

August 25, 2026
Sompo Japan Insurance Inc.
Sompo Environment Foundation

CSO Learning Program and Nature-preneur Japan Launch Collaboration to Foster Young Environmental Leaders

Sompo Japan Insurance Inc. (President: Koji Ishikawa, hereinafter "Sompo Japan"), the Sompo Environment Foundation (President: Keiji Nishizawa), and the Nature-preneur Japan General Incorporated Foundation (Representative Director: Masataka Fukao, hereinafter "NPJ"), held a workshop featuring "Nature-preneurs"—entrepreneurs and practitioners who create value in harmony with nature—as lecturers at the "CSO Learning Program Summer Camp." This initiative, hosted by the Sompo Environment Foundation, aims to further expand opportunities for environmental talent to thrive through active collaboration among the three organizations.

1. Background and Purpose

For many years, Sompo Japan and the SOMPO Group have been dedicated to fostering the next generation of talent in the environmental field. In the "SOMPO Earth Positive Actions," the SOMPO Group's environmental strategy announced in May 2026, human resource development is positioned as one of our key strengths. The "CSO Learning Program*," an initiative started in 2000 by the Sompo Environment Foundation under the philosophy of "Fostering People Who Plant Trees," is a flagship program that dispatches university and graduate students as interns to environmental NPOs/NGOs. Through this new collaboration with NPJ, we held a workshop featuring Nature-preneurs as lecturers, aiming to empower the next generation of environmental talent and create opportunities for new value creation.

*CSO Learning Program: A paid internship program that dispatches university and graduate students to environmental NPOs/NGOs for seven months. CSO (Civil Society Organization) is a concept that encompasses NPOs/NGOs. A portion of the scholarship is funded by the "SOMPO Chikyu Club," a social contribution fund by SOMPO Group employees, making this program also supported by our employees.

2. Workshop Overview

This summer camp is part of the Sompo Environment Foundation's "CSO Learning Program," bringing together participating university and graduate students to deepen their understanding of environmental issues and apply it to their future internship activities. At this workshop, participants learned from the passion and dedication of front-line Nature-preneurs and explored methods for contributing to the environmental field through business.

- Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2026
- Venue: Sompo Japan Moriya General Training Center
- Participants: 35 university and graduate students from the 2026 CSO Learning Program
- Speakers:
 - Ms. Kanako Ake (Representative Director, Rooting Our Own Tomorrows (ROOTs) / Vice Chair, Japan Committee for IUCN (IUCN-J))
 - Mr. Fukunari Wakabayashi (Representative Director and President, Yamane-shuzo Inc.)
 - Mr. Yuhei Kuratsuji (Lead Coordinator, NPO ETIC. / Director, NPJ) *Facilitator

Ms. Ake spoke about the joy of working in the "non-profit" sector, drawing from her "borderless career" that transitioned from wildlife research to various NGOs and industry organizations, and she

discussed with the students how their host organizations can drive social change. Mr. Wakabayashi introduced a business model for "nature-harmonious sake brewing" centered on the conservation of the Japanese dormouse and the restoration of traditional folk houses (kominka), leading to an active exchange of ideas regarding new business planning that utilizes natural capital.

<Voices from Participating Students>

"I learned about balancing environmental solutions with business, which has significantly broadened my perspective on my future career."

"I was deeply inspired by the way of living where one pursues what they love and tackles social challenges with a strong sense of personal purpose."



Photo: August 4 (Tue), CSO Learning Program Summer Camp.

From left: Yuhei Kuratsuji (Lead Coordinator, NPO ETIC. / Director, NPJ), Kanako Ake, Representative Director, ROOTs / Vice Chair, IUCN-J), and Fukunari Wakabayashi (Representative Director and President, Yamane-shuzo Inc.).

3. Outlook

Sompo Japan, under its strong partnership with NPJ, will continue to strive for the development of environmental talent and the strengthening of regional resilience through various programs. We will also build an ecosystem that continuously produces leaders active in the environmental field, contributing to the transition and realization of a green society, and ensure that customers and society as a whole feel "We're glad we chose Sompo Japan. We're glad we chose SOMPO."

Furthermore, the Sompo Environment Foundation will continue to evolve and deepen its human resource development business by supporting and collaborating with the "people who plant trees" and CSOs it has cultivated through the "CSO Learning Program" over the past 25 years, thereby contributing to the conservation of the global environment.

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