

Kyoto University International Symposium

International Social Prescribing Conference 2026

*Shaping Systems for Social Prescribing:
Cultivating Cultural Flourishing and Ikigai
(Meaningful Living)*

Date: May 27 and 28, 2026
in Kyoto, Japan

<https://ispc2026.symposium-hp.jp>



Welcome Message

We sometimes encounter a simple yet profound question: *“What will the future become?”*

Unprecedented population ageing, accelerating climate change, rapid digitalisation, and the ongoing evolution of artificial intelligence — we are living through a period of profound and complex transformation. These so-called “megatrends” can at times feel overwhelming, as though they extend beyond the influence of any single individual.

But that does not mean we are powerless. Humanity has never existed in isolation; even with limited resources, we have connected with one another, cultivated culture, and adapted through creativity and collective effort, seeking not only survival but richer and more meaningful ways of living.

Social prescribing represents one such effort to harness the power of connection. By linking healthcare, welfare, and community activities, it aims to build societies in which no one is left behind. In recent years, social prescribing has expanded across diverse settings, supported by increasing policy engagement and a growing body of evidence.

Particularly noteworthy are initiatives that draw upon relationships with arts, culture, and nature. Cultural participation and experiences grounded in coexistence with the natural world may serve as vital resources for supporting human wellbeing.

This conference takes place in Kyoto, Japan — a city with over 1,200 years of history, shaped by resilience through repeated crises, including earthquakes, conflicts, floods, and epidemics. A relational worldview, often associated with animistic traditions and long-standing coexistence with nature, may offer distinctive perspectives for social prescribing practices that engage culture and the natural environment.

We refer to social prescribing through arts and culture as *“cultural prescribing,”* and continue to explore its potential. Across the world, diverse approaches rooted in local cultures and values are emerging. We hope this conference will provide a space to share these experiences and to collectively envision how social prescribing may evolve in ways that honour cultural diversity.

In uncertain times, we hope that the question *“What will the future become?”* may gradually give way to a sense of possibility — that perhaps the future is something we can shape together.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to Kyoto.

Naoki Kondo, MD, PhD
Conference Chair, ISPC 2026
Professor and Chair, Department of Social Epidemiology,
Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University
Director, Social Common Capital Research Institute, Kyoto University

Director, An-nei(Wellbeing) Community Co-Creation Initiative (AnCo)

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: May 27, 2026, Wednesday,

Venue: Centennial Clock Tower Hall, Kyoto University

9:30-10:00 Registration

10:00-10:10 Opening Remark

10:10-11:30 Social Prescribing in Japanese Health Promoting Hospitals (HPHs)

11:30-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00-15:00 Cultural Prescribing as a Participation-Based Public Health Model and the
Future of UK–Japan Research Collaboration

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 Surprising and Inspiring: Innovative Approaches in Social Prescribing

17:30-19:30 Dinner Reception*

*Additional Payment required.

DAY 1: May 27, 2026, Wednesday,

Venue: HORIBA Symposium Hall, International Science and
Innovation Building, Kyoto University

9:30-11:00 Social Prescribing on Business

11:40-12:40 Lunch Time

12:40-13:00 "Your three minutes will shape the future of social and cultural
prescribing." Social Prescribing Video Contest Awards Ceremony

13:00-15:00 Scientific Assessment, Evaluation, and the Wellbeing Measurements for
them

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 Inspiring Communities and People to Embrace Social Prescribing:
Emerging Trends from North America

DAY 1: May 27, 2026, Wednesday,

Venue: Meeting Room 1&2, 5th Floor, International Science and
Innovation Building, Kyoto University

9:30-12:00 Oral Presentation Session 1

12:00-13:00 Lunch Time

DAY 1: May 27, 2026, Wednesday,

Venue: 1st Floor, linkhub@, International Science and Innovation Building, Kyoto University

13:00-15:00 Workshop: Beyond Clinical Care — Implementing Social Prescribing within Singapore's Integrated Regional Health System

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 Participation First: Social Prescribing, Traditional Arts, and Lessons from a Remote Island Community in Japan (*Aogashima* Island)

ISPC2026 Programme version Feb 17, 2026

DAY 1: May 27, 2026, Wednesday,

Venue: Foyer, 5th Floor, International Science and Innovation Building, Kyoto University

10:00-17:00 Poster Sessions & Exhibition Booths

DAY 2: May 28, 2026, Thursday,

Venue: Centennial Clock Tower Hall, Kyoto University

9:00-10:30 From Evidence to Impact: The Evolving Social Prescribing Landscape in Europe

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:00 Different Paths, One Shared Goal! How Cities and Communities Are Advancing Social Prescribing — Lessons from South Korea, Taiwan, and Portugal

12:00-12:30 Closing Ceremony

- Oral and Poster Presentation Excellence Award Ceremony

- WHO Collaborating Centre Designation Ceremony for the Kyoto University School of Public Health

13:00-17:00 Field Tour: Social Prescribing in Action — Exploring Initiatives in Kyoto City*

*Pre-registration required with an additional fee.

DAY 2: May 28, 2026, Thursday,

Venue: HORIBA Symposium Hall, International Science and
Innovation Building, Kyoto University

9:00-10:30 Reimagining Social Prescribing in the Western Pacific Region: The Lancet
Regional Health – Western Pacific Special Issue on Social Prescribing
Launch Session

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:00 Pop Culture Meets Healthcare: Anime Prescribing and Mural Art
Transforming Communities

DAY 2: May 28, 2026, Thursday

Venue: Meeting Room 1&2, 5th Floor, International Science and Innovation Building, Kyoto University

9:00-10:30 Oral Presentation Session 2

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

DAY 1: May 28, 2026, Thursday,

Venue: 1st Floor, linkhub@, International Science and Innovation Building, Kyoto University

10:45-12:00 Nature Prescribing in Action: Growing Forests, Cultivating Food, and Riding the Waves

DAY 2: May 28, 2026, Thursday

Venue: Foyer, 5th Floor, International Science and Innovation Building, Kyoto University

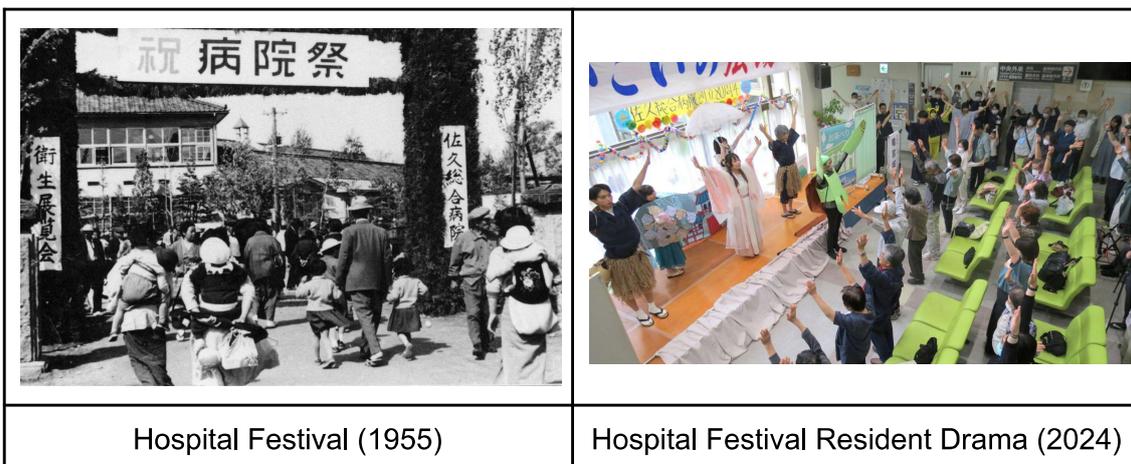
10:00-17:00 Poster Sessions & Exhibition Booths

Session Program Details by Venue

Venue: Centennial Clock Tower Hall, Kyoto University

Date & Time, Title	May 27, 2026, 10:10-11:30 Social Prescribing in Japanese Health Promoting Hospitals (HPHs)
Speakers	Kazuya Yui, M.D. Hospital Director, Saku Central Hospital Koumi Branch, Nagano, Japan Ai Noguchi, M.D. Director of Senkita Clinic, Yodogawa Workers' Welfare Association Director of Osaka Family Medicine and General Practice Center Family Medicine Specialist and Supervising Physician Yasuharu Arima, M.D., Department of General Internal Medicine, Chidoribashi Hospital, Fukuoka, Japan
Language	Japanese Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)
Session Schedule	The origins of PHC (primary health care) in Japan Creating a healthy community through cultural activities at Saku Central Hospital
URL	English Version of "50 Years with Farmers" Video (1994) https://sakuhp.or.jp/about/known/picture.html#tab01 NBS Nagano Broadcasting Hospital Festival Intern Drama https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3Vr7Ueobc Fukuoka Medical Association Chidoribashi Hospital https://www.chidoribashi-hp.or.jp/
Summary	Even before the term "social prescribing" was widely adopted, practices consistent with its concept were being developed throughout Japan. In rural and urban areas where social resources are limited, healthcare professionals and medical institutions have proactively engaged in outreach and collaborated with patients and local residents to create and strengthen social resources. These efforts are particularly evident in the practices of medical institutions participating in Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services (HPH). This session will introduce specific examples from HPH participating medical institutions in Japan. The Saku General Hospital Group will introduce community-based activities such as "Hospital Festivals" in rural areas. Nishiyodo Hospital has been holding a community diagnostic study session every year since 2019. Local residents, medical, nursing, welfare and administrative officials, welfare officers, firefighters, medical associations, dental associations, pharmacists and many other people from a wide range of industries come together to introduce practices that

connect people to appropriate social resources from their respective perspectives.
 Finally, Chidoribashi Hospital will introduce its practice of assessing the social determinants of health (SDH) of hospitalized patients and connecting them to appropriate social resources.





Nishiyodogawa Ward Community
Diagnostic Study Group Work



Nishiyodogawa Ward Community
Diagnostic Study Group Work

Date & Time, Title	May 27, 2026, 13:00-15:00 Beyond Social Prescribing: Cultural Prescribing as a Participation-Based Public Health Model and the Future of UK–Japan Research Collaboration
Speakers	<p>Hannah Waterson, Research Associate, Creative Manchester</p> <p>Julie McCarthy Strategic Lead for Creative Health, Greater Manchester Integrated Care (NHS GM) and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)</p> <p>Sawako Inaniwa Senior Curator, Learning, National Center for Art Research, National Museum of Art, Japan</p> <p>Takashi Kiriya Professor, Department of New Media Graduate School of Film and New Media, Tokyo University of the Arts</p> <p>Anri Makino Project Researcher, Tokyo University of the Arts</p>
Language	Japanese and English Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)
URL	Creative Health in the UK and Japan https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/creative-health-in-the-uk-and-japan/
Summary	Building on developments in Social Prescribing, this session presents the theoretical framework and practical initiatives of “Cultural Prescribing” in Japan. It repositions cultural participation as foundational to the well-being of individuals and society and explores possibilities for UK–Japan research collaboration.





Date & Time, Title	May 27, 2026, 15:30-17:00 Surprising and Inspiring: Innovative Approaches in Social Prescribing in Japan
Speakers	Dr. Tomohiro Nishi, MD, Chairperson of Plus Care General Incorporated Association, Japan.
Language	Japanese Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)
URL	https://www.kosugipluscare.com/
Summary	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)

		
Dr. Tomohiro Nishi	"Kurashi-no-Hokenshitu" (the Community Health Rooms (CHRs))	The "Hokenshitu Tonari Bunko", the library next to the CHR

Venue: Centennial Clock Tower Hall, Kyoto University

Date & Time, Title	May 28, 2026, 9:30-10:30 From Evidence to Impact: The Evolving Social Prescribing Landscape in Europe
Speakers	<p>Prof. Wolfram Herrmann</p> <p>Professor, Institute of General Practice and Family Medicine, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin</p> <p>Prof. Naoki Kondo</p> <p>Professor, Department of Social Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, Japan</p>
Language	English Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)
Summary	<p>In this session, Prof. Wolfram Herrmann (Institute of General Practice and Family Medicine, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin) will present the latest European evidence on social prescribing, including findings from randomized controlled trials. Drawing on cutting-edge research and real-world implementation, the session will explore how evidence is shaping policy, clinical practice, and cross-sector collaboration to scale social prescribing sustainably across Europe. The session will also feature a panel discussion with leading international researchers, a WHO representative, and a senior officer from the National Academy of Social Prescribing (UK), who will examine key challenges and opportunities in integrating evidence into the dissemination and scale-up of social prescribing.</p>

Date & Time, Title	May 28, 2026, 10:45-12:00 Different Paths, One Shared Goal! How Cities and Communities Are Advancing Social Prescribing — Lessons from South Korea, Taiwan, and Portugal
Speakers	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)
Language	English Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)
Summary	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)

Date & Time, Title	May 28, 2026, 12:00-12:30 Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Oral and Poster Presentation Excellence Award Ceremony● WHO Collaborating Centre Designation Ceremony for the Kyoto University School of Public Health
Speakers	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)
Language	English Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)
Summary	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)

Session Program Details by Venue

Venue: HORIBA Symposium Hall, International Science and Innovation Building, Kyoto University

Date & Time, Title	May 27, 2026, 9:30-11:00 Social Prescribing on Business
Speakers	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)
Language	Japanese and English Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)
Summary	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)

Date & Time, Title	<p>May 27, 2026, 12:40-13:00 Video Contest Award Ceremony</p> <p>"Your three minutes will shape the future of social and cultural prescribing."</p> <p>Social Prescribing Video Contest Awards Ceremony</p>
Moderators	<p>Sho Iwase, Aogashima Clinic, Japan</p> <p>Dr. Ayako Kohno, Kyoto University School of Public Health</p>
Language	<p>Japanese and English</p>
URL	<p>(To be released soon.)</p>
Summary	<p>Social prescribing and cultural prescribing are gaining international attention as approaches that support people's health and well-being not only through medicine and public health, but also through culture, the arts, community activities, the environment, and social participation.</p> <p>In this contest, participants will be asked to express a message on "social prescribing" from a global perspective in a three-minute video.</p> <p>We welcome submissions based on original ideas, addressing the potential, significance, vision for the future, and familiar examples of social prescribing for people in any generation who are not yet familiar with social prescribing.</p> <p>This session will screen the best works, providing an opportunity for international dissemination.</p>

Date & Time, Title	May 27, 2026, 13:00-15:00 Social Prescribing Assessment and Measurement
Speakers	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)
Language	Japanese and English Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)
Summary	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)

Date & Time, Title	<p>May 27, 2026, 15:30-17:00</p> <p>Inspiring Communities and People to Embrace Social Prescribing: Emerging Trends from North America and Australia</p>
Speakers	<p>Dr. Kate Mulligan Social & Behavioural Health Sciences Division, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Canada</p> <p>Dr. JR Baker Founder, Australian Social Prescribing Institute for Research and Education (ASPIRE), Associate Professor, Southern Cross University, Australia</p> <p>Prof. Naoki Kondo Professor, Department of Social Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, Japan</p>
Language	<p>English</p> <p>Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)</p>
URL	<p>https://www.creatingopportunitiestogether.com.au/</p>
Summary	<p>In this session, Dr. Kate Mulligan (Social & Behavioural Health Sciences Division, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto) will highlight emerging trends and evidence from North America on how communities and individuals are being inspired to engage with social prescribing. Additionally, the founder of the Australian Social Prescribing Research and Education Institute (ASPIRE) will introduce the latest social prescribing initiatives in Australia. Drawing on research and real-world initiatives, the session will explore people-centered, community-driven strategies that support uptake, equity, and sustainability. The session will also include a panel discussion examining how inspiration is translated into action across different contexts.</p>

		
Dr. Kate Mulligan	Dr. JR Baker	Prof. Naoki Kondo

Date & Time, Title	<p>May 28, 2026, 9:00-10:30</p> <p>Reimagining Social Prescribing in the Western Pacific Region: The Lancet Regional Health – Western Pacific Session Special Issue Publication Ceremony Session</p>
Speakers	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)
Language	<p>English</p> <p>Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)</p>
URL	<p>The Lancet Regional Health – Western Pacific Session Special Issue</p> <p>https://www.thelancet.com/series-do/social-prescribing</p> <p>Video Abstract</p> <p>https://youtu.be/INlu2fBnEE0?si=HQ08CdnZzDuhxq-4</p>
Summary	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)

Date & Time, Title	May 28, 2026, 10:45-12:00 Transforming Healthcare through Pop Culture (Anime Prescriptions, Community Development with Mural Art, etc.)
Speakers	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)
Language	English Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)
Summary	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)

Session Program Details by Venue

Venue: linkuub@ 1st Floor, International Science and Innovation Building, Kyoto University

Date & Time, Title	<p>May 27, 2026, 13:00-15:00</p> <p>Workshop: Beyond the Clinical Prescription: Implementing Social Prescribing in an Integrated Regional Health System in Singapore</p>
Speakers	<p>Prof Lee Chien Earn</p> <p>Deputy Group CEO, Regional Health System, SingHealth</p> <p>Associate Professor Lionel Cheng</p> <p>CEO, SingHealth Community Hospitals</p> <p>Associate Professor Lee Kheng Hock</p> <p>Deputy CEO, Academic Medicine & Partnerships</p> <p>Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Social Prescribing</p> <p>SingHealth Community Hospitals</p> <p>Ms Adeline Kwan</p> <p>Deputy Director, Office of Community Engagement & Education</p> <p>Co-Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Social Prescribing</p> <p>SingHealth Community Hospitals</p>
Language	<p>English</p> <p>Simultaneous Interpretation NOT Available</p>

URL	<p>Google Form for Workshop Registration:</p> <p>If you would like to participate in the following workshops at ISPC2026, please fill out this Google Form with your name and email address. (Please register for ISPC2026 first, then fill out this Google Form.) Capacity: 50 people (first come, first served)</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFs2b-Xssyc357teyJDG7XNQ4zfPZVbpC6Kq6cA-k8Wr8G6w/viewform?usp=publish-editor</p>
Summary	<p>This two-hour interactive workshop offers a comprehensive framework for operationalising social prescribing within complex health ecosystems, such as the SingHealth Regional Health System. Moving beyond the conceptual understanding of social determinants of health, this session focuses on the <i>science of implementation</i>—bridging the gap between "what to do" and "how to do it" effectively.</p> <p>The session begins with a contextual overview of social prescribing as a key driver of population health, illustrating how integrated regional health systems can leverage community assets to deliver holistic, person-centred care. We then pivot to the critical role of Adaptive Leadership, exploring why technical solutions alone often fail. Participants will examine how leaders can navigate the "adaptive challenges" of implementation—managing resistance, shifting organisational culture, and sustaining "hearts and minds" during the transition.</p> <p>The core of the session is a hands-on, 45-minute workshop grounded in Implementation Science and Theory of Change principles. Using frameworks from the National Implementation Research Network (Fixsen et al.), participants will learn to develop robust Logic Models that map inputs to socially significant outcomes. Attendees will actively design a blueprint for a social prescribing programme, identifying necessary Implementation Drivers (Competency, Organisation, and Leadership) required to ensure programme fidelity and sustainability.</p> <p>The workshop concludes with an interactive panel discussion and Q&A, offering real-world insights into overcoming systemic barriers. By the end of this session, clinical leaders, administrators, and policy planners will be equipped with the strategic tools to transform social prescribing from an innovative pilot into a scalable model of care.</p>

Programme Outline

Total Duration: 2 Hours (120 Minutes)

Duration	Activity	Description
5 mins	Introduction	Welcome address and setting the stage: <i>Why implementation science matters in social prescribing.</i>
20 mins	Lecture 1	<p>Social Prescribing in an Integrated Regional Health System for Population Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Medical vs. Social" model mismatch. • Case study: The SingHealth ecosystem approach (Community Hospitals, Polyclinics, and Community Partners). • Mapping the patient journey across the health-social divide.

20 mins	Lecture 2	Adaptive Leadership in Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distinguishing <i>Technical</i> problems vs. <i>Adaptive</i> challenges.• The role of Leadership Drivers (Technical vs. Adaptive) in supporting staff.• Managing the "human side" of change: Culture, resistance, and buy-in.
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45 mins	Facilitated Workshop	Designing for Impact: Theory of Change & Implementation Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theory of Change: Defining the "why" and the long-term impact.• Logic Model Development: Drafting Inputs Activities Outputs Outcomes.• The Implementation Equation: From effective interventions to socially significant outcome• Identifying Implementation Drivers: Competency (Training/Coaching), Organisation (Data Systems), and Leadership.• Hands-on Session: Framing your Programme
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30 mins	Panel Discussion & Q&A	From Theory to Reality <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open floor for participants to stress-test their models.• Panelists discuss real-world barriers (funding, silos, data sharing).• Closing remarks and call to action.
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Lee Chien Earn	Lionel Cheng



Lee Kheng Hock



Adeline Kwan

Session Program Details by Venue

Venue: linkuub@ 1st Floor, International Science and Innovation Building, Kyoto University

Date & Time, Title	<p>May 27, 2026, 15:30-17:00</p> <p>What Can We Learn from Japanese Isolated Islands?</p> <p>Translating Participation-First Cultural Prescribing into Your Communities' Contexts (from Aogashima Island, Japan)</p>
Speakers	<p>Mr. Satoshi Arai, Representative of Aogashima Kanju Taiko (Drum of Return and Settlement)</p> <p>Sho Iwase, M.D., Aogashima Clinic</p> <p>Dr. Hiroshi Habu, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University</p>
Language	<p>Japanese</p> <p>Simultaneous Interpretation NOT Available. (AI Translation Tools may be available.)</p>
URL	<p>https://www.aogashimakanjutaiko.com/</p>
Summary	<p>This session will explore the conditions under which social and cultural prescriptions can emerge as "culture" rather than "system" through the practices of a remote island that does not require a referral system or specialized occupations. Starting with the traditional performing art of Kanju Taiko (Drum of Return and Settlement), which prioritizes "enjoyment" and non-verbal communication, participants will reexamine the barriers to participation that modern society unconsciously creates, and consider in their own contexts how to create a "pseudo-island" that can be applied to a variety of regions, including urban areas.</p>

Programme Outline

Total Duration: 1.5 Hours (90 Minutes)

Duration	Activity	Description
5 mins	Introduction	Why learn from remote islands? Speaker introductions, theme/overall explanation
15 mins	Oral Presentation	The History, Culture, and Performance Characteristics of Kanju Taiko (Drum of Return and Settlement)
30 mins	Hands-on Experience Workshop	Kanju Taiko (Drum of Return and Settlement) Experience → Additional Explanation → Experience Creating an environment where everyone can enjoy themselves by combining experiences and explanations.
20 mins		Opening: A re-examination of Aogashima's history and culture, and how to interact with people from outside the region. Talk Topics: Why do social prescriptions become "culture"? Is it possible in a small society? What lessons can be learned in any region? How can we break away from the "thinking of seeking the right answer"?
10 mins	Small Group Dialogue	How do we foster a culture of participation in our communities?

10 mins	Conclusion	Sharing Information and Clarifying Issues
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Satoshi Arai



Sho Iwase



Hiroshi Habu

Date & Time, Title	May 28, 2026, 10:45-12:00 Nature Prescribing in Action: Growing Forests, Cultivating Food, and Riding the Waves
Speakers	Mr. Yasuhiro Shibata, Nami-nications (Other speakers TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)
Language	Japanese and English Simultaneous Interpretation Available (English and Japanese)
URL	https://www.bikazaidan.or.jp/3167/ https://www.instagram.com/nami_nications/?hl=en
Summary	(TBC. Information will be released at the next program revision.)