

Symposium Hosted by  
Institute for Studies of the Global Environment

# Future Frontiers -- Developing People for a Sustainable World



Date and Time: **Friday, September 26, 2025, 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM**

Venue: **Room 1702, 17th Floor, Building 2, Sophia University**

Language: English (with simultaneous interpretation into Japanese)

Sophia University affiliates: Free admission / No advance registration required

For general information, please visit this website →



International Network of  
Resource Information Centers  
(commonly known as the "Balaton Group")



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Change Agent

Change Agent Inc.

Donella and Dennis Meadows - authors of The Limits to Growth (1972) - founded the Balaton Group in 1982.

Our society is facing complex sustainability crises, including climate change, loss of biodiversity, resource depletion, and widening economic disparities. While the international community is tackling challenges such as achieving carbon neutrality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is essential not only to focus on technology and systems but also to foster the internal growth, learning, and transformative capacity of individuals, organizations, and society as a whole.

Since its founding in 1982, the Balaton Group has provided global platforms for learning and capacity-building in the field of sustainability. In this symposium, the Balaton Group and Sophia University will collaborate to share the latest knowledge and practices with leading experts regarding the qualities, knowledge, education, and career development needed for those engaged in sustainability. This will be a valuable opportunity for everyone involved in sustainability to gain insights for learning and action. We invite you to join this dialogue to learn from cutting-edge expertise and experience, and to co-create a sustainable future.

## Program

### ■ 13:30-13:40 **Opening**

**Takahiro Tsuge**, *Director of Institute for Studies of the Global Environment, Sophia University*

**Gillian Martin Mehers**, *President, The Balaton Group / Founder, Bright Green Academy*

### ■ 13:40-14:25

#### **Part 1: Keynote Lecture**

#### **“Human Resources and Organizational Capacity Required for Sustainability Challenges”**



**Joe Alcamo** (USA, based in the UK)

Professor of Environmental Systems Science at the University of Sussex and Director of the SSRP. An American environmental scientist who served as Chief Scientist at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) from 2009 to 2013. Originally studying global water models, he is a professional who conducts policy analysis and provides recommendations at the international and national levels around the world.



**Laszlo Pinter** (Hungary)

Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at the Central European University (CEU). At CEU, he teaches sustainable development and global transition, adaptation and resilience, socio-ecological systems, and resilient cities and communities. He worked at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Canada from 1994 to 2003 and served as Director of the Measurement and Evaluation Program at IISD from 2003 to 2010.

### ■ 14:25-15:40

#### **Part 2: Panel Discussion**

#### **“Frontiers of Human Resource Development and Knowledge Creation for Sustainability”**

**Gillian Martin Mehers** (USA, based in Switzerland) / **Cuauhtemoc Leon** (Mexico)

**Qian Xuepeng** (China, based in Japan) / **Joe Alcamo** (USA, based in the UK) / **Laszlo Pinter** (Hungary)

**Facilitator by Junko Edahiro** (Japan)

### ■ 15:40-16:00 Break

### ■ 16:00-17:20

#### **Part 3: Panel Discussion**

#### **“Work and Life in Careers Aiming for a Sustainable World”**

**Any Sulistyowati** (Indonesia) / **Reinhold Mangundu** (Namibia, based in South Africa) / **Habiba Dida** (Kenya)

**Cristina Apetrei** (Romania, based in Germany) / **Jessica Boucher** (Canada, based in the UK)

**Jakob Grandin** (Sweden, based in Norway) / **Nkweauseh Longfor** (Cameroon, based in Japan)

**Facilitator by Riichiro Oda** (Japan)

### ■ 17:20-17:30 **Closing**

**Riichiro Oda**, *Vice President, The Balaton Group / Adjunct Professor, the Graduate School of Leadership and Innovation, Shizenkan University*