

## Congratulations to the 3rd SEISA Sports Scholarship Graduates!



**Mr. Kaung, Ms. Yamin, Ms. Su, Mr. Daimon, and Mr. Merhawi!**  
**Congratulations on Your High School Graduation!**

Through the SEISA Sports Scholarship Program of SEISA Group and FGC, three students from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and three students from Eritrea (one of them already graduated and entered SEISA Dohto University last April) came to Japan in 2019.

Five students graduated from SEISA Kokusai High School Shonan this spring. They talked about their three years of study in Japan, where they were both literate and athletic, and about their future plans.

**Mr. Kaung** It has been really hard for me to study and practice for three years, but now I feel achievement. I am glad to go back my home country but at the same time I feel so sad to say goodbye to my friends. I have made many friends at SEISA. They supported me when I was sad because I lost in a competition or because I was away from my family. I also like the word “nakama” best friends in Japanese. After returning to Myanmar, I would like to go to university, depending on the situation in my country. Karate training at SEISA helped me to become stronger. I intend to continue karate in the future and someday I want to be a representative of Myanmar.



**Ms. Yamin** I am so glad to graduate. It was really fun at SEISA for three years. I had many fun things such as sports festival and sports tests at school. I practiced karate every day and developed my muscle, speed and technique. I want to major Japanese at Yangon university of Foreign Languages after going back to Myanmar. Thank you for three years. I will never forget what I have learned from SEISA for three years and I want to teach all the good things I have learned to others for the sake of my country when I go back to my own country. Thank you very much for everything.

**Ms. Su** I made many friends at SEISA and found it easy to understand my studies. I also had a lot of fun at the dormitory, such as eating delicious food and playing games with my friends. I like the word “Gambaru” (do my best) in Japanese. Karate training was really hard for me and sometimes I felt tired and wanted giving up but I told myself “Gambaru Gambaru” to cheer myself up. I could upgrade my technique and my physical. In the future, I want to be a cabin attendant and support my family. Thank you to all of you, I could come to Japan and learn a lot about karate and studies. Thank you very much for everything.



## Congratulations to the 3rd SEISA Sports Scholarship Graduates!

**Mr. Daimon** I am so glad to graduate. Everyone at SEISA was kind, smiling and helpful. I have kept training track and field for three years and set a new personal best and my mental got stronger. I would like to continue to study hard and do my best in sports after entering SEISA Dohto University. I would also like to try skiing in Hokkaido. I could graduate because of your support. I would like to express my gratitude to you all for the past three years. To the international students who are coming to Japan, I know it will be difficult for you to get used to life here and Japanese at first, but I wish you all the best.



**Mr. Merhawi** I had a lot of fun at SEISA. I have good memories of going to Hakone with everyone at the new year time. I had a great training in the track and field club at SEISA Kokusai High School. I started running long distances and renew my personal record. After going back to Eritrea, I intend to continue my track and field training in Asmara, the capital city of Eritrea. I would like to thank many people who helped me in Japan. Please give the same support to the new international students who will be coming in the future.



## Congratulations on Your Graduation, Ms. Pema Selden!

We also received a message from Ms. Pema Selden, who came to Japan from the Kingdom of Bhutan in 2018 with the support of SEISA Group and FGC, and completed her master's program at the University of Tokyo (GraSPP) this year.

**Ms. Pema Selden** I come from the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan. I never anticipated myself in such a comfortable situation as I am right now. SEISA, the Foundation for Global Children, took me in and provided me with a once-in-a-lifetime chance.

My lifelong ambition has always been to acquire the greatest education possible, and I believe I have fought hard for it throughout my life. Now I am about to graduate from one of the most prestigious universities in the world and this is all, owing to the generosity of Mr. Miyazawa and SEISA.

The University of Tokyo has been one of my dream universities and now I can proudly call it my alma mater. Over the course of three years in Japan, I was provided with every convenience imaginable: I was able to focus exclusively on my academics without stress, and I was not required to work hard to support myself. There aren't enough words in the English language to adequately express my thanks to Mr. Miyazawa, SEISA Group and FGC. Because of this wonderful institution, I am where I am now.

GraSPP's graduation ceremony was held on Thursday, March 24th, 2021 at the University of Tokyo's main auditorium (Yasuda Auditorium) for the 2021 University of Tokyo Degree Conferment Ceremony (for those who have completed graduate studies). I am also enrolled in the graduate school of Seoul National University in Korea as part of the Campus Asia Double Degree Program of GraSPP. I will graduate from this university in August 2022.

SEISA is a beacon of hope for all who know of its existence. After hearing about the plight of the Bhutanese students studying in Japan, SEISA Group Founder and CEO Mr. Miyazawa immediately provided temporary housing and food for the students in need. He also went so far as to employ another RTC (Royal Thimphu College) graduate who had already come to Japan. I only hope that the friendship between SEISA, Bhutan and RTC will continue forever.

Following my graduation from the University of Tokyo, I plan to work for HENNGE, where I am presently a part-time employee. HENNGE is a leading cloud-based security provider in Japan. Their service HENNGE One owns over 74% of the market share in Japan's Microsoft Office 365/Google Apps targeted security service area.

Finally, with that said I would like to once again convey my heartfelt gratitude to Chairman Mr. Miyazawa, SEISA and the FGC as well as everyone who supported me from the bottom of my heart. I am determined to make further efforts to be a bridge between our two countries so that I can return the favor I will make further efforts to be a bridge between our two countries. Thank you very much.





# Support Activities in African Countries

## Continued grassroots support through networking in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

In FGC News No. 28, we reported on our grassroots support activities in Malawi, Burkina Faso, and Sao Tome and Principe, with the help of the networks we have built despite COVID-19 pandemic and our trusted partners (amateur radio operators who are active around the world). In this issue, we will report continually as well as on our support in Gambia and Burkina Faso, and a follow-up report from Cote d'Ivoire!

### Donated Four Toilets to an Elementary School Gambia

In November 2021, a team of French amateur radio operators organized by Mr. Luc Thibaudat visited Republic of The Gambia in West Africa. After the online discussion with Mr. Yasuo Miyazawa, the Chairperson of FGC, the team donated four toilets to a local elementary school having the serious sanitation issues. A project to construct wells, also in collaboration with Mr. Luc and his team, is ongoing.



### Santa Claus on a Donkey Burkina Faso

Mr. Harald, a German amateur radio operator, who helped FGC with a program to give bicycles to children in Burkina Faso last June, visited Burkina Faso as early as last December and played the role of Santa Claus himself, delivering small gifts as Santa Clause on Donkey. He delivered small gifts prepared in cooperation with FGC to the children. The children presented him with a picture with the logo of SEISA and FGC on it as a token of their appreciation.



### Gift to an Elementary School Cote d'Ivoire

In February 2022, a team of Czech amateur radio operators including Mr. Petr, who helped us in Sao Tome and Principe last October, visited the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and, as before, after consulting with local school officials, surveyed necessary items, purchased supplies with FGC's donation, and delivered educational materials and school equipment to the children.



## Eritrea's Winter Olympics Challenge!

### Eritrea

Following the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games held last summer, the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games came to a close with much excitement. Six athletes from five countries were competing from the African continent in this Winter Olympics. From Eritrea, Mr. Shannon Abeda competed in the Alpine Skiing Men's Giant Slalom.

Mr. Shannon, Eritrea's first Winter Olympian, started ice skating at the age of 3. He initially wanted to be an ice hockey player, but decided against it due to his parents' opinion that it was too dangerous; in 2011, he decided to represent his parents' country of origin, Eritrea, in skiing, and was selected to compete in the 2012 Youth Olympic Games. Her parents fled the war in Eritrea in the 1980s and immigrated to Canada. "When I was seven or eight years old, I used to draw pictures of myself standing on the Olympic podium. As a child, you talk about these dreams, but I never thought I would be here," he said in an interview with the Olympic Channel at the PyeongChang 2018 Games.

Mr. Shannon, a weightlifter and programmer, suddenly announced his retirement from Alpine skiing immediately after Pyeongchang and considered switching to bobsledding. However, he resumed skiing in September 2021 with the goal of qualifying, and was relieved when he secured a slot in the Olympics three months later. "It's so surreal, it still doesn't sink in, I've officially qualified for my second Olympics. About two months ago, I was on the verge of throwing in the towel," he posted on his Instagram page. "I want to share more of my story and use my voice to inspire future generations of Winter Olympians from Eritrea and the Diaspora."

After the games, he said, "I wanted to build on the previous

Olympics and achieve a better result.

Unfortunately, in the last Games, I got caught up in small things and could not think about the bigger picture. I could not fully utilize my experience in Pyeongchang, and got too absorbed in the competition. I forgot to have fun itself."

However, Mr. Shannon, competing for the second time after the previous event, was able to finish the Winter Olympics with a great result, placing 39th overall.



Mr. Shannon Abeda



Opening Ceremony of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics

## To Further Evolve ~From IMPOSSIBLE to I'M POSSIBLE~ (You can do with a little trick)

### Bhutan

In October 2021, the inauguration ceremony of the first dedicated judo dojo in Bhutan, built with the support of the Japanese government, was held online. Mr. Tandin Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs in Bhutan, Mr. Satoshi SUZUKI, Ambassador of the Japanese Embassy in India, Mr. Haruki UEMURA, President of Kodokan, Mr. Yasuhiro YAMASHITA, President of All Japan Judo Association, and many guests from around the world attended and witnessed the historic moment.

Bhutan's first Olympic judoka, Mr. Ngawang Namgyel talked about his appreciation and enthusiasm at the ceremony. "I am a Bhutanese judoka. I was lucky enough to compete in the Olympic Judo Games in Tokyo, Japan earlier this year. Today, I am very happy to attend the opening ceremony of the new judo hall in Thimphu, Bhutan. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Bhutan Judo Association and to all of you for giving me personally the opportunity to represent my country in the world's greatest sporting event, the Olympic Games. This was a great honor, a valuable experience and a once in a lifetime opportunity for me and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the IOC, NOC, IJF, AJJF, SEISA Group, BJA and the founder of Bhutan Judo, Mr. Karma Dorji and Ms. Rie. I would also like to thank my coach, Yusuke Utashiro Sensei, for his support, hard work, enthusiasm, and patience. I would also like to thank my coaches who inspired me to start judo and have guided me to where I am today. Sensei Michihiro Yamazaki, Yoshihiro Horiuchi, and Miyu Uchida. I would like to thank Pema Dargay Sensei from

Bhutan for all her help throughout my ten years of judo. The four-time Olympian, Austrian Judo National Team Captain, and International Judo Ambassador, Ms. Sabrina Filzmoser for her support of Bhutan and the Himalayas. Thank you for your long support of judo in the region. ~ omission~ Ten years ago, judo was not developed at all in Bhutan and was an unknown sport. Today, more and more people know about judo in Bhutan. We, the members of the Bhutan Judo Association, promise to make every effort to spread judo properly throughout Bhutan in the coming years." He expressed his enthusiasm.



Bhutan Judo Association Judoka Members at New Dojo



Mr. Ngawang Namgyel, Presentation



Mr. Ngawang Namgyel, Judo Training

## Success in the 2021 Asian Youth Para Games !

**Bhutan**

The 2021 Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG) was held in the Kingdom of Bahrain from November 27th to December 8th, 2021. The AYPG is an international all-round competition for young people with disabilities in the Asian region, organized by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC). It has been held every four years in Asian countries since 2003. In 2009, the second edition was held in Tokyo, Japan, and in 2013, the third edition was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Asian Youth Para Games are an opportunity for young athletes to gain valuable international experience, and as a gateway to the Paralympic Games, many athletes who are currently active around the world have participated in the Asian Youth Para Games in the past. More than 1,500 athletes from 31 Asian countries participated in the Bahrain Games.

The Bhutan Paralympic Committee (BPC) made its debut at this year's Games, following the 2020 Tokyo Games. Ms. Sapna Subba, a high school student from Dagana, Bhutan, competed in the women's singles and mixed doubles in the SH6 (short stature) category. As a result, Ms. Sapna became the first Bhutanese para-athlete to win two bronze medals at international competitions. In the mixed doubles, she was paired with Mr. Tomoya Ueno of Japan.

In an interview after the games, she said, "I want to encourage people with disabilities to become more involved in the Paralympic Movement so that nothing is impossible. I feel fortunate to have represented Bhutan and to have won a medal. I was lucky to have support from my parents, my school, the Bhutan Badminton Federation, and the Bhutan Paralympic Committee."

For Ms. Sapna, Bahrain was her first time abroad. "The huge, tall buildings I saw in Bahrain were breathtaking," she said. "I was surrounded by many athletes, and their confidence and serious looks inspired me to work even harder. I want to continue

to practice hard and aim higher. I want to prove to myself and others that nothing is impossible, no matter what the circumstances. That it is important to have confidence no matter what difficulties you face. I want to communicate with others and enhance my inner strength," she said enthusiastically.



At the Asian Youth Games

Showing TWO Bronze Medals



BPC President HRH Euphelma (right) and Sapna Subba (left)

Bhutan Badminton Federation Rep. (left), Sapna Subba (middle), HRH Euphelma BPC President (right)

## Bhutan Representative @ FINA World Swimming Championships

**Bhutan**

The 15th FINA World Swimming Championships, the international swimming championships to conclude the year 2021, was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The FINA World Swimming Championships were held at the Etihad Arena on Yas Island from December 16th to 21st. The championships were attended by 943 swimmers from over 83 countries. Bhutanese swimmers Mr. Sangay Tenzin and Mr. Kinley Lhendup also participated in the championships. Mr. Sangay and Mr. Kinley have been training professionally for more than two years in Phuket, Thailand, with swimmers from more than a dozen countries, under the auspices of FINA (International Swimming Federation). Mr. Sangay was the only representative from the Kingdom of Bhutan to make his debut at the 2020 Tokyo Games last summer as a special quota swimmer recommended by the IOC and FINA.

On December 16th, Mr. Kinley set a new national record in the men's 200m individual medley with a time of 2:24, followed by a time of 1:01 in the men's 100m butterfly on December 17th, both national records and personal records. He finished 5th in the group stage and 79th/88th overall. "I think the result was not all bad, but I am not satisfied," said Mr. Kinley.

On December 18th, Mr. Sangay set a national and personal

record in the 50m freestyle with a time of 26.29 seconds. He finished first in the group stage. However, he was not able to qualify for the finals as he finished 83rd out of 106 swimmers overall. Mr. Sangay also competed in the 100m freestyle.

Two said that Bhutanese swimmers still need to work hard to reach the semi-finals and finals. "The biggest problem we face is the lack of opportunities to compete, the lack of places to practice in the Kingdom of Bhutan. We need to work harder and harder."



Mr. Sangay Tenzin (left) and Mr. Kinley Lhendup (right)



## Presentation of Donations to Support the Reconstruction of Shuri Castle

Immediately after the burning down of the main building of Shuri Castle on 31st October 2019, the SEISA Group received donations through FGC at various events, including the acceptance of relief funds. After searching for ways to continue supporting the reconstruction, FGC and SEISA Kokusai Okinawa and Naha jointly set up the "Shuri Castle Reconstruction Support Project Team". Students and staff from both schools also thought about what they could do and decided to produce and sell Shuri Castle Design tote bags using the traditional Okinawan dyeing and weaving technique 'Bingata', and to donate the proceeds to charity.

- This project has the following three objectives
- **To raise funds to support the reconstruction of Shuri Castle (through the production and sale of Shuri Castle Design tote bags)**
  - **Through this project, students will learn about the history and culture of Okinawa (Ryukyu) and work proactively toward the reconstruction of the castle.**
  - **To spread the activities through the SEISA network, which connects all over Japan and the world, and to extend the SEISA philosophy.**

Donation to	Okinawa Churashima Foundation
Presentation Ceremony Date	February 22, 2022 (Tuesday) 16:30-17:00
Venue	Shuri Castle Park (Conference Room in the Park Management Center)
Participants	Mr. Seijun YUGAWA, Executive Director, Ms. Yuko MAEDA, Public Relations, Planning and Exhibition Section, Okinawa Churashima Foundation
	Two teachers from SEISA Kokusai Okinawa DCC, Naha CP, Three current students, Two Alumni

Ms. Misato KOIZUMI, a dyeing and weaving artist and Okinawa District Core Center teaching staff, and senior students of the Okinawa District Core Center were in charge of designing and producing 500 of the Shuri Castle Design tote bags. Handwritten message cards were added to the purchased tote bags as a token of appreciation for the purchases. The postcards and thank-you messages were designed by two senior students at the Naha Campus.

### Project Summary (As of March 1st, 2022):

Total Donations ¥ 663,126 -			
Breakdown	<b>Total tote bag sales</b>	<b>1,007,000 yen</b>	337 bags sold + 2,000 yen donated in cash
	<b>Total expenditure including actual expenses</b>	<b>496,649 yen</b>	As of 2/21/2022
	<b>Donate the difference</b>	<b>510,351 yen</b>	Cash given on the day
	<b>Donation from FGC</b>	<b>152,775 yen</b>	Transfer to the designated account



## The Day of the Presentation Ceremony

Before the presentation ceremony, the group visited Shuri Castle Park to see the Shuri Castle Main Hall, which is undergoing reconstruction. The tour included a visit to the main hall of Shuri Castle, which is being rebuilt. The students were surprised to find that the construction work had progressed considerably since their previous visit, and they were able to get a real sense of the reconstruction. At the presentation ceremony, the students were welcomed with great joy for the visit. They asked a wide range of questions, including sympathy for SEISA's educational activities and the success of Yuma KAGIYAMA in

the Olympics. The students were asked questions and helped to relieve their nerves. They were particularly pleased with the messages they received from people all over Japan when they purchased tote bags. The foundation officials said they would like to display them and the tote bags on the notice board at the management center in the park. At the end of the event, the student representatives of the project presented the donation, received a letter of appreciation and took a commemorative photograph.

### Students' Impressions

\*In Original

#### Haruya UNESOKO

Current Student Representative at SEISA Kokusai High School Naha District Core Center  
(Vice President of Student Government at the time of the project launch)

"I found this project to be enjoyable in an impolite way. Although it was sad to see Shuri Castle burn to the ground, it gave me a great sense of accomplishment and joy to work with others to create something and do something to help someone else with the profits."

#### Towa OKEGAWA

Alumni Student Representative of SEISA Kokusai High School Naha District Core Center  
(President of Student Government at the time of the project launch)

"I was originally born in Ishikawa Prefecture and came to Okinawa when I was two years old. When I started this project, I didn't have as much passion for Okinawa as I do now. However, as I gradually got to know more and more about Shuri Castle, I remembered many things and had many thoughts as I worked on this project. I am from outside the prefecture and have several friends outside the prefecture, and they all said the same thing: "I can't wait to see Shuri Castle." I realized that although we live in different places, we all share the same desire to see Shuri Castle. This project gave me a chance to feel a connection with people in a different way than fundraising, and I learned the importance and preciousness of human connections. Although we were not able to make the donation for this project while I was still a student at the school, I am very happy that I was able to be involved in this project over the past year. I also look forward to seeing this project passed on to younger students in various forms in the future."

#### Takeshi KITAUCHI

Alumni Student Representative of SEISA Kokusai High School Okinawa District Core Center - Responsible for (Bingata design calligraphy 'character')

"I am very happy to be involved in this project. I was very happy as an individual to be able to reach everyone through my designs. Above all, I am most proud that we were able to help someone, that there are people who can be helped thanks to our efforts!"

### Message from Mr. Maeda, Okinawa Churashima Foundation

"We are very grateful to everyone for coming to our park today in the cold weather. After meeting all of you, hearing about your activities and hearing the voices of SEISA students, I was moved once again by your passionate support for Shuri Castle. I would like to express my deepest gratitude. (On a personal level, I was also able to meet Haruya, a classmate of my daughters, and I would like to thank Ohira-sensei for creating this opportunity.) The tote bags, report materials and messages from all over Japan that we received were displayed at the office as soon as possible. In the future, we would like to display them at events and other occasions in the park for visitors to see, if that is okay with you."

#### 星槎国際那覇キャンパス テーマ「世界文化遺産・首里城再建のための活動」



昨年10月31日未明の火災で消失してしまった首里城正殿。私たち那覇の生徒は、まずその様子を見に行くことから始めました。

そこで気が付いた事は、正殿には数多くの国から集められた材料や、建築の様式、文化の交流が集約され、構成されていたことでした。



沖縄は琉球王国の時代、日本や東アジア、東南アジア各地と交易を繋ぎ、様々な交易品や文化を広げていました。その当時の琉球の人々の気風を刻んだ建物が、首里城正殿にかけられていました。その建物の名は「万国津梁の鐘」。鐘に刻まれた銘文は「琉球国は南海の勝地に於て、三韓の膏を羅め(あつめ)、大明を以てて幡索となし、日域を以てて帯圍(しんし)となす。この二中間にありて運出する蓬莱島なり、船楫(しゅうしゅう)を以てて万国の津梁となし、異産宝室は十方刹(じっぽうさつ)に充滿せり。」(以下略)とありました。

琉球に生きた人々は、「礼」を重んじて他国と繋がり、人々の架け橋となっていました。(守礼門の額「守礼之邦」はここからきています。)

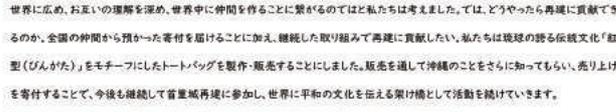
「現代に生きる私たちができることはなんだろうか？」

その問いから始まった、那覇キャンパス・沖縄学習センターの首里城

再建に向けた取り組み。首里城が再建されることは、昔から沖縄に生き

る人々が大切にしてきた、「礼節をもって世界との架け橋になる」ことを、(表上-右)表上博物館にある万国津梁の鐘。表下:首里城から海を望む空撮(空撮)。

世界に広め、お互いの理解を深め、世界中に仲間を作ることに繋がるのではと私たちは考えました。では、どうやったら再建に貢献できるのか、全国の仲間から預かった寄付を届けることに加え、継続した取り組みで再建に貢献したい。私たちは琉球の誇る伝統文化「紅型(びんがた)」をモチーフにしたトートバッグを製作・販売することにしました。販売を通して沖縄のことをさらに知ってもらい、売り上げを寄付することで、今後も継続して首里城再建に参加し、世界に平和の文化を伝える架け橋として活動を続けていきます。



Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, FGC has been holding an annual soccer exchange program with children in the affected areas, including a soccer school and the SEISA Okudera Cup in Soma City in January. This year, however, we had to give up the idea of going to Soma City from the Tokyo metropolitan area due to the rapid spread of COVID-19. Instead, we asked people

in Soma City to organize the SEISA Okudera Cup, which was successfully held with the participation of seven teams. We have prepared a cup for the winners and are discussing with the local people so that we can continue to hold the tournament in the future. We will continue this activity so that we can see the smiling faces of the participants in person next time.



SEISA Okudera Cup, held for the first time in two years



Minami Soma FC, Winner of the Championship

## Emergency Aid to Ukraine

### Please Help Us Provide Emergency Assistance to Ukraine

SEISA Group and FGC have been engaged in disaster relief and humanitarian aid activities both in Japan and overseas.

As is reported daily, military action has been launched in Ukraine and the situation has deteriorated significantly. There have already been many casualties, including children and civilians. As of the end of March, more than four million people have already crossed the border seeking safety, forced to become refugees in neighboring countries such as Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova.

The people of Ukraine need immediate and urgent support. SEISA Group and FGC would like to support people in Ukraine by accepting donations. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

We sincerely hope that peace will return to the lives of the people of Ukraine as soon as possible.

#### [How to Donate]

- To the donation boxes set up in each office of the SEISA Group
- Transfer within Japan

From Japan Post	Account Number 00240-1-116684 Holder Name : こうえきさいだんほうじん せいかいこどもざいだん 公益財団法人世界こども財団	 Ukraine
From JP Bank	Japan Post Branch 029 Account Number (Touza) Holder Name : こうえきさいだんほうじん せいかいこどもざいだん 公益財団法人世界こども財団	

\*Please write "Emergency Aid to Ukraine" in the correspondence box.

