



# ACEF News letter



↑ *Sunset and river in Bangladesh  
(2022 Study Tour)*

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※The PDF version of this newsletter is available on our hp.  
 ▶URL [https://acef.or.jp/mail\\_mag\\_2023march/](https://acef.or.jp/mail_mag_2023march/)  
 ※English version available on the homepage!

Thank you for your continuous support for the ACEF mail news! We are happy to update you about our activities in Japan and Bangladesh. Today, we hope to share with you 9 articles on our recent activities/projects and upcoming events, along with updates on what is currently happening in Bangladesh.

## Dignity Education Jeffrey Mensendiek *Foreword*

“It has been three years since ACEF started working on Dignity Education. By understanding Hick’s “dignity model”, we have been able to grasp dignity as a personal matter and see it as a part of our daily lives. I think there were two findings through the study of this dignity model. First is that the understanding of dignity is connected to our personal lives. The other finding is that the issues regarding dignity are actually fundamental issues to all of humankind. Every time I host a workshop, I learn more about the meaning and depth of dignity education. This is just the beginning of our journey together to create a society where everyone’s dignity is respected. Why does ACEF take part in dignity education though? We will need to find the words to answer this question at some point. One answer that I can currently give now, is that the topic of dignity is gaining more recognition in the field of international cooperation. For example, we can see it in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. The issues of dignity are also relevant in Japan. We must first be able to see the issues of dignity at work in our own personal lives. Also, we cannot learn about dignity without the people of Bangladesh. We have received such a rich connection with the people of Bangladesh. “Why does ACEF get involved in dignity education?” I believe the answer to this question is to be found within the experiences we have had through our encounters with the people of Bangladesh.” (Jeffrey Mensendiek)



# ACEF Community

Shunichi Ueno & Yukiko Abe  
from the Board of Trustees

## ACEF's Dignity Education Working Group

“One of ACEF’s charms is its Study Tour. Encounters with the children, BDP staff, and the Bangladesh society give us a new perspective for the world. However, one thing which has always been there yet is not easily recognised is “Dignity”. A person cannot live alone. We feel greater happiness when we communicate with others and sometimes face struggles as we grow. Dignity education captures the essential core of relationships. All people are born with “dignity”. Realising and understanding others’ dignity allows us to cherish our own dignity, too. The “C” in ACEF represents its Christian characteristic, and recognises how each individual person is loved by God. Through Dignity education, we are made aware of the value and preciousness of each person’s existence- which is often not fully expressed in other terms such as “human rights”. The Dignity Working Group hopes to provide the purpose and program of Dignity education in this society.” (Shunichi Ueno, board of Trustees)

## On ACEF's Mission



I came in contact with ACEF and Bangladesh during my time in university, and that was when I first learned to turn my eyes towards the “world” outside of my daily life. Since then, I have continued a rich career centered on international cooperation and peace building, while being in close contact with others and the society.

My heart greatly resonates with ACEF’s new mission and vision which values the attitude of “working together” and protecting the “dignity” of others.

How we approach our partner, I believe, is much more important than the content of activity or the amount of money. This attitude of “togetherness” communicates itself even without words. The reason why ACEF and BDP have kept its work even until now is because of this continual pursuit of this attitude of “working together” and truly valuing “dignity”. I want to continue to treasure these two keywords at ACEF, and also in myself.

(Yukiko Abe, board of Trustees)

## We welcomed a new staff at the ACEF office!

“Hello, my name is Chizuru Uesaka, and I have started working as an office staff at ACEF headquarters. Currently I am working with the Bangladeshi handicrafts inventory, and will also take part in the fundraising work at ACEF, too. I really want to serve to create opportunities and connections between the energetic and hopeful youths in Japan and Bangladesh. We hope that our work will lead to the bright future of Bangladesh and Japan. Thank you and please continue to support us.” (Chizuru Uesaka)



## Information on payment system change and request to resubscribe to GOEN!

Along with the change in our membership management system, we are changing the membership payment system from “Syncable” to “GOEN”. The new payment system “GOEN” is directly linked to the membership system. Thus this change will allow us to reach out to our supporters even more efficiently and without any fallouts.

**For the current members who are subscribed to Syncable, we ask you to re-subscribe to GOEN.** Please refer to the website for detailed instructions ↓

<https://acef.or.jp/news/re-entry-and-cancel/>

Please also unsubscribe from Syncable from here ↓

<https://help.syncable.biz/hc/ja/articles/115003542393>

We deeply apologise for the inconvenience. Please let the ACEF office know if you have any questions. Thank you for your understanding and your support!

## ACEF General Assembly will be held on May 21

The 2023 ACEF member meeting will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2023. The Members Meeting (Kaiin no tsudoi) will also be hosted on the same day! Please look forward to this special occasion. We will have a special guest, Mitu, a graduate from BDP school to speak at the Members Meeting!

- 14:00-15:00 Members Meeting Kaiin no tsudoi
- (15:00-15:30 preparation for member meeting)
- 15:30-17:00 General Assembly



▶ General Assembly/ Members meeting sign up

<https://forms.gle/KvijHrSkXWtQUPgSA>



## Announcement: BDP magazine (March 2023 issued)

BDP began the issue of their magazine to share more about their activities with the world. The next issue is planned to be in April. This month’s magazine is available in Japanese as well! We hope to share about the situation at BDP, and am hoping for you to feel more connected with the staff and students at BDP. Please check the HP for the PDF file.

▶ PDF is available on our HP: <https://acef.or.jp/mail-magazine/>





## Call for donation: Youth Education at ACEF

One of ACEF's goals this year is to focus on supporting Youth Education/activities. We have supported the connection building between the children in Bangladesh and youths in Japan through our study tours and various activities. Now as we face the rapid globalisation of the world, we have become more aware of the need for the people in Bangladesh and Japan to "live together". We will continue to support the education of the youths in Bangladesh and Japan, and we ask for your support and donations to make it happen.

## Please help the Japanese youth grow through their encounter with the children in Bangladesh

### Call for donation for Youth Activities

#### "I want to join the Study Tour but the fees are too expensive"

The Study Tour which used to cost 200,000 yen, has now increased to 280,000. We ask for your help, so that we can support the youths who have the passion to join the study tour, but are unable to due to financial reasons. We hope to be able to support approx. 50,000 yen per participant. We leave the amount of donation up to you, so please consider. This donation will also be eligible for donation deduction.

#### Raising the youth is a part of ACEF's mission

ACEF, as stated in our new vision statement, hopes and prays that the Japanese youths grow into people who are passionate about "being beside the marginalised". You may not be able to meet the children in Bangladesh in person. However, you could share your passion with the youths who wish to participate in our study tour through this Youth Education donation.

Raising youths who share the goal of facing the issues in Bangladesh and choosing to "live together", is an important part of ACEF's vision. Please donate! Please access the donation site via QR code:





# ACEF is participating in the Tokyo Women's University Festival Bazaar



On Saturday, April 29th, ACEF is participating in the Tokyo Women's University Festival Bazaar (Enyuukai, hosted by alumni) and contributing with our Bangladesh handicrafts shop. The Handicraft working group member and ACEF Youth volunteers will be at the stand selling our goods so please come by! (the event will be held from 11:00-16:00)

## ACEF Youth ACEF YOUTH: third meeting

What is ACEF Youth?→ At ACEF, many youths from a wide age range of youths are participating in their field of interest. For example education, development, resolving poverty, etc.. ACEF Youth is a group consisting of such members. We had our first meeting with the student volunteers. We are planning an **online event on Saturday, June 3, 16:00-17:30**, so please mark your calendar and stay tuned for the details via our social media!



At ACEF Youth, everyone's passion and skills are used, whether it is updating social media, working with handicrafts from Bangladesh, etc... If you are interested in taking part at ACEF, please feel free to contact us at the email below!  
email: [public@acef.or.jp](mailto:public@acef.or.jp)

find us on social media!



follow us → <https://linktr.ee/acef.ngo>

