



English Education, Intercultural Understanding, and SDGs

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To begin with, Goal 4 (Quality Education) is a goal I strive towards in my classes. Goal 5, (Gender Equality), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals) are also SDGs that connect to the educational activities I am involved with. Learning another language broadens your worldview and exposes you to other perspectives, which is necessary to bring about peaceful coexistence. It also gives you a way to connect and communicate with people you wouldn't be able to otherwise, allowing you to form partnerships. Having intercultural understanding also works this way, helping you to understand the importance of equality between different cultures, genders, and races.

One specific activity that connects to these goals was the Rakugo in English event I helped organize in November of 2023. With the assistance of Alice Gordenker and the support of the Toshiba International Foundation, rakugo artist Shinoharu Tatekawa came to the university and performed rakugo in English for students and faculty, while also discussing specific points that should be focused on when performing this traditional Japanese art in English.

