



Report on the SDGs Exhibition at the Main Library

The Sustainable Development Goals, known as SDGs, are proposed by the United Nations and aiming at turning our world into a better one. SDGs were adopted in 2015 as a universal call to end poverty, protect the environment, and achieve that by 2030 all people in the world will enjoy peace and happiness. In total, there are 17 goals, including: no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequality, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water protection, life on land protection, peace, justice and strong institutions, and partnerships for the goals.

Every year, the United Nations releases annual reports and data about the performances of SDGs in different member countries. For example, according to the SDG 2023 report, Malaysia did well in several goals such as elimination of extreme poverty, health, and electricity access. Overall, European countries mostly took effective efforts when performing SDGs, got higher scores and ranked top among 166 countries. The United Nations also holds summits and provides databases for empirical researchers. In Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has created a Japanese website for SDGs, and

posted SDG conference reports and data here for people to check.

Tohoku University Main Library also sets a United Nations Material Corner for students to get to know more about the United Nations and the SDGs. Additionally, every year, Tohoku University Main Library holds SDG exhibitions on campus. International students working at the Concierge Desk leave comments conveying their opinions and wishes according to their selected goals, and share books related to them. The comments are written in both English and Japanese. Panel exhibition of the comments are on the boards and walls in the lobby, while book exhibition is near the entrance.



This year is quite special, because our Tohoku University SDGs exhibition will go off campus to Sendai city center. From 15th to 28th of February, “International Student Concierge x SDGs” exhibition will be held at the underground gallery at Aoba-Dori for free. We welcome everyone to go and have a look at the exhibition.

Written by **Helen Li**

The University Libraries Around the World

This section introduces university libraries around the world, mainly from the alma mater of our International Student Concierge members.

East China University of Technology Library

The East China University of Technology is a provincial public university located in Nanchang, Jiangxi, China. The university referred to as ECUT, was founded in 1956 and is the first institution of higher education in China's nuclear industry. And now, it is a multi-disciplinary university with a focus on Science and Engineering, and a combination of Economics, Management, Literature, Law, Education, and Art.

East China University of Technology Library consists of Nanchang Campus Library and Fuzhou Campus Library, with a building area of 38,000 square meters and a total of 4,000 reading seats. The existing collection of paper books is more than two million three hundred thousand, electronic books more than one million nine hundred thousand, purchased more than 20 large Chinese and foreign language electronic literature databases, such as China Knowledge, Super Star series of literature databases, Web of Science, Elsevier, Wiley, SLCC and so on.

I was in Fuzhou Campus at that time, and the library of Fuzhou Campus is located in Fuzhou City People's Park, surrounded by trees and lakes with beautiful scenery. In China, university libraries are more often than not used by students for

reviewing and studying, especially when the end of the semester is approaching, the libraries are often full, and people need to go to the library before it opens to get a seat. However, the school hadn't air-conditioned the library when I was in school, and students had to put up with the sweltering heat in the summer or the damp cold in the winter. Of course, I guess in a way, this also made students more patient and more adaptable to various environments.

Because the university was originally a nuclear industry institution, the library on the Fuzhou campus also has a small geological museum on the basement level to display things related to geological exploration and nuclear engineering specialties. For example, petrified wood, various crystals and ores, and paleontological fossils that have been buried underneath for many years. Although the library is basically only open to current students (because there aren't enough seats), the geological museum is open to everyone, so remember to check it out if you're passing by someday!



East China University of Technology Library
(Fuzhou Campus)

Photo taken by Xuefeng Song

Written by Haomiao Wang

My Hometown: Yangon

In this column, we introduce the hometowns of our members, giving you a glimpse into their culture and some traveling tips from locals!

Hello, this is Yin May Zin Han and I was born in Yangon, Myanmar. Please let me introduce my hometown “Yangon”. It is the former capital city of Myanmar until 2006 and it is the largest and most industrialized city in the country with a population of over 4 million people. Situated strategically on the Yangon River, it is the heart of the commercial and trade port.

Let’s imagine wandering around the downtown of the city. First, in the core center of the city, you can see the remarkable collections of historical and cultural attractions which reflect the diverse culture and colonial influences. One of the prominent landmarks is Sule Pagoda, located in the center of a roundabout, which holds a religious significance. Adjacent to the Pagoda, there are church buildings and mosques showcasing the rich diversity of religious beliefs and practices.



[Sule Pagoda](#) by [Iasoneppink](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#).



City Hall. Photo: Marcin Konsek / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY-SA 4.0

Besides the religious places, there are collections of colonial-era architecture, and remnants of the British rule from the late 19th to mid-20th century. Notable structures include the majestic City Hall which is located right in front of the Sule Pagoda which holds several festivals and ceremonies around the year.

Personally, I love exploring the downtown, which makes me enjoy the vibes of the multicultural religions and ethnicities where you can enjoy a lot of delicious foods as well and the historical buildings revealing the magnificent story of the old days. If you have the chance to travel to my country, please don’t forget to pay a visit to the center of Yangon and enjoy a variety of cultures and ethnicities.

Written by Yin May Zin Han

Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

This section introduces a book from our available selection at the Tohoku University Main Library. It is intended to pique your interest and fill your grey matter with intellect and emotion. Sit back and enjoy it!

Hello fellow book enthusiasts!

In the world of books, some really stand out, offering deep insights into our complex world. One such gem on our library shelves is "Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update". Written by a group of forward-thinking authors—Donella H. Meadows, Dennis L. Meadows, Jorgen Randers, and William W. Behrens III—this book is a journey of reflection and foresight.

First released in 1972, "Limits to Growth" bravely explored what happens when growth goes unchecked and how it affects our planet's limited resources. Fast forward 30 years, and the authors come back to their groundbreaking ideas, giving us an update on the global situation. The way they tackle the web of environmental, economic, and social dynamics makes this a timeless read.

The book presents data, scenarios, and analyses in a way that's easy to grasp for both experienced scholars and curious beginners. It covers everything from population changes and using up resources to finding a balance between taking care of the Earth and economic growth.

What makes "Limits to Growth" special is that it goes beyond being just an academic book. It not only diagnoses the global challenges we face, but also suggests practical ways to handle the crisis. It is a call to action, asking us to think about

how we can contribute to a sustainable future.

In today's world, where we deal with urgent issues, "Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update" urges us to think about the results of our choices. It encourages us to reflect on our role in the link between humanity and the planet. This book isn't just predicting doom; it's a guide for creating a future that's resilient, balanced, and responsibly taken care of.

Joining the ranks of engaging and influential books, "Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update" is a must-read for anyone trying to understand the problems humanity is facing today. It lights the way to a more sustainable and harmonious existence. So, whether you're an experienced environmentalist, a curious student, or just love a good read, this book is a valuable addition to your reading list.

Take a moment, delve into the complexities of global dynamics, and let "Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update" stimulate your mind and emotions. It's a journey well worth your time. Enjoy the exploration!

Book: Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update

Author: Donella Meadows, Jorgen Randers, Dennis Meadows

Publisher: Earthscan

ISBN: 184407143X

Location: LIB-BF-Stacks

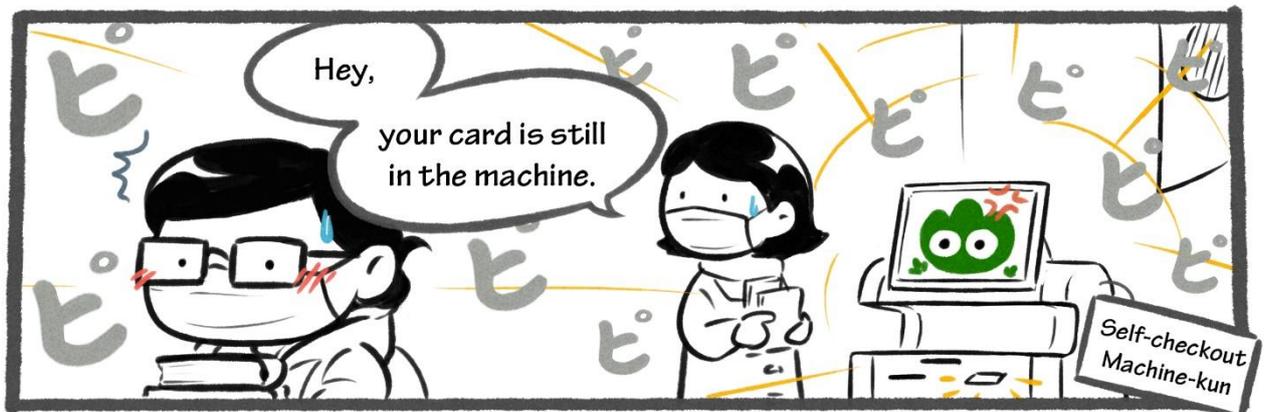
Call No: DA73/361

Written by Fernandez Caro Antonio

Manga Corner

At Manga Corner, you will see scenes that frequently happen to newly enrolled students.

Hi! I am Andhika from Indonesia! I like reading and drawing manga, and I hope you enjoy my short manga.



Editors



Petrovikj Hristina [Editor-in-Chief]

A graduate student from North Macedonia enrolled in the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She has many hobbies, some of which include: singing, journaling, travelling, reading, watching movies, and photography. She has lived in 3 different countries so far, travelled across Europe, and is hoping to embark on an Asian tour in the near future. Her secret dream is to be a member of a rock band, but since that has not come true yet, you can often find her in a karaoke booth instead!

Helen Li

A 3rd year PhD student from Economics and Management Department, majoring in monetary economics and financial time series analysis. She previously lived in the USA and came to Japan in 2019. She has been playing the piano for over 10 years, and is also a semi-professional athlete of speed skating since before she was 14. She is an excellent female gamer of MOBA games such as DOTA and Honor of Kings. Her dream is to become a university professor or a diplomat, but a superior professional athlete of Esports if she was 10 years younger.



Andhika Wijaya



A graduate student from Innovative Japanese Studies Major, who was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia. She never had seen snow before she came to Japan, so she's always going 'wakuwaku' when the snow is falling down even though she has to struggle a lot with the cold temperature. She loves drawing, reading comics, travelling to scenic places, enjoying nice music, singing at karaoke, and playing with cute animals. Please don't mind her if she makes strange noises when she saw a photo of cute animals. Aside of those, one of her major passion is enjoying food and making review notes about it.

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