

Teaching Sustainable Development Goals: Three Approaches

The Sustainable Development Goals have attained a dominant place in the public narrative both globally and here, in Japan. As a global phenomenon, it is appropriate that our students become familiar with precisely what they are. Also, it is important that they are able to interact with others in the international community with respect to the social and environmental issues that the SDGs present.

JALT Hokkaido will give three presentations that offer different perspectives on how and why our students can benefit from a close study of these issues. These are:

1. Curriculum Design for SDGs. Tim Grose

As with any content-based course, communicative approaches to the teaching of the SDGs require careful consideration of appropriate language goals and of the types of pedagogical strategies through which they may be attained. This talk will be a hands-on approach, practicing and analysing the various means by which our goals may be attained. The talk will be based on the curriculum I have designed - The Sustainable Development Goals in English - for the Community College at Sapporo Gakuin University.

2. Making SDG related materials for use in the classroom. Matt Cotter

Making content and materials for classes is an ongoing process. It is often easier to find a well-known or popular textbook or resource to pay for and use, but that does not give a certain freedom to explore topics in a way that teachers (and students) may like. In this presentation, the author of the award-winning graded reader, 'Identity', will outline the process undertaken to write a graded reader about a global issue he is passionate about. It will cover reasons why the book was written, how it was written, the process of editing and levelling and what it took to get the book published. The next story about plastic pollution will also be highlighted with a hope that participants may become interested in writing content and materials for classes that address SDGs.

3. Using online resources to teach SDGs in the classroom. Don Hinkelman

Using online interactive activities in the classroom is also one way of working towards SDGs. In this presentation we will look at how we can take SDG materials online. Moodle materials developed which activate the Identity book mentioned in the previous presentation will be displayed and their creation discussed. In addition, the Global Issues book by Tim Grose has been made into open courseware available for free download—units on education, fair trade coffee, and population. Also, we will show slides of an SDG Study Tour for university interns to Kerambitan village in Bali. Using blended online and face-to-face events and classes are a great way to promote SDG awareness and action.