



# UME-UME TIMES

STUDENT EDITION, OCTOBER 2018

## Save Hunger with the System of Saizeriya

### Present situation of hunger

Population of people who suffer from hunger across the globe today is 821 million, according to “Hunger Map 2018” made by the World Food Programme (WFP). It shows that extensive hunger spreads throughout Asia and Africa. WFP also reports that especially in sub-Saharan Africa, one in four people may have fallen into chronic food deprivation in 2017.

There are two kinds of starvation. The first one is sudden hunger. It is because of famine caused by natural disaster, population growth, conflict and speculative funds. Despite food runs out rapidly and extensively in that condition, it usually draws public attention as a matter of urgency, hence extensive and immediate support. The more serious type is chronic hunger. Under this situation, many people are not able to avoid preventable illness and death, causing significant increase in mortality late. It occurs due to desertification, extreme weather and limited water resources. The solution of chronic hunger put on hold because malnutrition caused by it tend to be unnoticed.

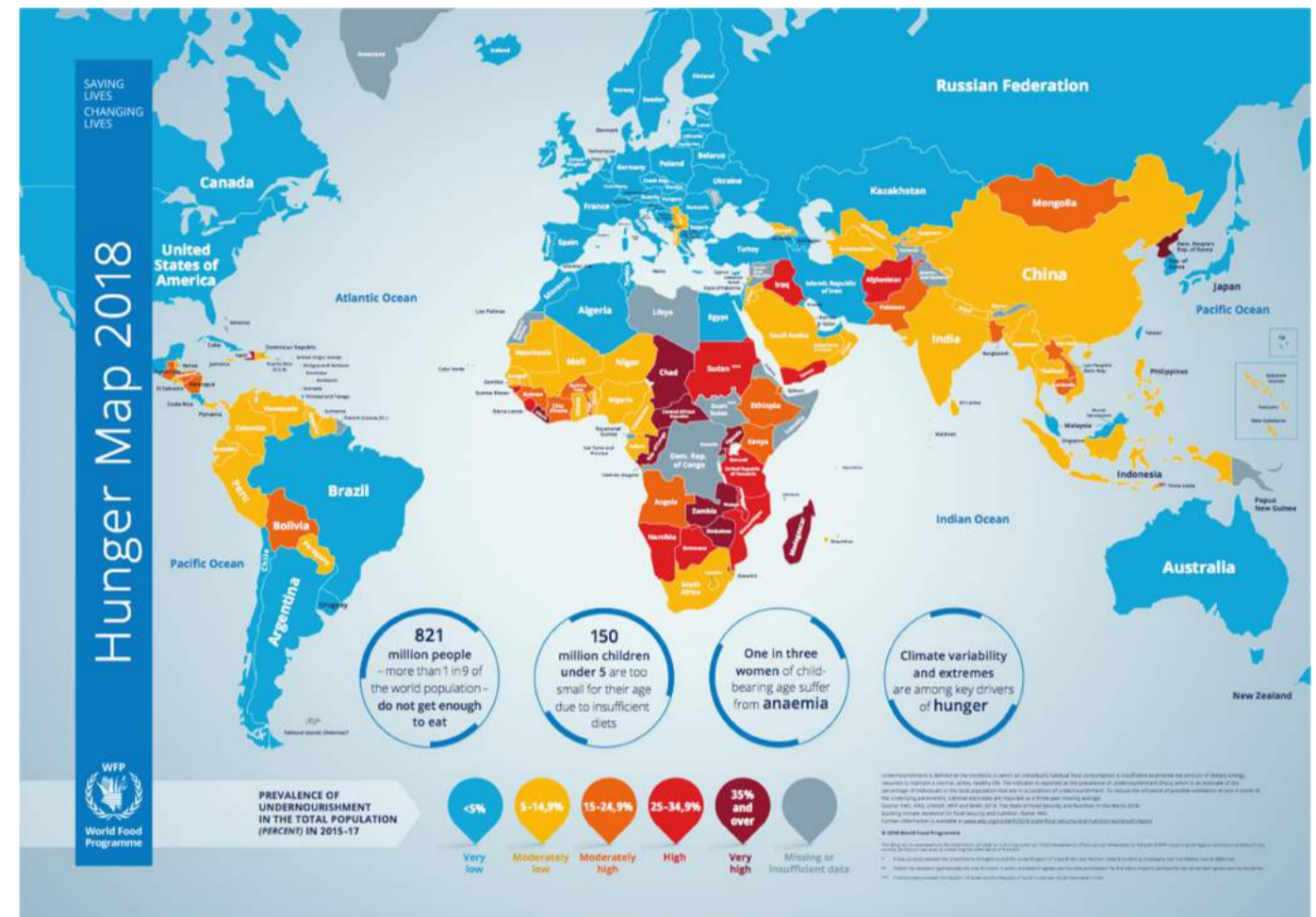
In order to solve the issue, developing countries should establish reliable food production. If people who are suffering from chronic hunger can grow crops steadily and have stable income, hunger rate will decrease, leading to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 2 “Zero Hunger.”

### “Saizeriya” and Planned Production



Photo by Saki Ayata

“Saizeriya”, a restaurant chain in Japan is known for its low



prices. For example, you can eat pasta for just 400 yen. There are good causes why its foods are reasonable.

The company’s way to make dishes cheap is called ‘Planned Production.’ Think about a situation when you have wheat field and want to sell flour for pasta.

Which would you choose, a contract of selling 10 kg of flour in 10 dollars in a day, or in eight dollars for a year? If you select the former, you can get much money today, but it is not certain that you can also get money tomorrow. On the other hand, if you choose the latter, although your flour will become cheaper, you can surely earn an income for twelve months. It is obvious that the latter is profitable for you.

The mechanism of ‘Planned Production’ makes produce cheaper by long-term contracts. Therefore, the price is constant, whether farmers have a bumper or poor harvest. In addition, they can make production plans since they are able to forward the same amounts of farm products for a long period of time.

### Applying ‘Planned Production’ in Africa

A group which belongs to Ochanomizu University Senior High School proposed that African governments apply the unique system of planned production to food business. The students suggested that the governments should encourage companies and local farmers to make a long -range contract. Moreover, they think that planned production will lead to expand trade between African countries and the rest of the

world.

However, a few obstacles, such as poor infrastructure, remain in the way of putting the system into practice. The group emphasized that advanced countries must cooperate with developing countries in order to tackle the problem.

By Saki Ayata, Serika Kameyama, Sae Kawasaki, Rurino Doi, Hitomi Nakazawa and Nina Miyazaki

### NOTICE TO READERS

This newspaper was produced by 39 students at class Ume in Ochanomizu University Senior High School. Ume means plum in Japanese. The name of the class comes from a classical proverb, and it is the origin of the title of this newspaper. Through the title, the students hope to share the lively atmosphere of the classroom.

As the school has been registered as a Super Global High School (SGH) by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology since 2014, the students passionately work on the SGH program. The curriculum aims at cultivating the students’ value as global citizens who can engage in achieving peace and welfare of the international community. When they were in the second grade, they conducted a study on social issues depending on each interest. The newspaper is the students’ final SGH project, and most of the articles are based on the second-year research by the members of class Ume.



## Domestic Issues

# Action to Improve Japanese Forest

Today, there is various news that a lot of forests are destroyed around the world, while Japan has another issue about forest.

In Japan, nowadays forests which are not trimmed have increased and gotten dilapidated. The major two reasons are decline in demand for domestic timber and in the number of forestry employees. If there are too many trees, they bother each other and do not flourish. To protect functions of forest and

boost demand for domestic timber, it must be used. However, domestic timber is inferior to foreign one because of its price.

In order to overcome this problem, a company called "Yumekodo" is trying to use domestic timber in the new way. The company is located in *Owase*, where is famous for the local timber *Owasehinoki*. Ito Masashi, a head of the company, has worked on various projects

for domestic timber, for example, "world heritage bath" and "100 thanks bath." A whole tree, which is registered as the world heritage, is used for the former. It is floated on a bath directly, and users can enjoy its smell and the touch. The latter is the project for old people. Children write messages on the circle-shaped domestic timber and float it on the hot water. One of their goals is to spread the good points and increase the usage of domestic timber.

Some of Ochanomizu University Senior High School students were impressed by Owase's projects. They believed having young people understood about Japanese forest was significant. Moreover, they thought touching timber directly was the most effective way to understand its good points. In order to use domestic timber and to make young people know its existence, they held an event "Let's make coasters made by domestic timber." Timber which they used was born 20 years ago and is processed to circle. Ten elementary and junior high

school students took part in the event and completed each coaster which exists only one in the world, with water-based ink pens, spray and adhesive tape. While drawing, they were touching coasters again and again and smelling them. Almost all of the children said that they liked timber's warmth and smell. Additionally, they became interested in domestic timber through the project. Ochanomizu University Senior High School students who planned this project said, "This project is not only for using domestic timber but also for making people interested in it." In their opinions, spreading this project leads to raising young generations' awareness towards the issue and sustainability of Japanese forestry. Running this project regularly is a key to resolving the problem.

By Shiori Akira, Shiori Umino, Chisato Urushibara, Yukako Ogino, Sei Horiuchi and Rinka Yamaguchi



Photo by Chieno Kurokawa

Children painting on coasters made by domestic timber

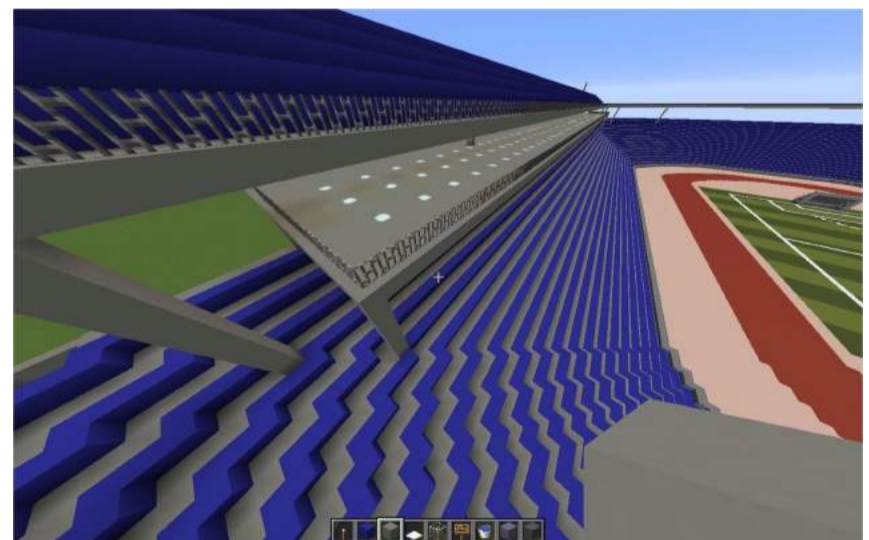
# Making Stadiums the Physically Challenged Friendly

In recent years, the importance of 'barrier-free' has been widely known. However, when it comes to recreation, the physically challenged still have difficulties. According to the public opinion poll by the Cabinet office in 2017, 83% of people thought that there were discrimination and prejudice against physically challenged people. On the other hand, a survey conducted by the same agency in 2015 indicated what people expected from the Olympics and Paralympics the most was 'improving understanding of physically challenged people.' These surveys showed the importance of making better societies for everyone through the sports activities.

Four students at Ochanomizu University Senior High School focused on the structure of stadiums to improve their usability. They therefore devised a completely new structure of sports stadiums for

wheelchair users. They chose the users as the target because the number of wheelchair seats in a stadium were laid down in the guidelines for barrier-free policy in 2020 by Japanese Olympic Committee. First, the students conducted some research in the original condition of stadiums in Japan. After that, they created a 3D model of the new stadium, using a software "Minecraft," which is a game of making architectures by placing blocks.

Some stadiums have three problems for wheelchair users. Firstly, gates become crowded because the users and the other people share the same gate. In addition, wheelchair users have to go through steep aisles to reach the seats. Finally, there were few means for them to go upstairs safely. The new stadium (picture) will resolve these problems. It has an area for wheelchair users and installs full flat seats which widen the visual



Credit: Rio Isobuchi

The full picture of 3D model

angle. If wheelchair seats have a steep incline, it is difficult to reach their seats, thus they designed flat seats on the flat floor.

The students also suggested installing a lift for wheelchairs on the left side from entrance. The machine, similar to a ski lift, lifts the challenged sitting on their wheelchairs with seats. It will move slower only when

wheelchair users get in and get off.

The students will continue to conduct this research aiming at putting this idea into practice.

By Hikaru Endo, Sae Sumida, Haruka Nojima and Natsumi Noda



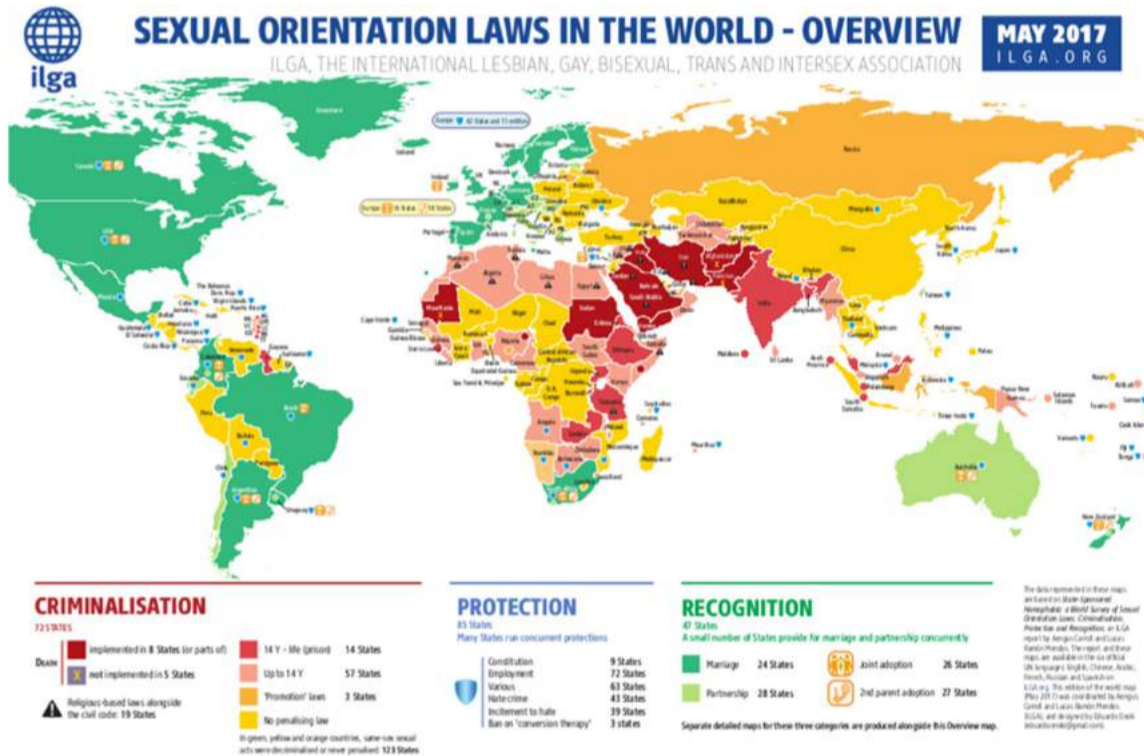


## Social Issues

# LGBTQ+ Problem Guide for Teens

Today, you might often hear the words 'gender' and 'LGBTQ+'. The latter, which stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer, or sexual minority, refers to a group whose sexual identity, orientation and practice differs from the majority or the surrounding society. Sexual identity is how one thinks of one's sexuality, regardless of physical features or social roles. This is strongly related to sexual orientation, which is what gender you are attracted to.

The movements of recognizing the diversity of sexuality and approving the right of sexual minorities are getting more active. According to the distribution map made by International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, 24 countries, for example, the Netherlands and South Africa, have legalized same-sex marriage. On the other hand, it is illegal in 76 countries, including 13 countries imposing the death penalty. In Japan, LGBTQ+ couples' rights are not protected by the law. Sexual minorities are suffering from



thoughtless discrimination and prejudice in the society.

LGBTQ+ issues lie in educational field as well. Generally, in Japanese schools, students must wear their uniforms according to their inborn sexuality. Not only students, but also teachers, do not have enough knowledge of sexual minority. Due to the lack of knowledge, sexual minorities are living in hard circumstances. Feeling extremely stressed, some of them end up in long-term absence or even dropping out from their schools. In 2015, a university student committed suicide, by having been outcasted from his friends, because he was a gay.

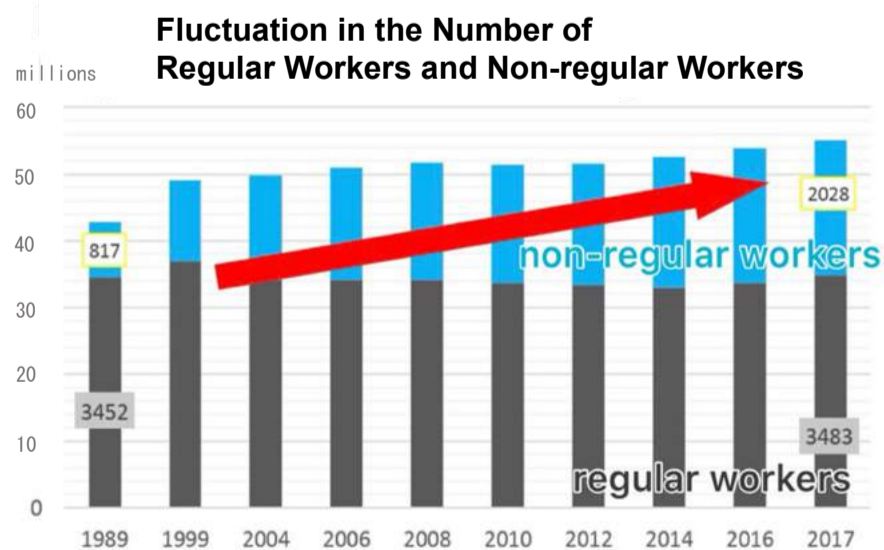
It is obvious that achieving a comfortable society for all sexuality is an urgent subject. The members of the research project team in Ochanomizu University Senior High School, say that local governments should approach from legal and educational fields. They said that each local government should start from offering "Same-sex partner certificates" as Shibuya Ward did in 2015, since it would be easier and faster to guarantee sexual minority's rights, compared to changing the national law. In order to raise the awareness toward sexual minority among the youth, they also suggested the educational policy, such as

changes in school facilities. According to them, the choices of uniforms between skirts and trousers, and unisex toilets, should be provided to all students. In March 2018, four out of eight textbook publishers mentioned sexual minority in the moral textbooks, which will be used at junior high school from 2019. "We think physical education and biology textbooks should also mention the diversity of sexuality, so that children would have better understanding toward sexual minority," one of the members said. "Then it would be easier for them to accept, or express their sexualities, when they grow up and establish their sexual identities."

All human beings are different and have the right to express what and who they love. By accepting the difference and cultivating deeper understanding toward sexual minority, all the people can live in a comfortable society.

By Mana Akita, Maria Kai, Moe Kamigochi and Rei Kamiya

## Introducing Flexible Working Pattern



The number of non-regular workers is increasing year by year as seen in the graph above. On the other hand, the wage gap between regular workers and non-regular workers is wide.

The ratio of non-regular workers' against regular workers' is about 70 percent. Compared with regular workers, non-regular workers have lower income and smaller chance to receive

welfare benefits such as insurance and pension. Nevertheless, some people have no choice but to work non-regularly because they are too busy to take nine-to-five jobs.

In order to resolve the issue, a Japanese company, Cyboze has introduced "Selection Personal System" —workers can select their own working way from nine patterns regardless of office hours or places. The system enables workers to go to the office from the afternoon or to work in their house, adjusting to individual working situations, such as nursing, child care and even schoolwork or side jobs.

More and more people will

have to manage to balance working and taking care of their children or parents in the near future. It is mainly caused by the more serious situations of the aging population and a declining birthrate. In order to solve the fatal circumstances, Japanese companies would have to take drastic measures. Therefore, it is essential to introduce a new flexible working pattern. If people are not bound by working time and place, not only workers but also companies can reap the benefits.

By Yuka Arai, Mayuko Ichiki, Mao Okamura and Ayaka Saito



## Regions

# Himeyuri in the Battle of Okinawa

73 years ago, 222 female students and 18 teachers were assigned to the Okinawa Army Hospital as the members of a nursing unit called Himeyuri Student Corps as the Battle of Okinawa started in March 1945. Although they worked devotedly, more than 200 were killed at last.

About a hundred years ago, two high schools in Okinawa were established —The Okinawa Female Normal School and The Okinawa First Girls' School. People called these schools "Himeyuri." For those who had just passed difficult entrance exams, delightful and promising school life was waiting. At "kizome ceremony," senior students made and gave the first-year students new clothes. They held other unique events such as 'beauty contest' in their dormitory. However, the army gradually affected their education style when Japan started the long-lasting war. English classes were abolished. Their uniforms turned into *monpe*, working pants for women. On March 23, 1945, the

United States Forces began the Okinawa landing operations. The students and the teacher were assigned to the hospital as nursing personnel. They were forced to do cruel duties; they nursed wounded soldiers, drew water and carried food. They even removed maggots from wounds of soldiers and buried the corpses. They sometimes assisted the surgical operations. Since there was no anesthetic during the war, the wounded soldiers screamed in pain and the students had to hold them down. Moreover, they were exposed to the danger of military attack when they went outside. They screamed to see blood at first, but came to feel "nothing," even when they confronted with their friends' death. Suddenly, the girls were told to leave the hospital on June 18th because the Japanese army issued a deactivation order. They had to run through the battlefield surrounded by the U.S. Army. Some of them were killed by bombing and some committed suicide with hand grenades. The number of the victims amounted for more than



Photo by Hikaru Endo

The Tower of Himeyuri

200.

The 3rd grade students at Ochanomizu University Senior High School learned about the Himeyuri Student Corps at the Himeyuri Peace Museum in April, 2018, where, *Himeyuri* girls' photographs in peacetime are displayed. There are their toiletries and stationery, which were belonged to the students. Had it not been for the war, the girls could have led delightful school lives... War completely changes people's mind so that

they will disregard their lives, which are the very things people always should respect. This is the fear of war. We, the Japanese people shall never forget about it.

By Akiko Kamigaito, Aiko Shioda, Honoka Shibata, Miko Tanaka and Mayo Yamazaki

## Bunkyo Ward and "Kokoro"



Credit: Lynn Takahashi

—Anyone without spiritual aspirations is a fool.

This is a sentence which comes from "Kokoro," a novel written by Soseki Natsume. He is one of the most famous authors in Japan. "Kokoro" is a story of a man called *Sensei*, which means 'teacher' in Japanese, and his agony of friendship and love. This column will introduce you to Bunkyo Ward, the very ward where the story took place.

First, *Masago* slope (Map:1) is the slope where *Sensei*, walked around in the

story. Now, it is near *Korakuen* station, where we can enjoy a modern panoramic view. Meanwhile you can feel the richness of nature from the camphor tree, a conserved tree of the ward, on top of the slope.

Second, *Denzu-in* temple (Map:2) is the traditional temple that *Sensei* lived nearby. As can be seen from some events such as the "Bunkyo, Japanese morning-glory and ground cherry fair" held at the temple every year, the temple is loved by local people. In addition, the

temple being rebuilt in 2010, you can see the wonderful new gate and precincts. These attract all kinds of people who visit Bunkyo Ward.

Last but not the least, *Zoushigaya* Cemetery (Map:3), where the grave of K, another "Kokoro" character, is said to be located. It is so quiet that you may forget you are in the middle of the city. In the cemetery many people of culture including Soseki Natsume rest in peace.

These are only a few fascinating points of Bunkyo Ward. There are a lot of other great ones. Those who are interested in culture, history, and who have never heard of the ward, this wonderful town will welcome with the atmosphere of "Kokoro."

By Kotomi Ochiai, Shizuka Kasai, Hinoki Sakai, Lynn Takahashi and Haruka Nobuoka

### UME-UME TIMES

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