

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sunway University and Kamakura Women's University Forge Landmark Partnership to Advance Global Education, Research, and Cross-Cultural Exchange

A five-year Memorandum of Understanding between two globally engaged institutions to nurture future-ready educators, joint research, and meaningful student mobility across Malaysia and Japan.

BANDAR SUNWAY, MALAYSIA / KAMAKURA, JAPAN — Sunway University, Malaysia's and ASEAN's leading non-government-linked private university, and Kamakura Women's University (KWU), a distinguished private university in Kanagawa, Japan, are pleased to announce the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a strategic partnership in education, research, and internationalization. The MOU, executed by both institutions in July 2026, marks the beginning of a five-year collaboration grounded in shared values of academic excellence, cultural understanding, and service to society.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Sunway University by Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President & Vice-Chancellor, and witnessed by Professor Abhimanyu Veerakumarasivam, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Provost. On behalf of Kamakura Women's University, the MOU was signed by Professor Kazuteru Fukui, President, and witnessed by Professor Fumitake Fukui, Vice President and Director of the Research Institute.

A Partnership Rooted in Shared Purpose

This partnership brings together two institutions whose visions naturally converge. Sunway University advances a mission of educating for a sustainable future and producing globally competent graduates who contribute meaningfully to society, with strong alignment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Kamakura Women's University, founded in 1943, is guided by its founding spirit of "Gratia et Ministerium" — nurturing individuals who live with gratitude and ministration — cultivating scientific literacy, refined character, and the advancement of human welfare and culture.

Together, the two universities will collaborate on academic and cultural exchange, faculty and student mobility, exchange of scholarly materials, joint or collaborative research projects and grant applications, articulation arrangements for students, and other mutually agreed initiatives.

Key Areas of Collaboration

- **Academic and cultural exchange** activities that deepen cross-border understanding and internationalization.
- **Faculty and student mobility** programmes to nurture globally competent educators and learners.
- **Joint research and grant applications**, with an initial joint proposal already submitted to the Toyota Foundation.
- **Educational innovation** in areas such as psychology, educational technology, early childhood education, and AI in education.

- **Articulation and pathway opportunities** for qualified students, subject to admission standards.
- **Exchange of scholarly materials and information** that supports scholarship, pedagogy, and evidence-based practice.

About Sunway University and the School of Education

Sunway University is a leading not-for-profit private university in Malaysia and a member of the Sunway Education Group, which is owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation. The University is currently ranked within the 301–350 band in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026 and has recorded strong performance in the THE World University Rankings by Subject 2026, with disciplines ranked in the global top 200 across Business and Economics (151–175), Psychology (176–200), Engineering (176–200), and Education Studies (176–200).

The School of Education, established in 2023, has entered the global top 200 for Education Studies in its inaugural participation in the Times Higher Education subject rankings — a milestone that reflects the school's rapid rise, its research-intensive culture, and its commitment to producing future-ready educators. The school offers a comprehensive suite of postgraduate programmes (Master of Education by Coursework, Master of Education ODL, Master of Education by Research, PhD in Education and Doctor of Education) and is expanding into early childhood and inclusive education through new diploma and undergraduate programmes.

About Kamakura Women's University

Kamakura Women's University, founded in 1943 and located in Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture, is an established private university in Japan that promotes advanced, specialized education and research across academic and applied fields. Guided by its founding spirit of Gratia et Ministerium, KWU cultivates scientific literacy and refined character, and contributes to human welfare and the advancement of culture. The University offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across disciplines including education, educational media creation, child studies, psychology, nutrition, and health sciences, and is actively broadening its international engagement through partnerships across Asia.

Voices from the Partnership

"This partnership is a meaningful step forward for the School of Education and for Sunway University's internationalization agenda. Kamakura Women's University brings a rich intellectual tradition, a deep commitment to societal contribution, and complementary strengths in psychology, human development, and educational innovation. We are excited about the joint research, mobility, and pedagogical opportunities that lie ahead," said **Professor Malissa Maria Mahmud**, Dean of the School of Education, Sunway University.

"We are honoured to formalize this partnership with Sunway University, one of Malaysia's most respected private universities. This MOU reflects our shared commitment to academic excellence, cross-cultural engagement, and the development of globally competent graduates. We look forward to many years of fruitful collaboration between our two institutions," said **Professor Fumitake Fukui**, Vice President and Director of the Research Institute, Kamakura Women's University.

"From our first meeting through to the signing of the MOU, this partnership has been shaped by openness, professionalism, and genuine friendship on both sides. It is a partnership built to grow — through joint research, mobility, and student experiences that broaden horizons in both Malaysia and

Japan," added **Associate Professor Dr Majid Ghasemy**, Head of the Department of Educational Development and Innovation and Deputy Dean (Internationalization), School of Education, Sunway University.

Acknowledgements

The two institutions wish to acknowledge the many colleagues whose dedication made this partnership possible. Special appreciation is extended to Professor Aya Fujisawa (Department of Child Psychology, Kamakura Women's University), whose visit and academic engagement with Sunway University in January 2026 provided the foundation for this collaboration, and to Dr Brendan Ch'ng Hien Wee (Senior Lecturer, School of Education, Sunway University), whose facilitation was central to advancing the MOU discussions with clarity and care.

Sincere thanks are also due to Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President & Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University; Professor Abhimanyu Veerakumarasivam, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Provost; Professor Kazuteru Fukui, President of Kamakura Women's University; Professor Fumitake Fukui, Vice President; Professor Malissa Maria Mahmud, Dean of the School of Education; Associate Professor Dr Majid Ghasemy, Deputy Dean (Internationalization); Ms Jennifer Choo Sue Chin, School Manager (SOE); Ms Siti Nai'emah Nor Said; Ms Atsuko Nagayoshi and Mr Akio Nagaoka, and Professor David Chapman of KWU; and all colleagues from the Legal, Partnership, and Communications teams of both universities whose stewardship brought this MOU to a successful conclusion.

Looking Ahead

In the coming months, both universities will explore joint research initiatives, faculty and student exchange opportunities, co-designed workshops, and the possibility of an in-person celebration to further mark this new chapter of collaboration. This partnership stands as a shared commitment — between Malaysia and Japan, and between two academic communities — to shaping the future of education with purpose, empathy, and global perspective.

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Hashtags

**#SunwayUniversity #SchoolOfEducation #FifthGenerationMissionDrivenUniversity
#KamakuraWomensUniversity #KWU #SunwayKWU #MalaysiaJapan #MOUSigning
#GlobalPartnership #Internationalization #HigherEducation #EducationInnovation
#FutureReadyEducators #ResearchCollaboration #AcademicExcellence #StudentMobility #SDG4
#QualityEducation #GratiaEtMinisterium #ASEANJapan #THERankings2026**