

For IAADP Partners Forum Newsletter (Winter 2016)

Go Forward! 370 attenders gather at The First Summit of Japanese Assistance Dogs Partners 2015 for 2 days

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Re-recognizing and improving the surroundings of Assistance Dogs with "the collective effort of the Japan Assistance Dogs Partners," The First Summit of Japan Assistance Dogs Partners 2015 was held in Matsumoto on Saturday and Sunday, June 20th-21st 2015.

This event was sponsored by:

- The Cabinet Office
- The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
- The Ministry of Justice
- The Ministry of the Environment
- Nagano Prefecture
- Matsumoto City
- and others

On Saturday, this event was held in Matsumoto (Matsumoto City M-Wing) and on Sunday, this event was held during the Assistance Dogs & Co-Support Dogs Parade in the center of Matsumoto.

Many Assistance Dog Partners will be visiting Tokyo for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics 2020. As the host nation, as part of its hospitality, "Omotenashi" Japan needs to rid itself of "barriers against disabilities" and "human-rights violation" arising from Assistance Dogs.

"The Act on Assistance Dogs for Physically Disabled Persons" came into force in October 2002, reinforcing the rights and duty for coherence around Assistance Dog Partners, but many problems still remain, including denial of their company or lack of information about Assistance Dogs.

To recognize and improve the surroundings of Assistance Dogs, we need to garner further understanding of the general public on Assistance Dogs and their partners. We thought it necessary to create a place to exchange frank opinions to obtain kind understanding of society with cooperation

between Assistance Dog Partners and Assistance Dog Training Schools organized by Association of Nagano Harness and Japan Hearing Dog Partners, so that Assistance Dog Partners may solve their issues on their own.

This event was held by General Producer Hiromi Maeno (Charmin of Harness Nagano) and Dr. Moto Arima (President & CEO of Japan Hearing Dog for Deaf People), calling for Assistance Dog Partners across the country, members of society interested in Assistance Dog Partners, and Assistance Dog Training Schools. The First Summit of Japan Assistance Dogs Partners 2015 in Matsumoto was a gathering to consider what Assistance Dog Partners need, what activities are required of Assistance Dog Training Schools, and how to garner understanding and cooperation from society from three directions along with improvement strategies. Four separate meetings were held for (1) Guide Dog Partners (2) Hearing Dog Partners and Service Dog Partners (3) Assistance Dog Training Schools and (4) the general public. With the Workout method, we made sure to address the opinion of every participator.

On June 20th, we were fortunate to welcome Deputy Minister of Finance Ichiro Miyashita and others Members of Parliament. We are also highly grateful of the kind congratulatory message from Keiko Nagaoka, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

We had many guests, and for The First Summit of Japan Assistance Dogs Partners 2015 in held in Matsumoto on June 20th & 21st, 214 people directly participated including 8 Hearing Dog Partners, 1 Service Dog Partner, 31 Guide Dog Partners, totaling 40, plus 8 persons from 5 Assistance Dog Training Schools. In The Assistance Dogs & Co-Support Dogs Parade on June 21th there were 156 participants including 8 Hearing Dog Partners, 2 Service Dog Partners, 23 Guide Dog Partners totaling 33, plus 123 other participants. For the two days, adding unofficial participants, the total number of participants was 370 (of which assistance dog users totaled 73).

To empower Assistance Dog Partners to speak out and act to improve the surroundings of those partners as well as People with disabilities wishing to own Assistance Dogs – this was the mission of The First Summit of Japan Assistance Dogs Partners 2015 in Matsumoto.

The inaugurate “National Assistance Dog Summit” in Matsumoto had many shortcomings to be improved on. We appreciate your continued guidance to those who provided us with their kind assistance.

We have to unify to create the better world for all.