

Report on the FY2026 Student Gathering Event for the Student Communities Project

Date	September 16 (Wed) and 17 (Thu), 2026
Venue	KEIHANNA PLAZA, Kyoto Prefecture
Organizer	Tokyo Centre of the GPAI Expert Community

1. About the Student Communities Project

The Student Communities Project is an international initiative under GPAI Associated projects, implemented jointly by the three Centres of the GPAI Expert Community in Tokyo, Paris and Montreal. It explores the future of AI and society from students' perspectives. In the Japanese student community supported by the Tokyo Centre, students conduct interviews with companies and other organizations that have adopted AI, under the guidance of their faculty advisers. They analyze how AI affects workers and working environments, as well as other examples of its application in industry and society.

2. Overview of the Student Gathering Event

The gathering was held for Japanese students participating in the project. It brought together 32 students from the University of Tsukuba, Toyo University and Doshisha University (four research groups in total), along with five academic supervisors. This event was held with two goals: the first was to get to know one another and learn about each other's activities; the second was to reflect on AI literacy together. Specifically, through discussions with students from other research groups, participants were expected to clarify their concerns about the use of AI, identify challenges and consider what rules should be share. They would reflect on their own principles for the use of AI, and then propose three specific rules. This was the Tokyo Centre's second student gathering, although as last year's event was held online, this was the first gathering to be held in person.

3. Programme and Outcomes

Day 1: Visits to Research Institutes and Reflection

Following the opening remarks by Dr. HARAYAMA Yuko, Secretary General of the Tokyo Centre of the GPAI Expert Community, the students visited the Universal Communication Research Institute (UCRI) of the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), NTT Communication Science Laboratories (NTT CS Labs), and Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR). During their visit to these research institutes, they observed the status of research and development, as well as the efforts being made to implement AI in practical applications within society. They considered how the use of AI might affect society and daily life in

the future and what should be kept in mind when using it. After the visits, they reflected on their notes, impressions and questions, and shared their reflections with the other participants.

Day 2: Group Discussions and Exchange with the Indian Student Community

Student representatives from each of the four research groups presented their group's research and activities. The students were then divided into eight groups of three or four to discuss the following three themes. Academic supervisors moved among the groups as needed to support the discussions.

Discussion themes

- ① "How do we use AI?" Students reflected on how they and people around them use AI and shared insights from their investigation. They also considered when they would or would not want to use AI, and why, to explore their own criteria for its use.
- ② "Are we using AI in the right way?" Students shared and examined questions that had arisen from their use of AI, situations in which they had felt uncomfortable using it, and examples that might lead to undesirable outcomes.
- ③ "How can we become smart users of AI?" Through discussion, the students considered how they themselves should use AI. Each group then developed its own "Three Rules for Using AI."

For each theme, the students shared the substance of their discussions with the full group. The discussions prompted them to reflect on their everyday use of AI, and consider its benefits, challenges and points requiring care in light of the other students' experiences and views. Finally, each group developed its own "Three Rules for Using AI", setting out concrete standards for how its members would engage with AI, based on the day's discussion.

The participants also joined an online exchange with the Indian Student Community, established by the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), an education-related organization based in India. Using the online meeting platform's live translation captions, two groups each from Japan and India presented their "Three Rules for Using AI." They identified shared ideas about AI use and gained new perspectives that they had not considered before the exchange. The Q&A included discussions about the distinction between using AI as a learning aid and relying on it too heavily, and about the use of AI in local environments to prevent data leaks. Sharing experiences and views across cultural backgrounds gave the students an opportunity to consider their relationship with AI from an international perspective.

4. Next Steps

The participating students will compile their respective research findings into reports and submit them to the Tokyo Centre. The Centre plans to issue each student a certificate of completion for the programme and publish the reports on its website. An Activity Reporting Meeting is planned for March 2027 to review the Japanese Student Communities Project's activities for the fiscal year 2026. The Centre also plans to share the project's outcomes widely in Japan and internationally on various occasions.

Reference: Participants

Students: 32 (Some students absent because of injury, illness or job-hunting watched the online stream.)

University of Tsukuba: 3; Toyo University: 7; Doshisha University: 22 (four research groups in total)

Academic supervisors: 5

Professor KONISHI Yoko, Institute of Systems and Information Engineering, University of Tsukuba

Professor NAKANO Masafumi, Department of Information Sciences and Arts, Toyo University

Professor KATSUNO Hirofumi, Department of Media, Journalism and Communications, Doshisha University

Professor FUJIMOTO Masayo, Department of Sociology, Doshisha University

Professor MIYAZAKI Kosei, Department of Contemporary Economic Studies, Hyogo University



Opening remarks by Dr. Harayama



Group discussion



Exchange session with the Indian Student Community



Group photo

End of report