



**THE NIPPON  
FOUNDATION**

PROFILE

# Who We Are

The Nippon Foundation is Asia's leading grantmaker, based in Japan and cooperating with stakeholders of all levels around the world to confront social challenges.

We partner with leaders, organizations and the grassroots to leverage projects' sustainability and impact.

By creating innovative models and building capacity, we generate systemic change for lasting impact.

## The Nippon Foundation Numbers\*



**\$390 Million**  
Motorboat racing revenue  
used for grants



**\$21 Million**  
Revenue from donations  
used for grants



**137**  
Number of full-time staff



**39.6**  
Average age



**55%**  
Percentage of female staff

\*¥150 = \$1 (FY2023); Staff numbers as of March 31, 2024

## A History of Compassion and Action

1952

### Inaugural Motorboat Race

The passage of the Motorboat Racing Law in 1951 paves the way for Japan's first motorboat race in 1952. An amendment to the law in 1957 makes it possible to use a portion of the revenue to promote industry, creating a model for subsequent endeavors.



1962

### Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation Established

In 1962, the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation (renamed The Nippon Foundation in 2011) is established as an organization with the legal right to administer grants.



1975

### Start of Leprosy Elimination Activities

We begin full-scale efforts to eliminate leprosy in collaboration with the World Health Organization. In 2001 our Chairman Yohei Sasakawa will become the World Health Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, participating in global initiatives to eliminate both leprosy and discrimination against sufferers of the condition.

1976

### Assistance to Myanmar Commences

We begin support for Myanmar in the field of health and hygiene. Our activities have included building schools, providing technical guidance in agriculture, and creating opportunities for dialogue between the Myanmar government and ethnic armed organizations. In 2012 our Chairman Sasakawa was appointed Japan's Goodwill Ambassador to Myanmar, and we have continued to provide humanitarian assistance even amid the intensified internal conflict since 2021.

1986

### Fighting Famine in Africa

In response to the Ethiopian famine, we begin working to alleviate reliance on food aid and build agricultural self-sufficiency in sub-Saharan Africa, while also helping smallholder farmers increase productivity and improve their incomes. Our support for sub-Saharan Africa continues to this day, having provided agricultural technology extension to more than 10 million farmers.

# Welcome Message

My philosophy of action is founded on the belief that ‘problems and solutions are both on-site.’ I am convinced that it is only by visiting sites and working diligently alongside local people, not reading reports in a comfortable, air-conditioned office, that we can identify both problems and solutions. I encourage our young staff at The Nippon Foundation to be constantly inquisitive, engaging proactively not only within Japan but also globally, sweating together with the locals.

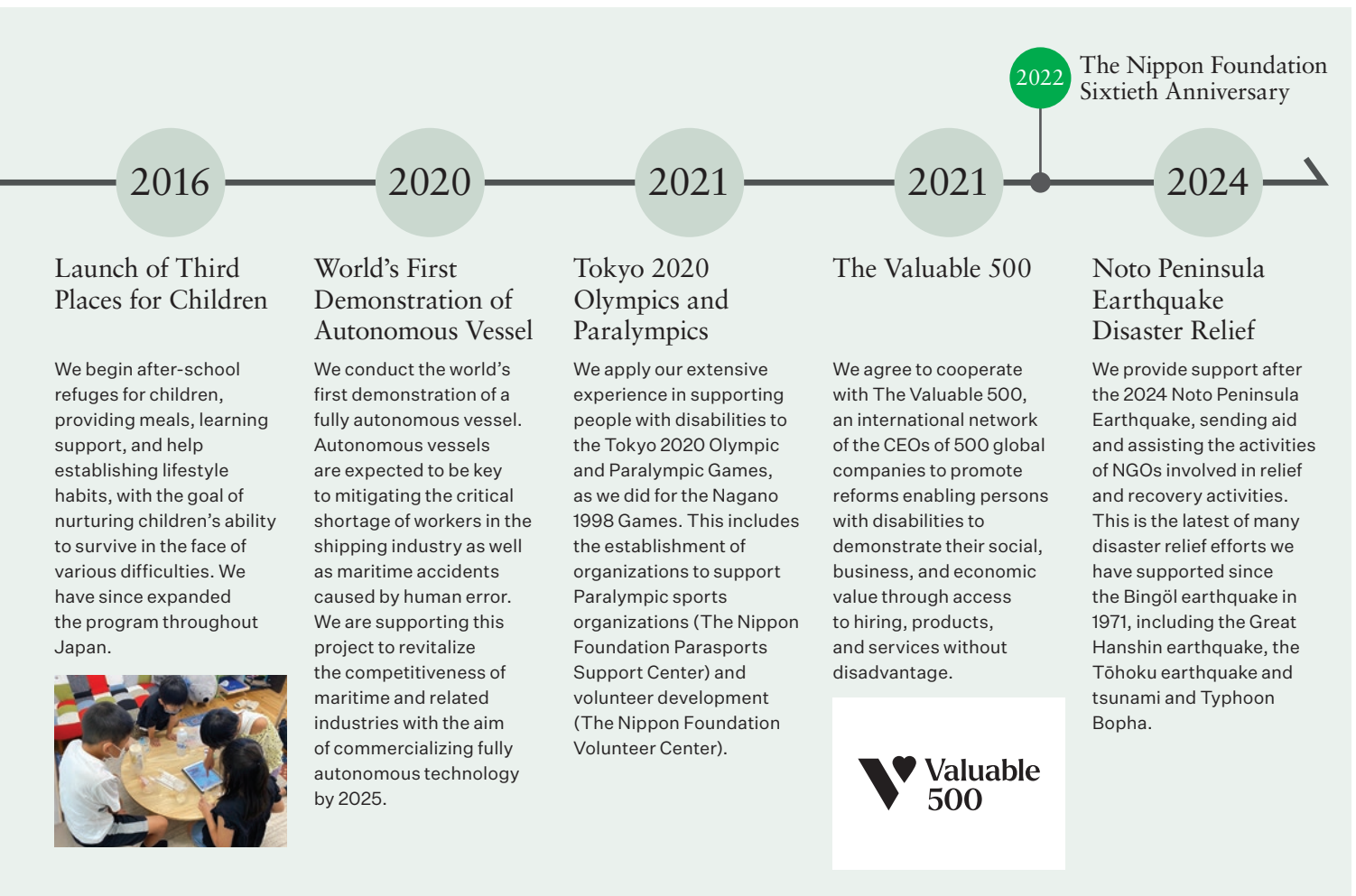
Since its establishment, The Nippon Foundation has been involved in worldwide humanitarian activities, transcending politics, ideology, race, and religion. My own childhood experience lies at the heart of these humanitarian activities: as a six-year-old, I miraculously survived the Tokyo air raid where 100,000 people lost their lives overnight, witnessing the tragedy of war and the suffering of food shortages.

In an increasingly unstable world, we will continue to work in a future-oriented manner, with overflowing passion, perseverance in overcoming difficulties, and persistence, until we achieve results, always staying true to my ‘on-site’ principle.



佐川 陽平

**Yohei Sasakawa**  
Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



# Addressing Global Issues

## The Nippon Foundation Around the World

Many people are unable to realize their full potential because of disability, disease, poverty, or the place or circumstances of their birth. Over more than six decades The Nippon Foundation has engaged in programs in 120 countries/regions to build an inclusive society where everyone is respected and able to play an active role.



Support for Ukrainian evacuees  
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Agricultural assistance for smallholder farmers in Africa  
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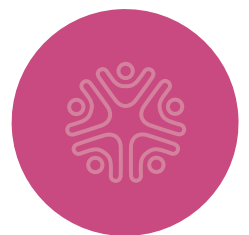
## What We Do

### Making a Difference

A key role of ours is to help grantees become able to solve their problems themselves. For example, we train local agricultural extension workers to instruct local farmers in agricultural methods and techniques, thus ensuring sustainability even after the project ends.



The Future of Our Ocean



Enhancing Communities

# Programs in 120 Countries/Regions

(Ongoing and completed)



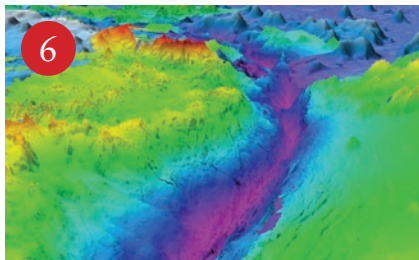
Overnight stay at a  
World Heritage Site  
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Improving education for  
ethnic minorities in Vietnam  
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Tie-up with  
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The Nippon Foundation -  
GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project  
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Forging  
Global Ties



Enriching  
Culture



In the Cause  
of Life



Toward Human  
Security



A Future  
for Youth

# Fully autonomous vessels

In 2020, The Nippon Foundation initiated the MEGURI2040 Fully Autonomous Ship Program to foster private sector collaboration to address the critical shortage of workers in the shipping industry.

Following successful trials in January 2022, the program aims to commercialize fully autonomous technology by 2025, with a consortium of 51 companies collaborating to address technological, regulatory, and societal challenges. Fully autonomous vessels can help mitigate workforce shortages, enhance safety, and revolutionize the role of seafarers through remote control centers.



*The 749-gross-ton SUZAKU, the coastal container ship used in demonstration testing.*



## Overnight stay at a World Heritage Site

In 2016 we launched a project providing an overnight cultural experience at Kyoto temples that are normally closed to the public. One of these temples is Ninna-ji, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with over 1,000 years of history. By promoting the use of cultural properties, which are increasingly struggling with maintenance and preservation costs, we hope to raise interest in Japanese culture in Japan and overseas and pass that culture on to future generations.



*Group photo at a regional training program for the Nikkei Scholarship Program.*

## Supporting *Nikkei*

We have been providing welfare, sports and cultural support for Nikkei, the people of Japanese descent, since the 1970s. Our Nikkei Scholarship program, launched in 2003, has enabled more than 150 students to study in Japan, deepening their understanding of their ancestral homeland and enabling them to act as bridges between their home countries and Japan.

# Elimination of leprosy

The Nippon Foundation and (its sister foundation,) Sasakawa Health Foundation have played an important role in efforts to eliminate leprosy, working in close partnership with the WHO, governments of endemic countries, and international and local NGOs.

One of our initiatives is in India, where we help persons affected by leprosy who are unable to work because of discrimination, providing grant loans to fund microenterprises and educational support, as well as working to spread correct knowledge about leprosy among the general public.



*Deaf students communicating via sign language.*



## Promoting bilingual deaf education

We supported the establishment of Asia's first bilingual deaf education school that teaches using sign language and written language in Vietnam in 2000. By making it possible for deaf people to study in sign language from elementary school to university, the project has produced more than 30 university graduates, and we have opened schools on a similar model in the Philippines and Laos.

## Training Ocean Experts

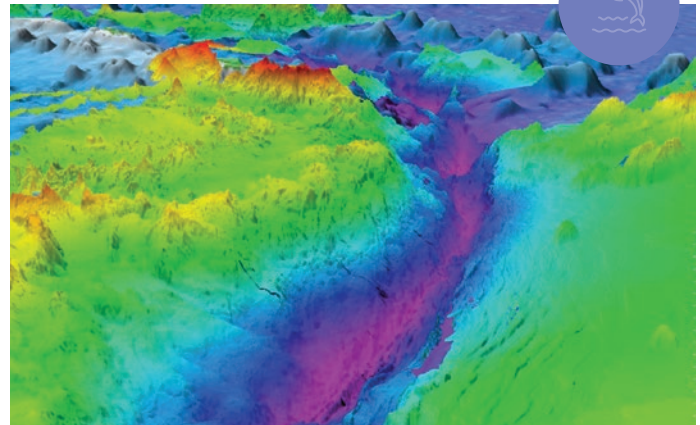
We are addressing ocean issues through a global program of human resource development in partnership with leading research institutions and universities, governments, NGOs and the UN. As part of this program, we offer scholarships mainly to individuals from developing countries where there is a shortage of ocean professionals. As of June 2024, we've provided education to 1,792 people from 155 countries.

# Support for Ukrainian evacuees

We are providing assistance with living expenses for Ukrainian evacuees to Japan, providing Japanese language school scholarships to 116 of them, and arranging grants for 127 local support activities.

In Ukraine and neighboring countries, we have helped support 8,832 persons with disabilities and their families who wish to or have evacuated, including providing vehicles, daily necessities and temporary shelter and support.

We also dispatched 101 Japanese university student volunteers to distribute medical supplies, food, etc., to evacuees, manage relief supplies, and disseminate information from a base in Krakow, Poland.



*A geomorphological map showing the Mariana Trench*

## The Nippon Foundation Scholars Association

The Nippon Foundation Scholars Association is a network that supports graduates of our scholarship and fellowship programs, as they pursue their careers. It unites these individuals in an active community where they can support each other through such programs as cross-platform mentorships and collaborative projects. The network leverages the power of the participants, enabling them to build new connections and synergies, adding value to our scholarship programs and contributing to the careers of the recipients.

## The Nippon Foundation - GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project

Officially endorsed by IOC-UNESCO as a UN Ocean Decade Programme, Seabed 2030, a collaboration with the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), aims to fully map the world's seafloor by 2030. The bathymetric data from the deep ocean that this project offers is essential for a variety of scientific disciplines, as well as weather systems, biodiversity monitoring and predicting the impacts of climate change.



# Traditional Arts Relief Fund

The March 11, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake caused massive destruction and loss of life. In June 2011, The Nippon Foundation used the proceeds from the sale of the famous 1721 Lady Blunt Stradivarius violin to establish the Traditional Arts Relief Fund to revive the arts and festivals of the Tohoku region as a way to get communities back on their feet.

Furthermore, to facilitate the creation of a sustainable framework for the preservation and development of traditional culture, in May 2016 we established the Iroha Nihon Fund to repair and restore cultural assets.



A 'dashi' (festival car) for a tora-mai tiger dance, a traditional performance



## THE TOKYO TOILET

In cooperation with the Shibuya City government, The Nippon Foundation renovated 17 public toilets to make them accessible for everyone regardless of gender, age, or disability through the power of design and the creativity of 16 creators, including architects Tadao Ando, Toyo Ito and Kengo Kuma, as well as art director Kashiwa Sato. Each toilet features a bidet, wheelchair access, ostomate facilities, and are gender universal. In addition, uniformed cleaning staff regularly clean the toilets.



## Third Places for Children

Since 2016, we have established 200 "Third Places for Children" throughout Japan, providing after-school havens for children with developmental difficulties, or those who are facing economic and familial hardship.

Third Places for Children help establish key lifestyle habits, such as eating regularly and teeth brushing, from an early age. Later, children can enhance noncognitive skills such as self-affirmation and the ability to interact with people and society, and acquire academic skills and improve cognitive abilities.

# Agricultural assistance for smallholder farmers in Africa

We began providing agricultural assistance in Africa in 1986, focusing on spreading agricultural methods and techniques to smallholder farmers to solve food problems and improve living standards. Since then, we have provided support for food, nutrition, and income security in 17 African countries.

In partnership with agricultural ministries and research institutes, we have been providing technical training for farmers and extension agents, fostering young entrepreneurs in threshing and other processing, and developing agricultural extension\* curricula for mid-career extension agents. Through these activities, roughly 10 million farmers have received agricultural extension services, and more than 9,000 extension agents have acquired specialized knowledge.



*Agricultural extension lecturers conducting a market survey*

*\*Agricultural extension is the application of scientific research and new knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education.*

# Support for persons with visual disability

We began supporting persons with visual disability in the early 1990s with a scholarship fund. However, to elicit greater impact we changed our policy focus and in 2006 launched a program for students to study in their own countries using IT to expand their educational and employment opportunities. In cooperation with the International Council on Education for the Visually Impaired, the program has provided higher education and employment support to over 3,000 persons with visual disability in 7 Asian countries, and training for university faculty, staff and the private sector.



# Empowering NPOs through digital transformation

In 2022, we launched the Digital Transformation Fund with US \$3 million in support from Google. The fund supports 7 organizations implementing technological projects, such as the development of VR and experiential content for special needs schools and long-term hospitalized children, as well as online nutrition education programs. A project helping hospitalized children experience the outside world through the metaverse had a greater than expected impact, facilitating interactions with people in other countries, and The Nippon Foundation also gave 2,000 iPads to children to encourage independent and creative learning.



Screenshot from D-SHIPS JOURNEY, a program where hospitalized children use VR and AR to interact with peers while exploring a fictional island.



## Ocean Census

Ocean Census is a global alliance of partners uniting to accelerate the discovery of marine biodiversity to galvanize sustainable management and protection of ocean life. Officially endorsed by IOC-UNESCO as a UN Ocean Decade Programme, it is an open network of scientists, media, businesses, and civil society who work together to collect and document species in biodiversity hotspots using the latest analytical technology, and to raise public awareness.



## Fostering friendship between Japan and the world

We conduct programs that promote the understanding of Japan, providing scholarships and grants primarily to graduate students.

In the UK, we have provided over 200 scholarships to students engaged in Japan-related research since 2013, while in Scandinavia, we have established lectureship posts on Japan at nine universities, as well as research trips to Japan. We provide 20 scholarships each year to the Inter-University Center in Yokohama, Japan, for students to study advanced Japanese to facilitate their research on Japan.

# Pregnancy SOS consultation service

Since 2020, we have been supporting an anonymous consultation service for women to cope with unexpected pregnancies. There were over 10,000 consultations at 18 centers in FY2022 alone, indicating the scale of the need for counseling and support.

Counselors don't only reply to pregnancy-related medical queries but also actively provide a wide range of advice including on welfare systems and may accompany consultees to medical institutions or municipal offices, arrange family-like prenatal and post-partum accommodation, and help the mothers and their children to live in the community while receiving necessary welfare support.



A free space in a private facility where mothers in difficulty can stay.



A panel session at the Global Plastics Summit, an event supported by Back to Blue.

## The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (Sylff) Program

The Sylff Program was established in 1987 to develop the next generation of leaders around the world. Administered by the Tokyo Foundation since 1997, the program has supported more than 17,000 outstanding students pursuing graduate studies in the humanities and social sciences at 69 universities in 44 countries. It provides fellowships and additional support programs for research and social engagement activities to nurture leaders who will initiate action to transcend differences in nationality, language, and culture to bring about positive social change in global society and the local community.

## Back to Blue

Back to Blue is a joint initiative with Economist Impact, focused on galvanizing global action to tackle the most pressing ocean challenges of our time. Through international conferences, research, and storytelling, the initiative addresses topics including plastic pollution, chemical pollution, ocean acidification, and the challenges faced by small island developing states.

# Improving education for ethnic minorities in Vietnam

In March 2024, The Nippon Foundation and the Global Partnership for Education agreed to jointly fund a project carried out by Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training and Save the Children International in Vietnam to create a comprehensive learning environment for children from Vietnam's ethnic minorities from preschool onwards.

Mother-tongue education is crucial for ethnic minority children. The project supports bilingual education through textbook creation and teacher training. It also aims to support children with disabilities by formulating guidelines, ensuring inclusive educational environments for all.



Vietnamese ethnic minority students studying in school



## Including disabled people in business

Many persons with disabilities face barriers to employment or leave their jobs because the workplace fails to meet their needs and requirements. We work with The Valuable 500, a community of CEOs of large companies committed to mainstreaming disability inclusion in business established at the 2019 World Economic Forum, to encourage change in the corporate mindset and the creation of new standards in business. The Valuable 500 are taking the lead in disclosing information on employment of persons with disabilities, conducting training to increase their presence, and promoting them to executive positions.



## Tie-up with Minerva University

In April 2024, The Nippon Foundation and Minerva University agreed to make Tokyo the rotation program's eighth city, and the second to host a full-year program.

From the fall of 2025, approx. 150 students will reside in Tokyo, collaborating with Japanese students to address pressing social issues related to sustainability.

We will support the program for the next decade, facilitating internships and promoting ties with Japanese universities, local communities, and businesses.

By supporting the introduction of this new educational model in Japan, we aim to highlight an alternative educational path and help foster future leaders in sustainability.

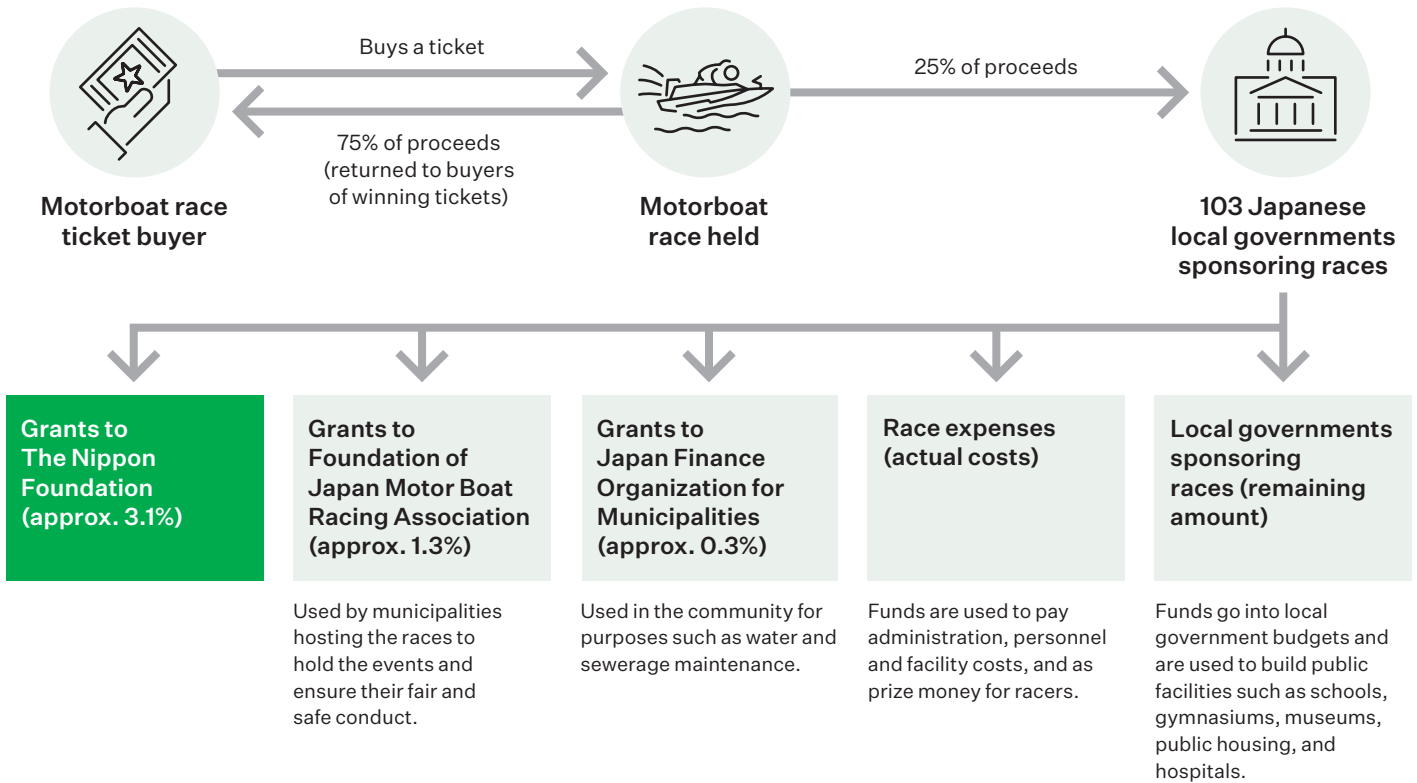


# Activity Funding

## Funding from Motorboat Racing

Motorboat racing is a philanthropy-oriented sports betting system, established in 1951 to aid the reconstruction of Japan's maritime shipping industry. Events are held at 24 venues nationwide and are organized by local governments.

The Nippon Foundation is designated by Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to receive approx. 3.1% of the proceeds from motorboat races organized by local governments nationwide as a grant, which we use to support organizations in Japan and abroad engaged in public interest projects.



## The Nippon Foundation Group

### Multicultural Relations/Japanese Studies

 FONDATION FRANCO JAPONAISE SASAKAWA Fondation Franco-Japonaise Sasakawa	 THE GREAT BRITAIN SASAKAWA FOUNDATION The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation	 Scandinavia Japan Sasakawa Foundation The Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation	 Nippon Communications Foundation
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### Sports

 B&G Foundation	 Japan Gateball Union	 SASAKAWA SPORTS FOUNDATION Sasakawa Sports Foundation	 日本財団 パラサポ THE NIPPON FOUNDATION PARASPORTS SUPPORT CENTER The Nippon Foundation Parasports Support Center
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### Culture

 Nippon Ginkenshibu Foundation	 日本音楽財団 NIPPON MUSIC FOUNDATION Nippon Music Foundation	 日本太鼓財団 NIPPON TAIKO FOUNDATION Nippon Taiko Foundation
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The Nippon Foundation has built a group of foundations that are active around the world, supporting fields that we have a special interest in.

# Organizational Overview

<b>Name</b>	The Nippon Foundation		
<b>Address</b>	The Nippon Zaidan Building 1-2-2 Akasaka, Minato-ku Tokyo 107-8404, Japan		
<b>Established</b>	October 1, 1962 (as the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation)		
<b>Employees</b>	137 (full-time) (As of March 2024)		
<b>Chairman</b>	Yohei Sasakawa		
<b>President</b>	Takeju Ogata		
<b>Vice President</b>	Jumpei Sasakawa		
<b>Executive Director</b>	Mitsuyuki Unno	<b>Director</b>	Mariko Akimoto
<b>Executive Director</b>	Ichiro Kabasawa		(Senior Researcher, Asahi Research Center Co., Ltd.)
<b>Executive Director</b>	Hideo Sato	<b>Director</b>	Akiko Izumi
<b>Executive Director</b>	Yuji Mori		(Journalist, Financial Planner)
<b>Executive Director</b>	Kazuhiro Yoshikura		

## Foundation Boards



## Project evaluation

For the sake of accountability and to measure impact, The Nippon Foundation uses experts to conduct project evaluations according to the characteristics of each project to objectively clarify goals and define the contributions they have made.

## Audits

To ensure that projects supported by The Nippon Foundation are carried out appropriately, transparently, and as planned, and to prevent fraudulent activities, our auditors operate independently, conducting site visits to confirm accountability.



To see our budget and finances, please scan this QR code with your phone.

## Social Welfare/Development



## Research and Policy Making



## Science and Technology



## Public Health



## **The Nippon Foundation**

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