



Testimonial from a
Beneficiary

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde
Dx. Rafa Domingo

Unlocking Deaf Children's Futures with Language

Advocating for Filipino Sign Language (FSL) in education is essential for Deaf children who have experienced language deprivation. Deaf leadership in schools empowers them to express ideas, connect with peers, and succeed academically, building a richer, more inclusive society for all.



Perspective from a
Partner

Director, Asian Development with
the Disabled Persons
Yuki Nakamura

Opening Doors to New Dreams: Towards University Admission for Lao Deaf Students

5 years ago, we introduced Bilingual Deaf Education in Laos. In 2023, we established the first bilingual high school for the deaf at Dongkhamxang Teacher Training College. Seeing the students' eyes shine when using sign language makes the effort worthwhile. In 2026, we look forward to the first deaf university students in Laos.



(Yuki Nakamura is the third person from left)



Message from The Nippon Foundation's
Team Member

Senior Program Officer,
Inclusion Team,
The Nippon Foundation
Ikumi Kawamata



Expanding Our Circle of Allies for Social Change

When people who need support and their governments and organizations work together, they can make a society where everyone supports everyone a reality. Seeing trained leaders with disabilities emerging in different countries and the circle of allies working to change society steadily gives us great hope. Our goal is to make a world equally accessible for everyone regardless of disability.

Our Journey of International Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Support

The Nippon Foundation has donated more than 5 billion yen to 18 organizations in 13 countries for over 30 years. The support range widely from leadership training, raising social awareness about sign languages, improving access to elementary to high school, to establishing bases for career support.

- 1992 Scholarship support for DHH students launched (Gallaudet, National Technical Institute for the Deaf)
- 2000 International educational network support for the DHH launched
- 2002 Bilingual Deaf Education support in Vietnam launched
- 2003 Sign language promotion efforts in Asia-Pacific launched
- 2016 Bilingual Deaf Education support expands to the Philippines
- 2018 Bilingual Deaf Education support expands to Laos
- 2021 Career support for the DHH launched (the Philippines, Vietnam)



The Nippon Foundation

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Expanding Opportunities for Asian Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing People Through Sign Languages



Seamless Support for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) from Education to Employment

More than 200 million DHH people in Asia.

The problem at hand is many of them do not get the chance to acquire accessible language.

The Nippon Foundation supports acquisition of sign language to broaden their horizons.



Schools where students learn through sign language (Bilingual Deaf Education)

We have supported the growth of Bilingual Deaf Education in 3 countries using local sign and written languages.



Specialized employment support for DHH people

Our base at the renowned De La Salle University in the Philippines is expanding employment options through career support and improving workplace environments.



Raising social awareness about sign languages

We have promoted recognition of sign languages as equal as spoken languages. To foster sign language-friendly societies, we have supported training of linguists and creation of dictionaries and teaching materials in sign languages. Our "Shuwa Town" uses AI to allow anyone to easily start learning sign language.



Shuwa Town



Undergraduate and graduate scholarships for future leaders

We support students from developing countries studying abroad at well-known universities for the DHH such as Gallaudet University and National Technical Institute for the Deaf (Rochester Institute of Technology).



Solving Problems across Countries by Forming Partners and Connecting People and Talent

Our efforts center on building effective systems and nurturing talent for long-term impact.

Our results in numbers

Results of our initiatives in each country

Laos

since **2018**

School where students learn through sign language (Bilingual Deaf Education)

Asian Development with the Disabled Persons



The Philippines

since **2016**

School where students learn through sign language (Bilingual Deaf Education)

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde



Vietnam

2002 ~2021

School where students learn through sign language (Bilingual Deaf Education)

Dong Nai University



Indonesia

2013 ~2022

Raising social awareness about sign languages



University of Indonesia

since **2026**

School where students learn through sign language (Bilingual Deaf Education)



Pijar Foundation

Results of our initiatives across different countries

2020 ~2022

Advocating for implementation of sign language laws



World Federation of the Deaf

2019

Advocating for implementation of sign language laws



World Federation of the Deaf Regional Secretariat for Asia

The Philippines and Vietnam since **2021**

Specialized employment support for DHH people



National Technical Institute for the Deaf (Rochester Institute of Technology)

55 people from **11** countries since **2002**

Raising social awareness about sign languages



The Chinese University of Hong Kong

285 people since **1992**

Undergraduate and graduate scholarships for future leaders



Gallaudet University

78 people since **1992**

Undergraduate and graduate scholarships for future leaders



National Technical Institute for the Deaf (Rochester Institute of Technology)