

## Keizaburo Tsuchiya Appointed as the New Chairperson

On May 23, 2022, Keizaburo Tsuchiya, Executive Director of FGC, was appointed as the new Chairperson. Under the leadership of the new Chairperson, all of us at the foundation will continue to make further contributions to the future of children and youth around the world.

### Message from Keizaburo Tsuchiya

I am pleased to announce my appointment as the new Chairperson of FGC. FGC is an organization whose founder, the late former Chairperson Yasuo Miyazawa, has continued its activities with a wish for the young people who bear the future. "Children are the assets of the future. If we do not nurture all children well, there will be no future." I deeply resonate with former Chairperson Miyazawa's thoughts and actions to put them into practice, and I had been helping

him in my own small way. I will continue to strive to connect to his thoughts and activities in the future, to further expand our support, and to see the smiles on the faces of children. The activities of FGC are made possible by your warm support. We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation.



**Keizaburo Tsuchiya**  
Chairperson of the Board of Directors

It's been two and a half years  
Revisit

## The Kingdom of Bhutan



### Beginning

As far back as five years ago, in 2017, an agreement was signed with Bhutan Olympic Committee (BOC) for a pre-camp in Kanagawa Prefecture. Since the conclusion of the agreement, SEISA Group, with FGC as the contact point, has acted as a cornerstone to support the strengthening of Olympic athletes in the Kingdom of Bhutan (Bhutan), the acceptance of international students on sports scholarships, the establishment of the Bhutan Paralympic Committee (BPC), the discovery of para-athletes and the development of para-athletes and their coaches. We have also implemented a variety of support programs in order to help the athletes achieve their goal of competing in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games (TOKYO2020)

### Overcoming the Pandemic

In December 2019, as TOKYO 2020 was finally just around the corner, COVID-19 was confirmed and reported in Wuhan, China. COVID-19 has since spread globally and caused a pandemic, forcing TOKYO2020 to be postponed and FGC's visit to Bhutan to remain in December 2019.

This activity, which FGC has been promoting in collaboration with BOC and BPC, does not end with TOKYO2020, but is intended to be an opportunity for further support and exchange that will continue into the future.



Paro International Airport 54 years ago



Current Paro International Airport

In the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to consult with the local community to ensure that we could meet their needs and continue to build mutual trust and friendship. We have never given up on visiting the site, and have been looking for the right time to be able to do so.

In April 2020, Bhutan imposed a tourist entry restriction of zero foreign arrivals. Subsequently, the government announced an indefinite extension. After two years of waiting, Bhutan finally resumed accepting tourists in April of this year. The quarantine period has been gradually shortened to 5 days at government-designated hotels since May. In addition, tourists from abroad are now allowed to enter the country with some conditions, such as being vaccinated and having a negative PCR test result at the time of entry or exit.

## Revisiting Bhutan Looking Toward the Future

Former Chairperson Yasuo Miyazawa passed away on March 23, and we received many messages of condolence from Bhutan expressing their sympathy through telegrams. Shortly after the May holidays, FGC dispatched a staff member to Bhutan to express our gratitude and return the favor in the politest way as well as to express our sincerity to Bhutan, another mother country that the deceased loved and cherished.

Immediately after receiving the news of his death, the people of Bhutan, including BOC, BPC, Royal Thimphu College (RTC), various sports federations and associations, and too many people to count, lit 108 butter lamps and prayed at temples in Thimphu, Paro, Phuntsholing, and other areas to express their grief and gratitude for the deceased. In Bhutan, when mourning or remembering someone, people pray by lighting a butter lamp made from vegetable butter. The butter and vessel melted by the red flame turned a soft orange color and lights up the surroundings.

After isolation in Paro and a negative PCR test result, I headed to the BOC and BPC offices in the capital city of Thimphu. The spectacular view of the peaceful countryside between Paro and Thimphu, dotted with houses that retain the traditional Bhutanese style, has not changed over the past two and a half years. One hour later, after passing through the gate into the capital city of Thimphu, I went to the Changlimithang Stadium located in the city center. The BOC and BPC offices are located in the stadium. When I knocked on the office of the Executive Director, located at the back of the third floor, all the staff members were waiting for my arrival. On a shelf in his office, there

was a picture of former Chairperson Miyazawa in Bhutanese traditional costume.

In the BOC office, there was a heavy atmosphere that is hard to describe, with everyone still in disbelief and unable to accept the reality of the situation. A sense of loss and an empty feeling that a gaping hole in the heart had been created, and I could see that there was something in everyone that could not be expressed in words. In the first visit in two and a half years, they expressed their respect and gratitude to former Chairperson Miyazawa, but most importantly, they promised to carry on his intentions and thoughts and to move forward. In talking with our Bhutanese colleagues, all of them realized the strong bond with SEISA and promised to materialize the future of Bhutanese sports that former Chairperson Miyazawa had talked about before his death.

At a later date, I paid a courtesy visit to HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, BOC President, and HRH Princess Euphelma Choden Wangchuck, BPC President, respectively, to greet and inform them of my visit. Both HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck and HRH Princess Euphelma Choden Wangchuck took more than 30 minutes of their time to talk to me individually, recalling the time when they first met, expressing their condolences and gratitude to former Chairperson Miyazawa while recalling their journey to this point, and how the deceased was an irreplaceable person for both of them, which words cannot really express. They also said that former Chairperson Miyazawa is "the father of Bhutanese sports".

During my stay in Bhutan, I was able to meet with RTC Director Tenzing Yonten, President Tshewang Tandin, and Associate Dean Dr. Samir Patel. RTC



RTC-SEISA Fitness Center



RTC Football field



With Olympian Ms. Karma (left)  
Ms. Sonam, a graduate of SEISA Kokusai Shonan (right)

also expressed to carry on the will and desire of former Chairperson Miyazawa, and to continue to collaborate with FGC and the SEISA Group.

I met so many other people right up until just before I returned back to Japan, and each one of them took time so that I could greet them and give a report. All of them expressed their gratitude to former Chairperson Miyazawa, and promised that their connection with SEISA will remain constant, and that they will continue to expand the chain of smiles in Bhutan through and beyond sports toward the future in order to realize the deceased's wishes and desires.



# Sports scholarship students from Eritrea has arrived to Japan!



Six Eritrean students, whose arrival to Japan had been postponed for about two years due to COVID-19 pandemic, finally arrived in Japan on May 6. SEISA Kokusai Shonan students Sebah, Ariam, Senay, and Biniam will belong to the track and field club. Esey and Mr. Nazrawi will belong to the basketball team. Although we have accepted students from Eritrea, Bhutan, and Myanmar in the past, this is the first time we have accepted students in basketball. We are looking forward to seeing them breathe new life into SEISA throughout Japan. Soon after their arrival in Japan, Mr. Esey and Nazrawi participated in the 2022 Inter-High School Basketball Championship, Kanagawa Prefecture West Branch Preliminary Round. The high potential of both players

contributed to the team's victory and made them a dominant force.

Sebah, Ariam, Senay, and Biniam of the track and field club are also practicing daily with the support of Dejen from Eritrea, who belongs to SEISA University's track and field club, and FGC staff Kesete also from Eritrea. The six Eritrean students who arrived in Japan this time are scheduled to graduate in March 2023. Through this program, we hope they will absorb a lot of things from SEISA and Japan, and become "goodwill ambassadors" connecting Japan and Eritrea, as well as inspiring dreams and hopes in the next generation of young people, not only in Eritrea but also in other countries.

## Track and Field

### Sebah Amar Seid

**Event : Middle-distance / 1500m, 3000m**

I strive to be at the top of my sports and academics. Especially in track and field, I would like to achieve personal best in 1500m and 3000m. I will also try my best to pass JLPT N4 and N3. In the future, I would like to fulfill my dream of becoming a professional athlete and competing in the Olympic Games and World Championships in the years to come.



### Biniam Tesfay Zeratsion

**Event: Long-distance / 5000m, 10000m**

My first priority is to learn Japanese, and in track and field, I want to recover from my injury as soon as possible and run in competitions and record events. In the future, I would like to become a professional athlete and spread my name and my country around the world. I will do my best to serve my country by studying at university and becoming a doctor.



### Senay Tesfalidet Mehari

**Event : Middle-distance / 1500m, 3000m**

This year I want to prepare for college. In track and field, I will work hard in daily practice to break 13:05 in 5000m. In the future, I would like to represent Eritrea in various competitions and make my name and country known around the world.



### Ariam Paulos Nega

**Event: Long-distance / 1500m, 3000m, 5000m**

My first priority is to learn Japanese, and in track and field, I want to recover from my injury as soon as possible and run in competitions and record events. In the future, I would like to become a professional athlete and spread my name and my country around the world. I will do my best to serve my country by studying at university and becoming a doctor.



## Basketball

### Nazrawi Samiel Ghebrezghiher

**Position: Center**

I will do my best to pass JLPT N4 or higher level. In basketball, I will put my all into the tournament in front of me and contribute to the team's victory. After high school, I hope to go on to university. I would like to spend my daily life with kind and friendly Japanese people.



### Esey Zereyacob Ghebreslasie

**Position: Center**

My goal this year is to finish my high school studies and sports at the highest level and work hard to move on to the next level (university). In the future, I want to become a professional basketball player as well as a business economist.



# Donation with credit card payment is now available!

FGC has registered with Syncable, one of the largest donation platforms in Japan.



Syncable is a donation platform service that connects individuals with non-profit organizations to encourage social action.

It is now easier for those who will make a first donation. Payment by various credit cards and Amazon Pay are now available.

You can also choose to pay by bank transfer as you have in the past. Donations can be as small as 500 yen. You can now also choose to make a one-time donation or a recurring monthly donation.



- Brand Pledge handles more than 7,000 items, including not only top brands, but also casual brands.
- When using this service, please specify "FGC" as the donation recipient!



Syncable QR code



Brand Pledge QR code



## Would you like to support the cause by donating your outgrown clothes or brand items that you no longer wear?

We also collaborate with Brand Pledge, a service jointly operated by the donation platform Syncable and the brand items purchase service Brandia.

- You want to donate but don't want the hassle or don't want to bear the shipping costs.
- To make a donation from Brand Pledge, all you have to do is put items in the cardboard boxes sent to you.
- You can easily donate clothes, bags, accessories, etc. without shipping costs.
- You can request donation for the amount you want from the assessed amount.
- Some stains and scratches are acceptable as long as they do not impair use.
- If you are not satisfied with the assessment value, you can ask to send back even from one item at no charge.

### How to donate is easy

Put the brand items in the cardboard box that they will be sent to you and send them back to them. The appraised value will be transferred as a donation. Your donation will be transferred directly to our foundation's bank account without any fees. We sincerely look forward to your support and cooperation!

From the Office



## Thank you for your support of the Ukraine Emergency Relief Fund!

~Providing support for Japanese language lessons to Ukraine evacuees~

In the previous issue of FGC News No. 29, we published an article entitled "Request for Emergency Relief to Ukraine". Thank you very much for your support and donations. Since May, FGC has been providing support for Japanese language lessons as part of its efforts to help displaced people from Ukraine to remove language and cultural barriers they may encounter in their daily lives and help them become accustomed to life in Japan. For privacy reasons, we are unable to disclose the name and photos of the student, but a portion of the donations received from everyone was used to pay for textbooks and stationaries.

Thank you for your continued support.

Please contact [fgc@fgc.or.jp](mailto:fgc@fgc.or.jp) if you are interested in taking Japanese lessons offered by FGC for Ukraine evacuees. We will also start volunteer registration for Japanese language instructors. We are also waiting for inquiries from those who would like to cooperate in teaching Japanese to evacuees and international students accepted by FGC.



### We are now on Twitter



Following Facebook and Instagram, FGC has opened Twitter! Dreams and hopes for the future of children around the world! On Twitter, we tweet about our activities and missions of FGC, as well as the status of international students accepted from Eritrea and Bhutan. We look forward to your follow request!



Published in July 2022

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Printing: Kurikindi Design Co., Ltd. Design: Naomi Okamura (JC Unit)

