

JAPAN NPO CENTER

Annual Report 2016

English Digest version



Our Misson

We—Japan NPO Center—as an infrastructure organization of nonprofit sector in Japan, aim to strengthen social infrastructure of nonprofits and to establish effective partnerships between the nonprofit sector and the government as well as the private sector.



Our Value

Japan NPO Center upholds these core values in the operation of our organization and in the implementation of all our activities:

- *Always be on the side of the excluded and oppressed, and express solidarity with them*
- *Respect the views of the directly affected*
- *Look into root causes and tackle larger structural issues of society*
- *Give the highest priority to the lived realities of those on the ground*
- *Respect diversity and minority opinions*
- *Be transparent and accountable*
- *Create a platform for open dialogue*



from Japan NPO Center's Five-Year Forecast

Message from the Chairperson

Noboru Hayase
Chairperson, Board of Directors



Japan NPO Center (JNPOC) has commemorated its 20th anniversary on November 22, 2016. We had over 250 guests with whom we had the honor to celebrate our anniversary together at the reception. We would like to express our deep gratitude for your kind support over the past two decades.

Since our establishment twenty years ago, JNPOC has been working tirelessly on building the capacity of Japanese NPOs, on advocating for the enactment and revision of the NPO Law (Law to Promote Specified Nonprofit Activities), and on promoting the nonprofit sector's partnerships with corporate and government sectors.

Thanks to the efforts of many citizens as well as the corporate and government partners, NPOs now play an indispensable role and have gained their place in society. The model whereby citizens start NPOs and work in collaboration with corporate and government partners to tackle various social issues has become well established today.

While there has been progress, problems have piled up over the years as well. What concerns us the most is the lack of and the need to promote participation. According to the Cabinet Office study, 32.5% of all NPOs have "No volunteers involved in its activities." Even though these Specified Nonprofit Corporations were initially conceptualized as Civic Activity Corporations, the reality is that quite a few of these nonprofits receive citizen participants. We find it crucial that not only the Specified Nonprofit Corporations but the entire nonprofit sector open their doors wider for participation among citizens.

We believe this to be critical because providing opportunities to citizens for participation will not only help increase NPOs' capacity organizationally and in the implementation of their programs, but we can also expect the participating citizens to take ownership of the social issues at which the nonprofits tackle. This will help raise awareness of the issues across society, and concerned citizens' initiatives to solve them can prompt more creative solutions to spread. A society where its citizens take it upon themselves to solve social problems is exactly what civic society ought to be. And JNPOC will continue to strive towards the establishment of such civic society.

Fiscal year 2017 is the last year of our *Mid-term Vision 2013-2017*. In this mid-term vision, six key phrases were used to capture the qualities espoused by an ideal NPO five years into the future: reliability, pioneering efforts, regionality, autonomy, collaboration, and social innovation. We will need to examine how exactly the Japanese nonprofit sector as a whole has grown in each of these six areas during these past five years.

2016 saw an emergence of nations taking a turn for nativism and a rise of leaders openly professing such nativist priorities, as aptly exemplified by Brexit and the election of President Trump. Additionally, despite our hope that citizens freely speak up and participate in the political and community-building processes towards a more just and sustainable society, there is increasing political pressure towards restricting NPOs and NGOs from promoting said free speech and participation. Under such sociopolitical climate, for NPOs in Japan to grow in the aforementioned six areas, capacity building organizations like our own and other intermediary support organizations like the NPO Support Centers nationwide must have even more capacity and influence as we press on to broaden the scope of our work.

Without your continued cooperation and support, JNPOC will not be able to fulfill its duties being fully conscious of our role in society. We will never forget the many words of encouragement we received at the 20th anniversary reception. In closing, we would like to thank you in advance for your continued support during the upcoming fiscal year 2017 as we firmly resolve to move forward on our endeavors together with all of you.

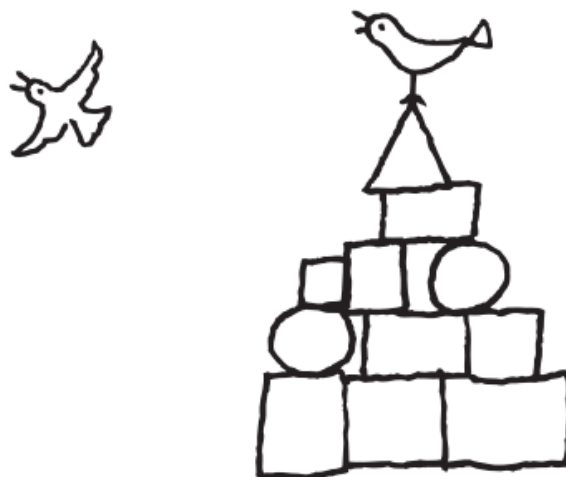
Highlights from the FY2016 Programs

At JNPOC, at the beginning of FY2016 as we looked forward to our 20th anniversary in November, we determined our foundational policy that we contribute to the building of civic society through the power of partnerships, utilizing the *trust* and *collaboration* that we have built and earned over the years.

Being able to commemorate our 20th anniversary with over 250 persons from across Japan proved to be a great opportunity to show to the world the very *trust* we have gained and included in the foundational policy. As for *collaboration*, this report introduces the highlights of our programs regarding *creation of partnerships*, *information dissemination*, *networking and training*, and *disaster relief*. Our collaborative efforts were not limited to these highlights and were promoted across programs as we engaged in multi-sector partnerships among NPO Support Centers, NPOs, and our member organizations and member corporations nationwide.

Our *International Programs*, into which we had put much effort over the past few years, received inquiries from abroad via our English language website, some of which have developed into partnered programs. In *Policy & Research*, we have published a research study on “Public Interest Corporation System Reform and Current Conditions Regarding Nonprofit Corporation Status Choice.” This has been published on our website and shared in forums at five locations around Japan, resulting in the gathering of much attention on this matter.

Despite the gains made this year, we must also note that there is much to be desired in terms of organizational capacity building. This includes the need to strengthen of our secretariat function vis-à-vis growth in membership and participation of diverse persons. Expansion of our support membership is especially urgent, and we have begun to move forward on this so that more detailed and effective measures can be taken under the new secretariat in FY2017.





Japan NPO Center's 20th Anniversary Celebration

JNPOC held its 20th anniversary celebration reception on November 22, 2016.

On November 22, JNPOC celebrated its 20th anniversary. On our anniversary day, we held a reception at Hulin Hall (in Taito Ward, Tokyo), at which we celebrated with over 250 guests from around Japan.

We were honored to have the following distinguished guests' remarks at our reception: Mr. Naoto Ohmi, the General Secretary of Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO); Mr. Seiji Hamada, Councillor of the Cabinet Minister's Secretariat; Mr. Masaya Futamiya, Chairman and Representative Director of Sampo Japan Nipponkwa Insurance and President of Japan Business Federation's 1% (One-Percent) Club; and Mr. Toshiaki Wada, Managing Director of Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU). Their messages stressed how indispensable it is to work in partnership with the civic sector in solving social issues.

We also welcomed Ms. Kumi Imamura (President of Katariba), Ms. Kyoko Shimada (Director General of the Yokohama Arts Foundation), Mr. Keita Yamamoto (COO of Publico), and Mr. Yoshinori Yamaoka (Former Managing Director of JNPOC and current Board Chair of the Japan Foundation Center) on the panel. Through their discussion, we could reaffirm the necessity of promoting interactions among diverse NPOs, the multi-stakeholder approach, and evaluation with the goal of winning the public's trust, all towards building a better civic society in the future.

As part of our 20th anniversary, we also hosted a forum on May 30 entitled, "Rethinking Support for NPOs For the Sake of Having 'NPOs Striving to Solve Social Problems with the Power of Citizen Participation' Take Root in Society." Additionally, Issue 79 of *NPO no Hiroba*, our membership newsletter, was devoted to the anniversary for which we received messages from 22 contributors from within and outside Japan.

Finally, our 20th anniversary fundraising drive had amounted to 4,021,952 yen from 143 donors. We thank their donations, which were fully utilized in our various anniversary programs.





Civic Sector National Conference 2016

*Conference Theme: “Unleashing the Power of Independent Volunteer Activism:
Thinking About Our Future Society from Local and Global Perspectives”*

On November 23, JNPOC hosted the “Civic Sector National Conference 2016 – Desired Power of the Private Sector: Thinking About Our Future Society from Local and Global Perspectives” at the University of the Sacred Heart (in Shibuya Ward, Tokyo).

In the Opening Session entitled “Vision of Society in 2030: The World We Want,” we had three female leaders, who are making strenuous efforts in the post-disaster regions affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, speak about the future of their regions. The speakers were Ms. Miho Tominaga (Board Member and Managing Director of Shinsei, based in Koriyama, Fukushima), Ms. Junko Yagi (Representative Director of Community Space Umineko, based in Onagawa, Miyagi), and Ms. Mio Kamitani (Managing Director of Oraga Otsuchi Yume Hiroba, based in Otsuchi, Iwate).

In response to the opening discussion, the following three speakers explored various approaches toward solving local social issues in Japan from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Mr. Toru Tanigawa from the Secretariat of the Shikoku Biodiversity Network; Ms. Mika Osaki, a staff member at the Ministry of the Environment Environmental Partnership Office (EPO) Hokkaido; and Dr. Takahiro Nakaguchi, Managing Director of the Coalition of Local Governments for Environmental Initiatives, Japan, and Professor in the Faculty of Systems Engineering at Shibaura Institute of Technology.

SDGs, which were adopted by the international community as global goals, play a significant role in tackling local social issues in Japan as well. At JNPOC, we plan to provide opportunities to connect local initiatives with global discussions so that each nonprofit organization’s efforts may be accelerated in reaching their goals.

At the Conference, we were pleased to be able to host five working sessions and five other sponsored sessions. Please find a more detailed write-up of the Conference (in Japanese) at the special website: www.jnpoc.ne.jp/ss2016/

A summary in English can be also found here: <http://www.jnpoc.ne.jp/en/news/civic-sector-national-conference-2016-report-unleashing-the-power-of-independent-volunteer-activism/>

Financial Summary

FY2016

(in yen)

TOTAL REVENUE	605,354,947	TOTAL EXPENTIDURE	601,170,873
Membership fees	15,015,000	<i>Operating Cost</i>	
Donations	485,124,307	Personnel Expenses	82,832,387
Grants	29,446,521	Other Expenses	
Programs and Contracts	75,314,917	Common Item for Each Program	14,363,540
Other	454,202	Information Services	15,692,358
		Consultations	25,606
		Networking/Public Policy	1,032,174
		Research	7,450,961
		Facilitative Projects	62,299,040
		Forums and Training	8,479,699
		International	4,690,629
		Disaster Relief for East Japan	365,958,230
		<i>Administrative Cost</i>	
		Personnel Expenses	23,916,594
		Other Expenses	14,429,655

FY2017 (budget)

(in yen)

TOTAL REVENUE	584,463,402	TOTAL EXPENTIDURE	584,387,897
Membership fees	16,800,000	<i>Operating Cost</i>	
Donations	461,083,500	Personnel Expenses	80,829,104
Grants	30,970,480	Other Expenses	
Programs and Contracts	75,459,422	Common Item for Each Program	15,411,000
Other	150,000	Information Services	16,815,000
		Consultations	580,000
		Networking/Public Policy	919,000
		Research	7,747,000
		Facilitative Projects	74,120,000
		Forums and Training	6,940,000
		International	2,748,307
		Disaster Relief for East Japan	342,441,200
		<i>Administrative Cost</i>	
		Personnel Expenses	23,631,286
		Other Expenses	12,206,000

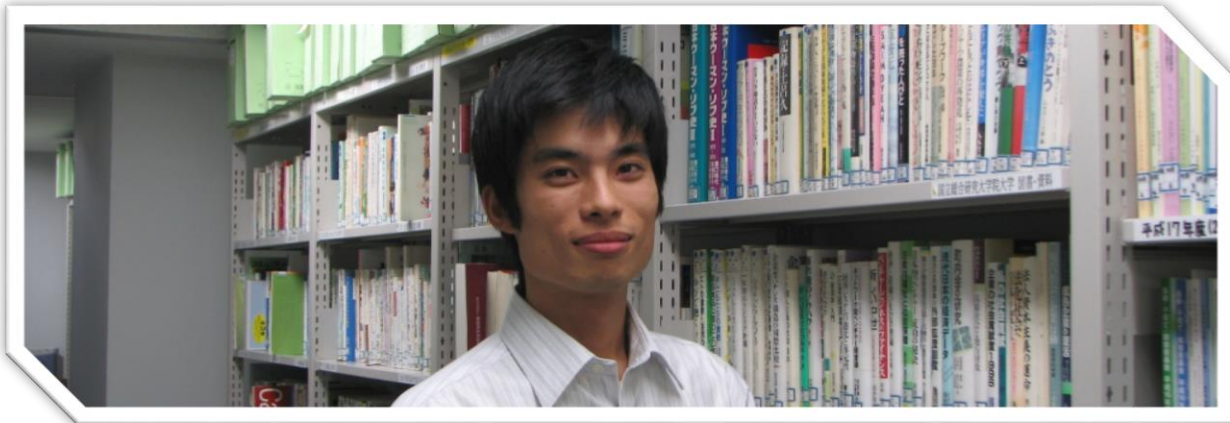


Message from the New Management Leadership to Assume Their Positions in FY2017

When I get to hear from people who are making strides in civil society, I sometimes feel this rush of excitement running down my spine. Sometimes this is in awe of the sheer weight of regional and community issues and the positive attitudes of those who confront and tackle them without fear. Yet at other times, this is because of great expectation that, together, we can surely overcome all obstacles in solving these issues. At JNPOC, we strive to be the kind of organization that can increase those efforts in each community, provide support for them, and create a society that brings out the excitement in all of us, if we work together with the all of you. To achieve this, we hope to be an organization that always keeps a careful eye when looking at each local community while being more keenly on the lookout for global trends.

We thank you in advance for your continued support as JNPOC takes a new step forward into our 21st year.

Kenji Yoshida, Managing Director



At JNPOC, we uphold our slogan in all that we do: *Be the Driving Force that Create Society*. This slogan reflects our hope to promote partnerships with corporations and government entities, to be the force behind the creation of new civil society by directly taking part ourselves, and to strive towards the solving of the ever-diversifying social problems together with all of you.

As Deputy Managing Director, I feel resolved to make sure that JNPOC does indeed become the driving force in building civil society, as we work hand in hand with our members and supporters while moving our power-filled programs forward. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support.

Eiji Ueda, Deputy Managing Director



Board of Directors and Staff Members

as of July 1, 2017

■ Board of Directors

Noboru Hayase - Osaka Voluntary Action Center (Chairperson)
Natsuko Hagiwara - Rikkyo University (Vice Chairperson)
Makoto Oshima - Kubikino NPO Support Center (Vice Chairperson)
Katsuji Imata - CSO Network Japan (Executive Director)
Yoshifumi Tajiri - Japan NPO Center (Director of East Japan Recovery Programs)
Yuko Ueda - The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Masaaki Ohashi - Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation
Koichi Kaneda - ANA Holdings Inc. / Sub-committee on Corporate Philanthropy, Keidanren
Momoko Koga - Fukuoka NPO Center
Meri Kobayashi - Hamamatsu NPO Network Center
Hiroaki Sakuma - Furusato no kai
Hiroko Sasagawa - Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union
Atsuo Shibuya - Japan National Council of Social Welfare
Tomoko Hoshino - Environmental Partnership Council
Toshihiro Menju - Japan Center for International Exchange
Hiroshi Yamazaki - Whole Earth Nature School
Mika Yamamokawa - MS&AD Insurance Group Holdings, Inc. / Keidanren Japanese Business Federation
Yoshihiro Yokota - Ibaragi NPO Center Commons

■ Internal Auditors

Takeshi Hayasaka - Accountant, Hayasaka Tax Accountants' Office
Kenichiro Kawasaki - Lawyer, Legal Commons Legal Office

■ Staff Members

Kenji Yoshida - Managing Director
Eiji Ueda - Deputy Managing Director/Team Leader
Kazutaka Sakaguchi - Team Leader
Kazuho Tsuchiya - Team Leader
Hikaru Chiyoki
Yuko Fujino
Kyosuke Honda
Shinya Kume
Yuko Mitsumoto
Masayuki Mochizuki
Shinji Nagase
Kaoru Nakagawa
Eriko Nitta - SDGs Project Producer
Shuhei Shiino
Miyuki Shimizu
Yoichiro Tsuji
Yoshiko Ugawa
Asami Yamamoto
Katsuko Yamawaki

