

THEME

# My Values



2022

## International Essay Contest *for Young People*

Enter by  
**June 15,  
2022**



Organized by The Goi Peace Foundation

#ESDfor2030



# 2022 International Essay Contest

## for Young People

### Organized by The Goi Peace Foundation

Under the auspices of The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan  
Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, Japan Private High School Federation  
Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education, Japan Broadcasting Corporation, Nikkei Inc.  
Supported by SEIKO HOLDINGS CORPORATION, PLUS CORPORATION

This annual essay contest is organized in an effort to harness the energy, creativity and initiative of the world's youth in promoting a culture of peace and sustainable development. It also aims to inspire society to learn from the young minds and to think about how each of us can make a difference in the world.

\*This program is an activity within the framework of UNESCO's *Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)*.

#### THEME

### “My Values”

Our values determine how we think and act, and they shape the society we live in. What are the values that you hold dear? How can you best live your life in line with those values, and in doing so, what kind of society do you hope to create?

#### GUIDELINES

- Essays may be submitted by anyone up to 25 years old (as of June 15, 2022) in one of the following age categories:  
a) Children (ages up to 14) b) Youth (ages 15 - 25)
- Essays must be 700 words or less in English or French, or 1600 characters or less in Japanese. Essays must be typed, with your name and essay title included at the top of the first page. There are no particular rules regarding formatting (font style, size, line space, etc.). However, essays must be submitted in either MS Word (DOC/DOCX) or PDF format.  
\* Your name and essay title are not included in the word count limit.
- Entries must be submitted online. To send your essay online, you must go to the online registration page at [www.goipeace.or.jp](http://www.goipeace.or.jp) and follow the required steps. Entries submitted by postal mail or e-mail are not accepted.**  
Teachers and youth directors may submit a collection of essays from their class or group by creating an 'account for school/organization entrant' on the online registration page.  
\* Only one entry per person is accepted.  
\* We are unable to confirm receipt of essays.
- Essays must be original and unpublished. Plagiarized entries will be rejected.
- Essays must be written by one person. Co-authored essays are not accepted.
- Copyright of the essays entered will be assigned to the organizer.

#### DEADLINE

Entries must be received by **June 15, 2022** (23:59 your local time).

#### AWARDS

The following awards will be given in the Children's category and Youth category respectively:

1st Prize: Certificate, prize of 100,000 Yen (approx. US\$840 as of February 2022) and gift	1 entrant
2nd Prize: Certificate, prize of 50,000 Yen (approx. US\$420 as of February 2022) and gift	3 entrants
3rd Prize: Certificate and gift	5 entrants
Honorable Mention: Certificate and gift	25 entrants

\* 1st to 3rd prize winners will be invited to the Winners Gathering to be held online.

\* Additional awards (Best School Award, School Incentive Award) will be given if applicable.

\* All prize winners will be announced on October 31, 2022 on the Goi Peace Foundation website [www.goipeace.or.jp](http://www.goipeace.or.jp). Certificates and gifts will be mailed to the winners in December 2022.

\* We are unable to answer individual inquiries concerning contest results.

### PLEASE SEND YOUR ENTRIES ONLINE THROUGH:

The Goi Peace Foundation website  
[www.goipeace.or.jp](http://www.goipeace.or.jp)

\*For more information, visit the above website.





## Youth Survey on Peace Awareness: Responses received from 149 countries

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Mar 18, 2022 / NEWS



Youth Survey

on Peace Awareness

Focusing on the diversity of participants in the [International Essay Contest for Young People](#), which has been held annually for more than 20 years, the Goi Peace Foundation conducted a questionnaire-style survey of young people around the world, asking them about their perceptions of the current state of peace, their awareness of issues related to peace, what they would like to do to contribute to peace, and more.

Following a pilot survey in 2020, we invited all participants (ages 5-25) in the 2021 International Essay Contest for Young People to take this survey on a voluntary basis. We received responses from 6,538 participants in 149 countries (including 239 from Japan), or a quarter of the total participants.

We looked at the survey results from all participants around the world, from participants in Japan and from each of six global regions: Asia/Pacific, North America/Western Europe, Latin America, Eastern Europe/Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. For some questions, we also looked at the age of the respondents (children or youth), individual countries, and other data. Analyzing the results from various angles enabled us to uncover some trends described below. (see more detailed survey results [here](#))

- **Wide Range of Peace Awareness:**

When asked what kind of peace is most important when thinking about peace, nearly half of young people answered "Peace on earth, including nature". In addition, we can infer a tendency to place more emphasis on "Peace of mind" as children get older.

- **Perceptions of Transition toward World Peace (Past, Present, and Future):**

When asked whether the world has become more peaceful than in the past, perceptions differed by region, with more negative responses in Asia/Pacific, the Middle East and Africa.

On the other hand, about 60% of respondents, regardless of region, rated the level of peacefulness in the world today with scores of 40-60 (out of 100), indicating that they feel we are only halfway along on the road to world peace.

When asked about their outlook for the future, a quarter of all respondents said they think the world will become perfectly peaceful during their lifetime, while about half of the youth said they don't think so. It is particularly noteworthy that young people in the Middle East and Africa, who were mostly pessimistic about the current situation, were more optimistic about the future than those in other regions.

While 60% of Japanese youth said the world was more peaceful than in the past, less than 10% of them thought the world will become perfectly peaceful in the future, which is lower than the rest of the world.

- **Awareness of Global Issues:**

While many of the world's youth see "Quality of life improved through the advancement of science and technology", "Better access to education/Quality of education improved" and "Better access to medicine and social welfare" as the greatest improvement, they cited "No discrimination or oppression of human rights", "No wars or conflicts" and "No poverty or hunger" as top agendas that need to be addressed.

Japanese youth chose the resolution of wars and conflicts as both the greatest improvement and the top agenda going forward, indicating that the idea of peace meaning "no wars or conflicts" is deeply rooted among them.

- **Perceptions of One's Own Country:**

The percentages of "Yes" and "No" responses to the question "Do you think your country is more peaceful compared to other countries?" were roughly the same throughout the world. Bhutan ranked top in "Yes" responses and Afghanistan in "No" responses, while 90% of Japanese youth said "Yes".

In the countries where respondents most frequently answered negatively about the level of peace in their country, the issues chosen as most important were "Protecting human rights and freedom", "Stabilizing the political situation and protecting public safety" and "No wars or conflicts".

- **Actions for and Contributions to Peace:**

We explored how young people's awareness of peace is manifested in their actions. It was revealed that 80% of respondents regularly discuss peace with people around them, and that they value peaceful relations, practice kindness toward others and try to solve issues through discussion.

When asked what they need in their life in order to contribute to peace, respondents' top answers were "Education, space to learn", "Chance to voice my opinions" and "Connections with like-minded people of my generation".

The survey results may not fully reflect the opinions of the world's youth, because all respondents are participants in the [International Essay Contest for Young People](#), and can be regarded as having an interest in peace. It is clear, however, that young people around the world are aware of the various challenges facing their countries and the world, and that each of them is thinking about peace, talking about peace with people around them, and in no small way willing to take action for peace. It is not easy to find hope for the future in today's society, but the results gave us great hope that young people are seeking a better and more peaceful future and are trying to contribute to peace.

Since its establishment in 1999, the Goi Peace Foundation has developed various educational programs for young people globally, based on the guiding vision [Declaration for All Life on Earth](#), which describes that every one of us shares a common mission and responsibility and has a role to play in the evolution of our planet. In an effort to harness and uplift the world's youth in playing a leading role in the creation of peace, the Goi Peace Foundation has developed and offered various educational programs for young people globally, including the [International Essay Contest for Young People](#), [Education for Sustainable Development \(ESD\)](#), [Earth Kids Space Program](#), [School Lectures by Diplomats](#), and [Entrepreneurship Campus](#).

The results of this survey will be used as a reference for the Foundation's future educational programs, and we hope that it will also be a useful resource for policy makers, educators, youth-supporting organizations and others around the world.

SEE FULL SURVEY RESULTS

[www.goipeace.or.jp/survey2021e](http://www.goipeace.or.jp/survey2021e)

