



GLOBAL NEXTLEADERS FORUM

2021 Application Guide

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1. Greetings

On behalf of the team, I would like to show our deepest gratitude for your constant support and advice for Global Next Leaders Forum (GNLF).

This organization has aimed to become a platform from which leaders in the next generation depart and organized nine annual international conferences with students from all over the world. We are currently working on the preparation for the tenth forum, GNLF2021.

Ten-day-long forum is designed as an opportunity for participating students to acquire knowledge, experience and long-lasting human networks, and develop their personality through the interactions with each other.

The forum has been held under a different subject every year and has dedicated its program to discussing global problems from various perspectives. The program does not only allow participants to have better judgment on those issues. Further, by revealing the diversity of cultural and social backgrounds among the students, it strikingly awakes in them that their environments having been taken for granted were just one of the various possible sets of values. This insight could be called relativization of oneself. This experience, I believe, from my own experience in the previous conference, can be of great help in nurturing open-minded flexibility and growing up into ideal leaders.

Spending all day long under the same roof for more than a week also cultivates friendship between the young future leaders from around the globe. The relationships shaped here do not end at the same time as the forum itself, but they last for a long period of time as international bonds. When these bonds contribute to international cooperation and friendship, it would be the time that our largest and most time-consuming purpose will be accomplished.

Your kind support is essential in order for our efforts to realize our vision to continue. We would sincerely hope there will be warm and continuous help and encouragement. As president, I am determined to push forward with my colleagues toward handing over the spirit of the forum and producing new values at the same time. Thank you.

March 14, 2020
2020-2021 President of Global Next Leaders Forum
Ryo WAKUI

2. Prospectus

As our world is becoming more globalized and our society flatter, differences in culture, traditions and religions are highly valued. At the same time, these differences trigger friction among people. Understanding and respecting each other, regardless of our differences becomes an important effort to overcome this friction. In this globalized world with diversified nations, mutual understanding is the most valuable principle. With the end of the Cold War and the spread of globalization, an era, where nations cannot survive without relations with other nations has arrived. The importance of building amiable and strong diplomatic relations with as many nations as possible has increased for every nation.

Under our belief, “Relations between countries begin with relations between people,” we are of the opinion that a person who strives to understand and respect others in this diverse global society can take on the role of representing his/her own country and build amicable relationships with other countries. This is the kind of person who is needed in Japan and in other countries around the world. We believe that such a person is the “global leader” that will lead in the 21st century.

It is not the skills that are essential to becoming a global leader. The spirit of understanding and respecting each other, regardless of our differences, and an attitude to deal with problems flexibly in this rapidly changing environment are the most important elements of a global leader.

Therefore, it is impossible to create a global leader in a short period of time. This is because long-term relationships, personality development and education are vital to achieving the attitude and spirit that a global leader should possess. Therefore, we have decided to create a platform for university students who have a great possibility of becoming future global leaders. We want an international forum with university students who have the potential and the will to lead the world. The program serves as a starting line for these students where they can develop and become global leaders as well as strengthen relations with others.

We have three concepts that we value as the principles in creating such a platform. Those three concepts are, “a project that is not bilateral but carried out by multiple countries,” “a long term project that does not end with just one

forum,” and “a project that puts emphasis on building relations between countries that have not had much involvement in the past.”

Involving multiple countries in the project is essential to understanding diversity, and as mentioned above, it must be long term. On top of that, as past diplomatic frameworks are changing, we believe that there is a need to strengthen relations between countries that have only had a weak or one-sided relationship through the establishment of understanding and trust.

Then, what is the meaning for the Japanese, or for Japan to take the initiative in building this international platform?

In our country, the weakening of Japan’s international presence poses a problem, and many have a pessimistic view on Japan’s future. Japanese people are said to be unsuited for diplomacy for introverted and nonassertive tendencies. Furthermore, in the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, the lack of decisiveness to send out accurate information to the world as well as the lack of leadership to lead global views and actions to create a better international society became evident. It can be said that Japan is the country which most urgently needs global leaders that represent their country and play an active role in the international society. In that sense, there is great meaning for the Japanese to lead and organize this program.

However, that is not it. Japan is a country that has led the world through its rapid economic development after the Second World War and is now first handedly experiencing a fiscal crisis and an aging society. Many of the problems that Japan has faced and is currently facing are problems that the world will face from now on. We should make the most out of the lessons that Japan has learned. Therefore, this Japan based platform has great meaning for the rest of the world as well.

We will strive to create an environment where each and every participant can develop by providing them with “Experience”, “Knowledge” and “Human Networks” through this two-week long program. We aim towards creating global leaders that are needed in each country, building international human networks and establishing connections between nations.

July 1, 2010
Founder of Global Next Leaders Forum
Yusuke MORISHITA
(Partly revised January 1, 2013)

3. Philosophy

i) Organization Philosophy

Our mission is to contribute toward creating global leaders. Global leaders, in our view, are those in the international society who can determine the course of action of a group, adequately sharing it with their colleagues and supervising collective actions. In order to cultivate those leaders, we host the annual international students' forum, GNLF, in Tokyo.

ii) Aim

The aim of the forum is self-recognition through an understanding of others and that is how we attempt to achieve our mission of creating global leaders. One can learn more about themselves through deep communication with and understanding of others. Everyone sees a person in a different way, so interacting with others from various backgrounds allows the person to learn what they look like toward others' eyes. This provides them with an insight of how to make the most of their strengths, overcome their weaknesses and win others' confidence. To be trusted by others is one of the essential elements of being a leader. The opportunity during the forum to understand oneself through the eyes of others will help the students learn how to be trusted by others, an indispensable skill for global leaders.

iii) Characteristics

GNLF has two distinctive characteristics.

(1) It is a multilateral conference.

GNLF consists of participants from various countries regardless of the scale of their political or economic influence in the world so that the conference would not be biased toward the perspectives of advanced large countries. Although there are a lot of international forums that consist of students from developed countries, participants in GNLF have a variety both in their background and in the scale of the countries they represent, which makes the forum distinctive.

(2) It provides a skill to consider a subject from various angles.

GNLF is held under a different subject each year, and it allows participants through the discussion to consider the subject from various angles. Not only can they attain a better understanding of the topic, but also, they can acquire an experience of reflecting upon and learning deeply about a certain subject that will be helpful later in their career.

4. Overview of GNLF2021

Global Next Leaders Forum is a platform where leaders in the future meet together from around the world. The management team has aimed to realize better understandings between youths from a variety of backgrounds and hosted 9 annual international forums of university students.

Currently, as the whole world is struck with the pandemic, international cooperation is all the more critical in saving lives of billions, while the same global occurrence is hindering the humankind from international interactions.

Under such circumstances, the management team decided to hold GNLF2021 online as described below.

1) Date

4 Saturdays and Sundays in February 2021

Group A: 11:00 ~ 13:00 / Group B: 20:00 ~ 22:00 (Japan Standard Time)

To accept participants from any time zone, GNLF2021 will be held in two separate groups. Candidates can choose the group they want to take part in. Both groups will have the same program.

The schedule for each group is as follows.

Group A		Time Zone	Group B	
6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, February 2021 (Saturdays and Sundays)	11:00~13:00	GMT+9	6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, February 2021 (Saturdays and Sundays)	20:00~22:00
	8:00~10:00	GMT+6		17:00~19:00
	5:00~7:00	GMT+3		14:00~16:00
	2:00~4:00	GMT±0		11:00~13:00
5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, February 2021 (Fridays and Saturdays)	23:00~25:00	GMT-3		8:00~10:00
	20:00~22:00	GMT-6		5:00~7:00
	17:00~19:00	GMT-9		2:00~4:00

2) Location

Online conference rooms

3) Organizers

Students' Headquarters of GNLFF, Japan (The GNLFF Management Team)

4) Budget

All the expenses for GNLFF2021 will be raised from the sources below.

1. Grants from the foundations or companies
2. Participation fee from each participant

5) Subject

"Society, Science and Technology" (Refer to **6. Subject of GNLFF2021.**)

5. Guidelines for Application

1) Participation Fee

The amount of the participation Fee will be 15 USD.

2) Number of Participants

The number of participants from a country in each group will be limited based on the application quantity, but since the venue is an online meeting room, the management team will welcome more candidates than usual years.

3) Application Qualifications

A candidate for GNLF2021 should

- a. be an undergraduate or graduate student at university as of July 11, 2020.
- b. attend every session as a general rule.
- c. be eager to play an active role as a representative of their country.
- d. be interested in the subject, "Society, Science and Technology."
- e. follow the instructions by the management team.
- f. have access to the Internet.

Those who have contributed greatly to this year's forum will have a better chance to be selected in GNLF2022, scheduled to be held in Tokyo, February 2022, if they are still students at university.

4) Application Procedures

The application procedures for GNLF2021 are as follows.

1. Anyone eligible and eager to join GNLF2021 should fill out and submit the completed registration form (<https://forms.gle/SFfPhh8RFPi9Yevt7>) by Saturday, December 12, 2020, 12:00 PM.

2. The result of the selection will be informed to each applicant on December 18, 2020.
3. Candidates who passed the selection will be required to pay the participation fee by the designated deadline and to have an online interview with the management team before the forum.
4. Based on the number of the applicants and other circumstances, there might be the secondary recruitment.

6. Subject of GNLF2021

“Society, Science and Technology”

The main purpose of the tenth forum is to provide students with the opportunity to reflect upon and discuss science and technology regardless of the differences between their backgrounds.

Today, many different technologies are everywhere around us in society, improving our convenience of living, but at the same time, they are emerging in front of us as direct and indirect threats.

To be specific, while the Internet, advancing medical technology, abundant electricity and others are supporting our comfortable life, cybercrimes, nuclear power plant accidents, environmental problems including climate change and so on are literally endangering our life. There are also a considerable number of potential problems that almost force us to reconsider what human beings are, such as the innovative development of artificial intelligence or life sciences.

In order to properly cope with these problems, debates that transcend every conventional framework are required. This is what we aim to realize in GNLF2021.

This primarily means to conquer the distinction between human-social science and natural science. The discussion will be open to students from every academic background, both those who would develop new science or technology themselves and those who would accept and enjoy them.

Additionally, we realize the global debate across borders. Scientific research and technological developments are advancing at an alarming rate, partly due to the global competition for the sake of national and corporate prestige. Discussion on science and technology cannot be adequate as long as it is held within a country.

GNLF2021 will be a conference for students from various backgrounds, both culturally and academically, to share and develop their ideas on science and technology from multiple viewpoints. We consider that this opportunity would be highly meaningful as we students live in the world where science and technology are to be way further advanced.

Thus, the forum will be held under the theme, “Society, Science and Technology,” to be a place where a variety of ideas are actively shared and equally respected.

The conference consists of four parts as explained in the following pages. Each part has a different perspective. Part 1 will consider the relationship between human beings, technology and science through familiar examples, so that it will be the base of the whole forum. In part 2, development, the environmental problems and the responsibilities for these problems will be discussed, and human beings and life ethics in part 3. And finally, to sum up the conference, part 4 will focus on science and technology in the future.

Part 1 Science, Technology and Changes in Society

Humans started farming around 10,000 years ago, and then increased agricultural productivity by inventing irrigation technology in around 5000B.C. Surplus products encouraged the division of labor and the differentiation in social classes and we began to construct more complex societies, nations. Since then, technologies have been a driving force to change societies. Type printing technology let information pervade the public. Steam engines brought about the industrialization and urbanization (the First Industrial Revolution). Internal-combustion engines enabled the mass production using electricity (the Second Industrial Revolution). On the other hand, such changes had the development of science in their background. Natural science, which originated from natural philosophy in ancient Greece, was intellectual activity at first, and then was gradually applied to technologies. For example, electromagnetism first discovered by Gilbert in 1600 was successfully formulated by scientists such as Faraday in the 19th century. After that, engineers such as Edison applied it to technologies and invented gadgets such as telephones.

Technological innovation has accelerated as science was applied to technology. In the Third Industrial Revolution ongoing at present, the development of information and communication technology has led many people to carry smartphones, which are always connected to the Internet, and has made it normal to communicate beyond physical constraints on the social networking services. Furthermore, in the “Fourth Industrial Revolution,” the term first used at the World Economic Forum in 2016, the autonomy and flexibility of machines are expected to be enhanced to an extreme extent by using artificial intelligence and ultimately reach a certain “technical singularity.”

In this way, science and technology will have a greater impact on society in the future. However, as technology became more specialized as it became associated with science, it began to diverge from the general public. This is reflected in the former craftsmanship of the city's artisans becoming esoteric to

the masses who are non-specialists in engineering research at universities. Do we really understand SNS or AI? How is society really changing? In other words, we, who live in society, may need to challenge science and technology once again in the context of society.

Part 2 Development and Responsibility

We humans have created civilization and achieved material prosperity by “tinkering with nature”. In this sense, “development” can be defined as an act that is essential to satisfy our desires in life.

The first tools of development were our limbs - our bodies. However, those tools began to shift to technological tools such as clubs, stone tools and metal tools, and now, mainly since the modern times, “science and technology” has become the core of our development tools.

As science and technology developed, the speed of development has increased. The scope of development has also expanded. For us who seek a richer and more comfortable life, it is not too much to say that we are reaping the benefits of this ever-increasingly potent development.

On the other hand, the destruction of nature through excessive development to the extent that nature’s restorative powers cannot keep up has resulted in the destruction of non-human beings. This also has the negative aspect of threatening our livelihoods as it goes around.

In this part, we will focus on the “responsibility” of various things brought about by such development and deepen our thoughts about how to deal with it.

The characteristic of “responsibility” in the context of development is that it is a nature-mediated responsibility. In other words, human activities modify nature, and the altered environment affects humans. The specifics of the impacts are not necessarily in close proximity in time and space. Changes can be brought about over decades or even hundreds of years, and the lives of people living on the other side of the world can also be altered.

How can we take responsibility for these indirect effects? Can we take responsibility in the first place? What does it mean to take responsibility?

Environmental issues, energy issues, food issues, etc., are happening behind the scenes of or right next to our lives. With the keywords “Science, Technology

and Development,” “Action and Responsibility” and so on, we will discuss issues that are “near but far.” Discussions will be held with the temporal and spatial extent in mind.

Part 3 Humans and Life Ethics

The average life expectancy of humans has doubled in the past 100 years with advances in medical technology. And the recent technology is making it possible to manipulate life before it was born, which could not be imagined before. While science and technology give us these great benefits, they also cause various problems. As it can be seen from debates on creating human clones or sorting out life through prenatal testing, many new technologies have brought about a lot of criticisms because they had been impossible and had not existed before and therefore the ethical discussion had not been held enough.

Moreover, we need to think about whether it can be justified for society to determine the timings and the way to end the individuals’ lives against their free will. As far as euthanasia is concerned, there is rising criticism of forcing life-prolonging treatment by means of state-of-the-art technology to the patients who have already lost the dignity as themselves, which society regards as “natural and reasonable” acts.

As discussed above, it is very difficult to decide whether we agree or not with using technology and what to be made use of. However, let us not forget the bright perspectives. As gene-recombination can produce high-yielding crops, some of these technologies will bring huge benefits to human beings just by changing the objects to apply our technology.

In the future, these double-sided technologies will develop further, and we need to judge them by several ethical perspectives. In this part, we think about this dilemma of technology between the development of life science and the ethical problem which exists at the moment and also which may emerge in the future.

Part 4 The Destination of Science and Technology

What we call “science” today was part of philosophy in ancient times. Science was improved by curiosity to know the truth. Then, science was found to be

useful for humankind and became independent from philosophy. Now we use science as important tools to make progress in our society.

Science and technology have eliminated “imperfection” in our daily lives, such as inconvenience, dissatisfaction, and anxiety.

Inconvenience

Science and technology have allowed us to live an extremely comfortable life. It has reduced time-consuming housework and made it possible to travel around the world in a short time. And then it has created extra time that we did not have, and there are more things we don't have to do ourselves. By accelerating the movement, will humans realize the society where even walking is not necessary? What would the meaning of life there be? What would we do instead in an infinite comfort?

Unsatisfaction

Technological advances have made human beings blind to feeling satisfied. Technology seems to have reduced things that human beings do not want to do, but it creates another feeling of dissatisfaction. Technology has created railways, trains and bullet trains as a means of transportation by land, but still we humans do not feel satisfied and a plan for magnetic levitation cars is ongoing. In order to reduce the travel time by 1 hour from Tokyo to Osaka, about 9 trillion yen is being spent. Then how much money do we spend to buy just an hour? When do we feel satisfied? Or do we intentionally create “inconvenience” in order to advance technology? If you feel unsatisfied, why do you feel so? Do you feel so because technology hasn't advanced enough yet?

Anxiety

Since the medication has advanced by technical innovation, anxiety about illness is almost relieved. Immortality may come true. With AI improved, it may present the correct answer in which we absolutely succeed. We may not feel anxiety for our future at all if we follow instructions by AI based on big data such as selecting jobs, marriage partners, places to live and things to buy every day. Is this world utopia?

Nobody would say that progress in science and technology is bad. Then, is it bad that there is no progress in science and technology? Why do we pursue unlimited progress and where are we going with science and technology?

In this final part we will think about the destination of science and technology and the future we want to realize.

7. Sponsors and Supporters

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8. Members in Managerial Positions

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Daisuke TANIGUCHI (First Executive Director)