



Q&A

with Dr. Toyoshi Satow

Dr. Toyoshi Satow is President of J F Oberlin University, Japan, and the in-coming President of the International Association of

University Presidents (IAUP). He recently visited UN Headquarters and met with the Secretary-General. He also spoke with the UNAI Newsletter.

On the Secretary-General's initiative to link up with academic institutions through UNAI: I truly appreciate that Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, opened the doors to the academic community when UNAI started. I think it was a great opportunity for any higher education institution to join the global education network. In order to strengthen the collaboration, I think we should keep trying to share the ideas and values with each other and create not just a network but also a face. The ten principles that are at the centre of UNAI provide a shared framework to realize a global community our students will become part of. Thus, it is necessary for UN leaders and the higher education leaders to work together to strengthen the tie.

On UNAI's progress so far: It is amazing to see so many colleges and universities participate in UNAI. The first step is to increase the number of institutions that get involved in UNAI, and to start sharing what they do as part of this global project. In this sense, UNAI has been very successful in its first three years. When you visit the web site of those institutions, you find so many schools publish and update what they do around the UNAI principles. I also hear from the leaders of those institutions that UNAI helps them to globalize their schools. I believe the UN and the academic community are creating a win-win relationship.

On UNAI's next steps: On one hand, it is important to plan the next strategies to realize UNAI's goals. But on the other hand, it would be

really appreciated if the UN leaders can go visit different countries and meet with the leaders and students of higher education to explore how and why those institutions work along with UNAI. I am pretty sure that each school or country is facing different problems in different situations. To make this happen, we can ask various academic societies or conferences to invite UN leaders so that they can meet with the academic communities.

On IAUP's role: Since IAUP consists of the leaders of higher education institutions from all over the world, IAUP can promote UNAI and encourage the institutions implement UNAI principles within their own courses, projects or faculty. IAUP can also create opportunities for the Presidents, faculty or students to share what they do by inviting them to our regional meetings. I think the strength of IAUP

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is that we have so many energetic Presidents, Rectors or Chancellors who can influence other leaders in the local areas or wider regions.

On Oberlin's role as UNAI hub on the UN Charter: In 2012, we published a book titled “Pathways to Peace – Interviews with Three Nobel Peace Laureates.” The idea was to publish a textbook which can help students be interested and understand the basic philosophy and ideas of the United Nations Charter. We published it as a not-for-sale book so that anybody in the world can read it for free. All the contents were digitalized into a PDF format and uploaded to our web site.

Our role as the UNAI hub on principle #1 is to create a bridge between Higher Education institutions and the United Nations. The UN Charter can be translated for educational purposes; it is the foundation of UNAI principles. Thus our most important role is to create and show “pathways” to everybody. ##