



Live to Contribute



The Nippon Foundation's Initiatives for an Inclusive Society





Chairman of
The Nippon Foundation
Yohei Sasakawa

The Nippon Foundation aims to realize an inclusive society and carries out various programs toward this end.

Building on our many years of experience, we have designed and implemented programs that successfully enhance people's potential and promote their empowerment in innovative ways.

In recent years, disabled people have increasingly been seeking ways to contribute to society in their own proactive way. We have been responding to these calls by exploring new programs, and in the process, we are redefining social innovation.

For those who demonstrate leadership qualities, we have established a public policy institute to train future policymakers. Students are able to receive a postgraduate education online to prepare for a role in policymaking.

For those who would like to start a business, our programs offer "inclusive financing," that is, financing for disabled people. Vocational

training that makes use of information and communications technology (ICT) is also provided, and remote employment becomes a real possibility.

For those who are active in sports and the arts, our programs provide venues to compete or display and perform their works, to share the joy of creation and performance with others. These opportunities enable people to raise their level of performance and gain confidence.

Through these innovative programs, The Nippon Foundation will continue to empower more and more people to realize their potential and decide their own future and way of life.



Live to Contribute

The Nippon Foundation, established in 1962, has been involved in activities to support disabled people in Japan and around the world for more than 50 years. In the course of working together with disabled people we have learned that removing the obstacles that prevent their equal participation paves the way for everyone—with or without a disability—to demonstrate their full potential. Disabled people have often been stereotyped as people who "need to be protected by society," but that image needs to be swept

aside through a paradigm shift toward viewing them as "contributors to society." It is important that we continue to lend a helping hand to people facing severe difficulties and also to carry on the support activities that aim to provide equal opportunities. But, at the same time, The Nippon Foundation wants to contribute to that paradigm shift by offering innovative support that seeks to allow highly talented disabled people to better display their abilities and thereby lead the way in encouraging and inspiring others in society.

The Nippon Foundation's Initiatives for an Inclusive Society



Discovering Hidden Talent

P4



Utilizing ICT for Higher Education

P5



Supporting Financial Independence

P6

Support for disabled people who are "Giving it their all," "Seeking to improve," and "Realizing their potential"



And even more support!



Removing uncertainty when disaster strikes

Disaster-Prevention Initiatives

P6



Creating an environment to harness abilities

Introducing Needed Infrastructure and Other Facilities

P7



Discovering Hidden Talent



Festival of Disabled Artists

The Festival of Disabled Artists has featured amazing performances that spotlight artists with visual impairments, deaf and hard-of-hearing *taiko* drummers, and wheelchair dancers. The event has been held in several Asian countries since 2006. At the ASEAN Festival of Disabled Artists held in Myanmar in 2014, individuals from 10 countries performed, cheered on by an audience of roughly 6,700 people. Plans call for Festival of Disabled Artists events to be organized in Tokyo and other locations across Japan in cooperation with UNESCO to coincide with the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

● Festival History and Future Plans

- 2006 Held in Laos/Vietnam 2008 Held in Cambodia
- 2013 2014 Held in Myanmar
- 2015 Agreement between UNESCO and The Nippon Foundation signed in December for the holding of Festival of Disabled Artists events in 2020
- 2017 Asia-Pacific Arts Festival to be held in Singapore
- 2020 International Festival of Disabled Artists to be held in Japan

Example

The Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI), established in 2011, organized the Festival of Disabled Artists in Myanmar. Having young disabled people from Myanmar manage the event boosted their confidence in their own abilities and spurred them to become more active than ever.

Support for the Paralympics

After the announcement that Tokyo would be hosting the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, The Nippon Foundation Paralympic Research Group was set up in June 2014 to begin broadly considering, from a private-sector perspective, how best to approach the Paralympics and what shape the event should take. This was followed, in May 2015, with the establishment of The Nippon Foundation Paralympic Support Center. With the aim of promoting the Paralympic Movement, the Support Center seeks to contribute to the success of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics and the advancement of para-sports, while also contributing to the creation of a society in which everyone can play an active role, through activities like supporting the administrative operations of para-sport leagues, promoting an understanding of the Paralympics, and implementing educational initiatives at schools.

Example

To date, most para-sport leagues in Japan have not had their own dedicated offices or staff. The Nippon Foundation responded to this situation in November 2015 by opening a joint office occupying the entire fourth floor of its headquarters in Tokyo. In addition to offering office space and facilities, the new office is designed to serve as a hub where groups can interact and share information. The office also provides support by accounting and translation staff, and holds regular study meetings and seminars on topics ranging from legal and tax-related issues to publicity. With this support, the office aims to strengthen the foundation of Japanese para-sport leagues.



Support for Art Brut

The Nippon Foundation has been active in encouraging greater recognition of works of *art brut*, which are characterized by rich creativity and a diverse range of values. The Nippon Foundation is custodian of the artworks displayed at the highly acclaimed “Art Brut Japonais” exhibition held in Paris, and lends the works to museums for exhibition. As part of the effort to expand the opportunities for *art brut* to be displayed and put in place the environment needed to showcase this genre, we have supported the establishment of five *art brut* museums and efforts to foster curators.

Example

As part of our support for building networks among art museums, a joint exhibition titled “TURN—From Land to Sea (Exploring People’s Innate Capabilities)” toured four art museums that highlight art brut from November 2014 to September 2015.



ROCKET Project Identifies Extraordinary Talent

The “Room Of Children with Kokorozashi and Extraordinary Talents” (ROCKET) project, jointly conducted with the University of Tokyo’s Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, was created to foster innovative leaders for Japan’s future by identifying extraordinary talent. The project selects elementary and junior high school students who have outstanding abilities but have difficulty adjusting to today’s educational environment and avoid going to school, and provides them with ongoing support for their studies and daily lives.

Example

In 2014, the first year of the project, the painting talents of 12-year-old Eishi Hamaguchi were discovered. His artistic ability attracted attention that has led to exhibitions of his paintings and a published collection of his works.

Utilizing ICT for Higher Education

Supporting Higher Education for Visually Impaired Persons

Information and communications technology (ICT) has brought revolutionary changes to the lives of people with visual impairment. In the past, visually impaired persons had to rely on reading materials in Braille, but text-to-speech software has made it possible to access information electronically. In 1998, The Nippon Foundation took its first step toward using ICT to provide educational and employment opportunities in the ASEAN region by establishing a fund at the Overbrook School for the Blind in the United States. This was followed in 2006 by a joint initiative with the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) that has provided support for higher education to over 1,500 visually impaired students in six ASEAN countries. Activities to make information more accessible at schools receiving support include setting up support centers where students can use assistive devices, ICT, accessible materials, and other resources.



Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP)

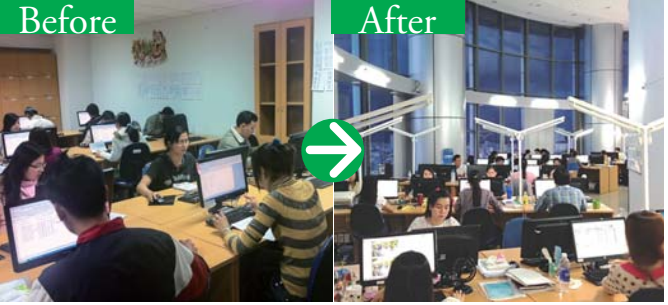
The Institute on Disability and Public Policy was established in cooperation with groups including disabled people’s organizations to respond to the limited support available for disabled students in the ASEAN region pursuing higher education. IDPP’s main focus is the use of online instruction to offer courses on disabled studies and public policy, as well as management and various other subjects. The online courses make it possible for students to study using sign-language interpretation and text-to-speech software.

Key Feature

Our aim is for disabled people to acquire a high level of specialized knowledge regarding public policy and disabilities, so they can become involved in creating disability-related legislation and policies at government agencies and other organizations in the future.



Supporting Financial Independence



Disability Inclusive Financing
 This initiative provides small-scale financing at preferential interest rates to businesses that help disabled people in Vietnam improve their own lives. In particular, the program targets (1) businesses run by disabled people, (2) businesses that promote employment of disabled people, and (3) businesses that provide goods and services aimed at disabled consumers.

Key Feature
 In addition to providing operating funds, the program focuses on financing for facilities and equipment. The aim is to increase employment opportunities for disabled people by expanding businesses. The program also helps remove hurdles in the application process with training in application methods as well as in business management.



Disabled people Find Careers as Chocolatiers
 Since 2014 we have been supporting product planning and development for luxury chocolates made by disabled people through a tie-up with a famous chocolatier. Because luxury chocolates sell at a higher price, do not require extensive production facilities, and are well-suited to disabled workers who are willing to take the time and care needed to produce them, this business can create employment, generate stable incomes, and increase wages.

Example
 Currently, product planning, development, and sales under the brand name Quon are taking place in 17 locations in Japan. Thanks to these efforts brand recognition among consumers is on the rise and retail operations are expanding, including sales at well-known department stores.

Disaster-Prevention Initiatives



Initiative to Train Disaster-Response Staff
 Many people who survived the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake later lost their lives as a result of hardships they faced living in evacuation centers. In response, we have been holding study sessions and practical training in evacuation center management to understand and anticipate the special needs of all people, including disabled and elderly persons, and train personnel who are able to provide necessary care. We aim to reduce the risks related to living as an evacuee through appropriate evacuation center management, with centers also functioning as support bases for affected communities.

UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
 In 2012, The Nippon Foundation began cooperating with groups representing disabled people in Japan and overseas in numerous international conferences on the theme of disabled people and disaster response, to bring the importance of disability inclusiveness in disaster prevention to the attention of UN bodies and national governments. As a result of these activities, the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), held in Sendai in northeastern Japan in March 2015, adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, which positions disabled people as important stakeholders in disaster prevention. At WCDRR, we provided support to improve access to information, including sign-language interpreting and note-taking, and making the conference venue and transportation facilities barrier-free, to encourage disabled people to participate.



Introducing Needed Infrastructure and Other Facilities



Raising Social Awareness of Sign Language
 Based on the view that “sign language is the mother language of the deaf,” The Nippon Foundation is engaged in the development and spread of sign language and the use of sign language for education. In the Asia-Pacific Region, we are providing opportunities so that deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals can acquire knowledge in sign-language linguistics, and creating dictionaries and educational materials to serve as a base for the increased use of sign language. Another of our initiatives cultivates leaders among deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals by focusing on bilingual deaf education at the high-school and university levels. In Japan, we are continuing activities aimed at making sign language an official language, to promote the use of Japanese sign language in education and expand services like sign-language interpretation.



Developing the Barrier-Free Map Application “Bmaps”
 The Nippon Foundation and Mirairo Inc. are jointly developing a barrier-free map application for smartphones and other devices to make information barrier-free. The “Bmaps” application provides disabled and elderly persons, and parents using baby strollers, with useful information like the number of steps at a restaurant entrance and whether it is equipped with an accessible toilet. Our goal is for this multi-lingual application to be the global standard by 2020.

Key Feature
 We are creating a mechanism for businesses to gather information as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, to help create a movement that brings together a wide range of information from many users.

Festival of Disabled Artists and Summit for Disabled People to Coincide with the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Nippon Foundation and UNESCO plan to host a joint summit for disabled people in 2020 to adopt and announce a “Tokyo Declaration” aimed at realizing an inclusive society. This event in Tokyo, which will bring together opinion leaders representing disabled people

from around the world, will strive to have a major worldwide impact by showcasing the abilities of disabled people in the realms of sports and art, while also presenting a wide range of opinions.



Gearing Up for Tokyo 2020!



UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and The Nippon Foundation Chairman Yohei Sasakawa



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

Our Partners

The Nippon Foundation partners with a variety of international organizations, support groups, NGOs, and other organizations around the world.



The Nippon Foundation

The Nippon Zaidan Building 1-2-2 Akasaka, Minato-ku Tokyo 107-8404, Japan
 TEL : +81-3-6229-5111 FAX : +81-3-6229-5110
<http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/en/> cc@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp



For Social Innovation

Access our website for more details on
 The Nippon Foundation's Initiatives for an Inclusive Society

http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/en/what/projects/inclusive_society

