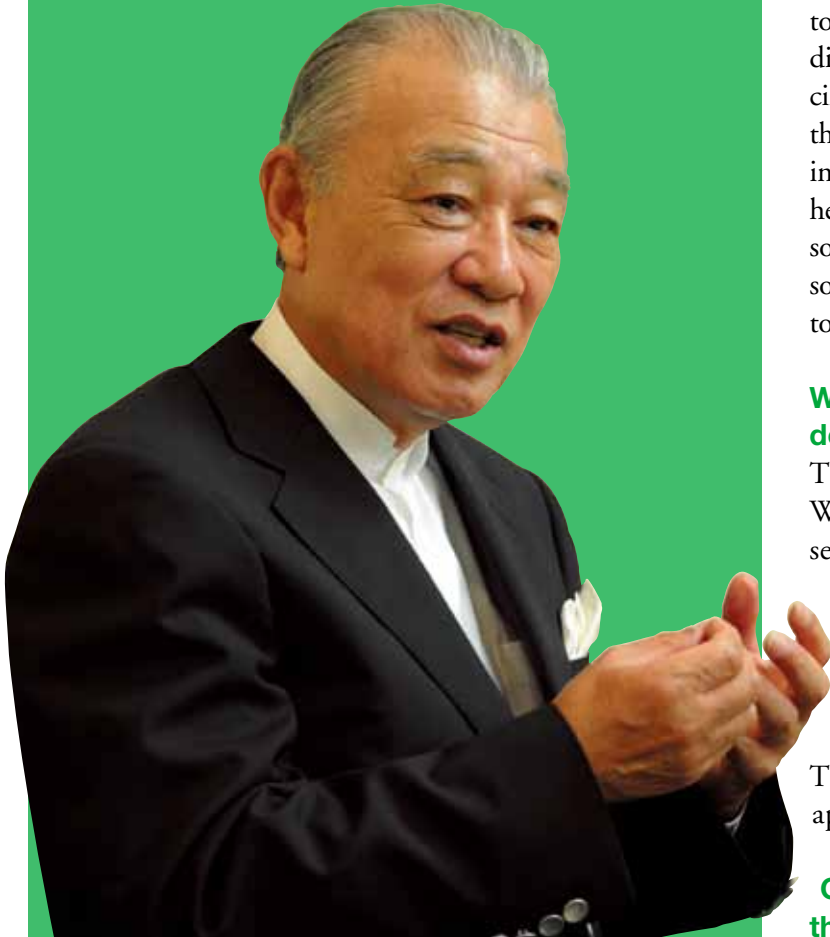




Share the pain.
Share the hope.
Share the future.



Conversation with our Chairman

Yohei Sasakawa on the Foundation's
philosophy and activities

佐川 揚平

What sort of society does The Nippon Foundation hope to achieve through its many activities?

Many people around the world are unable to realize their full potential because of disability, disease, poverty, or the place or circumstances of their birth. We believe they should be included in creating a society in which everyone can fully develop his or her abilities. Our projects strive to eliminate social barriers so as to build an inclusive society where everyone is respected and able to play an active role.

What is The Nippon Foundation doing to achieve this?

The world today faces many problems. We cannot solve all of them, so we set priorities and concentrate on the issues where we can be effective.

We work out solutions with affiliated organizations, NGOs, and international organizations that specialize in particular fields. These partnerships encompass diverse approaches to specific issues.

Could you give us an example of this approach in practice?

Among the many diseases in the world, we are particularly committed to eliminating leprosy and the stigma it causes. This involves both medical and social challenges.

With effective medical treatment, leprosy can be cured, and in some parts of the world leprosy is considered a disease of the past. In reality, however, more than 200,000 new cases are diagnosed each year. From 1995 we provided free drugs to all patients for five years, and we continue to work with the WHO, national governments, and partners to ensure that the cure reaches all who need it.

Discrimination against leprosy is deep-rooted. Those affected by the disease sometimes lose their jobs or are driven out of their community. Some who contracted leprosy at an early age have been unable to receive an education and are forced to beg on the street, even after being cured. Our projects include scholarship programs and vocational training to equip people with skills to earn a living.

The problem of discrimination and stigma really comes down to a lack of feeling for others based on ignorance of their situation. Through our activities with various partners, we seek to promote greater awareness and correct the misunderstandings people have about leprosy.

What is The Nippon Foundation's approach to grantmaking?

Our role is to help grantees become able to solve their problems themselves. At the end of the project, if the grantees are not able to set out on their own, they will not be able to really solve the problem.

For example, we have been engaged in a project in Africa to increase agricultural food production, but this is not simply a matter of dispatching experts, exporting technology, and increasing yields. This particular project trains local agricultural extension workers who support farmers in the region, instructing them in agricultural methods and techniques. By fostering local human resources through education and training, we ensure sustainability after the project ends.

Your work involves a great deal of overseas travel. What do you enjoy when you go abroad?

I enjoy meeting the more than 30,000 leaders who have been trained in our fellowship programs over the years. Many are playing important roles as policymakers, researchers, government officials, and grassroots program officers in areas like ocean governance, peace building, and regional studies. They are all motivated by a strong desire to apply their knowledge and expertise to resolve society's problems. Listening to their stories and learning about their work, I am inspired and encouraged by their energy and commitment.

(Interviewed by Kana Saji of The Nippon Foundation)

MISSION

Our mission is social innovation.

Through this innovation we aim to achieve a society where all people support one another, reducing the burdens and challenges they face together.

Everyone has a role to play: citizens, corporations, nonprofit organizations, governments, and international bodies. By forging networks among these actors, The Nippon Foundation serves as a hub for the world's wisdom, experience, and human resources, giving individuals the capacity to change society — the hope that they can make a difference.

Our goal is to give all of humanity the chance to participate in creating our future.

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Founder
Ryoichi Sasakawa



Second Chair
Ayako Sono

The Nippon Foundation was established by Ryoichi Sasakawa in 1962 as the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation, to promote the reconstruction of postwar Japan through the development of the shipbuilding and shipping industries. Over the years, the Foundation's activities in Japan expanded to include projects that support health and hygiene, and firefighting and disaster preparedness. We also became active in areas including food security in Africa and the elimination of leprosy, and we continue to engage in these activities today.

In December 1995, author and philanthropist Ayako Sono succeeded Mr. Sasakawa as the Foundation's second chair. At that time, our primary activities were supporting grassroots volunteer groups and NGOs, which had just begun to develop in Japan in the wake of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. We also began working to ensure inclusive communities through improved social welfare services for older persons and activities to empower persons with disabilities.

In keeping with The Nippon Foundation's original focus on ocean-related issues, projects to maintain navigational safety in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and fellowship programs to cultivate leaders in ocean-related fields, were expanded.

In July 2005, following Ms. Sono's retirement at the end of her term, Yohei Sasakawa, then serving as president, assumed the position of chair.

Continuing its humanitarian and maritime projects, The Nippon Foundation is also taking up new challenges in promoting social innovation. We are working together with various stakeholders to formulate the multifaceted approaches required to address increasingly complex global issues.

The Nippon Foundation's fields of activity are introduced in the following pages.

About The Nippon Foundation

Toward Human Security



We support activities in areas including medicine, education, agriculture, and social participation by disabled persons in the developing world. We focus in particular on the elimination of leprosy and advocate for the human rights of people affected by the disease.

Major Initiatives

>> Elimination of Leprosy

We work around the world to eliminate leprosy as a public health threat and do away with the stigma and discrimination associated with the disease.

>> Support for Conflict-Affected Communities in Myanmar

We offer assistance to conflict-affected communities, working through ethnic armed organizations in collaboration with the Myanmar government, while supporting confidence building measures to encourage continued dialogue in the peace process.

>> School Construction in Myanmar

We have supported the construction of more than 300 elementary schools in the Shan and Rakhine states and the Ayeyarwady region of Myanmar.

>> Disability Support Projects

To build an inclusive global society, we work with disabled people's organizations and like-minded partners to promote disability-inclusive development and in educational, cultural, and other projects.

>> Agricultural Assistance in Africa

Through the Sasakawa Africa Association, we provide technical guidance, fertilizers, and seeds to create a value chain that boosts yields and increases the incomes of smallholder farmers.

>> Medicinal Plant Cultivation

We have built facilities for the research and cultivation of plants used in traditional medicine, and sponsor programs to teach and promote their use, in Myanmar.

The Future of Our Ocean

We work to protect the oceans and keep the seas safe, help people experience and learn more about the oceans and ships, promote seaside community revitalization, and enhance human resources in ocean-related fields. Challenges like pollution and the depletion of fish reserves can only be overcome by individuals and groups working together effectively. To pass on the riches of the oceans to future generations, we are cultivating human resources able to create a better future for the seas, and building networks to enable those people and organizations to work together.

Major Initiatives

>> Global Human Resource Development

Through scholarship and fellowship programs at universities and research institutions around the world, we are cultivating the next generation of leaders with cross-disciplinary expertise in ocean-related fields.

>> Change for the Blue

This project involves parties from the public, private, and academic sectors using their respective strengths to address the increasingly serious problem of ocean debris.

>> The Nippon Foundation Ocean Innovation Consortium

Amid concerns of a shortage of marine resource development engineers with the expertise and practical techniques needed by the marine resource development market, we are training marine resource development engineers across Japan.

>> Seabed 2030

We are working with GEBCO to map the entire ocean floor by 2030, to ensure safe navigation for ships, facilitate the forecasting of tsunami and typhoons and anticipate climate change, understand the distribution of offshore resources, and assist with searches for airplanes that have disappeared in accidents.





Forging Global Ties

We are working to address issues including poverty, inadequate health care, and environmental degradation, to help people around the world achieve true self-sufficiency. We also organize international symposiums, cultural and personnel exchange programs, projects to introduce modern Japanese culture to the world, and activities to foster the global leaders of tomorrow.

Major Initiatives

>> Support for Japan-Related Research Overseas

Through a variety of scholarship and fellowship programs, we are supporting non-Japanese academics who are conducting research related to Japan to promote mutual understanding and build international networks.

>> Support for Nikkei Communities around the World

We support *Nikkei-jin* (Japanese-descendant) communities around the world. This includes The Nikkei Scholarship for young *Nikkei-jin* from Central and South America to study in Japan and build bridges between their home countries and Japan. In the Philippines, we help *Nikkei-jin* who were affected by World War II and have lost the documents that prove their Japanese nationality, to have their Japanese nationality restored.

Enriching Culture

We ensure a vital future for Japan's traditional performing arts and provide opportunities for people to experience them. We also support young scientific researchers, fund sports research, and promote sports activities, including support for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Major Initiatives

>> Paralympic Support

Ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, we are supporting the Japanese Paralympic Committee, national para-sport federations, and para-athletes, including through The Nippon Foundation Paralympic Support Center.

>> True Colors Festival

True Colors Festival is a series of performing arts events that encourage people to embrace and value diversity in society. The contents of the events are designed in such a way so as to make the artists and the audience realize that there are no real boundaries or limitations set through the differences in their characteristics, that people can coexist in harmony and diversity enriches the experiences they have.

>> The Nippon Foundation DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS

We support artistic endeavors by persons with disabilities, with the aim of achieving an inclusive society that embraces diversity and uniqueness.

>> Iroha Nihon – Experience the Soul of Japan

This limited-scale cultural program for tourists from overseas who are interested in Japanese culture includes an overnight stay at a Buddhist temple that is normally closed to the public, with activities that tourists would otherwise be unable to experience. A portion of the program fee is used to preserve cultural properties, contributing to the preservation and passing on of Japanese culture.



A Future for Youth

We provide support for education, adoption and foster care systems, children's hospice facilities, and student volunteers to create environments that meet the needs of all young people.

Major Initiatives

>> Social Innovation Forum

Held every year since 2016, The Nippon Foundation Social Innovation Forum brings together people from around Japan working to improve society for programs dealing with issues related to family, society, and the global community, special sessions with presentations on social innovation activities around Japan, and The Nippon Foundation Social Innovation Awards.

>> Addressing Child Poverty

Today one in seven children in Japan lives in relative poverty, placing them at an extreme disadvantage in terms of medical care, meals, schooling, and prospects for higher education. We are working to help these children break out of this cycle and pursue their dreams for the future.

>> Supporting Seriously Ill Children

We support children with serious illnesses and their families by constructing care facilities and organizing events, as well as collaborating with partners in health care, social welfare, education, and government sectors.

>> Supporting Student Volunteers

Through programs including the *Gakuvo* student volunteer center, we organize and support volunteer activities by university students in fields including relief and reconstruction following natural disasters.

In the Cause of Life

We help to bolster social safety nets, train hospice care staff, support populations in disaster-affected areas, and carry out other activities to protect and enrich human life. Our first major domestic natural disaster relief activities were in response to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995, and the experience we gained through those efforts enabled us to respond quickly and effectively when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck northeastern Japan in March 2011.

Major Initiatives

>> Hospice Program

In cooperation with the Sasakawa Health Foundation, we support activities including expanded hospice care to enable people to live their final days in comfort and with dignity.

>> Happy Yurikago Project

By promoting special adoption and foster care programs, we are working to create a society in which children can have a healthy upbringing in a warm family environment.

>> The Nippon Foundation Suicide Prevention Project

Based on the results of The Nippon Foundation Suicide Awareness Survey 2016, which found that one in four people in Japan has “seriously considered suicide,” this project was launched as a framework for pursuing measures to provide comprehensive support to enable these people to live.

>> Disaster Relief and Reconstruction

We stand ready to assist relief and reconstruction efforts following major disasters through financial support to individuals and organizations, and coordination among local governments, NGOs, and companies.





Enhancing Communities

We support welfare, anticrime, and disaster preparedness measures, as well as local education activities, that help people improve the quality of life in their communities. To provide mobility for elderly persons and persons with disabilities, since 1994 we have been providing volunteer groups with cars, vans, and buses, many of which are equipped to accommodate wheelchairs, and as of September 2017 we had donated 40,000 of these vehicles.

Major Initiatives

>> Welfare Vehicles

We provide vehicles specially equipped to support the mobility of persons with disabilities and older residents of communities in their daily lives.

>> Social Impact Investment

In addition to supporting the activities of the Japan Venture Philanthropy Fund, we partner with local governments to create innovative structures like social impact bonds that direct private-sector financing to seek new ways to address social issues.

>> Support for Employment for Persons with Disabilities

Our support for employment for persons with disabilities consists of two programs — a model workplace project that supports the creation of workplaces where persons with disabilities can be employed in meaningful, rewarding work, and forums to address the issues involved in this field.

>> HEROs ~Sportsmanship for the future~

We are working to address various social issues by promoting activities that contribute to society by top-class athletes who are competing or have competed at the global level.

Affiliated Organizations

The Nippon Foundation is a part of a family of professional organizations that work in their respective areas of expertise, both independently and in cooperation with The Nippon Foundation. These foundations work around the world for the betterment of humankind, in a diverse range of areas including maritime safety, food security, health, and regional networking.

Blue Sea and Green Land Foundation



Works to develop the healthy minds and bodies of young people through outdoor activities, with a particular focus on maritime sports.
<http://www.bgf.or.jp/english/>

Foundation for Encouragement of Social Contribution



Publicizes good works and heroic actions that go largely unnoticed by the press and by society in general.
http://www.fesco.or.jp/eng_index.php

Fondation Franco-Japonaise Sasakawa



Facilitates cultural and intellectual cooperation between France and Japan.
<http://www.ffjs.org/japan/>

Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation



Aims to develop good relations between the United Kingdom and Japan through educational, social, and cultural activities.
<http://www.gbsf.org.uk/>

Japan Gateball Union



Umbrella organization promoting gateball, a unique sport that originated in Japan and can be enjoyed by people of all ages.
<http://www.gateball.or.jp>

Japan Science Society



Promotes scientific education and international ties within the scientific community.
<https://www.jss.or.jp/en/>

Museum of Maritime Science



Aims to deepen public understanding and awareness of the oceans through proactive initiatives highlighting ships and the sea.
<https://www.funenokagakukan.or.jp/>

Nippon Ginkenshibu Foundation



Promotes the traditional Japanese arts of Gin-ei (poetry recitation), Ken-bu (poetry accompanied by a sword dance), and Shi-bu (poetry accompanied by a fan dance).
<http://www.ginken.or.jp/index.php/en/top-en/>

Nippon Music Foundation



Custodian for some of the world's most famous stringed instruments, which it loans to promising musicians. Also organizes concerts in which they are played.
<http://www.nmf.or.jp/english/>

Nippon Taiko Foundation



Promotes the traditions of the Japanese taiko drum, both in Japan and overseas.
<http://www.nippon-taiko.or.jp/english/index.html>

Sasakawa Africa Association



Works to improve the food security and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa.
<https://www.saa-safe.org/>

Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation



Works to end the stigma against leprosy, and to ensure equal social, economic, and cultural opportunities for those affected by the disease.
<https://silf.in/>

Sasakawa Health Foundation

Works toward the elimination of leprosy as a social and a medical problem, and to improve hospice and palliative care, and public health.
<https://www.shf.or.jp/?lang=en>



The Tokyo Foundation For Policy Reserch

Presents concrete policy proposals based on a lucid analysis of the issues combined with a broad perspective and deep insight.
<http://www.tokyofoundation.org/en/>



Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Engages with the changes continually occurring in the natural and social environments, seeking wholesome and sustainable development for our increasingly complex and diverse society.
<https://www.spf.org/en/>



The Nippon Foundation Parasports Support Center

With a view toward the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, the Center promotes Para sports in schools, companies, local governments, and organizations across Japan. The Center also provides shared office space to Paralympic sports federations.
<https://www.parasapo.tokyo/en/>



Ocean Policy Research Institute, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

“Do-tank” dedicated to selected research activities involving ocean policy and the dissemination of useful ocean-related information and policy proposals.
<https://www.spf.org/en/opri/>



The Nippon Foundation Volunteer Center

The Center works to foster a culture of volunteerism through projects including dispatching student volunteers to areas damaged by natural disasters and to assist refugees from Ukraine, support for volunteer organizations at large-scale sporting and cultural events, and beach clean-ups and tree planting.
<https://www.volacen.jp/>



Sasakawa Sports Foundation

Think tank in the field of sport policies in Japan, with activities guided by its mission of “Sport for Everyone.”
<https://www.ssf.or.jp/en/tabid/893/Default.aspx>



Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation

Provides grants to organizations and individuals in Japan and Nordic countries to promote academic research and development.
<http://www.sjsf.se/>

About our Funding

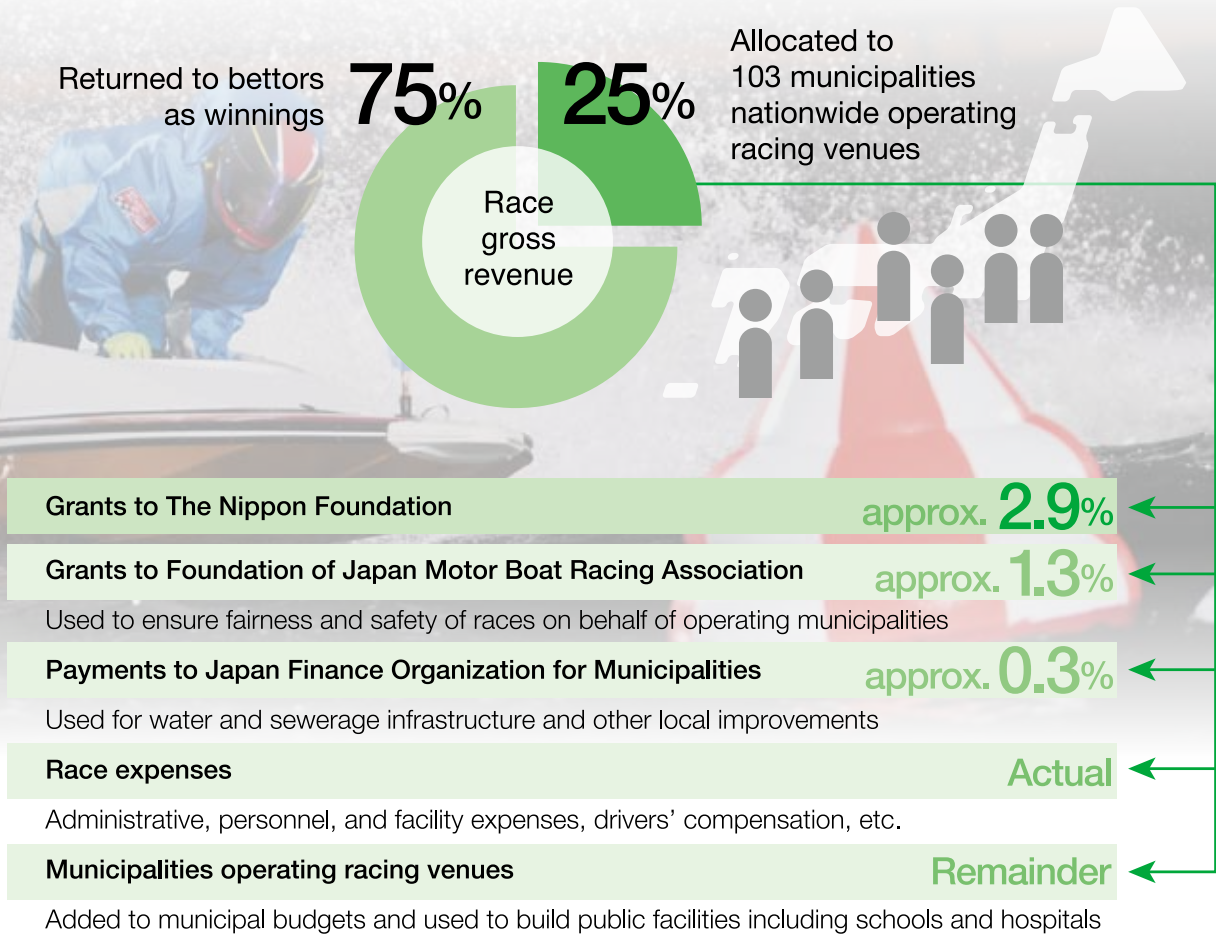
The Nippon Foundation draws the majority of the funds needed to support its many projects from the proceeds of Japanese motorboat racing. Motorboat racing in Japan is a philanthropy-oriented enterprise, which was established in 1951 specifically to aid a maritime shipping industry that had been devastated in World War II. Motorboat racing venues are located across Japan and are independently operated by local municipalities.

Under this unique system, the majority of the

funds taken in by motorboat racing is returned to bettors as winnings. A small percentage, however, is earmarked for philanthropic purposes. This money is managed by the Foundation, which selects projects that show great promise of affecting fundamental change.

In recent years the Foundation has also partnered with private-sector companies on specific projects, and engaged in fundraising campaigns that collect funds and raise awareness of social issues among the general public.

Flow of Funds from Motorboat Racing (as of April 1, 2019)



At a Glance

Name: The Nippon Foundation

Chairman: Yohei Sasakawa

President: Takeju Ogata

Address: The Nippon Zaidan Building 1-2-2 Akasaka,
Minato-ku Tokyo 107-8404, Japan

Established: October 1, 1962
(as the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation)

Employees: 119 (full-time)

(As of April 2019)



The Nippon Foundation

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