

## UWC ISAK Japan Celebrates UWC Membership with Official Opening Ceremony

**September 25, 2017** – On September 23 and 24, UWC ISAK Japan held its Opening Ceremony to officially mark the opening of the school as a member of the UWC (United World Colleges) movement.

UWC is an international education organization with a history reaching back 55 years that aims to cultivate courageous action, selfless leadership, peace and a sustainable future through education. Most students who attend UWC schools are selected to attend by national committees in 159 countries and territories worldwide. On August 1, 2017, UWC ISAK Japan became the 17<sup>th</sup> UWC.

Approximately 200 guests participated in the Opening Ceremony and related events, including Nagano Governor Shuichi Abe, Susumu Fujimaki (Mayor of Karuizawa Town), UWC International board members and representatives, UWC Heads of Schools from around the world, UWC ISAK Japan board members and special donors. At the Opening Ceremony, Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan (current President of UWC) provided congratulatory remarks which were read by her daughter, HRH Princess Raiyah bint Hussein. Additionally, Lin Kobayashi, Co-Founder and Chair of the Board at UWC ISAK Japan, facilitated a panel discussion on “What It Means to Be UWC.” Panel speakers included Jens Waltermann (Executive Director, UWC International), UWC ISAK Japan faculty and student representatives.

During the ceremony, UWC Patron, Mr. Shelby Davis, one of the leading supporters of international education in the United States, committed \$1 million in matched funding to UWC ISAK Japan.

The UWC ISAK Japan community will be strengthened by the breadth and depth of the worldwide UWC community as it continues to fulfill its mission.

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Remarks from Mr. Shelby Davis:

*“I hope my investment in UWC and the future leaders the UWC movement educates will serve as an inspiration to many to support aspiring youths from around the world to gain a world-class education embracing diversity, peace and sustainability so they are equipped to tackle today’s complex challenges, tensions and conflicts. In the years to come, the world needs extraordinary leadership to navigate these challenges and to make the most of new opportunities – and I believe the UWC movement is ideally suited to educate the leaders and change-makers we need.”*

Remarks from Sir John Daniel, O.C. (Chair of the Board, UWC International)

*“All UWC institutions pride themselves in encouraging student autonomy, but I sense that UWC ISAK is taking the student-led approach to a new level by involving students in establishing and maintaining policies for the school’s communal life. Leadership practice is integrated into all aspects of ISAK activity, helping pupils become catalysts for positive change.”*

Remarks from HM Queen Noor of Jordan (President of the UWC Movement)

*“Japan has been of great significance to the UWC movement for many decades, with over 500 Japanese nationals graduating from our colleges all over the world. It is with immense pleasure that we now bring the movement to the heart of this culturally and historically rich country.*

*The world today is becoming increasingly uncertain. As we face a variety of global concerns, we can see even more clearly that the world needs future leaders who know and understand one another and who are inspired to make a positive difference. UWC ISAK Japan has a unique role to play in addressing these challenges and demonstrating the power of education to bring people together.”*

### **ABOUT UWC ISAK Japan**

UWC ISAK Japan (formerly known as International School of Asia, Karuizawa) was established in 2014 as Japan's first full-boarding international high school. The school's mission is to empower students to become transformational leaders who explore new frontiers for the greater good of Asia and beyond. Currently, 172 students from 58 countries are studying at UWC ISAK Japan. Approximately 70% of those students receive full or partial scholarships, enabling the community to benefit from the diversity provided by students from a wide range of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

### **ABOUT UWC**

Official Name: United World Colleges

Established: 1962 (Founder: German educationalist Kurt Hahn)

Mission: UWC makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

Member Schools: 17 schools and colleges located (in order of establishment) in the UK, Canada, Singapore, Swaziland, USA, Italy, China (mainland and Hong Kong), Norway, India, Costa Rica, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Netherlands, Germany, Armenia, Thailand and Japan.

President: Queen Noor of Jordan. Previous presidents have included South African president Nelson Mandela, Prince Charles and Lord Mountbatten.

### **BENEFITS OF JOINING UWC**

Lin Kobayashi, UWC ISAK Japan's Founder and Chair of the Board, is a graduate of Pearson College UWC in Canada, and from the start, UWC ISAK Japan's mission and values shared many characteristics with the UWC movement. UWC membership provides the following benefits:

#### *1. Increased Diversity*

From the beginning, ISAK students have represented an impressive array of national, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, in part due to a robust financial assistance program. In the same vein, UWC utilizes a national committee system to select the students who will attend the 17 UWC colleges around the world. Under this system, national committees in 159 countries are responsible for selecting the students from those countries who will attend one of the UWC schools. By joining the UWC movement, UWC ISAK Japan will be able to welcome students from a wider range of countries and backgrounds than ever before.

#### *2. World-Class Faculty*

One of the most exciting benefits of the UWC system is the opportunity for students to learn from outstanding faculty who have a global mindset and a tremendous depth of experience in teaching the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme curriculum.

#### *3. Opportunities for Students from All Backgrounds to Attend US Universities*

After supporting scholarships for American students to study at UWC schools since 1998, Davis started the Davis-UWC Scholars Program in 2000, which, to date, has provided need-based university scholarships for more than 7,500 UWC graduates enrolled in 94 U.S. colleges and universities. Established to provide opportunities and funding for alumni of UWC schools and colleges as they progressed to university, the program has since grown to become the world's largest international scholarship program for undergraduates. As nearly 70% of the students at UWC ISAK Japan receive some level of financial assistance, the Davis UWC Scholarship Program will greatly boost their opportunities to study at some of the world's best colleges and universities. Additionally, international students who wish to attend Japanese universities will be eligible for scholarships from the Japan Foundation.

## CONTACT

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