

# The Reality of Creating an Inclusive Society:

International Symposium

From efforts of Different Art Centre for support and independence of differently abled

Sophia University is promoting initiatives such as requiring all students to take the 'Universal Manners Test' starting in 2022. In addition, while the realization of a cohesive society is progressing worldwide as part of SDGs initiatives, the symposium will examine what the reality is, using examples from India and Japan as a reference. This time, we invited Mr. Gopinath Muthukad, director of the Different Art Centre in India (Kerala), who views people with disabilities as Differently Abled and works to utilize their potential, to give a lecture and highlight the results of his activities. Scholars specializing in Japan's disabilities and social welfare will provide comments and evaluations on Mr. Vishnu's magic presentation, which can be said to be an example of the independence of people with disabilities. Discussion will be held on independence of disabled people and its support in India and Japan.

17:20-19:30

11.7 Tue.

Come watch  
Magic Performance by  
Differently abled Vishnu



Venue: Bldg.6 Room 101, Sophia University

Register : <https://forms.gle/Paa4oJe2cZKaVtzEA>



Sophia Open | 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. → 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. |  
Research Weeks 2023

SOPHIA  
10<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY



Director of Different Art Centre (DAC) , Kerala, India

# Keynote Mr. Gopinath Muthukad

“The Experience of Different Art Centre for independence of differently abled”  
~with magic performance by Mr. Vishnu, a member of DAC~



Gopinath Muthukad is a founder of Different Art Centre, renowned magician and philanthropist from Kerala, India. He Started his magical voyage at a very young age with more than 8000 stage performances in various countries since 1974 and winning global accolades, he advocated seeing magic as a subject of education and one that can be used for betterment of society. He got influenced by witnessing the lives of differently abled persons and their families. This made him withdraw from commercial public stage performances and dedicate himself to the philanthropic cause. A Magician, motivational speaker, UNICEF ambassador, and author of several books.



Vishnu, a 22-year-old performer at Magic Planet in Trivandrum, has overcome cerebral palsy and intellectual disability to become a remarkable magician. Despite facing challenges with hand movements, concentration, speech, and coordination, Vishnu has completed over 4,000 shows in the last 5 years at Mpower theatre. His life transformed through three months of dedicated training under the guidance of Mr. Gopinath Muthukad. Vishnu's magical journey continued with the launch of the MPower Centre at Magic Planet, which included economically disadvantaged children from the Anuyatra brand ambassadors' team. Despite initially being unable to speak or hold objects, Vishnu now effortlessly performs complex magic tricks and has earned recognition and awards. A scientific study conducted by the Child Development Center (CDC) and the Institute for Communicative and Cognitive Neurosciences (ICCONS) found significant mental, physical, and social improvements attributed to his magic practice, leading to a detailed report submitted to the government. Vishnu's juggling act has also earned him a place in the India Book of Records and the Einstein World Records.

## Panelist



**Prof. Akira Otsuka**  
Prof. Dept. of Social Welfare,  
Sophia University

Specially appointed professor, Department of Social Welfare, Faculty of Human Sciences, Sophia University. Research on the transition to community life and community life support systems for children with disabilities. In particular, he specializes in research on support for developmental disorders such as intellectual disabilities and autism.



**Toshiya Kakiuchi**  
President and CEO, Mirairo Inc.

Born with fragile bones that easily break, he has been using a wheelchair since childhood. He devised a business plan based on his own experience and won 13 awards in Japan. In 2010, while studying at university, he established Mirairo Co., Ltd. with the philosophy of "Barrier Value" that turns disabilities into value. Mirairo is developing various projects to realize DEI, such as the "Universal Manners Test" to learn how to support people with disabilities and the elderly, and "Mirairo ID" which digitizes disability certificates. He is involved in supporting people with disabilities not only in Japan but also overseas, including in the United States, France, Austria, Ecuador, and Thailand.



**Yoshikazu Hirasawa**  
Officer, Children and Family  
Center, Chiyoda District

District office in charge of disabilities and social welfare, Chiyoda Ward Child and Family Support Centre. Joined Chiyoda Ward Office in 1995 after graduating Sophia University Social Welfare Dept. As a welfare worker, he worked at the Fujimi Welfare Hall and the Welfare Workshop, and then worked at the Disabled Persons Welfare Division for 14 years. In charge of child development support at the "Family Support Centre" and concurrently serves as the director of Sakura Kids Centre, Chiyoda Ward Child Development Centre.

Moderators :

Prof. Sali Augustine (FGS · IAAMES) , Assoc. prof. Toda Mikako (FGS · IAAMES)

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