

JANIC CHARTER

This charter will outline the common philosophy, values and guidelines shared by all involved entities of JANIC.

We are a diverse group, and therefore the approaches to problem solving will differ by each entity.

The below 8 clauses are what each entity follows in their day to day activities for better enhancement and solving issues that we globally face.

1) **Respect for Human Rights and Realization of Social Justice**

We pledge to respect human rights of people in the countries and regions, that are based on human rights norms formulated by the International Human Rights Standards through constant efforts of humanity. In order to further support in making human rights norms more universal, we address society by taking nonmilitary and nonviolent measures. In addition, we advocate for realizing social justice in order to remove inequality and injustice that still exist in our society.

2) **Sustainable and Inclusive Society**

We recognize that the social structure affected by economic growth has led to various issues including climate crisis, environmental degradation, poverty, disparity, and social division. We aim to create a sustainable, inclusive, and peaceful society where all people on this planet can live in safety, with maximum respect for the global environment and diversity.

3) **Equal and Fair Partnership and Respect for Independence**

We will build equal and transparent relationships based on mutual respect with the most vulnerable people, civil society organizations and other actors who share our goals and values, both nationally and internationally. We will also respect the traditions and culture of local communities and empower them to take the initiative in solving problems and making decisions that affect their lives.

4) **Responsibility and Awareness as the Civil Society Organizations**

We, as an organization in which citizens act spontaneously and proactively, aim to solve various social issues, and actively work to change environment such as social institutions and people's awareness. We promote the participation of as many citizens as possible in the organization's activities and create environment that fosters citizens who act to create a just and sustainable society. In order to sustain and expand such activities, we will work on protecting civic space that is currently shrinking.

5) Governance and Transparency

We will build an organizational structure that is fair and socially responsible and ensure transparency in decision-making processes and accounting. We will proactively carry out evaluation activities to confirm the impact of our activities and the appropriateness of our organizational management and publish the results. We will also take every conceivable measure to eliminate any relationship with anti-social groups such as organized crime groups.

6) Safeguarding and Prevention from harassment

We will take systematic steps to prevent any sexual exploitation, abuse, violence, and harassment to all people, and take appropriate actions including through the development of safeguarding policies and training of staff and partners.

7) Ethical Fund-raising and its Management

We will manage funds, including public funds and donations, in a strict manner, and clearly state the purpose and use of our activities in order to make effective use of these funds, and invest them accordingly. We will respect the dignity and privacy of our project recipients and raise funds in accordance with our ethical standards.

8) Respect for human resources

In order to achieve the aforementioned sustainable society and to fulfill our responsibilities as a civil society organization, it is important that our staff working in our organization have confidence and dignity. We will actively work to create a decent working condition and to enhance capabilities of human resources.

(END)

Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation

This charter is effective as of June 20th, 2020.

Backgrounds of the JANIC Charter

- To create a world where every global citizen lives together -

The problems surrounding global society are becoming even more grave and complicated, such as environmental degradation, human rights violations, escalating terrorism, increasing refugees and internally displaced people, and inequality and chain of poverty without getting a clue to solve. They are all increasing significantly. To further aggravate the situation, the issues of how we human beings consume energy that leads to climate change, confusion of international politics due to populism, the increase in the global division of society, the current structure of our society that we now live in is being pushed to the limit.

In order to react to these global issues, civil society organizations such as NGOs have been trying to take action from a grass-roots perspective and listening to the voices of the vulnerable people of our society. By securing political and economic independence, we continue to work on solving those social issues and make our voices heard to the global community.

JANIC was established in 1987 with a mission to strengthen the foundations of NGOs that work on international development cooperation in Japan. Looking back to these 30 years, there has been great advancement made around the world with the support of the civil society. Developing countries in Asia have made significant progress, and civil society organizations in these countries have become an integral part of local communities. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is crucial to maintain a sustainable society, has been established. One of the great achievements in the establishment of these goals was the inclusion of the slogan, 'Leave No One Behind'

Even private enterprises as it is now can no longer ignore these global issues, and it is usual for them these days to work towards solving them in tandem with civil society organizations. The recognition of NGO activities in society have shown great improvement, and the way we now view international cooperation have also changed from 'giving aid to the poor' to 'empowering people based on a partnership'.

The activities of the civil societies are not ineffective at all, but rather have the great power to further advance the world in the right direction. We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the forerunners in such activities and reassure our commitment that there is more work to be done.

The results of grassroots activities must not be locally isolated but must involve a variety of stakeholders in changing social systems, including social institutions and structures and people's awareness. In recent years, the social issues of Japan and other developed countries have become more serious, and there is an increasing demand for solutions to these issues from a more global perspective, going beyond the relationship between the "donors" and "recipients" sides. In addition, recent movements of political power that have restricted the activities of NGOs are growing both in Japan and around the world, and the question of how to secure the civic space has become an important theme for civil society organizations.

There has been an increasing number of actors who are involved in civil society activities. After the turn of the century, private enterprises, local governments, and student groups have started international cooperation. We are now in an era where various entities approach from various angles to address global issues.

Having seen this movement, we believe that the role of international cooperation NGOs, or JANIC itself, needs to change. In this charter, we came to reaffirm our common vision of the world, and the foundations and ideals of civil society activities that we need to go back to the root of civil society organizations as we enter this era of unanswerable change.

We, JANIC, aim to realize a world where 'every person on earth is never left behind and have the right to pursue happiness, respect each other, and help each other'.

Creating such a world in which people in every region, in every country, in every environment and under every circumstance can live happily and enjoy the rights to live,

Creating such a world in which people can help each other in their respective positions, or where citizens can stand together in solidarity with each other to realize a sustainable world in every sense,

It has been the noble ideal and common goal of the organizations and individuals who have been involved in international cooperation up to now. It is true that the current situation of the global community is so serious that no one has a clear vision of the path the world should take. However, that is precisely why we are determined to move forward with these ideals in a powerful way.

We, JANIC, together with our colleagues in various sectors of civil society who agree with this charter, will pursue the common ideal of the world in which all global citizens can live in harmony.



JANIC Charter Committee (December,2018 – July,2020)

Chairperson: Toyoaki Komatsu JANIC Vice Chairperson / SHAPLA NEER = Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Support, Secretary General

Member: Masaya Onimaru JANIC Director / Terra Renaissance, Director & Secretary General

Member: Eno Nakamura JANIC Director / Development Education Association and Resource Center
Director & Secretary General

Member: Daichi Konuma JANIC Director / Cross Fields, Executive Director

Member: Hideki Wakabayashi JANIC Executive Director