

March 3rd, 2026

Asari Education Academy Group

PRESS RELEASE

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signed with OSAO of Finland to Establish Educational Partnership

~Launching International Collaboration to Promote Teacher Education and Enhance the Quality of Early Childhood Education~

Asari Educational Academy Group (Hokkaido ; Chairperson : Kenji Asari) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on educational partnership with OSAO (Oulu Vocational Collage), an educational institution based in Oulu, Finland.

This MOU establishes a framework for partnerships in the field of early childhood education, with the aim to promote teacher education, enhance educational practice, and cultivate human resources with global perspective. The agreement outlines a structure for cooperation that leverages the respective expertise and educational resources of both institutions.

Finland is internationally recognized for high technical skills in teachers and the quality of education system. Meanwhile, Asari Educational Academy Group operates multiple early childhood education facilities in Japan and has been committed to strengthening organizational governance and developing sustainable management models for early learning institutions.



Moving forward, the two institutions will explore concrete collaboration in the following areas:

- Joint design of teacher education and training programs
- Collaborative research and mutual exchange of education practices
- Exchange programs for students and faculty members
- Exploration of participation in international joint projects

This partnership represents not merely an international exchange initiative, but also would be the starting point of practical collaboration aimed at enhancing institutional expertise and sustainability. Based on a child-centered educational philosophy, Asari Educational Academy Group will continue to promote initiatives that contribute to improve the quality of the education both in Japan and abroad.

OSAO (Oulu Vocational College)

OSAO (Oulu Vocational College) is a large public vocational education institution based in the Oulu region of northern Finland. The college provides practice-oriented education closely aligned with industry needs across a broad range of specialized fields, including engineering, information technology (IT), business, social and health services, tourism, and other service sectors.

Under Finland's national vocational education and training system, OSAO delivers education based on individualized learning plans tailored to each student. Through strong partnerships with companies and workplace-based training programs, including apprenticeships, the institution fosters job-ready professionals equipped with practical skills and up-to-date industry knowledge. OSAO is also actively engaged in international collaboration, promoting exchanges and joint projects with educational institutions across Europe and beyond.

As a core educational institution supporting regional industry and workforce development, OSAO co-cultivation of highly skilled professionals with strong expertise and practical competencies.



Official Webpage: [OSAO | Koulutuskuntayhtymä OSAO](https://www.osao.fi/)

Asari Educational Academy Group

Asari Education Academy Group was established in 1969 and originated from a Hokkaido Nihon University High School (now Sapporo Nihon University Educational Academy) affiliated kindergarten. The group is a consortium of three corporations: Asari Educational Academy, Asumoe Social Welfare Corporation, Jiyu Sozo Gakuen Educational Corporation. As of 2025, the group oversees 14 certified childcare centers, kindergartens, and daycare centers (approximately 1,100 children and 320 staff members) primarily in the central Hokkaido region. The group accepts nursery school privatization projects from various local governments and establishes new facilities under programs to eliminate nursery school waiting lists.

Based on the educational philosophy, "Ah! So! Bo!", the group's vision is to nurture independent, sensitive children under the mission to develop children's confidence to excel and lead vibrant lives now and in the future.

Official Website: <https://www.nissho-asumoe.com/>



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