

● Educational Activities Concerning Disability Employment ●

1 National and Prefectural Abilympics

National Abilympics

In order to provide opportunities to hone vocational capabilities for persons with disabilities as they compete using the skills they have cultivated, and to promote their employment by enhancing understanding and awareness of disability issues in the business world and among the general public, the National Abilympics (vocational skills contests for persons with disabilities) has been held every autumn since 1972, except for the years of the International Abilympics. In 2016, the National Abilympics will be held in Yamagata City and Tendo City, Yamagata prefecture, for three days from October 28 to 30.

At the venue of the National Abilympics, a concurrent event called “Work Fair for Persons with Disabilities” is held in a bid to help private enterprises and society in general to deepen their understanding of employment of persons with disabilities and promote concrete initiatives. Through a diverse range of events, including exhibitions, demonstrations and workshop booths, information on promoting disability employment is offered and shared among participants and visitors.



Prefectural Abilympics

Each year, Prefectural Abilympics are organized by the respective prefectures. Contestants who perform well there, move on to compete in the National Abilympics.

2 International Abilympics (IA)

The 1st IA was held in Tokyo in October 1981 to commemorate the United Nations International Year of Disabled Persons. Since then, the IA has been held every 4 years in principle.

Following the 1st IA in Tokyo, Japan held the 7th IA in November 2007 in Shizuoka Prefecture. For the first time in the history of IA, it was held in conjunction with the WorldSkills Competition under the banner of the International Skills Festival for All, Japan 2007.

Contestants who have shown excellent skills in Japan's National Abilympics are dispatched to every IA. They have achieved good results, earning a total number of 31 Gold Medals, 43 Silver Medals, and 44 Bronze Medals from the 1st to 8th IAs.

The 9th IA was held in Bordeaux, France for 4 days from March 23 to 26, 2016, and contestants from Japan participated in the 17 vocational skills categories.



3 Award Ceremony and Exhibition

In order to further promote understanding and awareness regarding disability employment, September is designated as Disability Employment Support Month, and an award ceremony is held to recognize enterprises with distinguished performance in employing persons with disabilities. In addition, pictures painted by persons with disabilities and photographs of those working are collected, and the best works are used as the poster designs for publicizing Disability Employment Support Month. At the same time, the “Exhibition of Award-winning Original Pictures for Disability Employment Support Month Posters” is held.

