

JAPAN

Osaka Community Foundation

History

The Osaka Community Foundation (OCF), the first community foundation in Japan, was established on November 12, 1991 under a permit from the Ministry of International Trade & Industry. At the time Japanese business was still good, before the long recession of the 1990s. The Osaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry contributed 100 million yen to the original fund, after which the founding members followed.

There is a second, small community foundation in Japan, The Citizens (Shimin) Fund Kobe.

Current situation: Facts and figures

Geographic area served:	All of Japan, but Osaka Prefecture and its adjacent area in the main.
Population size of service area:	20 million
Total sum of grants made in 2007:	59 million yen (approximately US \$590,800)
Total number of grants made in 2007:	119
Total sum of the income/donations in 2007:	157 million yen (approximately US \$1,572,000).
Single largest source of income in 2007:	No. 1 = corporations No. 2 = individuals
Is there an endowment? Yes/No.	Yes
If Yes, the size of the endowment:	1.35 billion yen (approximately US \$13,517,000)

Note: The yen-dollar conversion as of 28 March 2008.

Activities and impact

Most of our individual funds are restricted funds (field of interest funds), so we set up the Osaka Community Funds (endowment and non-permanent) as unrestricted ones in June 2006 in order to respond to broader grant needs. So far we have not gotten many donations to the Funds.

Operations and staffing

We have three staff. Two of them are paid staffers and one is seconded from a big company. They cover the areas of management, grant-making and finance.

Community foundation income

Income categories

About 40 percent of our income is from individuals, and 60 percent from corporations.

Purposes

Ninety-two percent goes for restricted grants, and 8 percent for operating costs.

Permanent funds/Sustainability

The Osaka Community Foundation is building an endowment to ensure sustainability. The total income in 2007 was 157 million yen (approximately \$1,572,000), of which 20 million yen (approximately US \$200,000) went to endowment.

Environment for philanthropy

Local attitudes

We have raised yearly donations of more than 100 million yen (over US \$1,000,000) since OCF was established without tax incentives to donors. Local people in our main area have been supporting OCF for the most part. A new law on public corporations was enacted in Japan that will begin on December 1, 2008. OCF will try to get a status as “public benefit enhancing corporation” so that donors to OCF can be provided with tax incentives. More and more fund raising will be expected.

Legal and tax environment

There are no legal and tax incentives especially for community foundations in Japan. Under the new law, if and when we acquire the above-mentioned status, giving to OCF will increase very rapidly.

Changing attitudes and the national or regional environment

OCF is still the only “community foundation” in Japan. Under the new law we would like to support the movement toward setting up community foundations in other cities here.

Current challenges and future developments

To gain the status as a “public benefit enhancing corporation” as mentioned above.

Meeting organizational support needs

There are no particular support organizations that are helpful to how OCF works.

International links

We invited Mr. Terry Mazany, President of the Chicago Community Trust, to attend and make speeches at our symposium held in Osaka in 2006, celebrating the 15th anniversary of our founding. His appearance and speeches had great impact on our local people.

Additional resources

The Osaka Community Foundation website is: www.osaka-community.or.jp. Materials on the website are available only in Japanese

Correspondent: Kosuke Horikawa, former Executive Director, Osaka Community Foundation. As of 1 April 2008, the Executive Director is Mr. Yoshifumi Yamamoto.