

# Special Event on Disaster and Disability: Lessons from Japan

18:00-21:00 on Tuesday, September 24, 2013

Lang Recital Hall, Hunter College, City University of New York

Organized by Japan Disability Forum (JDF)  
in cooperation with the Nippon Foundation

Under the auspices of Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations  
Supported by International Disability Alliance (IDA), and  
Rehabilitation International (RI)



***Sign language and caption services available***

***Refreshments provided***

Japan experienced serious damages due to the Great East Japan Earthquake which took place on March 11th, 2011. We express our sincere gratitude for the kind support from various countries.

Among nearly 20,000 victims, the mortality rate of persons with disabilities was double that of general population, according to the government reports. We believe from our experiences that disability-inclusive approaches are essential for the building of disaster-resilient communities. In this special event, we would like to share our experiences, including the efforts of Rikuzentakata City, which was devastated by the tsunami, under the motto "building communities where there is no need for the word Normalization," and talk about our future activities towards Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, and Development Agenda.

## PROGRAM

### Opening Remarks

- Mr. Shuichi Ohno, Executive Director, the Nippon Foundation
- Ms. Yukiko Nakanishi, Vice-Chair, International Committee, Japan Disability Forum (JDF)
- Mr. Jun Shimmi, Ambassador in charge of the United Nations Affairs/  
Deputy Director-General, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- Mr. Nawaf Kabbara, Third Vice-Chair, the International Disability Alliance (IDA)/  
President, Arab Organizations of Disabled People
- Ms. Anne Hawker, Immediate Past President, Rehabilitation International (RI)

### Special Addressess

- Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General  
for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- Ms. Marcie Roth, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),  
United States Department of Homeland Security

**Keynote Speech** Mr. Katsunori Fujii, Chairperson, Executive Board, JDF

**Documentary Film Show:** "Messages of Life -Twice as Many Persons with Disabilities Passed Away on March Eleventh-"

**Break (10 minutes)**

**Activity Report** Mr. Takashi Kubota, Vice Mayor, Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture

**Discussion**

**Closing**