



The US—Japan Business Leadership Institute on Youth Disability Employment WEBINAR SERIES

Innovation & Inclusion: Employment for Youth with Disabilities during COVID-19 at Three Japanese Organizations

Webinar #5

US (EST) Time: 9 December 2021, 7-8 pm
Japan Time: 10 December 2021, 9-10 am

In this webinar, three Japanese organizations – Collable, Through Flowers/Kids Bouquet, and Mirai Work Inc. – will share their experiences designing and implementing projects that have improved youth disability employment during the pandemic. These organizations will share their results to date, successes, challenges they faced, and lessons learned. Collable, Through Flowers/Kids Bouquet, and Mirai Work Inc. were competitively selected as part of the US-Japan Business Leadership Institute's mini-grant initiative. The initiative provided seed funding for projects to promote the employment of youth with disabilities in Japan. Each organization used a small grant to pilot approaches or strategies over a 3 – 6 month period that help youth gain exposure to careers and the world of work. For this initiative, projects were based in Japan and involved youth or young people with disabilities in the development and implementation of the proposed project activities.

This webinar is the last in a series of 5 webinars focused on expanding and enhancing employment opportunities for young people with disabilities both in Japan and the US. The webinar series is a joint project of the University of Massachusetts Boston's Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) and the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan with funding support from the US Embassy Tokyo. For this particular webinar event, ICI is partnering with the Institute of Inclusive Society and Culture at Otsuma Women's University.

**The webinars are free and open to public.
Registration is required.**

For more information:

Dr. Heike Boeltzig-Brown
Project Director

Heike.Boeltzig-brown@umb.edu

Saori Kusumoto
Project Coordinator
Saori.Kusumoto@umb.edu

We will provide the following accommodations for this webinar:

- English and Japanese interpretation
- English and Japanese Live captions (CART)
- American sign language and Japanese sign language

Please contact us if you need additional accessibility accommodations to fully participate in this webinar.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/4ebkmn5z>

The project is funded by the U.S. Embassy Tokyo.



Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston



Otsuma Women's University
Institute of Inclusive Society and Culture

Moderator

Hiroshi Ogawa

Vice President, Otsuma Women's University

Hiroshi Ogawa is Vice President of Otsuma Women's University and Professor of Human Relations. He is founder and director of the university's Institute of Inclusive Society and Culture. Hiroshi is also founder and director of the Job Coach Network, a non-profit organization that trains job coaches throughout Japan.

After earning his master's degree in education of children with disabilities, Hiroshi joined Kanagawa Rehabilitation Center, a public rehabilitation center that provides medical, vocational, and social rehabilitation services to people with disabilities. Hiroshi held several positions at the center, including care professional for people with intellectual disabilities and vocational trainer at the pre-employment training department. In 1992, while working for the Center, Hiroshi won a scholarship by the National Horse Racing Welfare Foundation to study job coaching at Virginia Commonwealth University's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) in the US. After returning to Japan, Hiroshi took a job coach position at Yamabiko no Sato, a community services provider for people with autism and began to teach job coaching to disability services professionals. Hiroshi has been teaching at Otsuma Women's University since 2003.



Panelists

Sayuri Yamada

Representative Director, Collable

Collable is a non-profit organization based in Tokyo. Collable plans and hosts inclusive design workshops and promotes inclusive design in their work. In 2020, Collable started a study program for students with diverse disabilities to learn about and explore work and career options through workshops and networking events, online learning resources, company tours, and internships. In line with the organization's slogan "Everyone become a creator for society," Collable strives to foster spaces and environments collaboratively: not just for people with disabilities, but with people with and without disabilities to enjoy learning and experiencing community together. As a mini-grant awardee, Collable proposed to design and implement a virtual internship program for college students with disabilities to encourage students to think about their future and to start exploring possible career pathways.



Collable

Haruka Abe

Project Manager / Student Intern

Kids Bouquet Project

Kids Bouquet is a general incorporated association that specializes in flower bouquets and arrangements for sporting events in Tokyo. Kids Bouquet also provides opportunities for children of all ages and abilities to participate in sports and cultural activities, helping them gain an appreciation for both. For the mini-grant initiative, Kids Bouquet is collaborating with Tansei Humanet, a recruitment and staffing agency, and with Through Flower, a member of the Tokyo Abilympics Committee, to implement the “Discover My Kind of Work – Explore My Personality” project. This project plans to engage students attending special education classes at a local Junior High School in work-based learning activities. These work-based learning activities will help students get a clearer vision of their career and future goals. The project will also involve local employers and educate them about youth disability employment and how to create welcoming, inclusive, and accessible workplaces.



Hiroki Maeda

President, Mirai Work Inc.

Founded in 2020, Mirai Work is a small business located in Hiroshima that specializes in programming for individuals with disabilities, including support with return-to-work and independent living. As a mini-grant awardee, Mirai Work proposed a project that targets “hikikomori” youth. Hikikomori is a Japanese term used to describe youth and young adults who suffer from a severe form of social withdrawal. Many hikikomori youth and young adults have mental health disabilities. Mirai Work’s project specifically targets hikikomori youth who are already engaged with service providers, such as support groups. Mirai Work will collaborate with these service providers to integrate work-related opportunities into the typical services and supports the youth receive. The project will connect hikikomori youth to employers so youth can begin to consider work as a viable option and apply for jobs.



あなたと働く、
未来をつくる

ミライワーク