



[The Nippon Foundation News] Ocean-Related Events

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. The Nippon Foundation is holding a number of events in September and October related to the ocean and ocean debris. September 16 to 24 was designated Autumn Cosplay de UMIGOMI Zero Week 2023 as part of a project being carried out by The Nippon Foundation and Japan's Ministry of the Environment to address the growing problem of ocean debris, much of which is plastic trash that flows into the ocean from land. A kickoff event was held in Yokohama on September 16, with approximately 400 people gathering to pick up trash in the area around the PACIFICO Yokohama convention center and the East Exit of Yokohama Station. Participants included cosplayers (people dressed as their favorite characters from *anime* films, *manga* comics, video games, etc.) including The Nippon Foundation Chairman Yohei Sasakawa dressed as Monkey D. Luffy from the popular manga series *One Piece*, as well as representatives of McDonald's Japan and other cooperating companies, and members of the Japan Coast Guard.

On September 30 and October 1 an event was held at the Ito-Yokado store in Kiba, Tokyo, as part of The Nippon Foundation's *Umi-to-Nippon* Project (The Ocean and Japan Project). The first day's events were for parents and children and included a quiz contest, workshops, a concert of ocean-themed music, and an exhibition and sales space displaying bags and other items made by recycling discarded fishing nets. The second day featured ocean-related talks by comedian and actor Masaru Hamaguchi and 2008 Beijing Olympic volleyball team member Takahiro Yamamoto, as well as a quiz contest for the general public.



Picking up trash at the Autumn Cosplay de UMIGOMI Zero Week 2023 kickoff event in Yokohama (left); 'Upcycled' goods made from recycled fishing nets on display at the event for parents and children at Ito-Yokado Kiba (right)

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Events Highlighting 'Fish' in Yamanashi and Hokkaido

'Umi-to-Nippon' Project promoting awareness of ocean's bounty

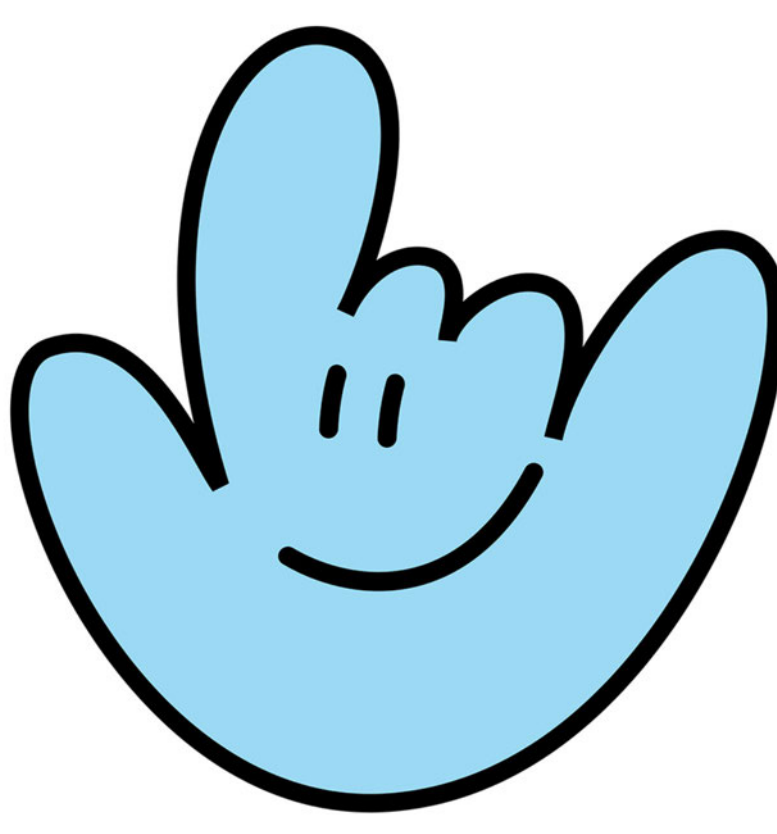


The Nippon Foundation's *Umi-to-Nippon* Project (The Ocean and Japan Project) conducts events throughout the year to raise awareness across Japan of ocean-related issues and encourage people to feel closer to the ocean. Two of the events being held in October 2023 are a fish preparation workshop for parents and children in Yamanashi Prefecture, and a buri (yellowtail or Japanese amberjack) promotional campaign being held in Hokkaido.

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Free Sign Language Search and Learning App 'SignTown Handbook' Released, Uses AI to Recognize Signs

September 23 designated by UN as International Day of Sign Languages

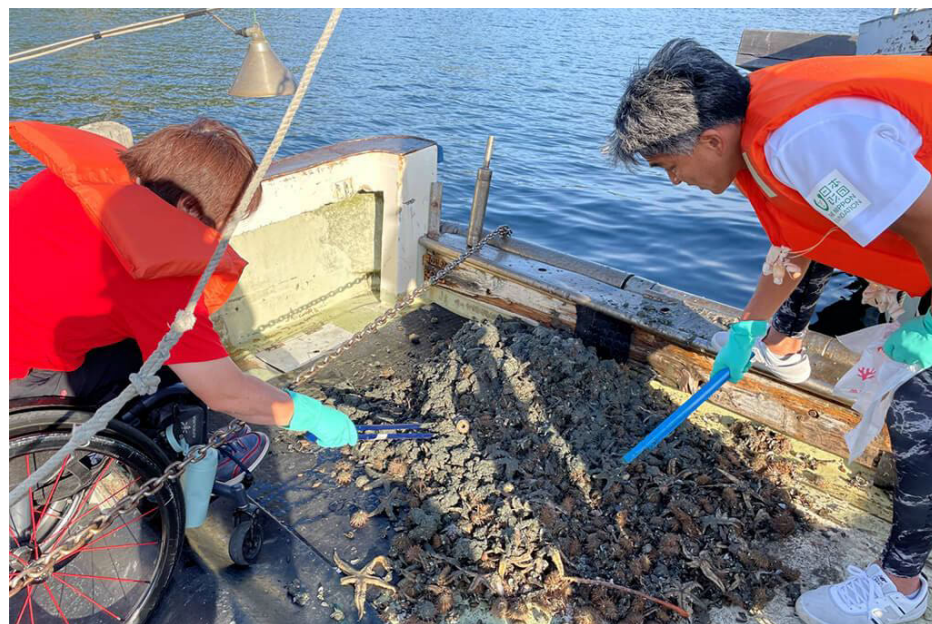


Coinciding with the International Day of Sign Languages on September 23, The Nippon Foundation released the SignTown Handbook sign language learning app on September 10. The app is a simple dictionary that makes it easy to search for and learn signs. SignTown Handbook was released as the second stage of The Nippon Foundation's Project Shuwa, which in September 2021 released the SignTown sign language learning game, jointly developed with the Chinese University of Hong Kong and in collaboration with Google and Kwansai Gakuin University.

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On-site study tour on ocean debris at Seto Inland Sea

HEROs Olympians and Paralympians join effort



The Nippon Foundation held a study tour on September 9 to raise awareness of ocean debris among athletes as part of the Setouchi Oceans X project, which is being jointly carried out by four of the prefectures bordering the Seto Inland Sea and The Nippon Foundation. The study tour was held in conjunction with The Nippon Foundation's "HEROs Sportsmanship for the future" program to promote social contribution by top-tier athletes, with the aim of using the appeal of athletes to their fan bases to broaden the scope of efforts to address social issues.

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Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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