and final decisions on creative expression—should remain in human hands.

In the field of industry, public sector, and IT (field 3), a wide range of organizations were surveyed, including construction companies, local governments, manufacturers, educational administration bodies, and large-scale IT companies. Progress in AI utilization was reported across diverse contexts, including the promotion of smart city policies, deliberations on ordinances establishing guidelines for AI use, automation of meeting minutes, and the introduction of technical document search systems. At the same time, it was reaffirmed that human beings must remain the final decision-makers with respect to design judgments directly related to safety and to the assignment of responsibility in administrative procedures, and it was confirmed that such structures are being maintained.

Across all fields, the following key points were highlighted: AI is currently positioned as an assistive tool to support operations and decision-making; the presence or absence of a secure computing environment has a significant impact on the scope of AI utilization; the roles of human judgment and accountability that machines cannot replicate are being reaffirmed; and disparities in AI literacy both within and between organizations are becoming increasingly apparent.

Student Panel Discussion (Moderator: Professor FUJIMOTO Masayo)

A panel discussion was held under the moderation of Professor FUJIMOTO Masayo (Doshisha University), featuring 4 student panelists: NISHIYAMA Yuna (Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo), HASEGAWA Tsubasa (Toyo University), GUO Wenjing (Graduate School, Doshisha University), and NIWA Yutsuki (Doshisha University).

After brief introductions of their respective research, AI literacy education emerged as a central topic of discussion. NISHIYAMA, who worked on improving supplementary AI literacy teaching materials for high school students, noted that while the need for AI literacy education is widely recognized in educational settings, revisions to the curriculum take considerable time, making it difficult to introduce new materials into existing curricula—an institutional constraint that poses a significant challenge. Drawing on her participation in the Mini-Innovation Workshop held in India, she also highlighted a difference in orientation between Indian students, who tend to seek to actively transform AI systems themselves, and Japanese students, who tend to focus primarily on discussing how to use the technology, emphasizing the importance of developing a sense of agency in AI literacy education.

Discussion turned to the question of the changes to work and growing disparities brought about by AI adoption. HASEGAWA, who researched a large-scale IT company, reported that AI adoption has reduced the time required for tasks such as document summarization, meeting minutes, and email drafting by approximately 15 to 20%, enabling junior employees to devote more time to higher-level work. He also raised as a challenge the fact that individual differences in AI proficiency are translating into productivity gaps. GUO, who researched the translation industry, reported that while translation support tools have reduced workload by as much as 70%, the post-editing work of reviewing and correcting AI-generated translations places a greater burden on more complex documents, yet is often inadequately compensated relative to the effort involved. She argued that the ability to independently identify clients who pay fair compensation has become a survival strategy for translators, and raised the issue of disparities in the professional labor market brought about by technological innovation.

The panel also discussed human creativity and the unique value that human beings bring. NIWA, who researched copywriters at advertising agencies, reported that while generative AI is useful as a supplementary tool for vocabulary search and broadening ideation, the final selection and evaluation of expressions remains in human hands.

Through these discussions, the 4 student panelists reached a shared understanding that, even as AI technology advances, evaluating its outputs and determining their role in society remain fundamentally human responsibilities.

Faculty Panel Discussion

A panel discussion was held under the moderation of Secretary General HARAYAMA, featuring 5 supervisors: Associate Professor EMA Arisa (The University of Tokyo), Professor NAKANO Masafumi (Toyo University), Professor FUJIMOTO Masayo (Doshisha University), Professor KATSUNO Hirofumi (Doshisha University), and Professor MIYAZAKI Kousei (University of Hyogo).

The session opened with each supervisor sharing key insights drawn from this year's research, and AI's relationship to education and human resource development emerged as the principal topic of discussion. Associate Professor EMA reported on her experience working alongside students on the development of supplementary AI literacy teaching materials for high school students and on research into AI and robotics adoption in the manufacturing industry. She noted that the process of using generative AI to create teaching materials itself became a site of practical inquiry into how to engage with AI appropriately. She further pointed out that in utilizing generative AI, the quality of the questions that users themselves formulate—how they frame their inquiries—is a central factor in eliciting high-quality outputs. Professor NAKANO, noting that children as young as elementary and middle school age are already using AI in their daily lives, stated that fostering understanding and awareness of the risks related to AI is a societal responsibility that education must bear. Secretary General HARAYAMA, building on this point about inquiry quality, stated that the ability to take ownership of setting one's own challenges and formulating questions is precisely the capacity she hopes students will develop.

The panel turned to questions of AI governance and organizational design. Professor NAKANO noted that at the Mini-Innovation Workshop held in India, interest in AI governance among participants was remarkably high, and called for Japan to further strengthen its capacity for international information dissemination. Professor FUJIMOTO observed that the locus of decision-making authority over whether to accelerate AI adoption or to manage it cautiously varies considerably across organizations, and suggested that how an organization positions AI from an organizational design perspective may well determine the differentiating factors between organizations going forward. Professor MIYAZAKI introduced findings showing that advances in AI-powered operational support functions are directly tied to enhanced outcomes for highly capable staff, and raised the question of whether the benefits of AI are being enjoyed equitably across organizations.

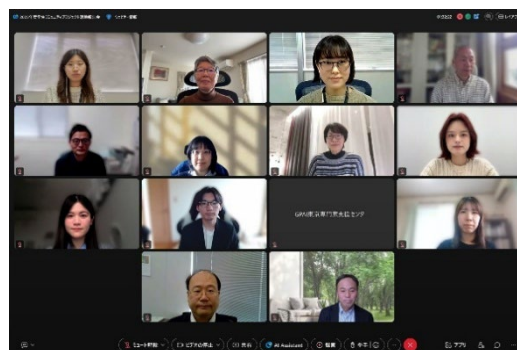
Discussion also touched on the redefinition of human sensibility and creativity in the AI era. Professor KATSUNO, who noted that the word "sensibility" (kansei) arose repeatedly in research on creative industries, observed that even as AI becomes deeply involved in the production process, the role of judging what resonates with people remains with human beings. He also pointed out a tendency in the manga industry for AI adoption to be more prevalent in content that is quickly consumed, while its role is more limited in areas where audiences are attached to individual creators. He additionally

presented as a future research agenda the observation that consumers themselves are developing their own sensibilities and literacies for distinguishing between AI-generated works and human-created works.

Across the faculty panel as a whole, it became clear how human judgment, creativity, and agency are being reassessed in a society where AI is becoming increasingly pervasive, and the importance of students continuing to engage with these questions through direct dialogue with practitioners was reaffirmed.

Closing Remarks

In closing, Secretary General HARAYAMA delivered the closing remarks. She outlined the direction forward: continuing to refine operational methods and information dissemination formats based on student feedback; leveraging networks of program alumni; and working toward development as a “Community of Communities” through strengthened collaboration with other Expert Support Centers. She also expressed her commitment to channeling insights gained from student discussions into GPAI’s international deliberations, and brought the Activity Reporting Session to a close.



Group photo of participants