



WORKABILITY ASIA

# WAsia Conference 2026 in Tokyo

## Theme

**To develop work and employment opportunities  
for persons with disabilities  
who require more intensive support**

## Purpose

Workability Asia (WAsia) is the organization that collaborates with organizations across Asia and around the world to improve conditions that support work and employment for persons with disabilities and to raise awareness within civil society. As of June 2026, WAsia has 51 member organizations in 10 countries/regions and continues to expand work and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities across Asia. In Japan, Japan Social Employment Council (SELP), Japan SELP Center, Kyosaren (Japan Association of Community Workshops for Persons with Disabilities), and ZENCOLO have formed Workability Japan (WJ), which is a member of WAsia.

The annual WAsia Conference provides valuable opportunities to learn about conditions and good practices in other countries/regions and to exchange information. It has played an important role in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities to work and employment. These efforts also contribute to the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the expansion of positive impact worldwide.

This year, WJ will host the WAsia conference in Tokyo under the theme “To develop work and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities who require more intensive support” in Asia. The conference will bring together participants from across Asia to share experiences and discuss future directions.

## Date

**November 24-26, 2026**

## Venue

**Nadao Hall**, \*5-minute walk from Toranomon Station  
on the Ginza Subway Line  
**Japan National Council of Social Welfare**  
Shin-Kasumigaseki Building, 3-3-2 Kasumigaseki,  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8980

## Organizer

**Workability Asia (WAsia)**  
**Workability Japan (WJ)**

WJ Members:

Japan Social Employment Council(SELP)

Japan SELP Center

Kyosaren ( Japan Association of Community Workshops  
for Persons with Disabilities )

ZENCOLO

**Program (Subject to change)**

\*Simultaneous interpretation in English-Japanese will be provided during the conference.

**●Day 1: November 24 - For Overseas participants only -**9:30 am - 4:00 pm  
(tentative)

Site visit tour 2 courses (2-3 sheltered workshops)

**●Day 2: November 25 - WAsia Seminar - Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.**10:00 am -10:30 am  
(30 min)**Opening**

Opening Remarks

Mr. Hiroshi Ayuha Chairperson, WJ / Advisor, Japan Social Employment Council  
Mr. Dipesh Sutariya Chairperson, WAsia

Guest Remarks

10:30 am - 11:30 am  
(60 min)**Keynote Speech Mr. Stefan Tromel Senior Disability Specialist  
International Labour Organization**

\* Mr. Tromel is scheduled to deliver a presentation focusing on Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), drawing primarily on international research reports regarding sheltered workshops.

**Profile**

Mr. Stefan Tromel has served as Senior Disability Specialist at the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2013. He was the Executive Director of the International Disability Alliance (2008–2013) and the Director of the European Disability Forum (1999–2004). He was also actively involved in the negotiation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2002–2006).

11:30 am - 12:00 pm  
(30 min)**Discussion**

\* Following the keynote speech, we will delve deeper into the challenges and prospects regarding work and employment for persons with disabilities who require more intensive support—particularly in sheltered workshops—in light of the 2022 recommendations from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**<Speakers>**Mr. Yoshifumi Kano Board Member, WJ /  
Chairperson, Japan Social Employment Council  
Mr. Toshihiko Nakamura Vice-Chairperson, WJ / Chairperson, ZENCOLO  
Mr. Hidetomo Akamatsu Executive Director, Kyosaren**<Facilitator>**Mr. Ryuhei Sano Board Member, WJ / Committee Member,  
Japan Social Employment Council

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch Break

1:00 pm - 1:20 pm  
(20 min)**“Working” – Presentations by Persons with Disabilities**Ms. Misao Ueno Iruka Insurance Services LLC  
Mr. Yuhei Yamada Representative Director, Porque,  
the Organization of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities1:20 pm - 2:30 pm  
(70 min)**Session on Article 27 of the CRPD**

\*We will hold three sessions centered on Article 27 of the CRPD to discuss the current situation, challenges, and future prospects surrounding work and employment for persons with disabilities who require more intensive supports.

**◆ Session 1: Japan****<Speakers>**Ms. Miki Nishioka Manager, Happibar, Futakami Welfare Association  
Social Welfare Corporation  
Mr. Kenji Fujio Chairperson, National Employment Support Network,  
a Specified Nonprofit Corporation**<Facilitator>**Ms. Hitomi Nagano Professor, Sophia University  
Mr. Yoshihiro Ozawa Board Member, WJ/ Board Member, Japan SELP Center

2:30 pm - 3:40 pm (70 min)	<b>◆Session 2: Asia</b> (Speakers) Ms. Sarbani Mallick Founder Director/Managing Trustee, Biswa Gouri Charitable Trust, India Speaker from The Redemptorist Foundation for People with Disabilities, Thailand Speaker from Eden Social Welfare Foundation, Taiwan (Facilitator) Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki Board Member, WJ / Executive Director, ZENCOLO
4:00 pm - 5:10 pm (70 min)	<b>◆Session 3: Summary</b> (Speakers) Mr. Dipesh Sutariya Chairperson, WAsia Mr. Stefan Tromel Senior Disability Specialist, International Labour Organization Ms. Tomoko Hikuma Professor, Denenchofu Gakuen University (Facilitator) Mr. Katsunori Fujii Board Member, WJ / Executive Director, Kyosaren
5:10 pm - 5:20 pm (10 min)	<b>Concluding Remarks</b> Mr. Michihiro Ishibashi Secretary-General, the Parliamentary League for Inclusive Employment
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (90 min)	<b>Networking event (Dinner)</b> Venue: 5th Floor Conference Room <b>Opening Remarks</b> Mr. Chiori Takae Vice-Chairperson, WJ / Chairperson, Japan SELP Center

### ●Day 3: November 26 – WAsia Seminar –

9:30 am – 9:45 am (15 min)	<b>Special Presentation</b> Mr. Masaki Yamauchi Chairman, YAMATO Welfare Foundation
9:45 am – 12:25 pm (160 min) With a short break	<b>Practical Reports: Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities Who Require More Intensive Support</b> * Abstracts will be invited from across Asia and selected for presentation. Themes are “Employment support for individuals with intellectual and psychiatric disabilities”, “Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID)”, and “Pilot projects related to employment support”. For more details, please refer to the “Call for Abstracts”. (Facilitators) Mr. Takeshi Takahashi Board Member, WJ / Board Member, ZENCOLO Ms. Toshie Okunishi Member of the System, Policy, and Budget Measures Committee, Japan Social Employment Council
12:25 pm – 1:00 pm (35 min)	<b>Closing</b> Appeal of the WAsia Conference 2026 in Tokyo Mr. Toshihiko Nakamura Vice-Chairperson, WJ / Chairperson, ZENCOLO Greetings from India, the host country of WAsia conference 2027 Closing Remarks Mr. Dipesh Sutariya Chairperson, WAsia Acknowledgments Mr. Hiroshi Ayuha Chairperson, WJ / Advisor, Japan Social Employment Council

November 25 and 26:  
 Program Moderator; Ms. Naoko Saito Vice-Chairperson, WJ / Chairperson, Kyosaren

### 【 WJ Executive Structure (also serving as the WAsia Conference 2026 in Tokyo Organizing Committee) 】

Chairperson: Mr. Hiroshi Ayuha, Advisor, Japan Social Employment Council;  
 Chairperson, the WAsia Conference 2026 in Tokyo Organizing Committee

Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Chiori Takae, Chairperson, Japan SELP Center  
 Mr. Toshihiko Nakamura, Chairperson, ZENCOLO  
 Ms. Naoko Saito, Chairperson, Kyosaren; Secretary General, the WAsia Conference 2026 in Tokyo

Board Member: Mr. Yoshifumi Kano, Chairperson, Japan Social Employment Council  
 Mr. Ryuhei Sano, Committee Member, Japan Social Employment Council  
 Mr. Yoshihiro Ozawa, Board Member, Japan SELP Center  
 Mr. Katsunori Fujii, Executive Director, Kyosaren; Advisor, WAsia  
 Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki, Executive Director, ZENCOLO  
 Mr. Takeshi Takahashi, Board Member, ZENCOLO

Auditor: Mr. Yasuhiro Hoshino, Advisor, Japan SELP Center  
 Mr. Kaoru Tada, Former Secretary General, Kyosaren

Secretariat: Mr. Katsuhiko Kobayashi, Ms. Yuri Yoshidome, Ms. Fuki Sato, Mr. Shinobu Hoshi,  
 Mr. Yasuhiro Kojima, Ms. Mayu Ogura, Ms. Moe Takahashi

**Fee** **Conference Participation** (Capacity: 300 participants) **JPY 20,000** per person (tax included) [ About **140** dollars ]  
Person with disabilities, One accompanying support person for each person with disabilities, and Students:  
**JPY 10,000** (tax included) [ About **70** dollars ]  
The fee includes a Lunch Box on November 25.

**Site visit on November 24** (Capacity: 50 participants) **JPY 7,500** per person (tax included) [ About **50** dollars ]

**Networking event (Dinner on November 25)** (Capacity: 100 participants) **JPY 10,000** per person (tax included) [ About **70** dollars ]

※Registration will close once capacity is reached

## Registration

Please register via the dedicated website.

<https://sec.tobutoptours.co.jp/web/evt/wasia2026/>

**Registration Period: Saturday, August 1 - Wednesday, September 30, 2026**

- ◆Please check the dedicated website for instructions on how to register.
- ◆After completing your registration on the dedicated website, a confirmation email will be sent to the email address you provided.  
Note: If your computer or device has security settings that block incoming emails, please adjust your settings in advance to allow emails from the @tobutoptours.co.jp domain.

### 《Changes to or Cancellations of Registration》

- ◆For changes after the deadline(September 30), please submit your request via the inquiry form on the dedicated website or contact the Public Service Division of TOBU TOP TOURS CO., LTD.
- ◆Please note that for cancellations made on or after October 1, the fee will be charged regardless of whether payment has been made, and we will instead send you the conference materials after the conference.

### 《 Reasonable Accommodations 》

- ◆If you require any support to participate in the conference—such as wheelchair access, sign language interpretation, text data—please enter your request in the “Accommodation Requests” section when registering.
- ◆We will provide sign language interpretation, and text data as needed.

### 《 Handling of Personal Information 》

- ◆Personal information provided when registering for the conference will be used solely for the purpose of conference operations. For the purposes stated above, this information will be shared with TOBU TOP TOURS CO., LTD., which has been entrusted with registration-related tasks for this conference.

## Contact Information

(Business Hours: Weekdays 10:00 am to 5:00 pm)

### For Registration Inquiries

TOBU TOP TOURS CO., LTD.,  
Public Service Division  
Email: wasia\_tokyo@tobutoptours.co.jp  
Address: 18th Floor, W Building, 1-8-15 Konan,  
Minato-ku, Tokyo  
Tel: +81-50-9014-8426  
Contact Persons: Kokune, Haruta, Ikarashi

### For Conference Program Inquiries

Workability Japan  
Email: wasiaconference2026@selpjapan.net