

The Japan NPO Center Annual Report 2014

English Digest Version





Message from the Chairperson

Noboru Hayase

July 2015

With much gratitude for your support and cooperation in the past year, we would like to present this annual report from the Japan NPO Center (JNPOC). We have had another active year, including NPO capacity building initiatives and partnerships with our corporate and government partners.

Four years and three months have passed since the unprecedented disaster inflicted upon the northeast as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, yet the recovery process in the Tohoku region has been painstakingly slow, and many of those displaced by the nuclear accident are still dispersed across the nation, leading difficult lives away from home. In response, citizens in affected communities, including the displaced people themselves, have been tackling the challenge head on, trying to overcome the obstacles they face. At JNPOC, we have continued to provide funding for these efforts with support from individuals and corporate partners. We have also partnered with NPO Support Centers nationwide, with a focus on organizational and individual staff capacity building measures.

In fact, our work in building the organizational capacity of NPOs is not limited to disaster response; it is an approach that we value in all of our programs. We place an especially strong emphasis on voluntary civic participation for the following three reasons: 1) when citizens feel that they “must do something” to help, their enthusiasm can energize the organization; 2) the more people who support the organization’s mission, the easier it is for the organization to carry out work that cannot easily bring in external income, such as policy advocacy; and 3) when citizens participate, they take ownership and become a part of the solution to the social issues the organization is dealing with.

To this end, JNPOC has supported not only Specified Nonprofit Corporations (often called NPOs for short), but also other types of nonprofit-oriented organizations that value civic participation and partnerships, including Public Interest Corporations, Social Welfare Corporations, Co-operatives, and other voluntary groups. We believe that our efforts will strengthen the civic sector, which serves an essential role in a democratic society.

From this perspective, it is cause for concern that the 2013 survey of Specified Nonprofit Corporations conducted by the Cabinet Office shows that 31.7% of the surveyed organizations have no volunteers participating in their activities and 59.6% have not received any donations from individuals. This demonstrates that the number of organizations with no civic participation – at least in the form of volunteers and donations – is significant. An increasing number of NPOs have strayed from their purpose as civic activity organizations to become mere service providers. This is quite disappointing, for the Specified Nonprofit Corporation status was initially created specifically for civic activity organizations.

Looking at the Japanese political discourse today, we can see that important policy changes are being made without enough input from or discussion among citizens, such as the recent security framework legislation and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement negotiations. Globally, the inter-governmental negotiation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be finalized this year and take effect from 2016, which will have significant implications for both developing and developed countries. Civil society has been, and will be, an important player in these negotiations, and it must stay vigilant so that these processes, domestic or international, will benefit the people.

Along these lines, we hope that JNPOC will be able to play a meaningful role by creating an arena in which issues can be raised and discussed as part of the process of building a free and robust civil society.

For JNPOC, FY2014 was the second year of implementing the “2013-2017 Mid-to-Long-Term Vision.” This vision statement outlines the six pillars, or areas, that JNPOC should prioritize. They are: 1) Enhancing various means to develop human resources; 2) Strengthening collaborations with various local communities; 3) Strengthening collaboration with local NPO support centers; 4) Enhancing research studies and strengthening policy proposals; 5) Strengthening collaboration with overseas NPOs; and 6) Strengthening dissemination of information through the media. Based on these six pillars, we have vigorously developed our programs throughout this past year.

Of all that we have done this year, three accomplishments deserve to be emphasized. First, we hosted our biennial Civic Sector National Conference, hosting representatives from social welfare corporations, consumer co-operatives, labor unions, and the business sector to discuss the direction of civil society and its collaboration with other sectors in the years ahead. Second, JNPOC has new faces in its senior management. Since August 2014, we have welcomed Co-Executive Directors Yoshifumi Tajiri and Katsuji Imata, Managing Director Eriko Nitta, and Deputy Director Kazutaka Sakaguchi, who have been leading our organization to the next level. Last but not least, we planned and executed a wide variety of activities with twenty dedicated and tireless staff members. In light of the fact that two-thirds of our expenses are for programs related to the Great East Japan Earthquake, we recognize that shifting to non-Tohoku recovery related activities will be crucial to our future operation.

Thank you again for your continued support as we move forward in our endeavors.

I: Highlights from FY2014 programs

JNPOC's activities are carried out by its four divisions. The Operations Division takes care of the organization's day-to-day administration and accounting, and highlights of the other divisions' 2014 activities are summarized below.

Information Division

JNPOC newly launched the ICT Supporters Network for Nonprofits, inviting ICT support staff who serve at local NPO support centers throughout Japan. In FY2014, 3 face-to-face meetings and 1 online meeting were held within the network. Along with the main discussion theme of “what is the significance of ICT utilization in nonprofit sectors?” participants discussed the ongoing challenges of actually assisting nonprofits in developing their ICT skills, as well as possible areas for future initiatives. They especially focused on how social issues can be solved at the local community level using ICT innovations and how nonprofits can develop their problem solving skills.

For various programs in this division, JNPOC partnered with corporations including Microsoft, Adobe Systems, Symantec, Google, Otsuka Corporation, Mediator, and Bit One System, and with an overseas nonprofit, TechSoup Global.

Program Division

At biennial Civic Sector National Conference 2014, held in Tokyo on November 21-22, 2014, leaders from a variety of civic organizations discussed their observations and suggested practical approaches to solving pressing social issues. Along the main theme of “Promoting Participation and Collaboration beyond Traditional Boundaries,” approximately 400 participants attended the conference for two days. In the main opening session, leaders from a wide



Opening session of Civic Sector National Conference



Staff and volunteers

segment of the civic sector – such as the Japan National Council of Social Welfare, the Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union, the Japanese Trade Union Confederation, the Committee on Corporate Behavior and Social Responsibility, and the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) – exchanged their problem assessments and long-term visions in response to speakers in the keynote opening session.

For various programs in this division, JNPOC worked with corporate partners such as Dentsu, Kao, MetLife Insurance, Panasonic, Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance, Sumitomo Life Welfare and Culture Foundation, and Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance; it also partnered with nonprofits such as the Environmental Partnership Council, Give2Asia, The Japan Association of Charitable Organizations, Japan CSO Network, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation, and the Partnership Support Center. JNPOC also is networked/affiliated with the Japan CSO Coalition for 2015 WCDRR, the Joint Committee for Coordinating and Supporting Voluntary Disaster Relief Activities, and the NPO/NGO Network for Advancing Social Responsibility.

Disaster Relief Division

Approximately 4 years have passed since a devastating earthquake and tsunami struck the northeastern coasts of Japan in 2011. In response to changing circumstances in the affected communities, the direction of local nonprofits is drastically shifting. JNPOC continues its work to accelerate recovery and reconstruction.

In FY2014, a new grant program that aims to assist local nonprofits, “Shinkin no Kizuna”, was prepared through funding from Shinkin Central Bank, which was added to our ongoing Japan Earthquake Local NPO Support Fund. This program supports activities that aim to reconstruct the livelihood of disaster affected residents at the local level, and to revitalize local communities and culture in the disaster stricken areas.



Shinkin no Kizuna program

Including this new program, 8 grant programs in total were administered to meet the needs of different local contexts and to facilitate sustainable recovery efforts. We regularly visited each project site and conducted consultation sessions.

For programs in this division, JNPOC worked with corporate partners who provided financial resources including Daiwa Securities, Japan

Tobacco, Johnson & Johnson, Nissan Motor, Shinkin Central Bank, and Takeda Pharmaceutical. We also worked closely with civil society partners which include the Civil Society Initiative Fund, the Central Community Chest of Japan, the Foundation for Promoting Sound Growth of Children, the Japan Civic Network of Disaster Relief in East Japan, and World Vision Japan.



Mental Care program from one of the Takeda Life and Livelihood Reconstruction Program

II. Highlights from the 2015 Annual Plan

Information Division

Providing ICT support programs beneficial to nonprofits: JNPOC will strengthen programs that provide ICT support for nonprofit organizations. TechSoup Japan, which started in 2009 as a donation program for nonprofits, will develop new donors for useful software and services, and will offer practical suggestions for their use. In addition to the software donation, we will prioritize cloud services for nonprofits, such as "Office 365 for Nonprofits" and "Google for Nonprofits", both of which were launched last year.

ICT Supporters Network for Nonprofit Organizations, a network of nonprofits centers which provide ICT support, will create guidelines for information literacy competency among nonprofits and conduct training sessions for nonprofit ICT support personnel.



Discussion with ICT Supporters Network members

Program Division

Annual Forum of NPOs-Local Government Dialogue 2015: Regional Revitalization with Government and Nonprofit Collaboration: Targeting newly appointed and middle-management local government officials, JNPOC will hold a two-day NPOs-Local Government Dialogue (July 3-4). This will provide local government officials with an opportunity to learn the basic knowledge necessary to support nonprofits and to promote collaboration. In addition, it will serve as a venue for dialogue with nonprofit organizations on collaboration for effectively addressing local community issues. While the first day will focus on the basics, the second day will dig deeper into the application of this year's theme: "Regional Revitalization with NPOs". Recognizing that voluntary and independent local activities are vital for "regional revitalization"— a policy of creating sustainable communities by

stimulating the local economy and generating local jobs— we will introduce various good initiatives by nonprofits across Japan.

International Division

The launch of a new English website: The JNPOC's International Division was launched in 2015. One of the Division's main projects is the renewal of JNPOC's English webpage. We believe that the limited amount of information on Japanese civil society hinders information exchange between Japan and other countries. In order to stimulate more exchange and to contribute to JNPOC's future program development with nonprofits overseas that share out interests, we will provide not only JNPOC's information, but also information on Japan's civil society/nonprofit sector, the current condition of the disaster-affected areas of Tohoku, and related nonprofit activities.

Accountability Portal~Showcasing nonprofits' good accountability practices: JNPOC will also present some nonprofit accountability best practices. A booklet will be published after the portal launch. We hope that this will stimulate further communication with nonprofits, as well as intermediaries overseas which are interested in nonprofits' accountability and transparency.

Disaster Relief Division

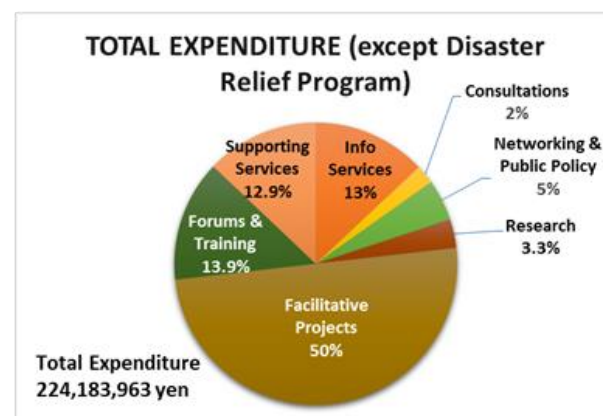
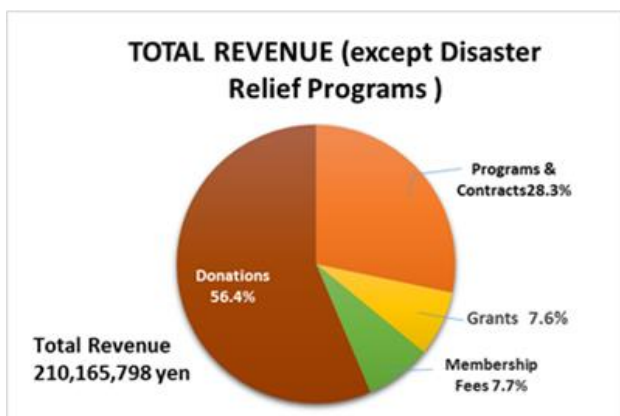
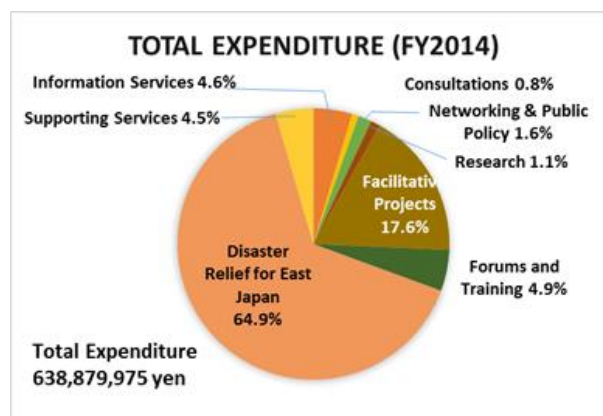
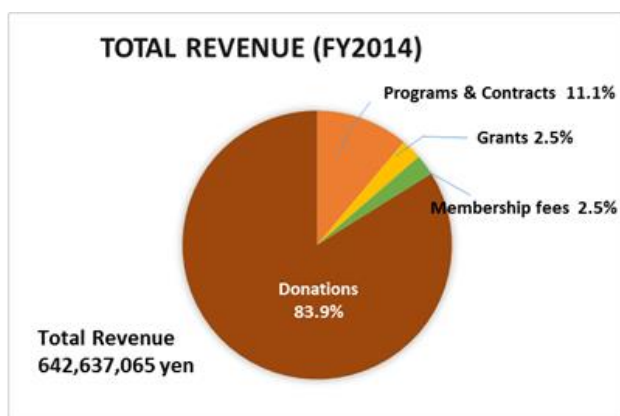
Full-scale implementation of "Shinkin no Kizuna" program: The year 2015 is going to be the last year of the government's 5-year reconstruction plan/budget, which was initially set right after the 3.11 Tohoku disaster in 2011. Various support projects initiated by the private sector will also come to an end. In the midst of this trend, JPNOC will support local nonprofits that remain active despite ongoing challenges. In addition to the full-fledged implementation of the "Shinkin no Kizuna" reconstruction support project that was launched last year, the Division will continue to operate all the grant programs from the preceding year. We have also started to prepare the second phase (2014-2020) of the Takeda Life and Livelihood Reconstruction Program, and we are planning and preparing for the third phase of the Japan Earthquake Local NPO Support Fund.

Marking the fifth year of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, JNPOC will project a trajectory for the next five years and strategize our work.

III. Financial Summary of FY2014

(in yen)

TOTAL REVENUE	642,637,065	TOTAL EXPENTIDURE	638,879,975
Membership fees	16,170,000	Program Services	
Donations	539,105,474	Information Services	29,227,853
Programs and Contracts	71,429,633	Consultations	4,859,419
Grants	15,875,436	Networking & Public Policy	10,511,373
Other	56,522	Research	7,325,232
		Facilitative Projects	112,264,853
		Forums and Training	31,180,976
		Disaster Relief for East Japan	414,696,012
		Support Services	28,814,257



IV. Board & Staff

Board of Directors

Noboru Hayase	Osaka Voluntary Action Center (<i>Chairperson</i>)
Natsuko Hagiwara	Rikkyo University (<i>Vice Chairperson</i>)
Masaaki Ohashi	Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (<i>Vice Chairperson</i>)
Yoshifumi Tajiri	Japan NPO Center (<i>Executive Director</i>)
Katsuji Imata	CSO Network Japan (<i>Executive Director</i>)
Hiroshi Asaka	The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Koichi Kaneda	Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd/Sub-committee on Corporate Philanthropy, Japan Business Federation
Takayuki Kasumi	Juon Network
Hideko Katsumata	Japan Center for International Exchange
Emiko Kitamura	Hokkaido NPO Support Center
Meri Kobayashi	Hamamatsu NPO Network Center
Momoko Koga	Fukuoka NPO Center
Yukie Osa	Association for Aid and Relief Japan/Rikkyo University
Makoto Oshima	Kubikino NPO Support Center
Hiroko Sasagawa	Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union
Atsuo Shibuya	Japan National Council of Social Welfare
Ichisaburo Tochimoto	Sophia University
Eiji Ueda	NPO NICE
Aiko Yamauchi	Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union (<i>resigned on June 30, 2015</i>)
Mika Yamanokawa	Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd/ Sub-committee on Corporate Philanthropy, Japan Business Federation
Yoshihiro Yokota	COMMONS Ibaraki

Staff Members

Eriko Nitta (*Managing Director*)

Kazutaka Sakaguchi (*Deputy Director*)

Kazuo Takamura (*Manager, Operations Division*)

Kazuho Tsuchiya (*Manager, Information Division*)

Kenji Yoshida (*Manager, Program Division*)

Hikaru Chiyoki	Yoshito Fukano	Chihiro Hirakawa	Yusuke Maruyama
Yuko Mitsumoto	Kaoru Nakagawa	Toru Nishiguchi	Miwa Sato
Yoshiko Ugawa	Asami Yamamoto	Tatsuaki Kobayashi (<i>Resident Researcher</i>)	
Shuhei Shiino (<i>Resident Researcher</i>)		Yumiko Tanimoto (<i>Resident Researcher</i>)	