

Local Communities

The NGK Group is concerned about social issues in all nations and regions. We engage in social contribution activities in response to needs in each region in an aim to become a corporate citizen trusted by local communities.

Basic Approach

The NGK Group promotes social contribution activities based on the following concepts.

Focus of Activities

Centered on people and education, the environment, and community involvement.

Company Activities and Employee Involvement

- NGK provides employees with opportunities to experience activities.
- NGK proactively encourages individual activities to engender employee satisfaction and a sense of confidence in the company.

Information Disclosure

NGK promotes an understanding of activities and provides activity information to inculcate a social contribution mindset among employees.

Social Contribution Activity Promotion System

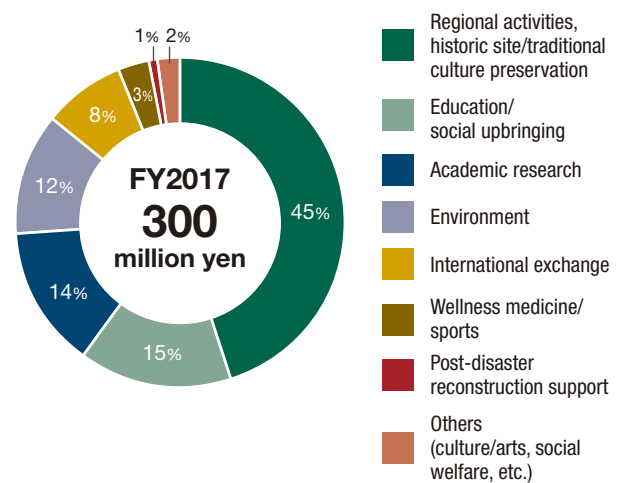
At the NGK Group, social contribution activities are promoted under the leadership of the Social Contribution Subcommittee, which is chaired by the general manager of the General Affairs Department and reports to the CSR Committee.

NGK collects reports from Group companies in and outside of Japan on their activities. In fiscal 2017, a total of 70 reports were received.

Social Contribution Activity Promotion Status

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
Social contribution expenditures	331 million yen	346 million yen	315 million yen	300 million yen
Number of social contribution programs	8	9	10	10
Number of collaborations with NPOs/NGOs	5	4	4	4

Breakdown of Activities



Providing Scholarships and Assistance to International Students

NGK established the NGK Foundation for International Students in order to facilitate the cultivation of individuals who will contribute to the development of the international community. It is through the Foundation that NGK is helping to provide housing and scholarships to overseas students visiting Japan.

The impetus for the Foundation’s establishment stems from gratitude for the warm community support and hospitality shown to NGK’s first employees and families posted overseas at the time of its initial overseas expansion back in the 1930s. Our activities are conducted in the hope that the students will feel glad that they came to Japan and develop a fondness for the country.

In fiscal 2017, we provided housing to 39 students from 11 countries, and scholarships (non-repayable) to 20 students from 13 countries.

Reference URL

The NGK Foundation for International Students

<http://www.ngk.co.jp/english/csr/philanthropy/>

Exchange between Supported Students, Communities, and Employees

NGK organizes a variety of events and programs to provide opportunities for grassroots international relations between supported students, regional communities, and employees. Language classes taught by international students have been held annually since 2000, and cross-cultural exchange meetings where international students introduce their native countries have been held annually since 2006.

In fiscal 2017, 12 Korean language class sessions were held. Additionally, there were eight cross-cultural exchange meetings alternately hosted by different exchange students to introduce their different home countries. Through these events, participating students and local residents were able to enjoy meaningful exchange. As of fiscal 2017, a cumulative total of 960 people have participated.

Number of Participants in International Programs

	Korean language class	Cross-cultural exchange
International students	3	12
Local residents	24	20



Korean cultural exchange event (October 2017)

Communication after Support Ends

To maintain relationships with international students after support ends, each year, we send out a New Year’s greeting card that includes a company status report to former and current students.

We also distribute NGK International Friendship Club Members Cards that include our contact information to international students after support ends.

In fiscal 2017, we sent New Year’s cards with updates on the Foundation and NGK to around 300 students who have received support in the past.

TOPIC

A Place Where Students from around the World Live, Learn, and Laugh Together NGK International House

“Except for weekends, I am in the laboratory until 11:00 p.m. every day. My room at the NGK International House has a big desk and is good for studying. When I get tired, I go out onto the balcony to get some air.”

The speaker is Edwin Akandwanaho, a student from Uganda (right). He is studying road traffic at Nagoya University’s Graduate School of Environmental Studies.

Alexia Fabiani is from Italy (left), and she is studying physics at Nagoya University’s School of Science. “It’s safe and quiet here, and all the residents are nice people. When you live on your own it’s hard to make friends, but that’s not the case here. I can meet friends easily.” On days off the international students gather in the common kitchen area and cook. The students often share what they cook with one another.



Achievements

Number of overseas students supported: 779 (1997–2017)

Total language class and intercultural event attendance: 964 (2000–2017)

Note: Language classes started in 2000 and cross-cultural exchange meetings started in 2006.

Social Contribution Activities in Collaboration with Local Communities and NPOs

Aiming to be a corporate citizen trusted by local communities, NGK collaborates with communities and NPOs to engage in social contribution activities in response to regional needs. In addition, employee volunteers from NGK Group companies in Japan and around the world conduct a variety of social contribution activities rooted in their local communities.

Reference
URL

Read more about NGK's social contribution activities at:
<http://www.ngk.co.jp/csr/social/stakeholder/activity/>

Social Contribution Activities by NGK

Offering Workplace Experience to Junior High School Students from Rikuzentakata City

NGK took part in the workplace experience program offered to junior high school students from Rikuzentakata City, sponsored by the Nagoya City Board of Education. Two Rikuzentakata junior high school students visited NGK's main plant, where they were welcomed by President Taku Oshima and given a first-hand look at plant operations, such as the unloading of HONEYCERAM® products from kilns.

This program is conducted in line with the "total support" initiatives that Nagoya City undertakes towards Rikuzentakata City, which suffered immense damage as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake. NGK has taken part in this program each year since 2016.



Hosting the Komaki Summer Festival

NGK's Komaki Site hosted the annual Komaki Summer Festival, with around 1,600 local residents, employees, and their families taking part.

A stage was set up to feature Japanese drummers and buskers, as well as specially invited local singers performing popular songs. Vendors set up food stalls to sell yaki-soba noodles, Mitarashi dumplings, and other foods, and there were game booths featuring ball scoop challenges and other fun diversions. A limited supply of hand fans bearing raffle numbers were also distributed and used to select gift raffle winners, capping off an exciting event.



Social Contribution Activities by Group Companies in Japan

NGK Filtech Sponsors Local Festival

NGK Filtech, Ltd. was a sponsor of the 62nd Ooka Echizen Festival held in Chigasaki City. This event has taken place every year since 1956*, and as part of contributing to the community as a local company, NGK Filtech has been an event sponsor since 1992, one year after the company's founding (September 1991).

*The origin of the festival dates back to the ceremony performed at the Jokenji Temple in front of the grave of Ooka Tadasuke in 1912 to posthumously confer an honorary title upon him. The festival was disrupted by the Great Kanto Earthquake and numerous wartime interruptions; however, in 1956 it was resumed under the new name of the Ooka Echizen Festival.



Hosting the Energy Support Cup Women's Volleyball Tournament

Energy Support Corporation held the 25th Energy Support Cup Women's Volleyball Tournament at the Energy Support Arena. The tournament showcased white-hot competition amongst 12 teams from Inuyama City. The company has supported this competition for 25 years as a means of contributing to the local sporting community.



NGK Sports Planning Helps with Sporting Activities for the Disabled

NGK Sports Planning Co., Ltd. is supporting the activities of the Aichi branch of the Special Olympics Nippon Foundation, which organizes sporting competitions for those with intellectual disabilities, by making the Moronoki Tennis Club's playing court available for use free of charge. NGK Sports Planning has offered the court as a competition training location for nine training sessions during the spring and autumn each year since 2015.



NGK Electronics Cleans Up Local River

NGK Electronics Devices, Inc. undertook cleanup efforts along the Mugi River, which flows through the site of the head office factory. The cleanup was performed by three members of the Environmental Promotion Committee as part of the June Environmental Month activities. The participants spent around an hour walking along the river and picking up trash.



Soshin Powertech Participates in Evacuation Drill at Aged Care Facility

Four employees of Soshin Powertech Co., Ltd., which is part of the Soshin Electric Group, assisted with an evacuation drill held at a local aged care center.

This evacuation drill is held once every six months and is assisted by local residents, businesses, and public groups. The drill simulated a daytime fire emergency, with participants helping those in wheelchairs to evacuate the building.



Social Contribution Activities by Overseas Group Companies

NGK Electronics Devices Malaysia Takes Part in Blood Drive Activities

A total of 81 employees from NGK Electronics Devices Malaysia (NGKMY) took part in a blood drive held at the NGKMY head office. Thanks to widespread, advance announcement to stimulate interest amongst employees, participation was almost double that of the previous fiscal year.



NGK Ceramics Polska Participates for 2nd Consecutive Year in Charity Run Held by Support Organization for the Disabled

For the second year in a row, employee volunteers from NGK Ceramics Polska Sp. z o.o. took part in the Katowice Business Run charity run held in the city of Katowice, Poland. This event has been held each year since 2011 and is organized by a support organization for the disabled. All participant fees are put to use to help the disabled, with this year's monies going towards the purchase of prosthetic legs.



NGK Metals Installs Ramp at Local Retirement Home

Employee volunteers from NGK Metals Corporation in America visited a retirement home in the nearby city of Madisonville, Tennessee to help install a ramp at the home's entrance.

The project was undertaken in collaboration with United Way, an American charitable organization, and the five NGK Metals employees were responsible for the ramp's installation. The group of employees, who were mostly former carpenters, took a day to inspect the site, purchase materials, and then install a fine new ramp.



NGK Ceramics Mexico Helps Victims of the 2017 Central Mexico Earthquake

In the terrible aftermath of the Central Mexico Earthquake which struck in September 2017, NGK Ceramics Mexico, S. de R.L. de C.V. (ACM) found volunteers to donate food, daily necessities, and other items to victims. The donated items were delivered to the victims through the Mexican Red Cross in Monterey, the capital city of Nuevo León, where ACM is located.



Support for Volunteer Activities by Employees

The NGK Group proactively supports activities and provides information to create opportunities for employees to participate in volunteering outside the company.

Volunteering to Teach Children About the Wonders of Science

As a manufacturer, NGK engages in various activities to spark children's interest in science. In 1997, we started running the "NGK Science Site: Experiments at Home Series" as a regular feature in a science magazine. We also maintain a dedicated website which is updated monthly.

Children's interest is piqued through the use of featured experiments that are supervised by experts and which address interesting and relevant topics. These experiments utilize familiar, everyday materials like plastic bottles, dry cell batteries, vegetables, and condiments and are explained in detailed steps.

Since 1998, the experiments introduced on the NGK Science Site have been demonstrated at the Youngsters' Science Festival in Nagoya (hosted by the Japan Science Foundation) and other local science events. Every year, NGK employee volunteers set up a booth to present a science lab. To date, roughly 40 sessions have been presented, attracting a cumulative total of 20,000 children and their parents.

Reference
URL **NGK Science Site**
<http://site.ngk.co.jp/>

Christmas Lectures Convey the Wonders of Science

We took part in the 2017 Royal Institution Christmas Lecture (sponsored by the Yomiuri Shimbun news corporation and the Tokyo Institute of Technology), which is an annual event aimed at conveying the wonders of science to children. At the 2017 Christmas Lecture we showcased the amazing capabilities of our NAS batteries. This popular series of lectures began in the U.K. around 200 years ago and serves as a "Christmas present" from scientists to young people. This format has been replicated in Japan, with NGK taking part each year since 2011. The theme of the September 2017 lectures was energy. Our NAS batteries were heavily showcased as a model for the future of secondary batteries, with NGK employees serving as guest lecturers to provide an easy-to-understand explanation to children and students about what makes these batteries so special.



Collaborating with the Labor Union to Conduct Social Contribution Activities

Relief Assistance for Victims of Northern Kyushu Storm Disaster

In July 2017, the NGK Group donated one million yen for disaster victim relief and local recovery efforts following the storm disaster in northern Kyushu. Additionally, a collection effort led by the NGK Labor Union raised 1.07 million yen, which was combined with a matching gift of 1.10 million yen from NGK to provide a 2.17 million yen donation in August (3.17 million yen in total).



Participating in the Fukushima Sunflower Project

The NGK Labor Union participated in the Fukushima Sunflower Project. Participants become “foster parents” to sunflowers by purchasing seeds, growing flowers from them, and harvesting the seeds. The project aims to help the people of Fukushima connect with the rest of the world, make sure the earthquake/tsunami disaster is never forgotten, and create employment in the prefecture, including for those with intellectual disabilities.

In fiscal 2017, the sunflowers grown from seeds planted by NGK employees to support recovery efforts after the Great East Japan Earthquake were still blooming at the Nagoya, Chita and Komaki sites, as well as at the Ishikawa Plant.



Interacting with Local Communities

The NGK Group engages in dynamic interactions with local residents through opportunities such as plant tours and regional events, as well as through opportunities for direct dialogue, making an effort to incorporate the ideas and opinions received in Group business activities and CSR activities.

Plant Tours

Interactions with Children and Local Residents

NGK attempts to interact with local communities through plant tours to deepen interest in and understanding of NGK and manufacturing. In fiscal 2017 we conducted 10 plant tours at our three sites and the Ishikawa Plant for a total of 253 participants consisting of elementary school students and local residents.

Plant Tours in Fiscal 2017 (NGK)

	Participants	Details
Nagoya Site	30	International students from the NGK Foundation for International Students
	11	Toyohashi City Takashidai Junior High School
	30	Aichi Prefecture Kozoji Senior High School
	5	Rikuzentakata City junior high school students
Chita Site	50	Local resident plant tour group
Komaki Site	7	Aichi Prefecture Kasugai-nishi Senior High School
	10	Mayors of neighboring wards
Ishikawa Plant	39	Ishikawa Technical Senior High School
	17	Nagoya "Friday Club"
	54	Japan Radio Institute

TOPIC

Chita Site Plant Tour for Local Residents

In November 2017, we invited local residents to come and tour the Chita Site, and this invitation was accepted by 50 people. These tour groups have been arranged annually since 1984 in order to help us establish stronger communication with local residents, whom NGK considers key stakeholders.

These tours help local residents better understand NGK's production and business activities.



Participants listen to an explanation of the beryllium-copper manufacturing process



A commemorative photo taken in front of one of the world's largest insulating tubes