



**The 27th Duskin Leadership Training in Japan;
A Program for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (2027)**

Sponsor:
The Duskin AINOWA Foundation

Operating Organization:
Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD)

April 2026

Greetings

**The 27th Duskin Leadership Training in Japan:
A Program for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific**



Make Your Dreams Come True

Dear Applicants,

It has been over forty-five years since the Duskin Ainowa Foundation was established in 1981. The “Duskin Study Abroad Leaders Program for the Disabled” was initiated during the United Nation's International Year of Disabled Persons, with the goal of helping persons with disabilities to achieve full participation, without discrimination, in society.

The Foundation also launched its second program, “The Duskin Leadership Training in Japan” in 1999. During the past twenty-seven years, a total of 151 trainees from 29 different countries and regions in Asia and the Pacific area successfully completed the program. We are pleased that the program has been well received, as is evident in the enthusiastic responses from communities in these nations, year after year. At the same time, we are increasingly aware of the importance of our commitment and our responsibility to ensure that this program continues to have its long-term social impact on these nations.

We believe that our mission for this program is to provide our selected trainees with the training they need so that on their return to their home countries, they can become leaders among persons with disabilities in their own communities, by dedicating themselves to these individuals and communities. We are proud that many trainees who completed the program are now playing pioneering roles in their home countries.

We hope that many young persons with disabilities and who also possess courage and a belief in their ability to face and overcome tough difficulties and challenges, will apply to participate in our 27th program. There were approximately 210 applicants for the 26th program, and we expect that the number of applicants this year will exceed even that total. While the selection process is rigorous, and the training program even more so, we encourage all young people who are determined to accept new challenges to apply for this extraordinary program.

We look forward to receiving your application and wish you success in your endeavors.

With our prayers,

**The Executive Committee for the Duskin Leadership Training in Japan
Duskin AINOWA Foundation**



Opening Ceremony

I. About the Program

1 Introduction

This program is designed for young persons with disabilities living in Asia and the Pacific who have the willingness and the potential to become leaders in their communities and to work for persons with disabilities. The program offers such young individuals with disabilities an opportunity to learn about welfare policies and services for persons with disabilities in Japan and thereby to obtain knowledge and skills that will support their future activities. It was first initiated in 1999 by the Duskin AINOWA Foundation as a project commemorating the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002). Over the past twenty-seven years, 151 people from all over Asia and the Pacific completed the program.

2 Sponsor

The Duskin AINOWA Foundation

3 Co-sponsors

Duskin Co., Ltd.
The Duskin Group of Companies

4 Operating organization

Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD)

5 Supporting organization

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan (TBC)

6 The number of trainees selected

A maximum of 10 sheets are available. In principle, only one trainee can be selected from each country/region.

7 Duration of the program

Approximately 10 months (starting in October 2027 and ending in July 2028)
※The schedule is subject to change.



Group Training: L-Curve Workshop

Application Guidance

8 Target countries/regions

Countries/regions in Asia and the Pacific excluding New Zealand and Australia

9 Training venues

Training takes place at a variety of locations across Japan, including service providers for persons with disabilities, educational institutions and organizations of/for persons with disabilities.

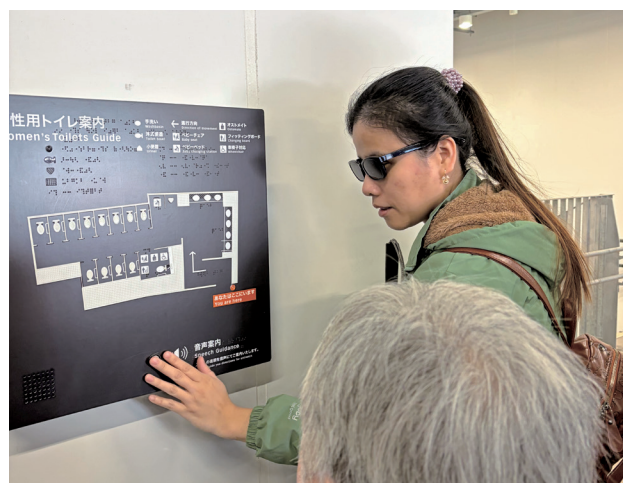


Cross Disability Learning on Japanese Sign Language

10 Main features of the program

- (1) Approximately the 10-month long training program will consist of three parts – Japanese (sign) language learning, group training and individual training.
- (2) The trainee will design his/her own individual training program based on his/her interests and future goals. A final training plan can be drawn up in consultation with training coordinators at JSRPD and with experts from related organizations.
- (3) In principle, all the training will be provided in the Japanese (sign) language.

- (4) The first three months will be devoted to intensive Japanese (sign) language lessons. Sufficient language skills will enable the trainee to exchange opinions and ideas with people in Japan. It is also a requirement for the trainees to make their presentation in Japanese (sign) language.
- (5) The trainee will learn about the current situation of accessibility and welfare services, and movements of/for persons with disabilities, through observation and hands-on experience.
- (6) There will be opportunities to attend conferences and seminars on disability.
- (7) The trainee will spend the New Year holidays with Japanese family.
- (8) The trainee will meet with disabled leaders and activists from different countries to get the latest information on international cooperation in relevant fields.
- (9) The training covers a wide range of practical topics including how to write project proposals and reports and how to give presentations.
- (10) The trainee will be required to submit both weekly reports and a final report.



Accessibility Check at the National Stadium

II. Applying

11 Applicant criteria

No education history or prior work experience is required to apply for this program.

However, you must:

- (1) be a person with a disability living in Asia and the Pacific,
- (2) **be between 18 and 35 years old as of August 17, 2026,**
- (3) be able to communicate in either Japanese (or Japanese Sign Language) or English (or International Sign Language/ASL) 《see 14. below》,
- (4) be determined to become a future leader in your community and to work for persons with disabilities,
- (5) be willing to adapt yourself to the Japanese lifestyle and complete about the 10-month training in Japan,
- (6) understand that no temporary return to your home country will be allowed throughout the entire training period until the completion of the training,
- (7) be able to carry out your everyday activities without assistance,
- (8) have a surety, who is a parent, a sibling of age, or someone who is next of kin, and
- (9) agree to participate in the program at your own risk.



Homestay

12 Notes for applicants

- (1) Fill in the application form in either Japanese or English. Type or handwrite clearly. The application form consists of 8 pages and has 29 sections. Do not exceed the space provided for each section.
- (2) In Section 10, tick an appropriate box. If you tick 'I work' or 'Other,' clarify the type of your organization/work and the form of your employment by ticking all appropriate boxes or giving details.
- (3) In Section 11, refer to any organization of/for persons with disabilities that you are currently involved with as a member, user and volunteer etc. Do not include any information that you have already mentioned in Section 10.
- (4) In Section 12, write down the name of school/university/any other educational institution from which you graduated and state your major. Do not include any information you have already stated in Sections 10.
- (5) In Section 13, write down the names of your past employers and the duration of each employment, if any. Then briefly describe each organization and your role. Do not include information you have already stated in Section 10.
- (6) In Section 17, describe your current situation regarding your disability in detail, including medical data. Also clarify if you need any assistance in daily life (and if so, of what kind). It is very important for us to correctly understand your disability and current situation.
- (7) In Section 24, give the name and contact details of a person who can act as your referee, such as your teacher, current/past employer, etc. Your referee must be able to discuss your skills and personal qualities. He/she must not be related to you by birth or marriage, be in a personal relationship with you, or live at the same address as you.

Application Guidance

- (8) In Section 25, give the name and contact details of a person who can act as your surety. Your surety will be liable to the Sponsor and the Operating Organization for your fulfillment of your obligations as a trainee, including an immediate payment of any financial debt.
- (9) In principle, you are expected to fill in the application form by yourself. However, if you have difficulty in doing so, another person may do it on your behalf. In this case, you must clarify this in Section 26.
- (10) If you are applying by post, attach a photo showing your face and whole body to the first page of the application form. Write your name on the back of the photo. If you are applying by email, send your photo as a separately attached file preferably in the JPEG format. The size of the photo must not exceed 2MB.
- (11) If you are applying by email, please send the application form as an either Microsoft Word or PDF file to the following address:
duskin_training@dinf.ne.jp
- (12) Alternatively, you can send your application form by mail or international courier to the following address:
**Secretariat for the Duskin Leadership Training in Japan c/o JSRPD
1-22-1 Toyama, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
162-0052 JAPAN**
- (13) You must send your application only once by one of the methods shown above. We regret that we cannot accept applications sent by FAX.
- (14) Your application and attached documents will not be returned.
- (15) The Secretariat will not acknowledge receipt of applications respectively.

13 Submission deadline

August 17, 2026 *Japan Standard Time (JST)

Applications sent by email after this date will not be considered. If you are posting your application form, it needs to be postmarked on or before August 17, 2026.

14 Selection procedures and notification of a result

- (1) The Executive Committee, consisting of 8 members and 1 advisor, will screen all valid applications and shortlist applicants.
- (2) The Secretariat will contact each shortlisted applicant in order to arrange an interview in his/her own country/region. Then a member(s) of the Executive Committee will travel and meet him/her in order to assess his/her suitability as a trainee.
- (3) The Executive Committee will make final decisions at a committee meeting.
- (4) The Secretariat will inform all applicants of a result by email by the end of May 2027.
- (5) **No application-related questions can be answered during the selection process.**

15 Expenses

- (1) The sponsor will cover the following expenses:
 - (i) Cost of traveling between the trainee's home town and Japan, including international flights and domestic transportation.
 - (ii) Fees for necessary travel documents, such as passport and visa.
 - (iii) Cost of training during the program.
 - (iv) Living expenses such as accommodation and food, supplemented by daily allowances.
- (2) The trainee will bear any other expenses which are not listed above.

16 How to contact us

If you have any inquiries, please contact the Secretariat by post, or email.

Secretariat for the Duskin Leadership Training in Japan
c/o Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD)
1-22-1 Toyama, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0052, Japan
Email: duskin_training@dinf.ne.jp



Ski Training

Message from a former trainee



Be confident. Be open to learning. And be ready to grow.

My name is Harshani Kaushalya, and I am a person with vision impairment. I had the valuable opportunity to participate in the 23rd Duskin Leadership Training in Japan. This training became a turning point in my life and gave me a great opportunity to learn many important skills, knowledge, and life experiences.

After completing the training, I became more confident to work with different organizations and communities. I was able to share my new ideas and implement new initiatives for the vision-impaired society in my country. The program helped me to develop leadership skills, communication skills, and the courage to take responsibility for social change.

Before I participated in this training, I mainly focused on the challenges faced by people with vision impairment. I did not have much understanding about other types of disabilities. However, during the training, I had the chance to work closely with persons who are hearing impaired and wheelchair users. Through this experience, I learned how to assist wheelchair users properly and how to understand the needs of people with hearing impairment.

This experience completely changed my perspective. I realized that every disability group faces unique challenges, and we must work together to build an inclusive society for all. Today, I am especially interested in improving education opportunities for deaf students, and I am currently learning sign language to better communicate and support them.

The Duskin Leadership Training is not only a training program—it is a life-changing journey that builds confidence, independence, and a strong sense of social responsibility. It teaches us to respect diversity, support each other, and create positive change in our communities.

To all future applicants:

Believe in yourself. Take this opportunity with courage. The knowledge and experience you gain from the Duskin Leadership Training will help you grow as a leader and make a meaningful difference in society.

Harshani Kaushalya (the 23rd Duskin Trainee)
Treasurer, Sri Lanka Council of Vision Impaired Graduates
President, DAISY Lanka Foundation
Colombo, Sri Lanka

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