

International Symposium Commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Founding of College of Law, Ritsumeikan University

Peace (SDGs) in the International Society and the Educational Philosophy of Ritsumeikan University

In 2025, the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, peace will not have prevailed worldwide, and conflicts will continue somewhere in the globe. Furthermore, serious problems threatening human rights and democracy, including the rise of xenophobia and populism, are occurring in various parts of the world.

Ritsumeikan University and its College of Law will celebrate their 125th anniversary in 2025. Reflecting upon its wartime experience, Ritsumeikan University committed itself to a core educational philosophy of “peace and democracy” after the World War II. The Ritsumeikan Charter which the Ritsumeikan Trust has formulated, Ritsumeikan, including Ritsumeikan University, will pursue the creation of universal values based on academic freedom and search for solutions to the pressing issues facing humankind, with its educational endeavors based on its founding spirit and educational ideals, bearing in mind “to believe in the future, to live for the future.” And Ritsumeikan will foster learning and the development of individual talents in order to nurture just and ethical global citizens. Under this educational philosophy, Ritsumeikan University shall deepen the ideal form of university education and research for the establishment of “peace and democracy” in the world. As part of these initiatives, this symposium was co-hosted by College of Law, Ritsumeikan University, and the Ritsumeikan University International Peace Museum and held on November 29, 2025.

At this symposium, we held five presentations, inviting four professors from universities with academic exchanges with Ritsumeikan University, College of Law. They pointed out to some of the current problems and potential solutions in achieving the SDGs, as well as to some of the significance of research and education at universities.

The papers published here have been revised and expanded after the symposium, and may not be the same as those presented at the symposium. We hope these papers will be helpful in guiding the direction of your research and education.