

The Yell for One Project

Send hearty yells (cheers) to the world by singing 204 national anthems!

More than 1,300 people have participated.

The Nippon Foundation Volunteer Support Center (hereinafter Volasapo) announced the launch of a website for "Yell for one" on 20 July. On this website, the anthems or flag songs of the 204 countries and territories participating in the Tokyo 2020 Games are sung, as a way to cheer on athletes and spectators who would have visited Japan.



■ The "Yell for one" website is available at <https://www.volasapo.tokyo/volunteer-info/yellforone>

■ Concept of the "Yell for one" website

As Volasapo provided volunteers participating in Tokyo 2020 with seminars and events, we received opinions from the volunteers such as "We want to convey our feelings of hospitality to people who wanted to come over to Japan from abroad" or "We want to cheer on all athletes taking part in the Games." Therefore, we planned this project to cheer for them by singing the national anthems or flag songs of the 204 countries and territories participating in the Tokyo 2020 Games.

At first, as participants for this project, we were recruiting individuals volunteering for Tokyo 2020, such as games volunteers and city volunteers. However, the circle of support expanded gradually and included family members and friends of the volunteers, for example. We eventually had over 1,300 participants, including children and adults, both from Japan and abroad.

■ Outline of the Yell for one videos

A total of 204 videos of the anthems are available on the site. Six people sang the national anthem of a country separately, and then Volasapo fused the six videos into one. (See the photo on the right. In this video, only the first verse of the anthem was sung.)

Volasapo assigned the singers by country or territory. However, if participants were closely associated with a country, they could sing that country's anthem. On the next page, we introduce you to two participants' motivations to participate.



■ Cooperation

King Record Co., Ltd., The Philharmonic Chorus of Tokyo, and the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra
Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Sapporo City, Miyagi Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture, Ibaraki Prefecture, Saitama Prefecture, Chiba Prefecture, Yokohama City, Fujisawa City, Yamanashi Prefecture, Shizuoka Prefecture
Directions, Inc. TNZQ

About the Nippon Foundation Volunteer Support Center

The Nippon Foundation Volunteer Support Center was established as an organization to carry out operations related to cooperation based on the agreement relating to cooperation in the area of volunteer activities for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games concluded between the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) and the Nippon Foundation.

Date of Establishment: September 27, 2017

Representative: President Kazutoshi Watanabe (President, Sasakawa Sports Foundation)

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Avari Chung who sang the Japanese anthem

- Living in Tokyo
- Originally from New Zealand
- Games Volunteer (Field Cast)

【Reason for participating】

I have loved Japanese anime and video games for many years. That is why I wanted to come and work in Japan. Aiming to become a game creator, I came to study at a university in Japan. Now, I am working at a game-creating company in Tokyo. When Tokyo was elected to host the Olympic and the Paralympic Games, I was very excited. Since then, I have always wanted to be involved in the Games. Therefore, I applied as a games volunteer, as well as this project.

【My thoughts about the project】

Because I love Japan, I requested to sing the Japanese anthem. So when I sang, I wore a Yukata. I enjoyed it immensely because it was the first time I sang the national anthem while taking selfies. I have heard the Japanese anthem before but never sang it. I studied the lyrics of the anthem first. I enjoyed singing and am glad to learn something new about Japan.



Akihiro Tokita (Center) who sang Saudi Arabia's anthem

- Living in Kanagawa
- Games' Volunteer (Field Cast)

【Reason for participating】

I worked without my family in Saudi Arabia for 25 years. I lived there with support from local people. People in Saudi Arabia are very friendly. The work went well because of them. Therefore, I wanted to sing the anthem and signed up for the project.

【My thoughts about the project】

I thought it would be good to convey my feelings to my colleagues and people I know in Saudi Arabia, even if I could not sing well. I was a little bit shy to sing by myself. So, I asked my wife and daughter to sing with me. After we sang, my wife said, "This brought back memories of the time I visited Saudi Arabia, and people were so nice to us." I was happy to hear it, and I felt nostalgic.

■ Image of the website



