



# *Dialogue*

Creating the Next 60 Years

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## Project Report

October 22nd, 2011

Academic Program “Focus 2: Dialogue for cross-disciplinary exploration”

“Environmental Studies workshop:  
Student proposals for achieving an ‘eco campus’”



60th Anniversary Project  
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



## ICU 60th Anniversary Projects

**Date:** October 22, 2011 (Saturday)

**Category:** Academic Program “Focus 2: Dialogue for cross-disciplinary exploration”

**“Environmental Studies workshop: Student proposals for achieving an ‘eco campus’”**

**Audience:** Students, faculty, university board of trustees

**Venue:** International Christian University Administration Building room 206

A poster session was held concurrently.

## Environmental Studies workshop —Student proposals for achieving an ‘eco campus’

“Anything, anything is fine. Students, faculty, everyone – forget your titles and together, as individual members of ICU, let’s propose concrete plans of action to make ICU a more environmentally friendly university and lay the foundations for putting these plans into practice. Make the first step!”

With this energetic call to action, workshop facilitator Professor Tatsuo Nunoshiba awakened the enthusiasm of the participants. Approximately 40 people in total assembled for the workshop, with the president of the university, the vice presidents, visiting professors, faculty and students, including freshmen, attending. A wide range of people held expectations for the workshop.



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It was Vice President for Academic Affairs Junko Hibiya's suggestion to hold the workshop after listing to presentations given in the university cafeteria by students participating in the Environmental Studies General Education course

during the 2011 spring term. As simply giving presentations during the workshop would be a waste, it was decided to create a place for discussion based on the results of the presentations. Thus, this workshop was realized.

In the opening remarks of the workshop, Vice President Junko Hibiya re-introduced ICU's Environmental Mission Statement, stating "Although ICU has an environmental mission statement, many people are not aware of this." The Vice President spoke of her hope to combine knowledge contributed from various viewpoints with ideas and actions to protect the natural environment around ICU.

The first portion of the workshop consisted of seven groups of students providing their presentations, with new data, on the respective themes of "Global warming", "Radiation", "Lifestyle", "Power", "Water", "Waste" and "Business and Economy".

The second portion of the workshop was composed of group discussions, combining the information obtained from the presentations as well ideas that had occurred to participants in the past to derive concrete actions that could be taken, rather than the workshop merely ending with a general idea that "the environment is important."



## Part 1: 7 Group presentations

### Group presentation 1 Global warming Carbon dioxide and global warming



With a focus on carbon dioxide, the current situation and policies with regards to global warming in the city of Mitaka and ICU were examined.

First, the Survey of ICU Students' Awareness of Global Warming and the ICU Environmental Mission Statement was presented. 100 people had been orally surveyed at random in the student cafeteria.

## Group presentation 2

### Radiation

#### Radiation and ICU



When asked by a student, “What do you think the number 24 is?” none of the participants were able to answer. Actually, this number is the ratio of Japan’s electricity that is dependent on nuclear power. In other words, 24% of Japan’s electricity is provided by nuclear energy.

During a visit over the summer vacation to the University of Sussex via the Study English Abroad Program, an open space called “Let’s talk about earthquakes” was created. Aimed at students from countries other than Japan, it was found that many of these students felt that Japan was a dangerous place.

Further, it was felt, including by the presenters themselves, that their knowledge of nuclear power was insufficient. Words like “radiation leakage,” “internal radiation exposure,” and “external radiation exposure” are prevalent, but do we really understand what they mean?

Through making posters for the workshop, the presenters were able to learn about radioactivity, and they concluded that it is necessary to possess accurate knowledge in order to understand radioactivity and to properly assess situations, without becoming overly fearful.

## Group Presentation 3

### Lifestyle

#### The food, bicycles and vending machines at ICU and the environment



First, participants were asked to think about the student cafeteria and the ICU Environmental Mission Statement with respect to a hypothetical

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pool of water. It was estimated how much of that water would be necessary for a country that imports food to grow that same imported food.

Japan's food self-sufficiency ratio is 40%. The amount of water it would take to grow the food that Japan imported from abroad in 2005 was approximately 80 billion m<sup>3</sup>, almost the same as the total amount of water used each year in Japan.

After checking the food used in the school cafeteria, it was found that while many of the vegetables are grown in the country, much of the meat is imported. With respect to both the amount of water required and the food mileage, which multiplies the amount imported by the distance transported, it was found that the environmental burden is quite high.

As long transportation distances increase the environmental burden even when using food produced within the country, one might think that we should promote local production for local consumption.

When asked about its opinion on this point, the student cafeteria replied, "Although we believe that it offers benefits from various perspectives including revitalization of the local community, energy reductions and logistics cost reductions, the reality is that it is difficult to guarantee procurement routes and maintain a constant and reliable supply of food. It might be possible to do so in a fair or other event."

Based on these points, a fair will be held to raise awareness of the concept of local production for local consumption as a way to improve the university and increase student consciousness.

Finally, it was concluded that it was important to raise students' awareness and to hold a General Education course on food and water.

## Group presentation 4

### Power

#### ICU's power condition: finding waste



Due to the electricity shortage over the summer caused by the Tohoku Earthquake and the nuclear incident at Fukushima 1, ICU was forced to conserve energy. This presentation examined how ICU had saved electricity and, using this as an opportunity, what kinds of wastages should be eliminated.

Taking the dorms as an example, electricity consumption in September of this year was 31% less than in September of last year. However, the ratio of electricity usage from electrical appliances is high and there is still room to reduce wastage.

As the costs of heating and electricity are reflected in the succeeding year's dormitory fees, it was felt that students should be cognizant of this fact. It was also believed that the awareness of students living in the dormitories should be raised and shutting off lights should be made habitual.

Moving in that direction, a Committee on Energy Saving has been established in Ginkgo House and will request the disclosure of information from the Housing Office, and it was hoped the university would comply.

As part of the energy saving activities carried out over the summer, the air conditioners in Science Hall were shut off, resulting in damage to laboratory instruments and impediments to experiments and costing money for repairs. It was found that waste and necessity must be carefully scrutinized and both micro and macro perspectives are necessary when conserving electricity.

## Group presentation 5

### Water at ICU



Where does ICU's water come from?

Actually, more than 90% of the water used at ICU is drawn from a well on the premises (the north side of the Hachiro Yuasa Memorial Museum). After passing through a filter, the water is cleaned at a water purification plant at the site.

While water saving initiatives such as making faucet nozzles smaller, using water saving packings, using rain water and recycling have not been implemented, grease traps (to clean dirty water) and low flow toilets have been introduced.

However, the presenters' investigation revealed that the university had not been aware of a water leakage in the library that had existed for several years. Although ICU treats its water in accordance with the law, there is no movement towards improving water quality or reducing water usage and despite the contents of the Environmental Mission Statement, there are no initiatives to improve the situation.

The presenters also proposed that raising awareness of water conservation was important among students as well.

## Group 6 presentations

### WASTE



The current state of and measures for dealing with garbage in five locations (the Administration Building, the student cafeteria, the Sanseido bookstore, the bicycle parking area and the lawn) were presented and the process of how garbage is recycled was investigated.

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It was found that ICU conducts a fixed number of initiatives for dealing with waste matter. ICU's recycling rate for burnable garbage such as newspapers, magazines and cardboard is 100% and ICU also recycles all of the non-burnable garbage it produces.

The initiatives of ICU's student organizations such as Re.Act and OIKOS are also commendable. The student club OIKOS holds flea markets and places signs on the mailboxes in the Administration Building stating "No Advertisement" to deter fliers.

Their biggest project, however, is called the DRS (Dish Reuse System). The DRS involves lending plastic plates to other clubs during the ICU Festival and other events and washing them after they are used, with the goal of reducing the amount of garbage produced. They also lend the plates to organizations and events outside of the university as well.

Although student organizations are conducting activities such as bicycle recycling, environmental conservation for ICU festivals and regular collection of caps for recycling, this fact is still not well known amongst students. The presenters stated that publicity through cooperation with the university and new systems such as a bike rental system are also necessary.

It was further indicated by the presenters that the university should give consideration to the idea of increasing the amount of materials that are distributed to students through electronic means as soon as possible.

## Group presentation 7 Business & Economy



The ICU Environmental Mission Statement begins, “International Christian University (hereafter ICU), a Christian liberal arts institution, declares its commitment to environmental mindfulness and stewardship in all its activities.” This group considered how ICU, as an enterprise, tackles this mission statement and what the actual state of affairs is.

Interviews with which manages ICU’s facilities and manages construction, and the Finance & Accounting Group, which is in charge of accounting, revealed that no consolidated summary of the university’s environmental expenses existed.

In other words, despite the fact that ICU has an Environmental Mission Statement, it cannot be said that it is taking concrete actions. The presenters proposed that an environmental report must be drawn up and a position or organization to specifically handle the environment must be created in order to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the Environmental Mission Statement.



## Part 2: Group discussions by participants —Working towards making action plans

“Our goal today is to think about what we can do now and propose concrete action. We will hold a short ceremony in order to hold a discussion simply as members of ICU, without titles.” So Professor Nunoshiwa proposed.

While blushing, the participants acted out removing the “clothes” that were their titles and, enveloped in a friendlier atmosphere, the group discussions began with laughter.

Broken into five groups at random, the participants each wrote down their ideas on a piece of paper as they came, from tiny initiatives to actions involving all of ICU. Professor Nunoshiwa had participants make the following four promises.

- Do not judge ideas but provide steady praise.
- Do not try to come up with a good idea.
- Do not judge yourself.
- Do not hesitate to get on board with someone else’s idea.

Thanks to these promises, even freshman were able to contribute their ideas without hesitation.



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After all ideas had been contributed, each group divided their ideas into three broad categories: “Initiatives that can be easily performed by individuals,” “Proposals that require effort but are worth doing,” and “Projects that cost money but that we want to try.”



Groups then took the ideas that they felt had the highest priority and wrote them on the white board, with presentations on the ideas beginning thereafter.

The main proposals were as follows.

★Initiatives that can be easily performed by individuals

- Habitually turn off the lights and ride the elevator as little as possible.
- Display the Environmental Mission Statement in conspicuous locations. Conduct an environmental awareness campaign.
- Stop using printed materials.
- Share the usage of toilet paper.
- Create recycled paper boxes.

★Proposals that require effort but are worth doing

- Create and publicly release an environmental report each year.
- Establish an environmental committee (composed of students and faculty).
- Install solar panels.
- Share information.

- ★Projects that cost money but that we want to try
  - Implement local production for local consumption policies in the cafeteria.
  - Regulate room temperatures using well water.
  - Automate the toilets in the Administration Building.
  - Investigate whether the new dormitories are environmentally friendly and disclose the results.
  - Make courses on the environment obligatory.
  - Use light motor vehicles for security vehicles.

Summarizing the lively discussions, visiting professor and workshop commentator Ryoichi Yamamoto commented somewhat shockingly, “Actually, the environmental initiatives that ICU is conducting are two laps behind the rest of the world.”



He explained that national universities in Japan are obligated by law to publicly release environmental reports, while ICU is a signatory of the United Nations Global Compact and has its own environmental mission statement. He stated that given these facts, at the least ICU must make taking credits in environmental fundamentals required.

The goal of these discussions was not merely to propose suggestions but to create the foundations for real action. At the end of the workshop, the Vice President made the following three promises:

- To consider establishing a sustainability committee composed of students and faculty.

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- Regarding the Cafeteria Committee, to hold a local production for local consumption fair and to consider take home plastic cases.
- As part of the 60th Anniversary Projects, to consider changing the academic program to require all students to take courses on the environment.

It has also been decided to add a report page to the 60th Anniversary Projects website so that these actions will proceed. As members of ICU, participating faculty and students engaged in passionate debates, leading to concrete actions during the workshop. Wondering whether their ideas would be carried out and be able to bear fruit, the workshop was brought to a finish with applause filled with the participants' expectations for future action.