

## Sustaining Light: The 3rd International Symposium

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On a pleasant day at the end of the summer break, members of the Musashino University Creating Happiness Incubation (MU-CHI) gathered to listen to leading specialists in the field of tourism and in particular, how we can employ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in meaningful ways.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium (March 2018) focused on a broad discussion of the United Nations' SDGs program. The purpose of this symposium was to investigate ways in which a discipline or research group might engage SDGs in research and practical ways.

The panel presentations from academics and practitioners offered a range of interpretations of tourism and SDGs and the promise of sustainable tourism.

Professor Kumi Kato, Director of the Center for Tourism Research at Wakayama University, opened discussion with perspectives on resilience and tourism, leading to happiness. Prof Kato's reminder to us all the word 'tourism' in Japanese (観光) can mean 'seeing the *light*', set a theme

for the subsequent discussion.

Professor Graham Miller, an Executive Dean from the University of Sussex and Distinguished Professor at Wakayama University, took us through a critical examination of the SDGs and presented ways in which we might consider sustainable indicators measuring happiness and wellness. Prof Miller illustrated his presentation with a number of examples including Streets International Vietnam, TREE Alliance in Cambodia and Switch Bus in Switzerland, among others.

The third panelist, Mr. Paras Loomba, started with a short video illustrating the work in the Himalayas undertaken by his organization, Global Himalayan Expedition. The GHE engages with local communities to install light and electricity in remote highlands. (<http://ghe.co.in/index.html>)

It was an example of bringing 'shape' (カタチ) to our motto, Creating Peace and Happiness for the World.

Our final panelist, Ms. Minako Okada presented a timely paper on the growing empowerment of women in the tourism industry, as a valuable example of SDGs aiming for equality.

The symposium generated much discussion and the promise of future collaborations.