

You, Me and the World Update April 2003

Dear Teacher

Thank you for deciding to use *You, Me and the World* in your classes. We have prepared this Update to reflect the many changes which have taken place since the book was first published. (Depressingly, far too few changes have taken place!)

We also wish to offer you a new activity introducing some of the charities which have benefited from sales of *You, Me and the World*. (All royalty income payable to the authors is donated to charity. So far, over two million yen has been donated.) This activity may be used with the first unit of the book.

You will also find a list of relevant websites, which you can have your students check out and submit reports on, and some commercially available videos on similar themes.

We hope these improvements will help make your lessons more interesting and effective.

Unit 1

Section 1(3):

Switzerland joined the UN in 2002. However, there are five tiny independent states in Europe that do not belong to the UN: Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and Vatican City. See what your students can find out about the. Also the Republic of North Cyprus is not a member of the UN - it is recognised only by Turkey.

Section 4:

There were armed conflicts in Afghanistan, Algeria, Chechen Republic, Colombia, India, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Myanmar, Nepal, Palestine, Philippines, Somalia and Sudan as of 31st March 2003.

Unit 2

Recycling rates in 1999: Japan 12%, Britain 11%.

From 2005 all EU countries must cycle at least 25% of their garbage. As of 2002, all discarded refrigerators, washing machines, airconditioners and televisions in Japan must be recycled; and from 2003, all computers. Callular phones are becoming a major source of toxic waste.

Unit 3

Japan used to be the biggest importer of both ivory and musk, until the trade in them was banned. It is still the main importer of tortoiseshell.

Attempts are now being made to clone pandas in China.

The baiji dolphin will probably die out once the new Three Gorges Dam is completed, as the Yangtse River will become too polluted.

Unit 4

There are forests on about 70% of all land in Japan. At the same time, about 80% of all wood used in Japan is imported. Destruction of tropical rainforests continues in all countries where they are located, although they are protected in much of Bhutan, Costa Rica and Belize. Since 1993, the Forest Stewardship Council has certified lumber that has been harvested sustainably. All wood products made by some major companies, including Ikea (the world's biggest furniture company) and Home Base (the biggest user of wood in the US), have FSC certification. It has been suggested that the FSC has lowered its standards in order to satisfy the growing demand.

Unit 5

In 1997, an international meeting on global warming was held in Kyoto, resulting in the Kyoto Protocol, which committed nations to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 6% from 1990 levels. As of 2002, 179 countries had ratified the Protocol. The US (responsible for almost one quarter of all CO₂ emissions) and Australia refused to ratify the Protocol. Japan's emissions in the year 2000 were more than 10% higher than in 1990. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a cut of not 6% but 60% would be required to halt global warming

The Carbon Storage Trust offers a Climate Care Warranty: it will plant enough trees to offset all carbon emissions covered by the Warranty. For example, a British supermarket chain offers a CCW on gasoline sales, at a slightly higher price, with the extra being paid to the CST.

Unit 6

The government hopes Japan will get 3.2% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2010, but has done almost nothing to achieve this. In contrast, the EU is committed to getting 12% of its electricity just from wind by 2010. Denmark gets 18% of its electricity from wind. There are two geothermal power stations in Japan: Yanaizu and Aso. TEPCO runs a small (11MW) fuel cell power plant in Chiba. Caution: fuel cells are not yet a solution to auto emissions - hybrid cars currently produce fewer harmful emissions than fuel-cell-powered cars.

Unit 7

Rich nations have promised by the year 2015 to halve the number of people living below the poverty line, provide elementary school education for all children and supply clean drinking water to everyone. At current rates of progress this will be impossible.

In 1996, rich countries agreed to cancel the debts of the world's poorest countries in exchange for the adoption of liberal policies (selling off state enterprises, eliminating food subsidies, introducing fees for education and medical treatment, etc. Many countries accepted the deal - and their debt levels are even higher today. Japan is the strongest opponent of debt cancellation - most of Japan's aid until now has been in the form of loans, not grants. From 1991 to 2000, Japan was the world's number one donor of Official Development Assistance. However, this includes loans which of course have to be repaid with interest.

Unit 8

Section 1:

#2 Since the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan, religions other than Islam are officially permitted, and men are free to shave. Women are allowed to go out without a veil, but few dare to do so because of men's attitudes.

In 111 countries, the death penalty has been abolished or is no longer carried out. In the year 2001, over 3000 executions took place, most of them in China. Many also took place in Iran, Saudi Arabia and the US. The death penalty is imposed in Pakistan for blasphemy and in parts of Nigeria for adultery. In Japan, a large group of Diet members is campaigning to abolish capital punishment.

Section 8:

Naishinsho (secret school reports) were abolished in the 1990s. Ohm Shinri Kyo (a religious sect responsible for the Sarin gas attack in Tokyo and other crimes) was never banned, but the police monitor its activities.

Section 9:

The New Komeito Party proposed to change the Constitution to guarantee environmental, privacy, information and foreigners' rights.

Further information.

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of cases of child abuse in Japan, with 17,275 cases reported in the year 2000.

Unit 9

Section 2:

Tourism employs about 6% of the world's workers. However, most of the jobs are poorly-paid and seasonal.

Section 3:

Spelling correction: Cecil Rajendra. His other works are highly recommended.

Section 9:

The Mardi Gras is celebrated not only in New Orleans but also in Sydney.

Unit 10

Section 4:

Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest in May 2002. Indonesia withdrew its army from East Timor in 1999, and the UN administered the country until independence in 2002. Mother Theresa has been recognized as a saint by the Catholic Church. Jimmy Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

Section 5:

Eisaku Sato was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974 for his opposition to nuclear weapons. Sadako Ogata is no longer the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. In 2002, peace was restored in Angola, Aceh (Indonesia), Republic of the Congo and Sri Lanka. In 2003, wars broke out in Ivory Coast and Iraq.

Unit 11

Section 2:

Bangladesh has had 2 female prime ministers.

Section 4:

Since the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan, women have been permitted to work outside the home, girls may now attend school and one woman has managed to obtain a driving license! The restrictive traditions of a conservative, male-dominated society persist.

Section 5:

The story of domestic violence comes from Latin America, but could easily have occurred in Japan. In 1999 a government survey found that one in five Japanese wives had experienced domestic violence. In October 2001 a new law was introduced, protecting abused wives for a maximum of 6 months. As of January 2003, there were no official refuges for victims of domestic violence in Japan.

Section 6:

New legislation in Norway requires all state-owned companies to have women occupying at least 40% of all seats on the Board of Directors. From 2005, the law will also apply to private companies. The problem of groping on Japanese trains has led to the introduction of women-only sections.

Unit 12

Section 2:

In 1995 the law was changed to make it easier for ethnic Koreans born and raised in Japan to obtain Japanese citizenship. In the year 2001, 15,291 foreigners became Japanese citizens, and about two thirds of them were ethnic Koreans. Applicants no longer have to adopt Japanese names.

Section 3:

An American with Japanese citizenship sued a public bathhouse in Otaru for refusing him entry because he was foreign. He won the case and was awarded 3 million yen in compensation. He also sued the city, but his claim was rejected.

The word 'gaikokujin' is generally felt to be more polite than the word 'gaijin'. However, in most cases it is not necessary to use either word. Racism no doubt exists in some Japanese universities and language schools, not as official policy but due to the prejudiced attitudes of influential individuals.

Unit 13

In the year 2001, Japan accepted 26 refugees, of whom 13 were from Myanmar. 93% of all applications were rejected. The main reasons were the 2 month cutoff period for applications, the language barrier and the lack of institutional support. The application period will soon be extended to 6 months. Rejected applicants who lack travel documents or sufficient money are detained like criminals, in some cases for more than 2 years.

Section 7:

The current head of the UNHCR is Ruud Lubbers, of the Netherlands. A useful organization to contact: Nanmin Shien Kyokai.

Unit 14

Section 1:

The UN now has 191 members. The newest are Switzerland and East Timor. We therefore need to revise Question 4 as follows:

Which major nation did not join the UN until the year 2002?

The tapescript should be revised as follows:

That number has now grown to 191, including Switzerland, which was the last member to join.

As mentioned in Unit 13, Ruud Lubbers, not Sadako Ogata, is the head of the UNHCR.

The tapescript should therefore be revised as follows:

It is currently headed by Ruud Lubbers, of the Netherlands.

You may prefer to play the original recording, have students answer the questions in the book and then tell them about the latest changes.

Section 4:

#1 UNESCO was especially wasteful. The US and UK cut off all funding in protest. A new director took over and much of the waste was eliminated. The UK and later the US restored funding. The current director is Koichiro Matsuura.

Websites for You, Me & the World

See The Language Teacher March 2003 pp29-32 for more sites.

Unit 1 Global/news

One world	http://www.oneworld.org
Planet Xpress	http://www.planetxpress.org
Voices of Youth	http://www.unicef.org/voy
Earth Action	http://www.earthaction.org
Positive News	http://oneworld.org.positive_news
New Internationalist	http://www2.gol.com/users/bobkeim/contents.html
Reporting the World	http://www.reportingtheworld.org
Good News Agency	http://www.goodnewsagency.org

Unit 2 Garbage

EPA	http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity
FoE	http://www.foe.co.uk
	http://www.foejapan.org
	http://www.enn.com
	http://www.recyclemore.co.uk
	http://www.greendragonenergy.co.uk

Unit 3 Endangered Species

WWF	http://www.wwf.or.jp
	http://www.panda.org/home.html
Sierra Club	http://www.sierraclub.org
Jane Goodall Inst	http://www.janegoodall.org
	http://bigcats.care2.com

Unit 4 Rainforests

Greenpeace

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk>

Juke Box

<http://www.rainforestjukebox.org>

Rainforest Action Network

<http://www.ran.org>

Rainforest Info Center

<http://www.forests.org.ric>

<http://rainforest.care2.com>

Friends of the Earth

<http://www.foe.co.uk>

<http://www.foejapan.org>

Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/iff.htm>

Unit 5 Climate Change

Friends of the Earth

<http://www.foe.co.uk>

Kiko Forum

<http://www.geic.or.jp/kiko-forum.html>

Antenna

<http://www.antenna.nl/wise/cop6/coeng.html>

Unit 6 Energy

World Energy Council

<http://www.wec.co.uk>

Renewable Energy Project

<http://www.repp.org>

Energy & Environment

<http://www.riia.org/eep.html>

Greenpeace

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk>

Friends of the Earth

<http://www.foe.co.uk>

<http://www.eurosolar.org>

<http://www.greenchoices.org>

<http://www.greenprices.com>

<http://www.ecotricity.co.uk>

Unit 7 Developing Countries

Hunger Site

<http://www.hungersite.com>

Plan International

<http://www.jca.apc.org/fplan/>

Net Aid

<http://www.netaid.org>

UNDP

<http://www.undp.org>

UNICEF

<http://www.unicef.org>

Save the Children

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk>

Oxfam

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/>

Action Aid

<http://www.actionaid.org>

Jubilee Plus

<http://www.jubileeplus.org>

Fair Trade

<http://www.gn.apc.org/fairtrade/>

Ethical Junction

<http://www.ethical-junction.org>

Global Village

<http://www.globalvillage.or.jp>

Grameen

<http://www.grameen.com>

Barefoot College
Sightsavers
CWS
Trade Justice
Ethical Trade

<http://www.barefootcollege.org>
<http://www.sightsavers.org.uk>
<http://www.childwelfareceme.org/sudhar/issue1>
<http://www.tradejusticemovement.org.uk>
<http://www.ethicaltrade.org/>

Unit 8 Human Rights

UN High Commission
ILO
Amnesty
Charter 88

Hurights Japan

Anti-Slavery
Global Witness
Liberty
Human Rights Watch
Free the Children

<http://www.unhchr.ch>
<http://www.ilo.org>
<http://www.amnesty.org>
<http://www.charter88.org.uk>
<http://www.erc.hrea.org>
<http://www.hurights.or.jp>
<http://www.issho.org>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/humanrights>
<http://www.charitynet.org/~asi>
<http://www.oneworld.org/globalwitness>
<http://www.liberty-human-rights-org.uk>
<http://www.hrw.org>
<http://homepage2.nifty.com/FTCJ>

Unit 9 Tourism

Tourism Concern
Earthwatch
Ecotourism Society
WTTC
IIPT
PODI
Conservation International

<http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk>
<http://www.earthwatch.org>
<http://www.ecotourism.org>
<http://www.wttc.org>
<http://www.IIPT.org>
<http://www.podi.com/ecosource>
<http://www.ecotour.org>

Unit 10 Peace

One Day for Peace

Inst for Global Communications
Global Action to Prevent War
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
World Citizens
Peace Child
Zero Landmines Campaign

<http://www.oneday.net>
<http://www.peaceday.org>
<http://www.igc.org>
<http://www.globalactionpw.org>
<http://www.cnduk.org>
<http://www.worldcitizens.org>
<http://www.peacechild.org>
<http://www.tbs.co.jp/zero/>
<http://www.thelandminesite.com>

World Peace <http://www.WorldPeace.org>
World Youth Service <http://www.wyse.se>
Nobel Peace Prize <http://www.nobel.se/peace/laureates>
Peace Boat <http://www.peaceboat.org>
Carter Center <http://www.cartercenter.org>
Hague Appeal <http://www.haguepeace.org>
Peace Brigades <http://www.peacebrigades.org>
Peace Pledge <http://gn.apc.org/peacepledge/>

Unit 11 Gender

UN <http://www.un.org.instraw>
NOW <http://www.now.org/>
World Bank Gender Net <http://www.worldbank.org/gender/>
Feminist Majority <http://www.feminist.org>

Unit 12 Prejudice

Anti Defamation League <http://www.ADL.org>
http://blhri.org/index_e.htm
<http://www.imadr.org/index.html>
<http://www.eburg.com~cole>
<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/instree/d2drp.htm>
<http://www.debito.org>

Unit 13 Refugees

UNHCR <http://www.unhcr.ch>
Ref Aid <http://www.refaid.org.uk>

Unit 14 UN

<http://www.un.org>
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/>
<http://www.unicef.org/voy/>

Click for charity

<http://www.hungersite.org> <http://www.4GoodnessSake.org>
<http://www.givewater.org/> <http://bigcats.care2.com>
<http://www.thelandminesite.org> <http://webreleaf.com>
<http://rainforest.care2.com> <http://panda.care2.com>
(See The Language Teacher March 2003 p35 for ideas on how to use these.)

Suggested videos for use with You, Me & the World

Unit 2

- **Focus on the Environment** Unit 9 (Prentice Hall)
- **Earthwatch** Unit 10 (Prentice Hall)
- **Health & Environment** Unit 4 (Sanshusha)

Unit 3

- **Focus on the Environment** Unit 1 (Prentice Hall)
- **Earthwatch** Unit 5 (Prentice Hall)

Unit 4

- **Focus on the Environment** Unit 2 (Prentice Hall)
- **Earthwatch** Unit 4 (Prentice Hall)
- **The Amazon: A Living Forest** (Christian Aid)
- **Forests & Futures: Thengapalli** (Christian Aid)

Unit 5

- **Health & the Environment** Unit 2 (Sanshusha)
- **Spaceship Earth** (Worldlink)

Unit 6

- **Focus on the Environment** Units 5 & 10 (Prentice Hall)
- **Earthwatch** Units 7 & 8 (Prentice Hall)

Unit 7

- **Fair Trade in Action** (Fairtrade Foundation)
- **Spilling the Beans** (Oxfam)
- **Life after Debt** (Oxfam)
- **The Barefoot College** (The Video Project)
- **Famine & Chronic Persistent Hunger** (The Hunger Project)

Unit 8

- **Off Limits** (4learning4learning.sales@channel4.co.uk)
- **Street Children** (Oxfam)

Unit 9

- **Looking Beyond the Brochure** (Tourism Concern)

- **Your Place or Mine** (Tourism Concern)
- **Goa Under Siege** (Tourism Concern)

Unit 10

- **The Hague Appeal for Peace** (Shafer Media)

Unit 11

- **ABC News 4 Unit 11** (Kinseido)

Unit 14

- **The First Fifty Years** (United Nations Publications)

YOU, ME & THE WORLD

All royalties (money paid to the writer) from the sales of this book are donated to charity. When you bought this book, you automatically donated 180 Yen to charity. THANK YOU!

The charities which have received these donations are:

- WWF (Worldwide Fund for Nature)
- Nippon Foster Plan
- Amnesty International
- Save the Children
- Child Welfare Scheme
- Greenpeace
- Friends of the Earth
- Tree Aid
- VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas)

Would you like to know more about their activities?

Your teacher will give you some information to share with your friends.

Note to the teacher

This may be used as a very relevant classroom activity.

1. Read the general information to the whole class.
2. Divide the class into groups. In each group, give each member information about a different charity organization. Give them time to read it and then have them introduce it to the rest of the group.
3. Have each group discuss which of the charities they would most like their contribution (180 yen each when they bought the book) to support.

It would not be practical to in fact assign such a small amount to particular charities, but the discussion itself will be very meaningful, and may encourage students to think more seriously about charitable work themselves.

You may wish to have them check out the websites for homework.

They are as follows:

WWF	http://www.wwf.or.jp
Nippon Foster Plan	http://www.jca.apc.org/fplan/
Amnesty International	http://www.amnesty.org.uk/
Save the Children	http://www.savethechildren.org.uk
Child Welfare Scheme	http://www.ChildWelfareScheme.org
Greenpeace	http://www.greenpeace.org.uk
Friends of the Earth	http://www.foe.co.uk
VSO	http://www.vso.org.uk

WWF was founded in England in 1961. It is the world's biggest conservation organisation. Its goal is to protect endangered species and their habitats. It conducts research, education, training and conservation campaigns. The WWF contributed to saving the tiger, the African elephant and many other species. It has many supporters in Japan, but also many enemies: those who profited from trade in endangered species involving products such as ivory (from elephants' tusks), tortoiseshell (from turtles) and musk (from the Himalayan musk deer). Japan was the biggest consumer of these products until trade in them was banned. The symbol of the WWF is the panda, of which fewer than 1000 remain.

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International Foster Plan was founded in Britain in 1937. Its aim is to improve living standards in developing countries. Donors are invited to sponsor a child from a Third World community, usually a village in Asia, Africa or Latin America. Donors receive photographs of and letters from the child. However, donations are not spent on the individual child, as this would be unfair to other children. Instead, the money is used for the whole village, paying for the construction of wells and irrigation systems, schools and clinics, vocational training centres and so on. In Japan, foster child donations are set at 6000 Yen per month, but Nippon Foster Plan also accepts larger donations for specific projects, such as the women's literacy campaign in Nepal and micro-credit projects in South America. There are about 60,000 IFP foster parents in Japan.

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Amnesty International was founded in England in 1961. It is the world's largest private organization dedicated to the protection of human rights, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. In countries around the world, people are arrested, tortured and killed for their religious or political beliefs, for forming labour unions and for other legal activities which offend government ministers and officers of the police or armed forces. When AI finds out about such violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they immediately investigate and then demand an official explanation. If the government concerned fails to take appropriate action, AI begins a vigorous campaign, involving phone calls and letters to influential politicians, demands for economic sanctions and daily reports in the mass media. In Japan, AI has campaigned for proper treatment of people arrested for visa offenses and for an end to capital punishment.

The Save the Children Fund was established by an English woman named Eglantyne Jebb around 70 years ago. The Fund promotes children's welfare in all aspects, including education, health, food security and human rights, and is active in more than 50 countries. Some examples of projects supported by SCF: community homes for abandoned children in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; returning child soldiers to their communities in Liberia; drama therapy to heal children terrorised by violence in Palestine; training workers in Chinese orphanages. Surprisingly, SCF is not recognised as a charity by the Japanese government. If you donate money to Japanese politicians, it is regarded as a charitable donation; but if you give it to one of the world's leading child welfare charities, both you and the charity have to pay tax on it.

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The Child Welfare Scheme is a small British charity which has been building daycare and health centers in remote mountain villages in Nepal since 1995. It has also completed a water project serving seven villages, and is promoting the widespread use of a simple, locally built smokeless fuel stove to reduce diseases caused by smoke pollution in people's homes. Their next project is a rehabilitation center for street children. The CWS also operates two trekkers' hotels in Pokhara. Because of their extensive use of foreign volunteers and local labor, over 90% of their funds are spent on improving children's lives.

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Greenpeace was founded in Canada in 1971 to oppose the testing of nuclear weapons near Alaska. In 30 years it has grown into a global organization with over four and a half million members, and its goals include not only the abolition of nuclear weapons but also the protection of forests, the banning of toxic substances such as PVC and the promotion of clean energy. Greenpeace has been very critical of the Japanese Government for its policies on nuclear energy and whaling, and of the role of Japanese companies in destroying tropical rainforests; and the Japanese Government refused to recognise Greenpeace until 1993, when Greenpeace filmed Russian ships dumping nuclear waste into the Japan Sea, and gave the film to the Japanese Government.

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Friends of the Earth was founded in the US in 1969. In 1971 they began a campaign against soft drink manufacturers using non-returnable bottles. Since then, they have fought governments in various countries on many different issues, including nuclear energy, logging, agricultural chemicals and highway construction. They now have active members in over 50 different countries. Friends of the Earth Japan - Chikyu no Tomo - is working hard to protect the remaining forests in East Siberia, and wildlife including the Amur tiger.

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Tree Aid is a small charity founded to promote the planting of trees in African villages. Since it was founded in England in 1987, it has supervised the planting of more than six million trees in 14 countries, protecting communities from the advancing desert and providing them with fruit, berries, nuts and leaves, and wood for fuel and housing. Tree Aid has trained 13,000 Africans in skills related to raising, planting and caring for trees. In Mali and Burkina Faso, it has paid for the introduction of efficient stoves which burn less wood.

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Voluntary Service Overseas is Britain's equivalent to the US Peace Corps. VSO sends skilled, qualified volunteers to over 70 different developing countries to provide training in medical care, forestry, farming and other essential skills. For example, in Kiwoko, Uganda, two VSO nurses from Britain are training local women to work as nurses in the local hospital. At present there are just 150 hospital beds for a population of half a million people. Not far from Kiwoko, another VSO worker is helping local villagers to develop an eco-tourism project. Providing one VSO worker costs just 5000 Yen per month, and results in a better life for thousands of people.