

**Grand Opening of UWC ISAK, Japan**  
23 September 2017

Welcome from the UWC International Board

Sir John Daniel, O.C.  
Chair, UWC International Board

It is a privilege and a pleasure, on behalf of the International Board, to welcome UWC ISAK Japan into the worldwide UWC movement as its 17th institution.

Kurt Hahn founded Atlantic College in Wales in 1962. Since then his passion to make international education a force to unite people and nations for peace has inspired the creation of 16 other UWC colleges and schools. UWC now has institutions in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Swaziland, Thailand, the UK, the USA and now Japan.

The establishment of each new UWC is an exciting adventure in which enthusiasm and determination overcome many challenges. When a functioning school like ISAK joins UWC its unique features enrich the whole movement.

My fellow Board members and I have been greatly inspired by the commitment, charm, devotion and energy that Lin Kobayashi has brought to the establishment of this school and its transformation into a UWC. She is an alumna of UWC Pearson College in Canada and we are especially proud when new UWCs are created by those who have experienced UWC themselves as pupils.

The establishment of ISAK has been a remarkable story and we are immensely proud that UWC ISAK is the first international school to be officially recognised as part of Japan's school system. I congratulate the Board and all those involved on a magnificent achievement.

The success of the UWC movement over more than half a century has inspired educators around the world to adopt many of its features. Pupils at all UWCs study for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, an international qualification that UWC helped to design. Atlantic College was one of the ten member schools of the International Schools Association that created the International Baccalaureate Organization in Geneva in 1963. In 1969 UWC pupils sat for the first IB diploma

examinations. Today they are taken in over 2,500 schools worldwide and have become the gold standard for university entrance.

Similarly, UWC's emphasis on education for peace and sustainable development, its commitment to community service and its celebration of diversity have stimulated other schools to espouse similar aims. The UWC movement should rejoice at this, for imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Our challenge is to continue to be the pacesetters in making education a force to unite peoples, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

UWC ISAK, Japan has a vital role to play in meeting that challenge. 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.

My fellow members of the UWC International Board join me in congratulating you on a magnificent achievement. We wish you success in bringing UWC ISAK Japan to its full potential and assure you of our enthusiastic support.