



**MISSION:**

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with an intellectual disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

**HISTORY:**

Founded in 1980 as Special Olympics Japan and changed to Special Olympics Nippon in 1994

**PARTICIPANTS (per the 2015 census):**

Registered athletes and participants:	7,836
Coaches:	4,656
Competition opportunities:	200

**SUPPORT:**

Special Olympics Nippon receives a wide variety of funding from individuals, corporations and foundations in addition to small grants for special initiatives from Special Olympics International.

**INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:**

- 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Los Angeles, USA (77 athletes)
- 2013 Asia Pacific Games in Newcastle, Australia
- participated in the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea (63 athletes)
- 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece
- 2010 Special Olympics Global Congress in Marrakech, Morocco
- 2007 Special Olympics O World Summer Games in Shanghai, China
- In 2005 Special Olympics Nippon hosted the Special Olympics World Winter Games (SOWWG) in Nagano at the site of the 1998 Olympics and Paralympics. These Games were the first to be held in Asia and drew more than 1,800 athletes and 650 coaches from 80 countries around the world, as well as thousands of family members, volunteers, spectators and journalists from every continent. The 5 Million Person Torch Run was a major awareness and fundraising initiative started 6 months before with runners carrying the Special Olympics torch through more than 200 locations in 47 prefectures across Japan

**24 OFFICIAL SPORTS:**

Alpine Skiing	Aquatics	Athletics	Badminton
Basketball	Bocce	Bowling	Cross Country Skiing
Cycling	Equestrian	Figure Skating	Floor Hockey
Flying Disc	Football (Soccer)	Golf	Gymnastics (Artistic)
Judo	Short Track Speed Skating	Snowboarding	Snowshoeing
Softball	Table Tennis	Tennis	Volleyball

**OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:**

Athlete Leadership, Motor Activities Training Program (MATP), Young Athletes

**EXECUTIVE STAFF:**

**Ms. Yuko Arimori**, Board Chair

**Mr. Kazuonobu Fujimoto**, National Director

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