

KIKO NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Climate Action and Energy Security in Times of War

Climate Action Under the Trump 2.0 Administration

The Trump 2.0 administration has not only turned its back on the international climate cooperation that the world has built up over time under the United Nations based on science—but has also plunged the global economy into chaos. To make matters worse, it committed an irreversible mistake—even for the United States itself—by withdrawing from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Furthermore, together with Israel, it has provoked a war with Iran. With Russia's invasion of Ukraine now entering its fourth year, we can only pray that these nightmares will come to an end soon.



As The World Is Moving Away from Fossil Fuels, We Must Continue to Speak Out Against Japan's Reliance on Thermal Power

The Iran war, with its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, has clearly highlighted the risks to energy security for Asia, including Japan. The only solution is to move away from fossil fuels. It can only be achieved by improving energy efficiency and accelerating the expansion of renewable energy. With London recording 35°C in May, Europe is experiencing record-breaking heat. No country, no people, can afford to be at the mercy of President Trump. In fact, according to the IEA and IRENA, 2025 saw the largest-ever expansion of renewable energy globally. It is a relief to see the world making sensible choices. Perhaps we are witnessing humanity's instinct for self-preservation.

However, Japan continues to move in the opposite direction. The government's policy persists in justifying the use of fossil-fuel-derived hydrogen and ammonia by branding them "decarbonized fuels" and attempting to promote this approach to other Asian countries. To protect the short-term profitability of power utilities that operate large-scale thermal and nuclear plants, the government has piled on even more irrational policies to prop them up. The lagged Japanese version of an emission trading system (GX-ETS), which contains numerous flaws, was turned into a monument for fiscal year 2025. Kiko Network has long sounded the alarm about this state of affairs in Japan. At the same time, we have encouraged—and been encouraged by—the bold efforts of local citizens.

Together with Those Who Explore the Role and Potential of the Judiciary

Establishing a legal obligation for governments and corporations to reduce emissions is essential for strengthening global climate action. Consequently, climate litigation is becoming increasingly important around the world. This is precisely why, in August 2024, a group of courageous young people in Japan filed a lawsuit against 10 major electric power companies, demanding they reduce their emissions. Over the past two years, the plaintiffs have advocated for the significance of the lawsuit, making their case before the court alongside citizens who packed the courtroom. Numerous legal challenges around the world, driven by a shared sense of purpose, serve as a source of support for the climate litigations in Japan.

Significant progress was also made in 2025. A lawsuit filed by a Peruvian farmer against Germany's largest power company, RWE, was launched immediately after the adoption of the Paris Agreement. In April 2025, the Higher Regional Court of Hamm, Germany, recognized a direct causal link between RWE's emissions and the disasters caused by the melting of Andean glaciers. The court described that 0.38% of the world's cumulative CO₂ emissions was not so small as to be negligible. This statement gets to the heart of the immense problem of global warming caused by human activity.

Furthermore, in July, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) provided clear guidance. Young people from Pacific Island nations facing the crisis of rising sea levels, with the cooperation of Vanuatu, secured a UN General Assembly resolution seeking an advisory opinion from the ICJ. In response, the ICJ clarified that it is a state's responsibility to protect its citizens from the effects of climate change—that is, to undertake emission reductions that contribute sufficiently to achieving the 1.5°C target—and that any country may demand compliance from a state that fails to fulfill this obligation. Furthermore, on May 20 of this year, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to support and operationalize the ICJ's opinion. Although the United States and several oil-producing nations opposed the resolution, Japan joined the 141 other States that voted in favour.

We will stand with these young plaintiffs and expand the circle of support for their historic fight.

Kiko Network President

浅岡美恵

Kiko Network Annual Report 2025 Contents

Greetings Climate Change Measures and Energy Security in Times of War	2
Our Achievement in 2025 Supporting Climate Litigation: Protecting the Future from the Climate Crisis	3
Our Activities in 2025 Building an International Framework	4
Promoting Climate Actions in Japan	5
Decarbonizing Communities, Building Capacity	6
Income and Expenditure Report and Board of Directors	7

Supporting Climate Litigation: Protecting the Future from the Climate Crisis

In fiscal year 2025, we continued to vigorously support the Youth Climate Case Japan while widely disseminating information domestically about trends in international climate litigation and landmark judicial rulings, making significant strides towards achieving climate justice through the judicial system.

Support Activities and Progress on the Youth Climate Case Japan

Kiko Network has continued to devote its full efforts to supporting the “Youth Climate Case Japan,” in which young people in Japan are suing the 10 major electric power companies—which account for 30% of Japan’s energy-related CO₂ emissions—demanding emissions reductions consistent with the 1.5°C target (a 48% reduction by 2030 and a 65% reduction by 2035 compared to 2019 levels).

In fiscal year 2025, the legal debate deepened at the Nagoya District Court, with the third oral argument held in May, the fourth in September, and the fifth in January 2026. At each hearing, many people from all over the country traveled to the Nagoya District Court to pack the courtroom, sending a powerful message to the judges about the growing public concern. In court, the young plaintiffs, drawing on their personal experiences, directly appealed to the judges regarding the threats of climate change and their reasons for joining this lawsuit.

On the other hand, the defendant electric power companies have responded with a total lack of good faith and integrity. Not only did they fail to properly respond to requests for disclosure of CO₂ emissions data but they also dispute the case by denying their “legal obligation to reduce emissions” while choosing to participate in court hearings online. Although the defendant companies pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, the pillars of their measures are ammonia co-firing and carbon capture and storage (CCS), which ultimately amount to an attempt to keep coal-fired power plants in operation.

Kiko Network has pointed out the limited practicality and reduction effectiveness of these measures, while also supporting the plaintiffs in submitting scientific and legal evidence to back up their claims. Furthermore, we have been expanding the circle of solidarity by holding court-entrance actions and briefing sessions near the courthouse on each hearing date, together with many supporters gathered from across the country. We will continue to provide our dedicated support to the plaintiffs leading up to the seventh hearing scheduled for August 2026.

Former Justice Wilson’s Visit to Japan and Growing International Solidarity

The Youth Climate Case Japan has attracted significant global attention and high expectations. At the third hearing, messages of support gathered from around the world through an international NGO were displayed as placards in front of the courthouse.

Furthermore, on the fourth court date, the group invited Justice Michael Wilson, a former Hawaii Supreme Court justice, as a guest to observe the trial and interact with the plaintiffs. Justice Wilson and other supporters offered strong words of encouragement, stating, “The actions by Japan’s young people are undoubtedly a source of hope,” which greatly emboldened

the young plaintiffs. Justice Wilson’s visit to Japan and his remarks on the youth climate case gained notable domestic media coverage, highlighting that “climate litigation is the last resort,” and serving as an opportunity to raise public awareness of the important role the judiciary must play.

Mainichi Shimbun [December 16, 2025] “Climate Litigation Is the ‘Last Line of Defense’: ‘Protect the Right to Life’—Solidarity with Young People Around the World—Former U.S. Justice Michael Wilson” (title provisional translated by Kiko Network)

<https://mainichi.jp/articles/20251216/ddm/013/040/016000c>

Toward the Issuance of an ICJ Advisory Opinion and the Establishment of Climate Justice

As climate litigation continues to spread worldwide, on July 23, 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a historic advisory opinion on the obligations of states in respect of climate change. In this advisory opinion—led by the efforts of young people from Pacific island nations and the Government of Vanuatu—the ICJ clearly stated that emissions reductions aimed at achieving the 1.5°C target are not a matter of national discretion but an obligation under international law, and that states also have an obligation to regulate emissions from private companies.

To promptly convey the significance of this advisory opinion, Kiko Network issued a press release immediately afterward and, on August 20, released a provisional Japanese translation of the full 140-page opinion, encouraging its use in future policy discussions. This landmark judicial decision not only compels the Japanese government to make a fundamental policy shift but also serves as a powerful argument in Youth Climate Case Japan.

Furthermore, the global legal landscape is undergoing significant changes, as evidenced by a landmark ruling in a lawsuit filed by a Peruvian farmer against RWE, Germany’s largest power company, which the court confirmed that major emitters can be held liable. To widely publicize these developments, we published a booklet titled “Climate Litigation Around the World: Establishing the Right to Protection from Dangerous Climate Change” on August 1. We will continue to collaborate with our domestic and international networks and spare no effort to establish the right to protection from climate change and achieve effective emissions reductions.

Booklet: “Climate Litigation Around the World: Establishing the Right to Protection from Dangerous Climate Change”

<https://kikonet.org/content/38179>



Former Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Michael Wilson (back row, center left) and the plaintiffs in the Youth Climate Case Japan, who attended the fourth hearing (September 17, 2025)

Our Activities in 2025

Building an International Framework



Amid the Challenging International Situation Surrounding Climate Change

In 2025, marking the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the situation regarding climate change remained dire. By 2025, the global average temperature had risen by 1.47 °C above pre-industrial levels. Furthermore, it became clear that the 2035 emission reduction targets (Nationally Determined Contributions, NDCs) set by various countries would fall short of the 1.5°C goal. Moreover, with the Trump administration announcing its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement shortly after taking office (with the withdrawal taking effect in January 2026), maintaining the international cooperative framework for climate change measures has become a major challenge. However, the energy crisis triggered by the U.S.- and Israeli-led attacks on Iran underscored the importance of reducing dependence on fossil fuels, both to avert the climate crisis and ensuring energy security. In July 2025, the ICJ issued an advisory opinion clarifying the legal responsibilities of states regarding climate change. Furthermore, countries are steadily moving toward phasing out fossil fuels, as evidenced by South Korea’s accession to the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA). Against this backdrop, we undertook the following activities in fiscal year 2025.

Participating in International Climate Change Negotiation Meetings

Our staff attended the Subsidiary Bodies (SB) meetings in June 2025 (Bonn, Germany) and COP30 in November (Belém, Brazil) in person. At COP30, we monitored the progress of the conference and, in collaboration with our staff in Japan, published a total of four issues of our newsletter, “Kiko: Dispatch from COP” providing the latest updates on the conference and its key negotiation points. We also engaged in collaborative activities with CAN-Japan and CAN-International, as well as dialogue with government delegations. At COP30, an agreement was reached on “establishing a new framework to advance a just transition,” as

called for by civil society and developing countries. However, no agreement was reached on “formulating a roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels,” and the situation continues where no concrete outcomes on phasing out fossil fuels can be achieved at the COP. We will continue to closely monitor developments regarding the phase-out of fossil fuels in international negotiations.

Collaborating with NGOs and Research Institutions in Japan and Abroad

To convey the global situation regarding climate change measures to the Japanese public and to share information about Japan’s situation with the international community, Kiko Network served as a member and secretariat of CAN-Japan and organized webinars, issued statements, and participated in dialogues with policymakers. We also collaborated with Fossil Free Japan, national Beyond Coal and Beyond Fossil Fuel initiatives, and CAN International, and exchanged information and worked together on report preparation with overseas organizations and research institutions. In particular, we focused on exchanging information with domestic and international organizations and research institutions regarding the issues surrounding hydrogen and ammonia co-firing and CCS—technologies that Japan is promoting both domestically and internationally as decarbonization measures for the power sector. For example, we worked to raise awareness of the issues surrounding ammonia co-firing by holding webinars in collaboration with Asia Research & Engagement (ARE), sharing this information both in Japanese and in English. We also deepened the exchange of information between Japan and South Korea by holding webinars to learn about the background behind South Korea’s coal phase-out, given that, like Japan, it had previously been highly dependent on fossil fuels.

Towards 2026

With the 1.5 °C target in jeopardy, tensions escalating in the Middle East, and what is being called the worst energy crisis on record, this will be a year that tests our ability to break free from our dependence on fossil fuels. In April 2026, “the First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels” will be held, and all eyes are on whether this event will serve as a breakthrough. In fiscal year 2026, we will continue to collaborate with domestic and international networks to advocate for policy shifts aimed at phasing out fossil fuels, promoting energy efficiency improvements, and expanding renewable energy.



Reports Developed with Input from Kiko Network (sample)

Banking on Climate Chaos 2025

<https://japan.ran.org/?p=2470>

Renewable Energy Tracker

<https://climatenetwork.org/resource/renewable-energy-tracker/>

Promoting Climate Actions in Japan

Fiscal year 2025 saw elections for both the House of Councillors and the House of Representatives, making it a year in which the direction of climate and energy policy was once again put to the test. Furthermore, with progress being made on the design of Japan's emissions trading system (GX-ETS), discussions toward its full-scale introduction have finally gained momentum in Japan, which had previously lagged significantly behind global emissions trading systems. However, while decarbonization remains a stated goal, policies based on continued dependence on fossil fuels persist, raising concerns about alignment with the 1.5°C target and the effectiveness of emission reduction measures.

In addition to conducting policy analysis and advocacy on such current issues, Kiko Network sought to achieve effective climate action by disseminating information to civil society and creating spaces for dialogue.

National Elections and Manifestos

The House of Councillors election in July 2025 and the House of Representatives election in January 2026 served as crucial opportunities to assess the direction of climate and energy policies under the Ishiba and Takaichi administrations, respectively. Kiko Network once again compared the climate and energy policy manifestos of each political party, maintaining a tracking effort we have carried out for every national election since 2012. We analyzed key issues such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, coal-fired power, nuclear power, and GX policies—including comparisons with past pledges—to highlight the characteristics and changes in each party's policies.

Amid the increasing fragmentation and realignment of political parties, there was a general trend toward fewer climate- and energy-related pledges within election manifestos. At the same time, while some parties called for science-based climate action, others put forward claims that ran counter to scientific consensus, underscoring a growing divide over climate policy.

Although we raised awareness widely through our websites, social media, events, and other channels, climate crisis measures were not sufficiently debated on par with other pressing issues such as social security and rising prices. Furthermore, following the election results, concerns grew that short-term economic measures and energy subsidies would take priority, leading to a rollback of climate policies and a disregard for our responsibility to future generations.

Kiko Network positioned climate change countermeasures as a core pillar of democracy and, in collaboration with other civil society groups, worked to highlight key policy issues and promote citizen participation.

GX-ETS Analysis: The Alignment Gap with Reduction Targets

As details of Japan's emissions trading system (GX-ETS) were being

finalized by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's "Emissions Trading System Subcommittee", Kiko Network conducted analyses and made recommendations on its effectiveness and fairness. In particular, we pointed out that the power generation benchmarking system and the approach to free allowances in the electricity sector are insufficient as mechanisms to drive emissions reductions risking the preservation of dependence on existing thermal power generation.

In particular, the benchmarking for large-scale emitters adopts a lenient standard—aiming for the top 32.5% within each industry—and limits the reduction target to just 8.5% over five years. As a result, the system's design is inconsistent with Japan's target of a 46% reduction by fiscal year 2030.

In conjunction with the meetings of the "Emissions Trading System Subcommittee," Kiko Network published three sets of recommendations in August, October, and December 2025, calling for greater transparency in the system and alignment with emissions reduction targets. In addition, we launched an AI-powered explanatory podcast, "Kiko Network Podcast: Read with Your Ears" to inform civil society and news media by breaking down complex issues surrounding the emissions trading system into accessible insights.

For the GX Policy to be an effective decarbonization policy, it must clearly position the transition away from fossil fuel dependence. Kiko Network will continue to analyze and report on developments in the policy framework.

Stop Coal-Fired Power!

We published "Coal-Fired Power Q&A", to provide accessible information to the public on the current status and challenges surrounding coal-fired power generation. The book covered not only on CO₂ emissions from coal-fired power plants but also on measures to extend their operational life that have been promoted in recent years, such as hydrogen and ammonia co-firing and CCS. We also actively promoted its use through local study sessions and webinars.



Furthermore, regarding the "GENESIS Matsushima Project"—the last remaining coal-fired power plant construction project planned in Japan—J-Power has once again decided to "postpone" it, leaving the project's future uncertain. In Saikai City, we are promoting dialogue on local energy shift opportunities and hosted a seminar in collaboration with a local NPO.

As the impacts of the climate crisis grow more severe, shifting towards effective climate mitigation measures is an urgent priority. Kiko Network will continue its efforts to realize a just and sustainable decarbonized society while expanding its partnerships with citizens, local communities, experts, and the international community.



Social media posts evaluating the policies of political parties in the 2025 House of Councillors election



A Staff member explaining coal power issues at the 2025 Earth Day event booth

Decarbonizing Communities, Building Capacity



October 30: Intermediary Support Exchange Forum for Promoting Decarbonised Regional Development @ Okayama City

In fiscal year 2025, 102 regions were selected as Decarbonization Leading Areas, and concrete measures have been implemented in each of these regions. Kiko Network has focused its activities on building and implementing intermediary support functions in these regions.

Hosting the Intermediary Support Exchange Forum and Disseminating Information

In fiscal year 2025, the fourth “Intermediary Support Exchange Forum for Promoting Decarbonized Regional Development” (hereinafter the “Forum”) was held in Okayama. Approximately 70 practitioners, researchers, and local government officials from across the country participated to discuss the necessity and structure of a nationwide network organization, while sharing information and exchanging opinions. Previously, the first forum was held in Kyoto City in November 2023, the second in Nagahama City in May 2024, and the third in Iida City in December 2024, resulting in the compilation of a document titled “Summary of Key Issues Regarding the Role of Intermediary Support Organizations for Promoting Decarbonized Regional Development.”

We also co-hosted a webinar with SJS titled “Sustainable Village Development in Langenegg, an Energy-Self-Sufficient Village,” which focused on intermediary support organizations for regional decarbonization. We welcomed Mr. Mario Nussbaumer, a village hall official in charge of construction and energy in Langenegg, Austria, who has been leading the village’s energy policy for over 25 years. Working alongside residents and specialized organizations to build a sustainable community, he presented on the background of these efforts as well as recent initiatives.

Developing Models for Intermediary Support Functions

Continuing from last year, we have been working to support intermediary activities aimed at promoting decarbonized community development in various regions.

In Aomori Prefecture, a prefecture-led support team conducted three staff training sessions each in Hirakawa City, Yokohama Town, and Mutsu City. Kiko Network provided case studies and tools. In addition, a seminar for top officials was held for mayors and senior staff of local governments, and support measures tailored to the level of each local government are being held. In Kyoto Prefecture, we collaborated with the Kyoto Center for Climate Actions to support the revision of Yosano Town’s decarbonization plan. Through the collection of case studies on climate action, we identified needs regarding intermediary support functions. In Okayama Prefecture, we cooperated in organizing opinion-exchange meetings with stakeholders within the prefecture and advanced discussions and collaboration with the Okayama NPO Center to establish an intermediary support system

at the prefectural level. In Shiga Prefecture, we participated in a research project at the University of Shiga Prefecture and explored a system for supporting local government policies across the entire prefecture. We also conducted a site visit to Unnan City in Shimane Prefecture. In Hokkaido, we collaborated with the Environmental Partnership Office Hokkaido (EPO Hokkaido) to organize forums for exchanging views with existing organizations within the prefecture, thereby conducting a review of existing local initiatives. In Iwate Prefecture, we collaborated with the “Energy Agency Iwate (EAI)” to facilitate exchanges of views with organizations planning to carry out support activities within the prefecture and to assist in organizing events.

Our partner organizations, Kyoto Center for Climate Actions and the Okayama NPO Center, have been provisionally selected as implementing organizations for the Japan Fund for Global Environment project starting in fiscal year 2026, and we will be collaborating on activities from fiscal year 2026 through 2029.

Environmental Education

The “Children’s Eco-Life Challenge,” which began in 2005 at a single elementary school, has now entered its 16th year since its implementation expanded to all schools in the city (implemented at 155 schools in fiscal year 2025). Centered on a learning style based on the three steps of “learning, practicing at home, and reflection,” 170,000 students have participated in the program to date. In fiscal year 2025, leveraging our expertise in designing for active student participation, we collaborated with Kyoto Sanga F.C. on its climate action initiative—part of the J.League Climate Action program—by supervising the production of a children’s booklet (Sanga Eco Passport), supporting lessons taught by players at three elementary schools in Kyoto Prefecture, and participating in “Sanga Climate Action” activities held around the stadium during home games. Through these efforts, we reached out to and engaged with more than 500 citizens on climate issues.



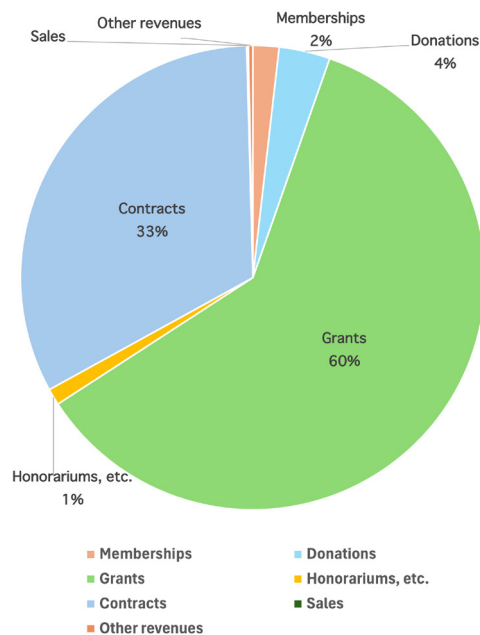
The Sanga Eco Passport, distributed as part of the J.League’s climate action initiatives

Financial Report & List of Board Members

Kiko Network Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025

In fiscal year 2025, our revenue came primarily from commissioned projects and donations, enabling us to continue our activities. Although we recorded a net loss for the single year because a portion of the funds received in fiscal year 2024 was actually spent in fiscal year 2025, our budget was balanced over the two-year period. Total expenditures increased slightly from the previous fiscal year, allowing us to cover our expanding activities. Given factors such as inflation, it is necessary to further expand our funding sources and increase revenue, including donations. With membership numbers trending downward, we will strengthen our efforts to increase membership and donations, and we will move forward with initiatives to ensure stable operations, expand our base of supporters and stakeholders, and secure stable funding sources.

As the climate crisis accelerates and the need for stronger climate change measures grows, the role of civil society, environmental NGOs, and NPOs is becoming increasingly important for achieving a major social and economic transformation. To ensure that Kiko Network can fulfill its mission, we will promote collaboration both domestically and internationally, and work to strengthen our network and broaden the scope of our activities.



Revenue breakdown

FY2025 Revenues	
Category	Amount (JPY)
Memberships	2,550,000
Donations	5,013,525
Grants	85,292,359
Honorariums, etc.	1,623,549
Contracts	45,947,657
Sales	157,360
Other revenues	447,904
Total	141,032,354

FY2025 Expenditures	
Category	Amount (JPY)
1. Program expenditures	
Outreach	6,248,882
Research and advocacy	5,287,516
Network building	1,121,594
International negotiations and policy work	2,082,961
Community and NGO support	1,281,822
Grant-funded programs	80,454,189
Contract-funded programs	58,211,963
Program subtotal	154,688,927
2. Administrative expenditures	
Salaries	5,039,364
Retirement benefits	137,300
Travel	926,830
Communications and shipping	170,671
Supplies	232,179
Office rent	186,775
Printing	218,900
Employee benefits	776,379
Tax and public dues	144,251
Other expenditures	33,732
Administrative subtotal	7,866,381
3. Income taxes - current	140,000
Total	162,695,308

Revenues and Expenditures	FY2025 results
Opening balance	89,571,192
Total revenues	141,032,354
Total expenditures	162,695,308
Closing balance on March 31, 2026	67,908,238
Closing balance (restricted portion)	37,750,068
Closing balance (unrestricted portion)	30,158,170

List of Board Members

Mie Asaoka (Lawyer)
 Kuniyasu Inoue
 Takuma Kani
 Hiroshi Kanda
 Ayako Sakurada
 Yoshitsugu Sasaki
 Kenro Taura
 Ken Tsuzuki
 Oomi Nishizono
 Ikumi Hara
 Tsuyoshi Hara
 Shunichi Hiraoka

Yosuke Toyota
 Takako Momoi
 Motohiro Yamazaki
 Naoyuki Yamagishi
 Juta Wada
 Masako Ichihara
 Takashi Sasaki
 Nanami Takei
 Auditor, Toshiyuki Ueda
 Auditor, Yoshimichi Sakakibara
 Auditor, Shigenori Fukushima

As of July 2026 In random order



Change the rules, not our climate.

The mission of Kiko Network can only be achieved with your support.

There are many ways you can support: by becoming a member, donating, volunteering, assisting with joint research, spreading our campaigns, etc.

We at Kiko Network thank all of our supporters for their past and future contributions to changing the world as we move toward a sustainable global society.

For further information, please contact your nearest Kiko Network office.

Kiko Network Kyoto Office: #305 Takakura Bldg. Takakura-dori, Shijo-agaru, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604-8124, JAPAN

TEL: +81-75-254-1011, FAX: +81-75-254-1012, E-mail: kyoto@kikonet.org

Kiko Network Tokyo Office: Fujimori Bldg. 6B, 2-12-2 Hirakawacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0093, JAPAN

TEL: +81-3-3263-9210, FAX: +81-3-3263-9463, E-mail: tokyo@kikonet.org



kikonetwork



@kikonetwork



@kikonet.org



kikonetwork



@kikonetworkchannel