

This newsletter is being sent to current and former The Nippon Foundation fellows, and persons who have asked to be added to the mailing list or have been introduced by The Nippon Foundation staff.



[The Nippon Foundation News] Marine Day

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. Japan's Marine Day public holiday falls on July 15 this year. This is a relatively new holiday, first observed in 1996, to give people the opportunity to reflect on the ocean's importance to the island nation of Japan. Marine Day was initially observed on July 20, the day the Emperor Meiji safely returned to Yokohama from a trip on an iron steamship around the northeastern Tohoku region of Japan in 1876, and since 2003 the holiday has been observed on the third Monday of July.

With the rainy season ending in mid to late July in most of Japan and schools' summer vacation time beginning in late July, this is also a busy time for The Nippon Foundation's *Umi-to-Nippon* Project (The Ocean and Japan Project). The project was launched in 2018 to make the issue of ocean debris a personal one for all people in Japan, and to increase social awareness to ensure that "no more trash goes into the ocean." The project holds a variety of events across Japan throughout the year, including beach cleanups, fishing lessons, marine sports lessons and safety classes, fish preparation classes, and seminars and forums, with many of the activities targeting families and children. These events are designed to make people of all ages more aware of the benefits the ocean provides and of the issues facing the ocean, and to encourage them to take action at the local level to address those issues.



Photos from past 'Umi-to-Nippon' events

INDEX - July 12, 2024

News

- Emergency Support to Nikkei Organization in Southern Brazil (2024.06.14)
- First V500 Case Study Sharing Event Held at Kokuyo's 'Diversity Office' (2024.06.14)
- Japan's First 'Not' Welfare Employment (2024.05.17)

Emergency Support to Nikkei Organization in Southern Brazil

Decision made to provide support to Nikkei organization in flood-damaged area



Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil's southernmost state, experienced continued heavy rain beginning in late April, causing major damage from flooding across more than 85% of the state. Roughly 500,000 people across the state continue to live in evacuation shelters, and the damage includes areas with Nikkei (Japanese people who emigrated from Japan and their descendants) communities. The Foundation has decided to provide US\$50,000 as emergency assistance to communities that include Nikkei residents through a local Nikkei social welfare organization.

[Full Article](#)

First V500 Case Study Sharing Event Held at Kokuyo's 'Diversity Office'

More than 10 companies participate, activities include hands-on inclusive design product workshop



The Nippon Foundation has been supporting the Valuable 500 (V500), the world's largest corporate network promoting business inclusion for people with disabilities, as a Global Impact Partner since 2021. To create momentum for a Valuable 500 Accountability Summit that V500 is planning to hold in Japan in 2025, an event organized by V500 and the company Kokuyo was held on May 30 at Hows Park, a diversity office on the first floor of Kokuyo's head office, to allow companies to share examples and issues.

[Full Article](#)

Japan's First 'Not' Welfare Employment

Developments to date and looking ahead



A ceremony was held on March 15, 2024, to mark the commencement of operations of the plant factory Challenged Life Social Firm Osaki in Osaki City, Miyagi Prefecture. The facility is growing spinach, with daily operations carried out by persons with disabilities. The NGO operating the facility was previously an

employer under the Japanese government's social welfare program for employment of persons with disabilities, but now operates independently and pays its workers an average monthly wage that is significantly higher than under the government program.

[Full Article](#)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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[\[Photo Diary\] \(1\) Visit to Taiwan to Attend Inauguration Ceremony of President Lai Ching-te](#) [2024/06/21]

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[Yohei Sasakawa Blog Top Page](#)

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