

## Introduction

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations is proud to co-organize the photo exhibition "Positive Energies" together with the Osaka US Club on the margins of the 16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Japanese photographer Mr. NABATA Fumio has captured in the photos the smiles of children with Down syndrome, who radiate positive energy. I am very much impressed by his talent and vision that conveys to us the lively power of children with the syndrome.

Raising awareness about Down syndrome is crucially important to achieving an inclusive society. We must continue our efforts to realize a society in which every individual, including those with Down syndrome, plays an active role and lives a fruitful and fulfilling life full of smiles.



H.E. Mr. ISHIKANE Kimihiro

Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

I feel so happy about this exhibition, showing wonderful photos of Fumio Nabata, award-winning Japanese photographer who specializes in taking photos of children. I came to know Mr. Nabata when a British colleague of mine from Inclusion International introduced me to him a decade ago. Mr. Nabata, an established photographer, has expanded his vision and world since then and included children with disabilities into his work, to my delight.

As I work on disability studies, I am very much interested in the representation of disability. From this perspective, children photos of Mr. Nabata add much to promote diversity and inclusion. Different articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) come to my mind when I appreciate these great photos from different countries. Of course I highlight article 8 on awareness raising that refers to "effective public awareness campaigns designed to promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities".



NAGASE Osamu

Senior Researcher, Ars Vivendi Institute, Ritsumeikan University  
Secretary-General, Inclusion International

# Positive Energies



Photographer  
**Fumio Nabata**

His work is bright and energetic, focusing on the theme of happiness and emotions that people experience with having their children and watching their growth. He has photographed children with Down syndrome in Myanmar, South Africa, the UK and in Japan. Living in Osaka, Japan.

### Photo Exhibitions

"Be Loved- The Joy of Children in Japan" In New York / Tokyo / Osaka in 2010  
(Exhibited the artwork of Japanese children with positive energies.)

"Positive Energies" in London in 2018 and in Tokyo in 2021  
(Exhibited the artwork on the theme of children with Down syndrome.)

### Award

APA Award 2009 Japan Advertising Photographers' Association, A Grand-prize Minister of the Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology winner.

<http://project.fumionabata.com/>

If you would like to learn more about the exhibition or this project please get in touch with Fumio Nabata.

e-mail : [fumion@fumionabata.com](mailto:fumion@fumionabata.com)

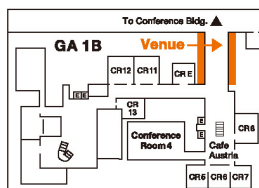
### With Thanks to



- Japan Down Syndrome Society
- Down's Syndrome Association
- Down Syndrome South Africa
- The Children with Down syndrome and their families photographed in Japan, the UK, Myanmar and South Africa
- 103 supporters of crowdfunding "Readyfor"

Organized by NPO Osaka US Club

Co-Organized by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations  
Managed by Photo Exhibition Positive Energies Project Executive Committee



**United Nations Headquarters**  
General Assembly Bldg.1B Neck Exhibition Area  
( Next to the Conference Room 4 entrance )



# Positive Energies

Photo Exhibition 2023

Photography by **Fumio Nabata**

12 -16 June 2023

United Nations  
Headquarters

# Full of Energy to Live



Myanmar

## Photo Exhibition 'Positive Energies' Project

Purpose of this project is based upon the Act 8, '**Awareness-raising**' of UNCRPD

Fumio Nabata, a Japanese photographer, has traveled around the world photographing the positive energy of young children with Down syndrome and their families. The project demonstrates that everyone, regardless of disability, has an attractive personality and is a member of a co-living society.

He started the project of photographing children with Down syndrome and running photo exhibitions around the world under the theme 'positive energy'.

Mr. Nabata has taken photographs in Japan, the UK, Myanmar, and South Africa since 2014. The first "Positive Energies" photo exhibition was held in London in 2018, where he collaborated with Richard Bailey and Fiona Yaron-Field, British photographers who have also taken pictures of people with Down syndrome. The second collaborative exhibition with Richard Bailey was held in Tokyo in 2021, the year of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.



The UK



Japan



South Africa

## Photo Exhibition 'Positive Energies'



### London 2018

Gallery@OXO 16 - 21 May 2018

Collaborated with Richard Bailey and Fiona Yaron-Field

### Exhibition Visitors Feedback

"What inspiring and poetic pictures of beautiful humans."

"It's the first time I cried at an exhibition."

"I felt the power of photographic representation. You usually see images of depressing and sad nature around disabilities but in these photos, there is positivity and warmth."

"People with Down's syndrome express their feelings with honesty without filter. That's why you can feel their happiness coming through directly."

"I had been told that I have 20% chance of having a baby with Down's syndrome and I am currently waiting for the results of the blood test. Although I was pretty sure that I would have my child no matter what, coming across this exhibition by chance felt like a sign to me that my thinking was not wrong."



### Tokyo 2021

Shibuya Hikarie 8 "CUBE" 22 July - 3 Aug 2021

Collaborated with Richard Bailey

### Exhibition Visitors Feedback

"My perception of families with persons with Down syndrome has significantly changed."

"I received a strong message that anyone should be respected as he/she really is, despite any disabilities."

"As a caretaker of post-baby mothers and children in hospital, I have seen many people who have children with Down syndrome experiencing difficulties and anxieties. Now that I am very touched by happy smile of these children and families in photos, I will try to share such positive messages with those mothers and families."

"A person of my family is with disabilities. I believe that such beautiful photos could encourage the families who are in challenging times to stand together to positively cope with difficulties."

"The photos were full of beautiful eyes and smiles so that my heart was filled with a sense of love. Children with Down syndrome have a special charm and were born with extra beautiful features, and, I am thankful for bringing out that beauty to the maximum.

Their positive mind inspired me to bring up my daughter after these beautiful children."