



Fast Facts

Organization

Nationwide Support
Center for Students with
Disabilities (NSCSD)
Kanagawa, Japan

Business Need

Support children with
disabilities to receive
adequate information on
higher education
institutions

Solution

Online Web system
enabled by Microsoft
technologies

Results

- One-third less time required for data collation
- Five percent increased information from universities
- Faster, more adequate information collection with less labor

Software and Services

- Microsoft NPO Support Program in Japan
- Windows® Small Business Server
- Microsoft® Visual Studio®

ICT supporting organizational efficiency for nonprofit organization Nationwide Support Center for Students with Disabilities

The Nationwide Support Center for Students with Disabilities (NSCSD) provides information related to the acceptance of and special attention given to students with disabilities by Japanese universities. Through a grant provided under the Microsoft NPO Support Program in Japan, the center built a system that enabled universities to respond to surveys over the Internet. This became a rich source of information for the *University and College Guidebook for Students with Disabilities in Japan*.

Situation:

The 700-page *University and College Guidebook for students with Disabilities in Japan* contains a wealth of information on 400 universities in Japan. Among the information provided are descriptions of facilities, access slopes, and special attention provided for students with disabilities during entrance examinations. A survey of more than 250 questions is sent to universities across Japan. At early stages of its operation, the center used to collate the information in paper format and enter the feedback to the database by hand. It had previously taken the center three months just to input the results of the survey.

Solution:

“It was clear that there was a crucial need for an on-line system,” recalls Tsubasa Tonooka who heads NSCSD. Through the supported of the Microsoft NPO Support Program, the center built an online system to collect information from universities across Japan through a Web-enabled system. The improvement in operation efficiency achieved by the solution was significant.

Results:

Three years have passed since the adoption of the plan. The system is producing positive results of the organization. Some of the testimonies include the following.

- Elimination of manual process has lead to prevention of mistakes.
- Less time is required for data collation. (Results collated within one-third of the time previously spent).
- Increased response rate (five percent) from universities.
- Decrease in the number of staff involved at NSCSD (operational efficiency and cost control).



Tsubasa Tonooka
Head of Nationwide Support Center for Students with Disabilities

“I want students with disabilities to have experience of going to school like any other child.”

“IT is essential for my activities. IT enables the opinions and voices of people with disabilities like us to be expressed in the form of e-mail and project proposals. Even if you cannot speak or cannot hear, you can communicate with other people with the help of a PC. IT enables us to be active in various fields of society.”

Unlimited Potential of students with disabilities

The year 2006 was memorable for the center. The Microsoft NPO Support Program provided the center with a set of server/hardware along with Windows Small Business Server and Microsoft Visual Studio. At the same time, it was a year of struggles for Tsubasa Tonooka: “This was both hardware and software that I had never used before. Everything was new to me and as a result did take me a vast amount of time to construct the system. However, the system was ready to be used for the survey by end of 2006, which was the target I had originally set.”

Tsubasa mentions that the system is now beyond doubt of great value towards the publication process of the *University and College Guidebook for Students with Disabilities in Japan*, which has been published seven times since 1994. The content will continue to be further improved through the operational efficiency that has been achieved as a result of the new IT environment at NSCSD.



Nobuko Nishimura
Secretariat Manager, NSCSD

Ms. Nishimura has also successfully been overcoming the challenge of amblyopia.

As a supporter for students with disabilities :

According to the “2007 Fact-finding survey of support for students with disabilities in school” (number of respondent schools 1,230; recovery rate 100 percent), announced by the Japan Student Services Organization in 2008, disabled student enrollment as a percentage of total enrollment in universities, graduate schools, junior colleges, and vocational high schools is only 0.17 percent (5,404 students). The rate of students with disabilities in total student enrollment in the United States is 11 percent. The difference is clear and obvious.

However, Tsubasa Tonooka remains positive. “I will continue to provide information useful for students with disabilities to enter universities, and the use of IT is the major key in my above efforts. I would like to improve the Web site and survey entry forms in order to increase the response rate of universities in the future for the provision of information truly needed by students with disabilities.”

NPO Support Program: Relationships which open up the future



Akira Matsubara
Secretariat Manager of the Coalition for Legislation to Support Citizen's Organizations (Cs)

“The use of IT is essential for NPOs who have only a small number of staff and a small amount of money in order to operate efficiently.

At the same time, it is also quite appealing in the sense that NPOs can make their activities widely known with the use of IT. They can send out messages, gather people, and make them function as a community.

On top of that, they can reproduce NPO activities as they are on the network with little cost. IT provides a huge possibility to NPOs that are making efforts to be self sustaining and independent.”

The Microsoft NPO Support Program started in 2002 as a means to support nonprofit organization projects through making good use of IT to achieve their organizational mission. Under the program, Microsoft provides subsidies and necessary software to adopted projects.

The year 2008 is the sixth implementation year for the program, and more than 40 groups in total so far have received assistance based on the program.