

**【NEWS RELEASE】**

March 28, 2025

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc.  
Kumon Institute of Education Co., Ltd.  
Fast Retailing Foundation

Efforts to Provide Educational Opportunities for Refugee Children in Japan

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Ltd. (President & Group CEO: Toru Nakashima, hereinafter “SMBC Group”), Kumon Institute of Education Co., Ltd. (President: Mitsunori Tanaka, hereinafter "KUMON") and the Fast Retailing Foundation (President: Tadashi Yanai, hereinafter "FR Foundation") agreed to work together to close the educational and experience gap for refugee children in Japan.

1. Background and Purpose

Many refugee children in Japan face challenges related to learning and experiences. These include struggling with language differences and cultural barriers, which can lead to a lack of confidence in their studies. Additionally, their parents may find it difficult to adjust to life in Japan and therefore lack access to information about education or further schooling. Furthermore, some parents are unable to read Japanese, making it difficult for them to assist their children with their studies.

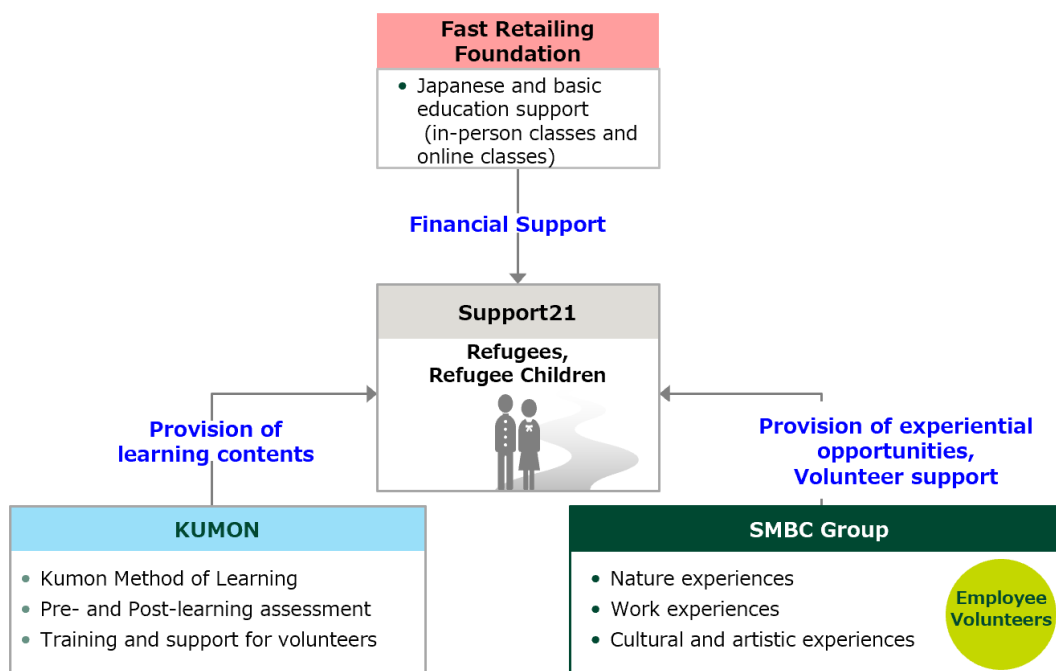
In order for refugee children from such diverse backgrounds to be able to make the most of their abilities and expand their future potential, regardless of where they were born or raised, the three parties will work together to eliminate the disparity in children's education and experience.

2. Details of Initiatives

For refugee children in Japan, the three parties will provide support to eliminate educational disparities in terms of both learning and experience.

Kumon will provide the Kumon learning program with tablets, pre- and post-study assessments, and training to volunteers to the social welfare corporation Support21 (Chairman: Tadamasu Fukiura), which operates a learning support class for refugee children, which is supported by the FR Foundation. SMBC Group will provide hands-on activities related to nature experiences, work experiences, culture and the arts, and dispatch employee volunteers.

< Draft support system >



In its Medium-Term Management Plan "Plan for Fulfilled Growth" from FY2023, the SMBC Group has newly positioned the creation of social value as one of its management pillars, and has been focusing on eliminating disparities in children's education and experience. By enhancing children's non-cognitive abilities such as curiosity and coordination through hands-on activities, we will support them to develop their willingness to take on challenges and creativity and expand their future possibilities.

SMBC Group will continue to implement various initiatives to solve the social issues faced by children and to maximize their growth and potential.

Kumon strives to solve the social issues faced by children and collaborates on various initiatives to maximize their growth and potential, which is common to the philosophy of discovering the potential of each individual and maximizing their abilities, and the basic approach in the field of education based on the SMBC Group's Medium-Term Management Plan.

Specifically, we will pilot the implementation of the KUMON method of learning at Support21, a social welfare corporation that supports educational support projects for refugee children by the FR Foundation, and conduct assessments as a prerequisite for it, and implement initiatives to create opportunities for internally refugee children to expand their future options through learning support.

The FR Foundation's refugee support project will continue to provide learning support classes for refugee children living in Japan with the aim of improving their Japanese language and academic skills, allowing them to go on to high school and university, and expand their future options. By providing learning support opportunities for refugee children who are unable to attend cram schools due to financial reasons due to the lack of public interest support outside of compulsory education, we hope that they will be able to acquire study habits and learn independently at home.

We hope that many companies and individuals will take an interest in this issue and work together to address these challenges and create solutions.

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