



Connecting people, agriculture and the environment through appropriate technologies

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Tsukuba SDGs Partners

On July 8, 2020, AAI received "the Tsukuba SDGs¹ Partners Certificate" from Tsukuba City in the southern part of Ibaraki prefecture. Selected as a "SDGs Future City", it has organized "Tsukuba SDGs Partners" as a platform for exchange among citizens and companies working on the SDGs. It was a requirement for registration of Tsukuba SDGs Partners that "the organization is working, or is willing to work, on SDGs in Tsukuba City". AAI was already involved in activities aimed at the SDGs through technical cooperation in developing countries and training courses at JICA Tsukuba and, at that time, we were also exploring the possibility of activities related to agriculture and regional development in the city itself so we decided to register for the platform.



"SDGs Future Cities" are cities that aim to create and realize and combine the three values of 'environment', 'society', and 'economy'. Municipalities that strategically work toward the achievement of SDGs in collaboration with local stakeholders that lead to regional revitalization are then designated

by the national government. After its designation in June 2018 the city formulated the "Tsukuba SDGs Future City Plan" in September of the same year. In the plan, "in consideration of approaches from three aspects - society, economy, and environment and the strengths and priorities of Tsukuba City," the following items were stipulated as the five pillars of future activities. 1. Child's future, 2. Inclusive society, 3. Value creation and inheritance, 4.

Infrastructure that is easy for everyone to use, 5. Circulation and Environmental protection. The first letters of each goal make CIVIC. The CIVIC plan did not include agriculture per se, but given that Tsukuba is a garden city where rural and urban environments coexist, it is likely that AAI can contribute to the work of CIVIC lending an agricultural and environmental perspective.

In the case of "Children's Future", AAI has experience of cooperating with JICA Tsukuba to provide a program for elementary and junior high school students at an event called "Chibikko Hakase (the Little scientists)" organized by the city for elementary and junior high school students every summer vacation. and we are well suited to carry out farming experience classes and international understanding courses on agriculture. Regarding "comprehensive society", the city has many foreign researchers, and the ratio of foreigners to residents is twice the national average, making Tsukuba a highly internationalized city. I think that it is possible to utilize our experience of rural development and carry out activities that connect foreigners living in the city with agricultural experiences. Regarding "value creation and inheritance" and "circulation and environmental conservation," we can make use of our experience in technological development and extension of agriculture in arid land or other climates, and our environment-related work. Regarding "universal infrastructure", although we have little experience, it may be possible to refer to our staff member's activities applying universal agriculture in Fukuroi City, Shizuoka Prefecture.

The platform is also providing opportunities for members to gather, such as the "SDGs Partners Course." We would like to interact with other partner companies and NGOs in Tsukuba City and create opportunities for Tsukuba City to be further involved in agriculture and the environment.

¹ The SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) are 17 goals to be achieved worldwide by 2030, adopted by the United Nations in 2015.