

# ASHINAGA ASSOCIATION IN THE UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1183750

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [10634278](#)

**Registered** 2019-06-06

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Website** <https://www.ashinaga-uk.org>

## Activities

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**Objects:** (A) ADVANCING THE EDUCATION OF ORPHANS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BUT, IN PARTICULAR, IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (OR ANY PART THEREOF) INCLUDING (BUT WITHOUT LIMITATION) BY:(I) PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND LOANS TO ORPHANS TO MEET EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH EDUCATION (INCLUDING COURSE FEES, TRAVEL AND MAINTENANCE AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES);(II) PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE AND MENTORING, EMOTIONAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO ORPHANS;(B) SUPPORTING COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (OR ANY PART THEREOF) BY SUPPORTING AND FACILITATING ORPHANS' EDUCATION WITH A VIEW TO:(I) DEVELOPING THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND CAPACITY;(II) FOSTERING ENTHUSIASM AND TOLERANCE, INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY SELF-CONFIDENCE, AND ENGENDERING RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUALITY, DIFFERENCE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TEAMWORK; AND(III) USING THEIR EDUCATION AND SKILLS TO THE BENEFIT OF THEIR COMMUNITIES (WHETHER NATIONAL, REGIONAL OR LOCAL) WITHIN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA;(C) THE PREVENTION OR RELIEF OF POVERTY OR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (OR ANY PART THEREOF) BY PROVIDING OR ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING; AND(D) SUCH OTHER EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS THE DIRECTORS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT.

**Activities:** Ashinaga Association in the UK provides financial support to orphaned students from sub-Saharan Africa for undergraduate degrees in the UK, along with leadership training and support to develop scholars into compassionate change-makers. This work is part of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative, an international leadership programme that cultivates the next generation of young leaders for Africa.

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Other Finance, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

## Geography

- Scotland
- Senegal
- Uganda
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£607,184	£325,087	£-1,424,030	3
2024-03-31	£702,144	£487,310	£-1,706,127	4
2023-03-31	£708,623	£643,711	£-1,920,961	5
2022-03-31	£840,891	£649,340	£-1,985,873	6
2021-03-31	£575,497	£2,892,692	£-2,177,424	6

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Professor Saul Jonathan Benjamin Tendler</b>	Chair	2022-10-05
Alex Wagikuyu		2025-03-04
Jordan McFarlane		2024-03-19
Kimeshan Naidoo		2024-05-09
NORIKO CARPENTIER-TOMINAGA		2017-02-22
Nashina Asaria		2024-05-13
Pablo Federico Perez		2024-05-14
Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin		2020-08-27
Professor Osamu Murata		2024-12-04
YUKIE SEKI		2017-02-22

**ASHINAGA ASSOCIATION IN THE UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183750

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# Accounts

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# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025



Company Number: 10634278  
Registered Charity Number: 1183750

## Trustees’ Annual Report and Accounts

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# Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Over the 2024–25 fiscal year, Ashinaga UK supported 30 exceptional Scholars who aim to contribute to their communities across the African continent through scholarships at universities in the UK. In the summer of 2024, three Scholars graduated, bringing the total number of graduates to 31. We currently support 26 Scholars - each one driven and working toward our shared vision: a more developed African continent, with all its countries out of poverty and communities benefiting from innovation and compassionate leadership.

Ashinaga UK's mission is to empower high-achieving, orphaned students from low-income backgrounds with the education, skills, connections, and experience they need to tackle the challenges they see across the African continent. This year, our Scholars continued to demonstrate exactly why this mission matters. Whether launching initiatives in their home countries, excelling in their studies, or gaining experience through internships, they are growing into the future leaders their communities need.

This was also a landmark year in Ashinaga UK's history. It marked the final fiscal year in which we directly funded tuition fees. Thanks to transformative partnerships with the University of York and the University of Warwick each committing to cover 100% of tuition fees for Ashinaga Scholars through to 2032, we are now better placed to focus on strengthening our programming, fundraising to create new scholarships, and long-term sustainability.

We were delighted to welcome four new Trustees to our Board this year: Pablo Pérez Abella, Kimeshan Naidoo, Nashina Asaria, and Alex Wagikuyu. Their expertise, compassion, and belief in our mission will be invaluable as we continue to grow.

Everything we do is made possible by the generosity and belief of our partners, supporters, and wider Ashinaga community. If you are inspired by our mission and would like to get involved, we warmly welcome your support. By investing in Ashinaga Scholars, you are helping to build a future led by young people who care deeply, lead boldly, and act with purpose for the benefit of others.

– Professor Saul Tendler

# Activity

## Highlights from April 2024 – March 2025

### SCHOLARS

- 90% of Scholars were at a top 500 university (THE).
- A Scholar graduated with First class Honours in BSc Accounting and Finance

A Scholar from Nigeria secured an audit internship in the UK with PWC, one of the world's four largest international accounting and professional services firms. She also received an Award from the University of York as the Highest Achieving Student in her department

Another Scholar, who is currently completing her LLB at the University of Warwick had the opportunity to present her research at the British Conference of Undergraduate Research at the University of Newcastle. This research was a passion project inspired by her Ashinaga Proposal. It was an opportunity for her to share her research with an international and interdisciplinary audience.

A Scholar studying at the University of Warwick received the Outstanding Contribution Award in Business Management at the Warwick International Foundation Programme 2024.

A UCLan Scholar received a gold award for his exceptional dedication to the Mentoring programme within the School of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences and also the prestigious title of Student Mentor of the Year. His commitment to supporting first-year biomedical science students with over 100 hours of volunteering during the 2023/2024 academic year truly stands out.

### GRADUATES

- 31 Graduates have now completed undergraduate degrees and our leadership programme in the UK since 2019.

In Summer 2024, Four Scholars graduated from Royal Holloway, University of London, University of Portsmouth, Edinburgh University, and University of Central Lancashire in 2024. Our graduation day was kindly hosted by Mills & Reeve LLP at their office Leeds. Mills & Reeve staff joined

### PARTNERSHIPS & FUNDRAISING

- We successfully raised £17,565.97 during our 2024 Big Give Christmas Campaign.
- The University of Warwick generously hosted our 2024 *tsudo*i at their Shard Warwick Business School campus in London.

- Mills & Reeve LLP kindly hosted our 2024 graduating class' final social impact research proposals at their office in Leeds.

### **ACROSS THE AAI\***

- 338 Scholars recruited since the programme began.
- 163 Current Scholars or Candidates who are about to start studying abroad
- 152 Graduates.

\*in 2024

### **GOVERNANCE**

- We welcomed Pablo Pérez Abella, Kimeshan Naidoo, Nashina Asaria, and Alex Wagikuyu to our board of trustees.

**Ashinaga UK delivers the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) through partnerships with UK universities.** The AAI is a leadership development programme that cultivates tomorrow's leaders from today's most disadvantaged.

Talented, high potential orphaned youth are recruited across 49 African countries and go on to study at top universities in Japan, Brazil, France, the UK, and the USA. The AAI provides financial support for international university degrees, along with leadership training and support to develop Scholars into compassionate change-makers.

Our final goal is not just the Scholars' education, but that through education and training Scholars will initiate change, innovation, and development in Africa.

### **Glossary**

Although we are a UK charity, we use two Japanese words in our leadership development programming. These are taken from Ashinaga Foundation in Japan, where they have been used for decades in our global mission to support orphaned youth, and have no direct translations into English.

Kokorozashi (志): a heartfelt dream to help others and generate positive change.

Tsudoi (つどい): our annual leadership camp for all UK Scholars. Other Ashinaga offices hold *tsudoi* throughout the year for their own Scholars.

## Summary of Main Activities

### Summer 2024

#### Leadership Development Opportunities

Each summer, Ashinaga UK provides funding for Scholars based on eligible leadership development activities. Eligible activities included internships or volunteering opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa or summer research placements at a Scholar's academic institution. The purpose of this supplementary funding is to empower Scholars' professional skills development and support them to gain experience that they can utilise in their academics and future career. In summer 2024:

- Scholars took part in 19 internships.
- 13 internships in Africa.
- 6 internships or research placements in the UK.

### September 2024

#### Welcoming New Scholars to the UK

In September, Ashinaga UK proudly welcomed six Scholars to two prestigious institutions in the UK: the University of York and the University of Warwick. Our team works hard to ensure a smooth transition for Ashinaga Scholars starting university in the UK.

Our orientation program has undergone significant evolution over the years, resulting in a streamlined event designed to provide essential information and support to new Scholars as they settle into university. The Ashinaga UK team takes great care in organising a comprehensive welcome, ensuring that new arrivals feel well-supported.

A key feature of our orientation is the active participation from both current Scholars and University staff. Their involvement has been crucial in offering new Scholars a warm welcome and practical advice during the 'settling-in' and introductory session. By enhancing our orientation programme, we were able to ensure that each Scholar's journey began on a positive and reassuring note. By building close partnerships with the University of York and the University of Warwick, we have been able to signpost to many resources that may be relevant to our Scholars. Both universities hold comprehensive student orientation programmes, meaning our Scholars should be well equipped with information on how to access resources and opportunities that will enable them to thrive.

Additionally, during Scholars' first year in the UK, the Ashinaga UK student support team facilitates numerous workshops to support Scholars as they become accustomed to life as international students in the UK and start this new phase of their Ashinaga Africa

Initiative journey. These workshops focus on themes such as financial management, wellbeing, and making an impact in Africa. They also provided a vital platform for Scholars to share experiences, learn from one another, and build a cohesive community. By addressing diverse and relevant topics, the sessions ensure that Scholars were well-equipped to navigate their first year in the UK and beyond. The ongoing support and collective learning environment created through these meetings have been instrumental in enhancing the overall Scholar experience, promoting both individual and group growth.

## **December 2024**

### ***Tsudoi* (Our Annual Leadership Camp)**

Over three impactful days, our 26 UK Scholars came together to share ideas, refine their visions for social change, and connect with inspiring leaders from diverse industries.

The 2024 *tsudoi* took place at The Shard in London from 18-20 December, generously hosted by the University of Warwick. The opportunity to host this event at The Shard brought together Scholars in an environment that fostered critical thinking, meaningful conversations, and innovative problem-solving. Also, this year's event brought together inspiring speakers, and several notable guests from organisations such as the Royal Academy of Engineering, Connect North Korea, Martingale Foundation and trustees on the Ashinaga UK board.

The programme focused on four key themes:

- **Entrepreneurship in Africa** – Exploring opportunities to drive innovation and create sustainable impact.
- **Ashinaga Social Impact Proposal Development** – Providing Scholars with a platform to refine their community and social impact projects with expert mentorship and peer feedback.
- **Building a Strong African Identity** – Strengthening cultural connections and leadership perspectives.
- **AI Skills for the 21st Century** – Equipping Scholars with tools to navigate a fast-changing digital world.

By the end of the event, **90% of Scholars reported being highly satisfied with their overall experience**. One Scholar reflected:

*"I learned the importance of leading with empathy and adaptability, skills which will help me better connect with diverse teams. As I move forward, I will apply these skills by creating inclusive environments, making informed decisions, and inspiring others through clear goals and mutual respect."*

## **Throughout the Year**

### **Supporting Scholars**

Throughout the year, Ashinaga UK maintained a robust support system for our Scholars through regular check-ins. With a dedicated focus on supporting Scholars to meet Ashinaga UK's mission of empowering leadership potential whilst encouraging resourcefulness and independence, we ensured that each of our 25 Scholars took part in regular check-in calls with assigned student support staff. Our approach is to coach Scholars and these sessions were designed to provide comprehensive support across several key areas.

Firstly, academic progress was a primary emphasis, where we focused on students' university studies, provided guidance on study strategies, and signposted them on university resources to enhance their learning experiences. Additionally, personal development was a crucial component, as we encouraged students to reflect on their goals, build resilience, and develop essential life skills.

Professional development was another critical area of focus. Our coaching check-ins included guidance on securing internship opportunities, building professional networks, and developing their Ashinaga proposal.

Overall, the monthly check-ins have been instrumental in supporting our Scholars' academic achievements, personal skill development, and professional aspirations.

### **Helping Scholars Complete Their Research (“Ashinaga Proposals”)**

In alignment with our mission to foster leadership and social impact across sub-Saharan Africa, all Ashinaga UK Scholars are expected to submit a well-researched social change project proposal, known as the Ashinaga Proposal, by the end of their scholarship. Throughout their time on the AAI, Scholars complete activities involving research into self-identified community issues and network building, before proposing an implementable and innovative solution.

We support each Scholar as they gain in-depth knowledge of their identified community issues and as they work to propose well-rounded solutions. Support includes coaching Scholars through roadblocks to their research and solutions and offering feedback as they develop SMART solutions. A 6-step workbook framework guides Scholars to develop solutions through an 'advocacy' or top-down perspective, or a 'social entrepreneurship' or bottom-up perspective.

This year Scholars have been working on issues related to agricultural mechanisation, renewable energy, equality, financial inclusion, and raising awareness with regards to diseases and healthcare.

Overall, we aim for the support given to Scholars in the development of their proposals to boost their confidence in their ambitions to make an impact, build networks, gain key research skills and improve presentation skills. We are proud to see some Scholars seeking external platforms to secure funding for further research and development of their proposals.

### **Signposting to University Resources**

Our Scholars have access to an abundance of resources at their universities, such as wellbeing facilities, professional development courses and guidance, leadership programmes, career support and community groups. Due to our close partnership universities, University of Warwick and the University of York, we signpost to specific resources to support our Scholars to thrive.

## Partnerships and Fundraising

### Funds raised between March 2024 and March 2025

For delivery of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative in the UK: £20,630.35

### University Donations-in-kind

Tuition for the 2024-25 academic year: approximately £700,152.50

### Tuition fee waivers and discounts

- Our university partnerships are an essential part of our work, enabling Ashinaga Scholars to complete undergraduate degrees at world-class universities. The University of York and the University of Warwick provide 100% of the tuition fee costs for a fixed quota of Ashinaga Scholars, up to and including the 2031/32 academic year.
- We also have memoranda of understandings with three other universities, which provide tuition discounts up to 75% for Ashinaga Scholars: University of Portsmouth, Royal Holloway University of London, University of Central Lancashire.

### Big Give Christmas Campaign 2024

In December 2024, we held a fundraising campaign through the Big Give platform once again. With a focus on supporting our leadership programming in the 2025-26 fiscal year and empower our Scholars in their professional, academic and personal development, we successfully raised £17,565.97, including GiftAid. This is restricted to certain leadership programming costs and will cover around 36% of our programming budget.

### Partner Spotlight

Partnering with the University of Warwick has enabled us to create 26 AAI scholarships for some of the brightest minds in the African continent. The University of Warwick is located in the south of England, near the city of Coventry, on a beautiful 720-acre main campus. It is a member of the prestigious Russell Group of UK universities, known for its world-leading teaching and research.

There are currently 11 Scholars at Warwick, studying 7 courses including Law, Engineering, and Global Sustainable Development. Warwick's Undergraduate Global Excellence Scholarships covers full tuition costs, and Ashinaga donors cover living stipends, flights, and visa costs.

UK Scholars have benefited enormously from opportunities provided by Warwick. This year, 3 AAI Scholars completed research placements at Warwick. These gave Scholars

experience of paid work in their fields of study and enabled them to deepen their understanding of their subject.

Ashinaga staff and students have attended The Africa Warwick Summit: a two-day conference held at the university and organised by students. This event has helped Ashinaga Scholars reconnect with the African continent, network with professionals and politicians, and develop their plans to improve their communities after they graduate.

Our December 2024 *tsudoj* was also hosted by Warwick, at their Business School campus in The Shard. This space, in the tallest skyscraper in the UK, provided a professional setting for the Scholars' leadership development, as well as breathtaking views over London!

## Achievements and Performance in the Period

The board of trustees is delighted with the progress made in 2024–2025 and the achievements of the UK Scholars and Graduates. The board is confident in the future direction of the charity and the team’s ability to implement these plans.

We have focused on empowering our Scholars in the best way possible, through working closely with universities, strengthening Scholar voices, and helping prepare our students for careers on the African continent.

All scholarships are now offered in partnership with the University of Warwick and the University of York. Growing cohorts at these two universities has enabled a stronger Scholar community and greater peer support. Our Scholar-facing team has signposted and encouraged Scholars to use university resources, allowing us to focus on our own leadership programming on areas of need, with a particular focus on achieving our mission of contributing to sub-Saharan African’s development.

We have strengthened Scholar voices by encouraging a stronger ‘Student Council’, which represents the wider student body. Our annual leadership camp, *tsudo*, was led by students, allowing for a much more tailored experience and opportunity for growth. The *tsudo* was a resounding success, prioritising student leadership, engagement, and valuable learning experiences. By empowering Scholars to lead and define the program, we fostered a deeper connection to their personal and professional growth, enabling them to make significant contributions to their communities and beyond.

Finally, as a result of improving our internship programming to encourage Scholars to independently seek opportunities, more students than ever independently secured summer internships on the African continent in 2024. This has helped Scholars gain experience finding opportunities relevant to their career and development goals, made them feel more connected to their internships, and strengthened their independent mindset. In addition, the change has saved time for our Scholar-facing team, enabling them to focus on other areas which need more attention.

Overall, 12 Scholars took part in internships in sub-Saharan Africa in summer 2024, including at Kenyatta University Teaching & Research Hospital in Kenya, an environmental tech company in Nigeria, BDO Mauritius, Zimbabwe’s Ministry of Public Service and Social Welfare, a mine in Zambia, Lelapa AI in South Africa, and The Gambia’s Port Authority. 3 of our Scholars were awarded a competitive grant by the University of Warwick to undertake research at the institution.

Additionally, we ran a successful Big Give Christmas Campaign, securing £17,565.97, including Gift Aid.

In governance, we welcomed four new trustees to our board.

- **Kimeshan Naidoo** is a South African computer scientist and technology entrepreneur. Co-Founder of Unibuddy, Kimeshan graduated from the University of Cape Town with a BSc Electrical Engineering degree. He moved to the United Kingdom in 2015 and graduated with an MSc Computer Science from University College London. He was featured on the Forbes 30 under 30 Europe list in 2020.
- **Pablo Pérez Abella** has nearly 30 years' experience as an investment banker, having worked with Nomura, Merrill Lynch, Daiwa and SMBC. He is Managing Director at Karson Management Bermuda Ltd, a fintech company, and is a board member of Lutob Investment Ltd. Pablo also served as Business Development Director and an Advisory Board member for a Formula 1 website, advising on structuring a successful exit and sale to Bernie Ecclestone and Formula One Management.
- **Nashina Asaria**, born in Kenya, was Chief Product & Marketing Officer for Nanthealth. Nashina received financial support to study her BSc at the London School of Economics and has maintained business and personal ties with the African continent throughout her career. Prior to Nanthealth, she was CPMO of UpHealth Inc and was Chief Product Officer at Cloudbreak Health LLC. Nashina has extensive leadership, Board, and Advisory experience, having held roles at Nantworks, Verifone, Qualcomm, as well as at South Africa-based LifeQ.
- **Alex Wagikuyu** is a 2015 Ashinaga Scholar from Kenya. He pursued his bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science, and Master's in Finance at Clark University in the USA. Currently, he works at Bank of America's Operations division in London. Alex is passionate about creating a positive change in the African continent and is a committed volunteer and supporter of non-profit organisations promoting African development through education.

Each brings valuable new perspectives and knowledge, adding to the expertise already in the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees, which includes British academics, members of Ashinaga Foundation in Japan, and an Ashinaga Africa Initiative graduate.

Suzan Kilamile stepped off our board in September 2024.

## Public Benefit

Ashinaga Association in the UK was entered on the Register of Charities on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 (Registered charity number 1183750). The Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit has been referred to when reviewing the organisation's aims and when planning future activities and the Trustees are satisfied that the work carried out by the charity complies with the public benefit requirements set out by the Commission.

# Impact

## Graduate Highlights

Between March 2024 and April 2025, we supported a total of 30 Scholars, representing 16 African countries. Altogether, they studied 25 different undergraduate and foundation courses at 9 universities across the UK.

In total, we've supported 58 Scholars since 2015, with the first two graduating in 2019.

Now, Ashinaga UK Graduates are completing further studies, gaining work experience, and beginning to help support the African continent and their communities at home. Our Graduates are involved in activities such as:

- Studying for a PhD in Maternal Health in Tanzania
- Working as a Systems Analyst for a tech consultancy in Botswana
- Completing a postgraduate degree at Yale University
- Working for on a project to construct a nuclear power plant
- Setting up an online e-commerce business.

## Ruth: A Professional Goal that Impacts Others

Current Ashinaga Scholar

Accounting, Business Finance and Management at the University of York

Meet Ruth, an ambitious and dedicated Ashinaga Scholar from Nigeria currently pursuing a degree in Accounting, Business Finance and Management. Ruth is not only excelling academically but also gaining hands-on experience that aligns with her kokorozashi—her personal mission and vision that drives her to creating meaningful change in her community. Her brief internship experience story is an example of how our Ashinaga Scholars are equipped with the tools, opportunities, and support needed to make a lasting impact in the world.

“In summer 2024, I embarked on an eight-week internship at Kaltani, a plastic recycling SME in Lagos, Nigeria. As a finance analyst intern, I took on the responsibility of ensuring smooth production operations by facilitating the timely approval and payment of operational expenses. This effort was pivotal in enabling on-schedule exports and safeguarding customer satisfaction, thereby preventing potential revenue losses. I also managed and updated detailed financial records, which contributed to enhanced performance tracking for the organisation.

Driven by a desire to make meaningful impact, I extended my contributions beyond the finance department by engaging in strategic business initiatives. A standout project was identifying diverse funding opportunities—including debt, grants, and equity, that aligned with Kaltani’s environmental goals. This research broadened the company’s pool of potential funding sources for both current and future projects. Additionally, I explored new revenue streams by identifying prospective clients across 21 government organisations and private financial institutions in Europe and the Middle East to purchase Kaltani’s plastic credits. These leads provided valuable prospects for revenue diversification and supported the business strategy team in crafting targeted sales pitches.

At the conclusion of my internship, I was honoured as the cohort’s best intern by the managing director, who commended my dedication, proactiveness, and contributions to the company. I was also given a special gift as a token of appreciation.

Beyond professional recognition, this internship was deeply connected to my Ashinaga Kokorozashi- a commitment to drive Nigeria’s economic growth by fostering the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Through the various projects and tasks I undertook, I contributed to the growth of Kaltani, an SME with a profound environmental mission. This experience also enriched my Ashinaga Proposal project by providing invaluable real-world insights into the financial challenges faced by SME entrepreneurs in Nigeria. These insights validated and strengthened my project’s focus on improving SME access to finance, making it more aligned with the realities on the ground.

This internship was not just a professional milestone but also a personal journey of growth, reaffirming my commitment to creating lasting impact in the business and finance industry through the empowerment of SMEs.”

Ruth is just one example of a Scholar empowered by Ashinaga UK who is working towards achieving her goal of impacting her community for the better.

## **Biniyam's Journey: From Aspiration to Action**

Ashinaga Graduate

Beng (Hons) Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Bristol

Biniyam Lombe grew up in Ethiopia under difficult circumstances. He lost his father at a very young age and was raised by his older brother, with little contact with his mother. Despite these early challenges, he developed a deep passion for learning, which grew into a strong interest in computers and technology.

In 2018, Biniyam was selected as an Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) Scholar - a moment that marked the beginning of a transformative journey. With the support of the AAI, he went on to earn a First Class Honours degree in BEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the University of Bristol. This opportunity enabled him not only to thrive academically but also to gain practical experience through internships in Ethiopia and the UK, where he worked on development projects and contributed to public - sector infrastructure with Bristol City Council.

After graduation, Biniyam returned to Ethiopia for an internship at a solar energy company, applying his knowledge directly to local challenges. He then spent two years as a lecturer at Bristol's International College, teaching students from diverse backgrounds and refining his communication and leadership skills.

Throughout his journey, the values instilled by Ashinaga - empathy, resilience, and a commitment to others - have remained central to Biniyam's work. He regularly organises free computer skills workshops for students in Ethiopia pursuing careers in technology and engineering. One of his mentees has since followed in his footsteps to become an Ashinaga Scholar.

Today, Biniyam is pursuing a master's degree in Computer Science at Yale University, having been awarded a fully funded scholarship for his postgraduate studies. Even amidst the rigours of Ivy League academia, he continues to uplift others. He runs a social media platform with over 19,000 members, sharing life-changing opportunities for scholarships, internships, and leadership programmes. He offers hands - on guidance with application processes, and even mobilises funds to support students whose scholarships fall short.

Biniyam is also the founder of the Albert Tutorial and Volunteerism Centre, an educational nonprofit programme in Ethiopia that provides lessons and distributes learning materials to underserved and low-income students - a powerful example of his commitment to giving back.

This summer, Biniyam is immersed in an intensive Investment Banking course and internship. He will soon begin research at Yale University's Computer Vision Lab, while also teaching Python programming in Yale's summer sessions. In July, he will return to

Ethiopia as Head Teaching Assistant for the AddisCoder 2025 Program - a full-circle moment that reflects his dedication to empowering future innovators.

Biniyam's kokorozashi - his life mission - continues to evolve. He remains deeply committed to bringing electricity to remote areas of Ethiopia, while also exploring off-grid energy solutions in the United States. At the same time, he is delving into ethical challenges in technology, aiming to make machine learning fairer and more inclusive. As a Black student in STEM, Biniyam is acutely aware of the need for representation and justice in the field, and he is determined to help build a more equitable future.

Reflecting on his Ashinaga journey, Biniyam shares, "My Ashinaga journey has been truly transformative. It's where I've found myself, experienced significant personal growth, and developed essential critical thinking and communication skills." For Biniyam, Ashinaga is not just a scholarship - it is a life-changing support system and a community that nurtures leadership and compassion.

Through every step, Biniyam exemplifies the mission of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative: to support young people who have lost one or both parents in becoming the next generation of compassionate leaders. His story is a testament to the power of opportunity, guidance, and a strong sense of purpose. We are proud to walk alongside him on this journey - and inspired by the impact he continues to make, every day.

## Message from the Founder of Ashinaga

This past year, 2024, marked the 10th anniversary of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative. The Ashinaga movement, which has long provided educational support and emotional care for orphaned children in Japan, expanded its efforts internationally after receiving generous donations from around the world during the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995.

In 2001, we established a base in Uganda, initiating learning support and emotional care for orphaned children. By 2014, we broadened our scope to the entire Sub-Saharan Africa region, launching the Ashinaga Africa Initiative with the aim of nurturing future leaders who will contribute to Africa and their communities across various fields.

Ashinaga Africa Initiative Scholars, having endured personal loss and hardship, possess a profound capacity for empathy, resilience, and a determination to create a better society where no one endures the same difficulties they have experienced. Access to education is the key that unlocks their potential, empowering them to spread their wings and make a meaningful impact on the world through their own efforts. Since its inception, the Ashinaga Africa Initiative has provided learning opportunities to 338 talented orphaned students from across Sub-Saharan Africa, enabling them to study at universities around the globe. As of November 2024, 147 of them have successfully graduated from university. Through their experiences at university and Ashinaga's leadership programs, these Scholars have initiated projects and created organizations addressing various challenges across Africa and their home countries. They also act as bridges between their host countries and Africa, spreading the spirit of *onokuri*—the act of paying forward the support they received—to benefit others across the continent.

An ancient Eastern proverb states, "Planning a year ahead, plant flowers; ten years ahead, plant trees; a hundred years ahead, nurture people." Developing leaders requires long-term commitment. In today's complex and turbulent world, nurturing young African leaders who are driven by empathy and a desire to improve society is more important than ever. To continue advancing this mission, we humbly ask for your ongoing support and collaboration. I am happy to see Ashinaga UK's continued work to contribute to this goal.

With our deepest gratitude, we thank you for being a part of this journey.

– Yoshiomi Tamai

# Future

## Our Plans

### Introduction

Our mission is to empower high-achieving, low-income orphaned students with the education, international perspective, skills, connections, and experiences they need to help develop their communities across Africa. We do this through creating scholarships to study at leading UK universities, professional development opportunities, and leadership development programming.

Our overall strategy is to deliver an effective Ashinaga Africa Initiative and expand our scholarship offering in the UK and globally while ensuring sustainability and impact.

### Key Objectives

- Leadership Scholarship Programming:
  - To recruit talented, academically high-achieving orphaned African youth with an ambition to contribute to the African continent.
  - To deliver a high-quality leadership scholarship for Ashinaga Scholars to thrive academically, professionally and personally as they aim to make a significant contribution to the African continent.
- Partnerships & Fundraising:
  - Our aim is to secure diverse sources of partnerships and funding to create new scholarships and initiatives as we work towards achieving our mission of empowering orphaned youth.
- Operations:
  - To continue to improve operational efficiency by employing AI tools and robust systems that allow resources to be focused on our beneficiaries.

Given our partnerships with the University of York and University of Warwick and the creation of 59 scholarships between 2021 and 2028, we are aiming for all incoming Scholars to attend one of these universities. These partnerships have drastically reduced our cost per scholarship.

We will continue to encourage Scholars to take advantage of universities' provision of leadership and professional skills resources and opportunities, allowing us to focus our support on Scholar engagement with sub-Saharan Africa. We will aim to further increase the voice of Scholars in our programming.

## Join the Movement!

We don't think of ourselves as just a charity, but a *movement* of people and organisations paying kindness forward and investing in talented orphaned youth.

Together, we can empower a new generation of leaders for Africa.

### Ways to get Involved

- **Financial Sponsorship**

Both one-off and regular donations whether from individuals, corporations or other supporters help advance our mission to empower future African leaders by providing access to international education and leadership training.

- **Employee Engagement and Event Sponsorship**

We aim to support our Scholars to be workforce-ready and equipped for leadership roles in both industry and society. We invite corporations and professionals alike to work directly with Ashinaga Scholars through mentoring, providing internship opportunities, or hosting one of our Scholar-facing events.

- **Gifts in-kind**

Pro-bono support, training, access to resources, or donating items such as laptops and professional services are important ways that organisations and individuals can support our work.

To find out how you can support our work, and join the Ashinaga movement, contact us at [partnerships.uk@ashinaga.org](mailto:partnerships.uk@ashinaga.org)

# About

## **Our History and Philosophy**

Ashinaga provides access to education and support to orphaned youth worldwide.

There are approximately 147 million orphaned children in the world. Losing a parent can remove all sense of stability and safety from a child's life, impacting their schoolwork and severely limiting their future potential. We enable orphaned children to stay in education, develop skills, overcome their emotional challenges, and become leaders for their communities.

We have supported orphaned youth since the 1960s, beginning in Japan but now working all over the world. Each year, we provide access to education and emotional care to more than 8,600 students in Japan, 1,000 in Uganda and Senegal, and around 130 across the African continent.

Our support includes scholarships – ranging from primary to post-graduate education – emotional care, and skills training. Emotional care is delivered through multiple programs, including social clubs and access to psychotherapists. The social clubs help children cope with their grief through sharing, play, art, sports, and music.

## **A Global, People Powered Movement**

Many of our fundraisers and staff members were once Ashinaga students, keen to help the next generation. The majority of our funding comes from individual donations – thousands of people giving what they can – with the rest from organisations keen to be part of our people-powered movement.

Ashinaga UK was established in 2017 to deliver the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) through UK universities and organisations. Ashinaga also has regional offices in Japan, Brazil, the United States, France, Uganda, and Senegal. These offices deliver the AAI in their respective countries and run separate programs to support orphaned youth nationally and locally.

## Purpose

### As Set out in Governing Document

The charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

- a. advancing the education of Orphans<sup>1</sup> anywhere in the world but in particular, sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) including (but without limitation) by:
  - i. providing scholarships, grants and loans to Orphans to meet expenses associated with education (including course fees, travel and maintenance and subsistence expenses);
  - ii. providing educational and professional guidance and mentoring, emotional and moral support to Orphans;
- b. supporting community and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) by supporting and facilitating Orphans' education with a view to:
  - i. developing their leadership skills and capacity;
  - ii. fostering enthusiasm and tolerance, individual and community self-confidence, and engendering respect for individuality, difference and the importance of teamwork; and
  - iii. using their education and skills to the benefit of their communities (whether national, regional or local) within sub-Saharan Africa;
- c. the prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) by providing or assisting in the provision of education and training; and
- d. such other exclusively charitable purposes as the directors may from time to time think fit.

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<sup>1</sup> "Orphans" means a young adult (and, if the trustees think fit and so determine, a child who is under 18 years of age) who has a parent who has died or who is reasonably believed to be long-term missing.

## Our Trustees in 2024-25

### **Saul Tendler**

Professor Saul Tendler is the Chair of the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees, having first joined the Board in October 2022. Professor Tendler was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the University of York from 2015-2023. He gained a BSc in Pharmacy at the University of Manchester and a PhD from the University of Aston. He was a Medical Research Council Training Fellow at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, before being appointed to a Lectureship at the University of Nottingham. He was subsequently promoted to Professor of Biophysical Chemistry and then headed Nottingham's School of Pharmacy, before being appointed a Pro-Vice-Chancellor. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and was designated a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

### **Kimeshan Naidoo**

Kimeshan Naidoo is a South African computer scientist and technology entrepreneur. He is Co-Founder of Unibuddy and was the CTO at BX. Naidoo graduated from the University of Cape Town with a BSc Electrical Engineering degree. He moved to the United Kingdom in 2015 and graduated with an MSc Computer Science from University College London. He was featured on the Forbes 30 under 30 Europe list in 2020.

### **Nashina Asaria**

Nashina Asaria, born in Kenya, was Chief Product & Marketing Officer for Nanthealth. Nashina received financial support to study her BSc at the London School of Economics and has maintained business and personal ties with the African continent throughout her career. Prior to Nanthealth, she was CPMO of UpHealth Inc and was Chief Product Officer at Cloudbreak Health LLC. Nashina has extensive leadership, Board, and Advisory experience, having held roles at Nantworks, Verifone, Qualcomm, as well as at South Africa-based LifeQ.

### **'Funmi Olonisakin**

Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin joined the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees in August 2020. Professor Olonisakin is Vice-President and Vice-Principal International and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King's College London, where she founded the African Leadership Centre. She was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, as one of seven members of the Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. Professor Olonisakin also

serves on the board of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and chairs the Africa Regional Advisory Committee of the Open Society Foundation.

### **Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier**

Noriko Carpentier-Tominaga joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Noriko is also a board member of the Ashinaga Foundation. Based in Paris, Noriko works to strengthen French-Japanese economic relationships as Deleegue Generale of the Comite d'Echanges Franco-Japonais. Working with companies seeking broader and deeper connections, Noriko cares about the interests of each of them and tries to offer a variety of activities to facilitate them developing their business. Noriko's focus for Ashinaga is to support the development of professional opportunities for alumni to enable them to contribute to African development.

### **Alex Wagikuyu**

Alex is a 2015 Ashinaga Scholar from Kenya. He pursued his bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science, and Master's in Finance at Clark University in the USA. Currently, he works at Bank of America's Operations division in London. Alex is passionate about creating a positive change in the African continent and is a committed volunteer and supporter of non-profit organisations promoting African development through education. Alex joined the board in March 2025.

### **Yoshiomi Tamai**

Yoshiomi Tamai joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Yoshiomi Tamai is the founder and president of the Ashinaga Foundation. After losing his mother in a traffic accident over fifty years ago, he became passionate about working to support the educational and emotional needs of orphans who lost their parents in traffic accidents. He founded an organisation, Ashinaga, that gave scholarships to these orphans before extending the support to all children who have lost one or both parents. Tamai's work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Global Fundraising award and, most recently, the Goto Shinpei award.

### **Yukie Seki**

Yukie Seki has been on the Board of Ashinaga Association in the UK since February 2017. Yukie works as the Secretary General of the Ashinaga Foundation, where she is also a member of the board, with responsibility for international activities. Before

joining Ashinaga, Yukie worked at Hewlett Packard as the Business Manager and Corporate Director.

### **Pablo Pérez Abella**

Pablo Pérez Abella has over 30 years' experience as an investment banker, having worked with Nomura, Merrill Lynch, Daiwa and SMBC. He was also a Managing Director at Karson Management Bermuda Ltd, a fintech company, but left in August 2024 to start his own tech venture. Pablo is a board member of Lutob Investment Ltd, a family office managing nearly EUR 100 million in assets. Pablo also served as Business Development Director and an Advisory Board Member for a Formula 1 website, advising on structuring a successful exit and sale to Bernie Ecclestone and Formula One Management.

### **Jordan McFarlane**

Jordan McFarlane is Managing Director of Ashinaga UK. He has 9 years of experience in the charity sector, working in the UK and Canada. After joining Ashinaga UK in 2019, Jordan has led several projects including the development of leadership programming to facilitate Scholars' social impact proposals, recruitment into UK universities, and the transformation of operations to achieve the charity's mission effectively.

### **Osamu Murata**

Osamu Murata joined the board of Ashinaga UK in December 2024. He also serves as a board member and Deputy President of Ashinaga Foundation, overseeing the organization as a whole. He earned his PhD in Economics from Kwansei Gakuin University, where he later served as Dean of the School of Economics before becoming President for three consecutive terms (nine years in total). He is now an Emeritus Professor at the university. Beyond academia, Murata has played a key role in shaping government policy, serving on the Central Council for Education and the National University Corporation Evaluation Committee under Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. He is also a member of the Children and Families Agency's committee on child poverty and single-parent support. His published works include *The Economic Analysis of University Education*, among others.

### **Board and Committee Meetings**

During the financial year, the Board of Trustees met on four occasions, ensuring the strategic direction and governance of the charity were effectively overseen. The board of trustee meetings took place in June 2024, September 2025 (in-person), December 2025 and March 2025, with an attendance rate of approximately 79%.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Our Governing Document

Ashinaga Association in the UK is registered as a private company, limited by guarantee (10634278), and with the Charities Commission (1183750). Our governing document is our Articles of Association. This document is available from Companies House.

### How Our Organisation is Constituted

Ashinaga Association in the UK works closely with the Ashinaga Foundation, based in Japan, and the Ashinaga offices in Uganda, Senegal, France, the USA, and Brazil. The Ashinaga Foundation has provided seed-funding for these offices, including our own, to undertake their work and to establish a self-sustaining model over time. Yoshiomi Tamai, a UK board member, is the founder of the Ashinaga Foundation. Osamu Murata, Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier and Yukie Seki are also members of both the UK and Japanese boards.

Day-to-day managerial responsibility is delegated to the Managing Director.

Ashinaga is also a member of the HALI (High-Achieving Low-Income) Access Network. The HALI Access Network is an association of non-profit organizations in Africa that support high-achieving, low-income (HALI) students to access international higher education opportunities. HALI strives to level the playing field in international education to increase inclusion, access and scholarship support for remarkable students who only lack finances to make their educational dreams come true. HALI believes in the power of education to change communities, and in the impact our students have on college and university campuses.

### Methods for Recruiting and Appointing New Trustees, Including Any Constitutional Provisions

The trustees of the charity shall be as follows:

- up to five persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by ordinary resolution;
- up to two persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by Ashinaga Japan from time to time by written notice to the charity;
- up to two persons with expertise, knowledge, or connections of particular value to the charity in furthering its objects (willing to act as trustees) appointed by trustees; and
- up to two persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by the trustees from time to time.

The Board regularly reviews the skills present within its members, and where any gaps lie, and works with the Ashinaga Foundation to ensure the effectiveness of the makeup of the Board. Full details of the appointment process may be found in our Articles of Association.

Training is offered on a continual basis to all Trustees to assist them in their role and governance of the Charity.

## Reference and Administrative Details

**Name:**

Ashinaga Association in the UK

**Company number:**

10634278

**Charity registration number:**

1183750

**Address and registered office:**

13/14 Cornwall Terrace,  
Outer Circle  
London  
NW1 4QP  
UK

**Trustees during the year and to the Date of Report Submission:**

Professor Saul Tendler  
Pablo Pérez Abella (appointed 14 May 2024)  
Nashina Asaria (appointed 13 May 2024)  
Kimeshan Naidoo (appointed 9 May 2024)  
Jordan McFarlane  
Suzan Kilamile (resigned 4 December 2024)  
Alex Wagikuyu (appointed 4 March 2025)  
Osamu Murata (appointed 4 December 2024)  
Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin  
Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier  
Yoshiomi Tamai (until 5 July 2025)  
Yukie Seki

**Managing Director:**

Jordan McFarlane

**Bankers:**

Barclays Bank  
1 Churchill Place  
London  
E14 5HP

**Solicitors:**

Herbert Smith Freehills  
Exchange House  
Primrose Street  
London  
EC2A 2EG

**Accountants:**

Sidikies  
1 Sun Street  
London  
EC2A 2EP

**Auditors:**

Moore Kingston Smith LLP  
The Shipping Building  
The Old Vinyl Factory  
Blyth Road  
Hayes  
London  
UB3 1HA

## Financial Review

Ashinaga Association in the UK achieved all its key targets for the 2024–2025 fiscal year. 2024-2025 is the last year, under our existing university partnerships, that we will pay for university tuition fees. The tuition discounts and waivers we received this year amounted to over £700,000, the largest amount recorded.

The trustees regularly consider and evaluate the risks and uncertainties the charity faces. The board wish to thank staff members for their dedication and hard work to deliver the programme in the UK; the board are very supportive of what the charity has achieved.

A budget for 2025–2026 has been agreed with the Ashinaga Foundation, who will support our activities on an ongoing basis. This support includes a commitment to provide the financial support the organisation needs for at least 12 months from the date of sign-off of these financial statements. For the 2025-2026 financial year, whilst the majority of our budget is generously met by the Ashinaga Foundation, £17,565.97 of this year's leadership programming budget was raised from our 2024 Big Give Christmas Campaign.

Remuneration of staff members is reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income, expenditure and financial activities of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

The Trustees' Report is signed on behalf of the Board

Signed by:  
  
.....4FD589891274418.....

Professor Saul Tandler

Trustee

Date: 18/12/2025

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Ashinaga Association in the UK for the period ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable laws and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from preparing a Strategic Report.

### Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 36, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

### **Our approach was as follows:**

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.


# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken for no purpose other than to draw to the attention of the company's members those matters which we are required to include in an auditor's report addressed to them. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the company and company's members as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed by:  
  
FCD9CBB6D33940F...  
**James Saunders**  
Senior Statutory Auditor  
For and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor

20/12/2025

The Shipping Building  
The Old Vinyl Factory  
Blyth Road  
Hayes, London  
UB3 1HA

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2025 (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donated services					
In kind support		20,254	-	20,254	18,333
Donations		2,612	584,248	586,860	683,811
Other income		70	-	70	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>22,936</b>	<b>584,248</b>	<b>607,184</b>	<b>702,144</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Fundraising activities		-	29,145	29,145	29,695
Charitable activities					
Student support	<b>2</b>	20,254	275,688	295,942	457,615
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>20,254</b>	<b>304,833</b>	<b>325,087</b>	<b>487,310</b>
<b>Net movement income/(expenditure) and Net movement in funds</b>		<b>2,682</b>	<b>279,415</b>	<b>282,097</b>	<b>214,834</b>
Transfers		-	-	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Fund Balance brought forward At 1 April 2024		69,427	(1,775,554)	(1,706,127)	(1,920,961)
<b>Fund balance carried forward At 31 March 2025</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>72,109</b>	<b>(1,496,139)</b>	<b>(1,424,030)</b>	<b>(1,706,127)</b>

There were no recognised gains or losses during the year other than the movements shown above.  
All the above results derive from continuing activities.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts.

## Ashinaga Association in the UK

Balance Sheet  
As at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	5		-		496
					496
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors and prepayments	6	109,384		116,677	
Cash at bank		123,384		108,150	
		232,768		224,827	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	7	(296,921)		(282,316)	
Net Current Assets			(64,153)		(57,489)
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			(64,153)		(56,993)
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>	8		(1,359,877)		(1,649,134)
<b>Total Net Liabilities</b>			<u>(1,424,030)</u>		<u>(1,706,127)</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>					
General Unrestricted Funds	11	72,109		69,427	
Restricted Funds	11	(1,496,139)		(1,775,554)	
			(1,424,030)		(1,706,127)
			<u>(1,424,030)</u>		<u>(1,706,127)</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 18/12/2025 ..... 2025.

Signed by:

*Saul Tendler*

4FD589891274418  
**Professor Saul Tendler**  
Director

Company registration number: 10634278 (England and Wales)

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash absorbed by operations	14		15,234		(1,246)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			15,234		(1,246)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			108,150		109,396
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>123,384</u>		<u>108,150</u>

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2025

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### 1 Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The incorporated private company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity (charity number 1183750) established as a company limited by guarantee (company number 10634278) and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. The company's registered office address is 13/14 Cornwall Terrace, Outer Circle, Marylebone, London, NW1 4QP.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

#### 1.2 Going concern

The charitable company generated a surplus of £282,097 in the year ended 31 March 2025, and had net liabilities of £1,424,030 at the balance sheet date. The key element of the net liabilities position is committed donations to Universities of £1,672,365, which will be payable over several years. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these commitments on behalf of the charitable company.

A confirmation has been received from Ashinaga Foundation in Japan that it will continue to financially support Ashinaga Association in the UK for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. Donations from Ashinaga in Japan has been the primary source of income for the charity. As a result the directors believe that the charitable company will be able to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. Accordingly, the company has adopted the going concern basis of accounting.

#### 1.3 Income

All income in the Statement of Financial Activities is shown gross of the associated costs and is accounted for where there is entitlement to the income, it is probable that the benefits associated with it will flow to the charitable company and it can be reliably measured.

In kind support is recognised as income when the following criteria are met:

- Entitlement – Control over the expected economic benefits that flow from the donation has passed to the charity and any performance related conditions attached to the donation have been fully met.
- Probable – It is more likely than not that the economic benefits associated with the donated item will flow to the charity.
- Measurement – The fair value or value to the charity of the donated item can be measured reliably.

#### 1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been allocated on the bases indicated below:

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the company and are primarily associated with constitutional compliance and statutory requirements.

Costs are allocated to direct expenditure where they relate directly to the pursuit of the objectives. Non specific administrative costs are allocated to other expenditure.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2025

---

### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

All expenditure is presented inclusive of irrecoverable VAT which is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### 1.5 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets anticipated to have a useful life extending beyond the period end are capitalised and included at cost. Depreciation is provided on fixed assets at rates which will write off the cost of the assets over their useful effective lives on a straight line basis.

The effective lives are:

Furniture and fixtures	- 5 years
Office equipment	- 3 years
Computer equipment	- 3 years

#### 1.6 Investments

Realised and unrealised gains and losses are added to or deducted from the appropriate fund in the Balance Sheet.

#### 1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with bank, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and loans from fellow group companies are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.

#### 1.9 Foreign Currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.10 Restricted funds

These are funds which must be used in accordance with the particular terms specified by the donors.

#### 1.11 Unrestricted Funds

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

#### 1.12 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Government grants are recognised as income over the periods when the related costs are incurred.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2025

### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

#### 1.13 Judgements and key sources of estimation purposes

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future

There are not considered to be any critical judgements or key sources of estimation which have a significant impact upon the financial statements, apart from the decision to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis as mentioned above.

<b>2 Student support</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Direct expenditure (note 3 (a))	209,708	341,669
Support costs (note 3(b))	86,234	115,946
	<u>295,942</u>	<u>457,615</u>
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>3 (a) Direct expenditure</b>		
Housing, subsistence and living costs	57,445	93,574
Other living services	152,263	248,095
	<u>209,708</u>	<u>341,669</u>
<b>(b) Support Costs</b>		
Staff costs	46,254	43,694
Rent	10,600	14,905
Advertising	20,254	17,051
Venue hire	100	100
Travel and subsistence	1,676	860
Stationary	70	59
Telephone and internet	352	704
Computer equipment	2,025	1,277
Cleaning	90	
Repairs and maintenance	-	95
Insurance	1,724	1,545
Recruitment	1,279	299
Training	-	1,683
Bank charges	368	180
Legal and professional	12,550	15,001
Entertainment	252	
Bad debt	(32,372)	
Depreciation	496	850
Sundry expenses	53	26
Governance costs (see below)	20,463	17,617
	<u>86,234</u>	<u>115,946</u>

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2025

<b>(c) Governance Costs</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs	3,273	1,089
Auditor's remuneration:		
- for audit services	11,750	11,532
- for prior year under accrued audit services	3,140	2,368
- for non audit services	2,300	2,628
	<u>20,463</u>	<u>17,617</u>

<b>4 Staff Costs</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	141,515	154,954
Social Security costs	9,982	11,555
Pension costs	8,941	9,108
	<u>160,438</u>	<u>175,617</u>

The average monthly number of persons employed by the charitable company during the year was as follows : -

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Administration	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

No employees were paid in excess of £60,000.

The total amount of key management remuneration received by key management personnel for their services to the charity in the year was £67,486 (2024: £78,661).

Two trustees have been paid remuneration from employment with the charitable company. They only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the role of Managing Director under their contracts of employment. This arrangement has been as allowed by the governing document and as notified to the Charity Commission on charity registration. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

Jordan McFarlane:                      Remuneration £55,000-£60,000 (2024: £50,000-£55,000)  
Employer's pension contributions £0-£5,000 (2024: £0-£5,000)

Dr Michael Rivera King:                Remuneration £0-£0 (2024: £10,000-£15,000)  
Employer's pension contributions £0-£0 (2024: £0-£5,000)

No trustee had expenses reimbursed in the current year (2024: None)

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2025

## 5 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Furniture and Fixtures	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Total
<b>Cost</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 April 2024	709	11,078	263	12,050
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposal	-	(2,858)	-	(2,858)
At 31 March 2025	<u>709</u>	<u>8,220</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>9,192</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2024	(709)	(10,582)	(263)	(11,554)
Charge for the year	-	(496)	-	(496)
Eliminated on Disposal	-	2,858	-	2,858
At 31 March 2025	<u>(709)</u>	<u>(8,220)</u>	<u>(263)</u>	<u>(9,192)</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 1 April 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>496</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>496</u>

## 6 Debtors and Prepayments

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	108,489	112,492
Other debtors	895	4,185
	<u>109,384</u>	<u>116,677</u>

## 7 Current Liabilities

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	3,186	761
Other creditors	276,930	263,340
Accruals	16,805	18,215
	<u>296,921</u>	<u>282,316</u>

## 8 Non-current Liabilities

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors (note 10)	<u>1,359,877</u>	<u>1,649,134</u>

## 9 Retirement benefit schemes

### Defined contribution schemes

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independent administered

The charge to the income and expenditure account in respect of defined contribution schemes was £8,941 (2024: £9,108).

The balance outstanding at the year end in respect of defined contribution schemes was £nil (2024: £nil).

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2025

### 10 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

At the year end, the charitable company had made a financial and pastoral commitment to support a number of students studying in the UK for the rest of the academic year. This financial commitment was estimated to be £7,000 (2024: £56,046).

In 2020-2021 the charitable company signed partnership agreements with the University of York and University of Warwick. Under these agreements the charitable company has agreed to provide restricted grants to the universities, to be used to provide stipends to AAI Scholars over the period. These liabilities were taken on after a full discussion with the Ashinaga Foundation, as the major donor to Ashinaga UK, on the impact of this on the charitable company's budget. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these grants on behalf of the charitable company.

### 11 Funds

	Balance Brought Forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance Carried Forward £
Unrestricted funds	69,427	22,936	(20,254)	-	72,109
Restricted funds:					
Healthcare students	13,387	-	(13,387)	-	-
Joint campaigns	981	-	(981)	-	-
Scholars fund	121,565	566,820	(565,152)	-	123,233
AAI - Big Give 2024	-	17,428	-	-	17,428
Partnership agreements	(1,911,487)	-	274,687	-	(1,636,800)
	<u>(1,775,554)</u>	<u>584,248</u>	<u>(304,833)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,496,139)</u>
Total funds	<u>(1,706,127)</u>	<u>607,184</u>	<u>(325,087)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,424,030)</u>

Unrestricted funds are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Healthcare students fund is for the funding and support of Healthcare students.

Joint Campaigns fund is for joint campaigns covering both Senegal and Uganda initiatives.

Scholars fund and AAI Restricted - Big Give 2024 is for the support of AAI scholars.

Partnership agreements fund represents the grant commitments relating to the partnership agreements referred to in note 10.

The transfer of funds represents a reassessment of funds from previous years which are considered to have been specified and restricted for scholar activities.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2025

### 12 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets and liabilities	72,109	(136,262)	(64,153)
Non-current liabilities	-	(1,359,877)	(1,359,877)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>72,109</u>	<u>(1,496,139)</u>	<u>(1,424,030)</u>

The deficit on restricted funds will be met by future funding from Ashinaga Foundation, the ultimate controlling party.

### 13 Operating lease commitments

#### Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating leases expiring:		
Within one year	<u>550</u>	<u>1,250</u>

### 14 Related party transactions

Ashinaga Foundation (Ashinaga) is a not-for-profit organisation based in Japan, which has ultimate control over the company. Ashinaga's corporation number is 0100-05-028962. Its registered office is Main Office 2-7-5 Sabou Kaikan Hirakawa-cho Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, Japan. During the year Ashinaga Foundation made donations to the charity of £565,982 (2024: £663,481). Ashinaga Foundation has also underwritten the grant commitments as referred to in note 10.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2025

## 14 Cash generated from operations

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Surplus for the year	282,097	214,834
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	496	850
<b>Movements in working capital</b>		
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	7,293	5,793
Decrease in creditors	(274,652)	(222,723)
<b>Cash absorbed by operations</b>	<u>15,234</u>	<u>(1,246)</u>

**ASHINAGA ASSOCIATION IN THE UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183750

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# Accounts

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# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024



Company Number: 10634278  
Registered Charity Number: 1183750

## Trustees’ Annual Report and Accounts

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## Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Over the 2023-24 fiscal year, Ashinaga UK has supported 32 Scholars, 5 of whom graduated in the summer of 2023. This brings the total number of undergraduate scholarships we have funded to 63.

We take great pride in how our leadership programming empowers our beneficiaries to thrive academically, design innovative solutions to real-life issues in their communities, and gain the key skills needed to excel in their future careers. Without a doubt, our Scholars demonstrate an outstanding commitment to impacting societies across sub-Saharan Africa. One example is Mohamed, who has formalised his education non-profit organisation, and has expanded his work to support over 50 school children in Sierra Leone. Over the last year, Scholars have also taken part in outstanding internship and volunteering opportunities, such as at a government agency, tech companies, and social impact organisations.

We are incredibly proud of our partnerships with the University of Warwick and the University of York, who have both demonstrated a major commitment to supporting the Ashinaga Africa Initiative's mission by contributing 100% of the tuition fees for Ashinaga Scholars up to and including our 2028 entrants. The 59 scholarship opportunities created through these partnerships will allow for improved student support, greater financial sustainability, and increased awareness of Ashinaga UK within the sector.

Looking to the future, our goal is to raise additional support from like-minded organisations and individuals who can partner with us to empower many more young leaders from sub-Saharan Africa. A severely weakened Japanese Yen, the currency basis of many generous donors, and pressure on the UK's Higher Education sector to cut costs, have created a greater need for us to secure Pound Sterling funding partnerships to guarantee long-term sustainability.

Ashinaga UK Scholars would not have the opportunities available to them without the generous support of universities, corporations, foundations and the public alike. If you want to learn more about our work and how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to reach out. By supporting our Scholars, you are investing in future 'Young Leaders for Africa' who are working towards making a significant impact in their communities.

– Professor Saul Tendler

# Activity

## Highlights from March 2023 – March 2024

### SCHOLARS

- 80% achieved a 2:1 or higher, with 40% achieving a 1<sup>st</sup>, in their final degree classifications.
- 90% of Scholars were at a top 500 university (THE).

A Scholar was selected for UNLEASH Rwanda, the very first Innovation Lab for the Sustainable Development Goals organized on the African continent. Alongside 1000 young changemakers from 136 nationalities, they got together in Kigali during the first week of December 2023, where they co-created solutions for the most pressing challenges that our planet is facing.

Another Scholar had the unique opportunity to welcome University of York International Pathway College partners from around the globe, delivering presentations on the student experience. She actively participated in focus groups to enhance international student experiences in Kaplan Pathways and joined the Kaplan Pathways Student Board, showcasing her commitment to improving student life.

A third Scholar was accepted onto the Monash SEED Global Think Tank, a programme which connects students around the world to tackle global social impact issues. She secured second place in her pitch competition to an international panel of judges and was the only 1<sup>st</sup> year student to be shortlisted among the top 3 winners.

### GRADUATES

- All 2023 Graduates have secured jobs after leaving university.
- Class of 2023 Graduates are working in various professions, including as Data Analyst, a solicitor in a Law Firm, and a research assistant at King's College London.
- One Graduate also started her own business selling homemade crafts in Botswana, her home country.

## PARTNERSHIPS

- Ashinaga UK was nominated for a Student Support PIONEER award with the University of Bristol for the Think Big Development Programme.
- We signed a renewed MOU with Royal Holloway, University of London for an increased tuition fee discount of 60%. The University of Portsmouth has renewed our MOU for a 20% tuition fee discount.
- Herbert Smith Freehills generously donated to support Ashinaga Scholars in the UK, helping them develop into future leaders for Africa.

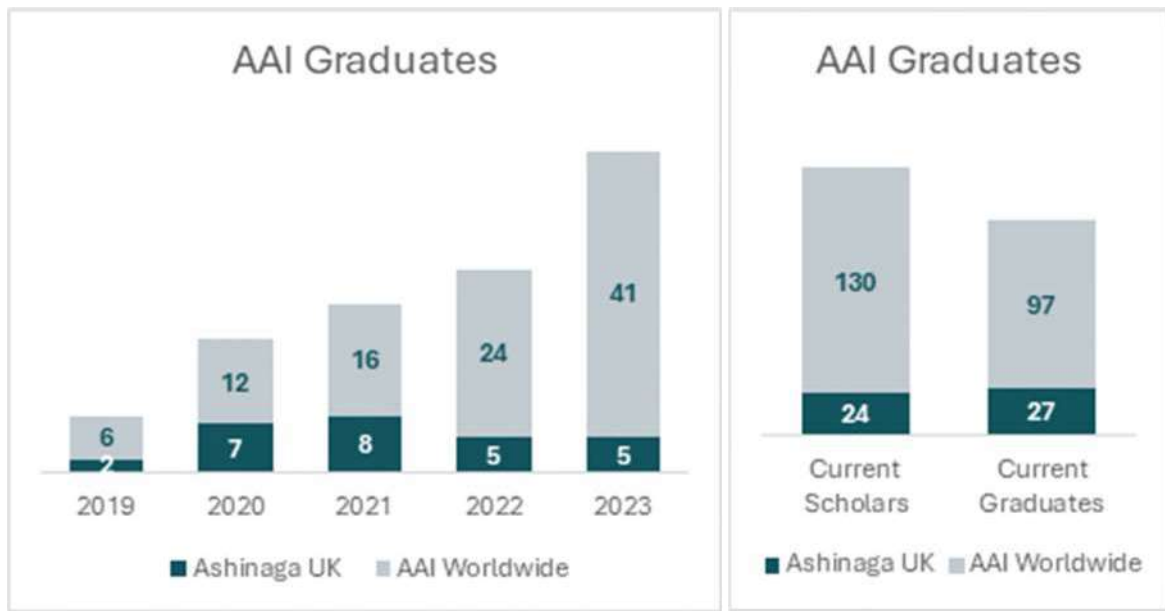
## ACROSS THE AAI

- 154 Current Scholars.
- 124 Graduates.
- 40 Graduate Initiatives benefiting Africa.

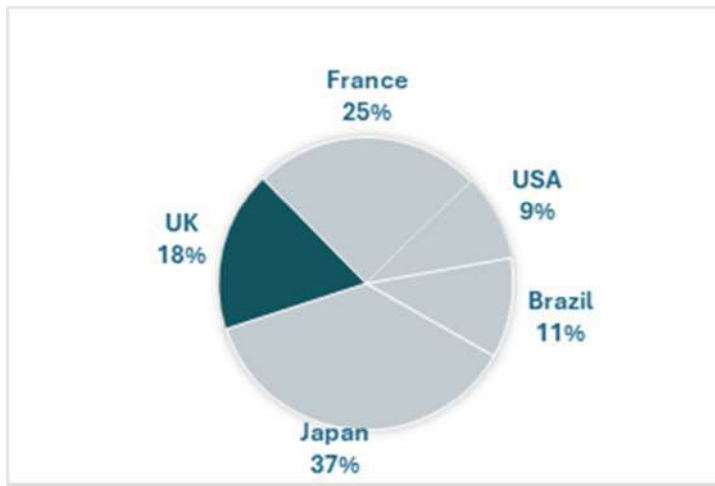
## GOVERNANCE

- Following the sad and untimely death of Sir Eric Thomas, Saul Tendler became the Chair of the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees. Michael Rivera King stepped down as CEO in June 2023. Jordan McFarlane became Managing Director and joined the board.

## 2023-24 SCHOLARS AND GRADUATES



## AAI SCHOLARS IN 2023



**Ashinaga UK delivers the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) through partnerships with UK universities.** The AAI is a leadership development programme that cultivates tomorrow's leaders from today's most disadvantaged.

Talented, high potential orphaned youth are recruited across 49 African countries and go on to study at top universities in Japan, Brazil, France, the UK, and the USA. The AAI provides financial support for international university degrees, along with leadership training and support to develop Scholars into compassionate change-makers.

Our final goal is not just the Scholars' education, but that through education and training Scholars will initiate change, innovation, and development in Africa.

## Glossary

Although we are a UK charity, we use two Japanese words in our leadership development programming. These are taken from Ashinaga Foundation in Japan, where they have been used for decades in our global mission to support orphaned youth, and have no direct translations into English.

Kokorozashi (志): a heartfelt dream to help others and generate positive change.

Tsudoi (つどい): our annual leadership camp for all UK Scholars. Other Ashinaga offices hold *tsudoi* throughout the year for their own Scholars.

## **In Memoriam: Professor Sir Eric Thomas**

Professor Sir Eric Thomas FMedSci sadly passed away on 10 November 2023, after a brief illness. He was integral to the foundation and success of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative, and an active, impactful trustee of Ashinaga UK from 2018 up until his passing.

As trustee for Ashinaga UK, Sir Eric was instrumental in helping Ashinaga establish itself as a UK-registered charity and form partnerships with universities.

In addition to his work supporting Ashinaga, Sir Eric had a profound philanthropical impact in the UK. He chaired the Government Taskforce into increasing voluntary donations to Higher Education, and the resulting Thomas Report, written by Sir Eric, provided a road map for universities to strengthen their fundraising programmes.

Through Ashinaga's deep relationship with Sir Eric, we have been able to empower many future leaders for Africa. His care for student wellbeing and for the success of our programme was always evident and his input and wisdom will be greatly missed.

## Summary of Main Activities

### Summer 2023

#### Leadership Development Opportunities

Each summer, Ashinaga UK provides funding for Scholars based on eligible leadership development activities. Eligible activities included internships in either sub-Saharan Africa or the UK, and further study. The purpose of this supplementary funding is to empower Scholars' professional skills development and support them to gain experience that they can utilise in their academics and future career. In summer 2023:

- 9 Scholars took part in internships in sub-Saharan Africa, including at Lesotho's National Electricity company, Volkswagen, the Rwandan government agriculture department and an Ed-tech company.
- 12 Scholars visited sub-Saharan Africa in total.
- 2 Scholars took part in internships from the UK.

### September 2023

#### Welcoming New Scholars to the UK

In September, Ashinaga UK proudly welcomed six Scholars to two prestigious institutions in the UK: the University of York and the University of Warwick. This year marked a significant improvement in the arrival experience for our Scholars, with no reported issues related to entering the UK, documentation, flights, or travelling from the airport to their respective universities. Our team works hard to ensure a smooth transition for Ashinaga Scholars starting university in the UK.

Our orientation program has undergone significant evolution over the years, resulting in a streamlined one-day event designed to provide essential information and support to new Scholars as they settle into university. The Ashinaga UK team takes great care in organising a comprehensive welcome, ensuring that new arrivals feel well-supported.

A key feature of our orientation is the active participation from both current Scholars and University staff. Their involvement has been crucial in offering new Scholars a warm welcome and practical advice during the 'settling-in' and introductory session. By enhancing our orientation programme, we were able to ensure that each Scholar's journey began on a positive and reassuring note. By building close partnerships with the University of York and the University of Warwick, we have been able to signpost to many resources that may be relevant to our Scholars. Both universities hold comprehensive student orientation programmes, meaning our Scholars should be well equipped with information on how to access resources and opportunities that will enable to them to thrive.

Additionally, during Scholars' first year in the UK, the Ashinaga UK student support team facilitates numerous workshops to support Scholars as they become accustomed to life as international students in the UK and start this new phase of their Ashinaga Africa Initiative journey. These workshops focus on themes such as financial management, wellbeing, and making an impact in Africa. They also provided a vital platform for Scholars to share experiences, learn from one another, and build a cohesive community. By addressing diverse and relevant topics, the sessions ensure that Scholars were well-equipped to navigate their first year in the UK and beyond. The ongoing support and collective learning environment created through these meetings have been instrumental in enhancing the overall Scholar experience, promoting both individual and group growth.

## December 2023

### ***Tsudoi* (Our Annual Leadership Camp)**

Each year, *tsudoi* brings Ashinaga UK Scholars together for a transformative experience focused on leadership development and reinforcing their *kokorozashi*, a Japanese term meaning "heartfelt mission" or life ambition to help others. This 3-day leadership camp was held from December 18th to 20th, 2023, at the University of York. For the third consecutive year, the University of York generously granted us free access to its campus facilities and a venue, providing an ideal space for the event.

The 2023 *tsudoi* centred on the theme "Making an Impact in Africa," marking a significant milestone, as Ashinaga UK Scholars took a significant lead in organising the event. This initiative provided Scholars with valuable experience in event management and allowed them to tailor the programme to their aspirations and needs. Notably, a graduate facilitated a session for the first time, adding a new dimension of peer-to-peer learning.

The event saw participation from four staff members and 22 Scholars, with sessions led by distinguished external guests, including Hammed Kayode Alabi, a non-profit leader and social entrepreneur; Victoria Ibiwoye, founder of One African Child; and Oluwatoyin Opeloyeru, a mental health wellbeing specialist. These experts delivered high-quality sessions on critical themes relevant to African Scholars, such as thriving in the UK as an African, African affairs (looking at colonialism and western liberalism), and mental health wellbeing.

Additionally, the *tsudoi* featured skills-centered workshops on fundraising and social entrepreneurship, storytelling, and the Ashinaga Proposal. These workshops provided practical tools and insights, further enhancing the Scholars' ability to make a meaningful impact.

## Throughout the Year

### Supporting Scholars

Throughout the year, Ashinaga UK maintained a robust support system for our Scholars through regular check-ins. With a dedicated focus on supporting Scholars to meet Ashinaga UK's mission of empowering leadership potential whilst encouraging resourcefulness and independence, we ensured that each of our 25 Scholars took part in regular check-in calls with assigned student support staff. Our approach is to coach Scholars and these sessions were designed to provide comprehensive support across several key areas.

Firstly, academic progress was a primary emphasis, where we focused on students' university studies, provided guidance on study strategies, and signposted them on university resources to enhance their learning experiences. Additionally, personal development was a crucial component, as we encouraged students to reflect on their goals, build resilience, and develop essential life skills.

Professional development was another critical area of focus. Our coaching check-ins included guidance on securing internship opportunities, building professional networks, and developing their Ashinaga proposal.

Overall, the monthly check-ins have been instrumental in supporting our Scholars' academic achievements, personal skill development, and professional aspirations.

### Helping Scholars Complete Their Research (“Ashinaga Proposals”)

In alignment with our mission to foster leadership and social impact across sub-Saharan Africa, all Ashinaga UK Scholars are expected to submit a well-researched social change project proposal, known as the Ashinaga Proposal, by the end of their scholarship. Throughout their time on the AAI, Scholars complete activities involving research into self-identified community issues and network building, before proposing an implementable and innovative solution.

We support each Scholar as they gain in-depth knowledge of their identified community issues and as they work to propose well-rounded solutions. Support includes coaching Scholars through roadblocks to their research and solutions and offering feedback as they develop SMART solutions. A 6-step workbook framework guides Scholars to develop solutions through an ‘advocacy’ or top-down perspective, or a ‘social entrepreneurship’ or bottom-up perspective.

This year Scholars have been working on issues related to agricultural mechanisation, renewable energy, equality, financial inclusion, and raising awareness with regards to diseases and healthcare.

Overall, we aim for the support given to Scholars in the development of their proposals to boost their confidence in their ambitions to make an impact, build networks, gain key research skills and improve presentation skills. We are proud to see some Scholars seeking external platforms to secure funding for further research and development of their proposals.

### **Signposting to University Resources**

Our Scholars have access to an abundance of resources at their universities, such as wellbeing facilities, professional development courses and guidance, leadership programmes, career support and community groups. Due to our close partnership universities, University of Warwick and the University of York, we signpost to specific resources to support our Scholars to thrive.

## Partnerships and Fundraising

### Funds raised between March 2023 and March 2024

For UK Leadership Programming: £11,672

Uganda and Senegal Local Programs and Community Outreach: £20,167

### University Donations-in-kind

Tuition for the 2023-24 academic year: approximately £497,932.

Tuition fee waivers and discounts

- Our university partnerships are an essential part of our work, enabling Ashinaga Scholars to complete undergraduate degrees at world-class universities. The University of York and the University of Warwick provide 100% of the tuition fee costs for a fixed quota of Ashinaga Scholars, up to and including the 2028/29 academic year.
- We also have memoranda of understandings with five other universities, which provide tuition discounts up to 75% for Ashinaga Scholars: the University of Bristol, University of Portsmouth, Royal Holloway University of London, University of Central Lancashire, and UCL.

### UK Leadership Programming

Including *tsudo* (leadership camp), summer activities (internships and research), monthly skills workshops, and professional opportunities (such as conferences).

- We are grateful for the continuing support of Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF), a world-leading international law firm making an enormous, positive impact on the communities in which they do business. Like Ashinaga, HSF believes that background should not shape future life chances, and we are proud of their contributions to our leadership programming, which helps Ashinaga Scholars reach their full potential and go on to help others in the future. In addition to their financial support, HSF also provides pro-bono legal aid for Ashinaga.
- Fundraisers and individual donors have also supported our leadership work. In this period, most fundraising came in the run-up to the London Landmarks Half-marathon on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2024. We are grateful for every single donation: small or large; one-time or regular.

## University Donations-in-kind

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## Uganda and Senegal Local Programs and Community Outreach

- Rise is an initiative of Schmidt Futures and the Rhodes Trust that finds promising young people and provides them with opportunities that allow them to work together to serve others over their lifetimes. We renewed the partnership between Rise and Ashinaga, enabling Ashinaga Uganda to recruit 15–17-year-olds for the Rise programme. This recruitment included upgrades to Ashinaga Uganda's IT lab, which has a knock-on benefit for the orphaned youth we support in Uganda. The recruitment work also deepens Ashinaga's relationships with schools in Uganda, which in turn helps create a stronger pipeline for the Ashinaga Africa Initiative.
- We have also raised funds from UK donors who wanted to support the local work Ashinaga does in Uganda and Senegal. Our Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign raised £1,000 for Ashinaga's work in Kampala and Dakar, helping fund teacher training and additional classes for orphaned youth. Our campaign was supported by Platypus Digital, who doubled each donation (with special thanks to Jamie Pitts for making this possible!)

## Partner Spotlight

Our partnerships with the University of York and the University of Warwick are about much more than just tuition fee waivers; they are about a shared commitment to create positive global impact through education.

At the start of each academic year, we run orientation sessions for new Ashinaga Scholars at York and Warwick. This is a valuable opportunity to welcome the Scholars to the UK, share important information, and connect the new Scholars with the older Scholars already studying at the universities.

We held our *tsudoj* – a three-day leadership camp for all the UK Scholars – at the University of York in December 2023. Scholars benefited from York’s excellent facilities, and we kept costs down by not needing to rent temporary accommodation, or cover travel and accommodation for Scholars except the ones visiting from outside York.

In March 2024, 5 Ashinaga Scholars and 1 staff member attended the University of Warwick’s Africa Summit: an annual student-led interdisciplinary conference focused on the development of the African continent. The experience greatly helped Scholars with their Ashinaga Proposals (their plans to solve a problem in their communities).

Orientation and *tsudoj* at York and the Warwick Africa Summit were also valuable opportunities for Ashinaga staff and Scholars to connect with staff at the two institutions and reinforce our partnership.

We are proud to be part of both universities’ work recruiting some of the best students from around the world, investing in the talent of the African continent, and empowering students to help others and affect positive change.

## Achievements and Performance in the Period

The board of trustees is delighted with the progress made in 2023–2024 and the achievements of the UK Scholars and Graduates. The board is confident in the future direction of the charity and the team's ability to implement these plans.

In our **programming**, we focused on empowering our Scholars in the best way possible, through working closely with universities, strengthening Scholar voices, and helping prepare our students for careers on the African continent.

All scholarships are now offered in partnership with the University of Warwick and the University of York. Growing cohorts at these two universities has enabled a stronger Scholar community and greater peer support. Our Scholar-facing team has signposted and encouraged Scholars to use university resources, allowing us to focus on our own leadership programming on areas of need, with a particular focus on achieving our mission of contributing to sub-Saharan African's development.

We have strengthened Scholar voices by encouraging a stronger 'Student Council', which represents the wider student body. Our annual leadership camp, *tsudoj*, was led by students, allowing for a much more tailored experience and opportunity for growth. The *tsudoj* was a resounding success, prioritising student leadership, engagement, and valuable learning experiences. By empowering Scholars to lead and define the program, we fostered a deeper connection to their personal and professional growth, enabling them to make significant contributions to their communities and beyond.

Finally, as a result of improving our internship programming to encourage Scholars to independently seek opportunities, more students than ever have independently secured internships on the African continent for summer 2024. This has helped Scholars gain experience finding opportunities relevant to their career and development goals, made them feel more connected to their internships, and strengthened their independent mindset. In addition, the change has saved time for our Scholar-facing team, enabling them to focus on other areas which need more attention.

Overall, 9 Scholars took part in internships in sub-Saharan Africa in summer 2023, including at Lesotho's National Electricity company, Volkswagen, the Rwandan government agriculture department and an Ed-tech company in Mauritius. 2 Scholars took part in internships while in the UK.

In **operations**, we have streamlined our administration processes, including data collection, reporting, and scholarship management. In doing so, we have freed up staff capacity to work on other projects which empower students and increase our impact.

In our **partnerships** work, our long-term goal is to meet all financial needs in a sustainable manner. We have made good progress towards this goal by strengthening our partnerships with universities – who contribute to the tuition costs of Scholars – and making further inroads into corporate and individual giving.

With universities, we renewed two tuition discount Memoranda of Understandings at the University of Portsmouth and Royal Holloway, University of London, and continued to work closely with the University of Warwick and the University of York on Scholar placement and our mission to empower young leaders for Africa. With corporate and individual giving, we created new marketing materials and prepared for fundraising events in the 2024-2025 financial year including the London Landmarks Half-marathon. We also increased awareness of our work when the leadership programming we developed for the University of Bristol's Think Big Development Programme was nominated for a PIEoneer award.

In **governance**, following the sad and unexpected death of Sir Eric Thomas, Professor Saul Tendler became chair of the board of trustees in November 2023. Professor Tendler was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the University of York from 2015-2023 and brings expertise and insight to the board, helping us achieve our mission. Jordan McFarlane became Managing Director from the 1st of May 2023. Dr Michael Rivera King stepped off the board in March 2024, with Jordan McFarlane joining as a trustee.

## **Public Benefit**

Ashinaga Association in the UK was entered on the Register of Charities on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 (Registered charity number 1183750). The Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit has been referred to when reviewing the organisation's aims and when planning future activities and the Trustees are satisfied that the work carried out by the charity complies with the public benefit requirements set out by the Commission.

# Impact

## Graduate Highlights

Between March 2023 and April 2024, we supported a total of 32 Scholars, representing 16 African countries. Altogether, they studied 25 different undergraduate and foundation courses at 9 universities across the UK.

In total, we've supported 58 Scholars since 2015, with the first two graduating in 2019.

Now, Ashinaga UK Graduates are completing further studies, gaining work experience, and beginning to help support the African continent and their communities at home.

### Graduates are...

Completing further studies to become experts in their fields, including:

- Completing pre-reg as a pharmacist.
- Studying on Master's programmes.
- Preparing to start PhDs.

Gaining experience in full time employment, including as:

- An Assistant Lecturer in Physiology at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College in Moshi, Tanzania.
- A Junior System Analyst in a consulting company in Botswana.
- A medical lab assistant in the UK.
- An associate practitioner in Blood Transfusion and Haematology laboratory at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth.
- A Solicitor in a law firm in Scotland.

Thinking about their future plans and impact, including:

- Opening more pharmacies in rural Benin to make medicine accessible to anyone that needs it.
- Encouraging entrepreneurship among young people in Botswana.
- Joining a supranational organisation and helping them with capital raising.

## Bohang's Dream: Upgrading Ox-drawn Ploughs in Lesotho

Current Ashinaga Scholar  
Engineering and Technology, University of Central Lancashire

My name is Bohang and my *kokorozashi* is to accelerate the deployment of capital-intensive processes in different sectors in Lesotho using modern technologies and machines for better human life and overall economic growth.

I was born and raised in the rural areas of Lesotho where I grew up in a family that relies heavily on livestock, hence I was a herd boy for most parts of my childhood. Due to financial difficulties in my family after the passing of my father in 2008, the entirety of my secondary education depended on a scholarship offered by the government of Lesotho. I was among the lucky ones chosen for the scholarship, and I made sure that I did well in my academic performance so that I could stay sponsored.

From when I started my secondary education in 2013, I understood that I had to work really hard to receive any funding for school uniforms and academic trips. I was at the top of my class from 2013 'till I completed my LGCSE in 2017. The motivation grew and led me to become a winner of multiple awards at district, regional and country level.

Through the CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service) program in IB, I was able to take part in various community service activities around Maseru such as visiting orphanages where we spent time with the kids, helping them with their school assignment and cleaning their environment.

After a year I was selected to be a sports prefect where I participated and facilitated different sporting activities. During that time, I also did the extended essay (Research) part of the IB program where my chosen topic was about the treatment of women in African cultures as portrayed by different African authors through things like female character designs, etc.

One day in 2019 around September, I was searching for scholarships, and I came across Ashinaga. I applied, wrote the essays and exams, and by the grace of God in 2020, among thousands of applicants, I was selected as the only candidate from Lesotho. I was very excited for the opportunity which today has transformed my life.

For my studies I chose mechanical engineering because it aligns perfectly with my *kokorozashi*. As a developing country, Lesotho experiences lots of challenges which could easily be solved by the usage of machines and technology. That most of the population still use ox-drawn ploughs for agricultural purposes speaks for itself. I hope to not only focus on one area for development, but every area where my university degree is applicable.

Over the past three years, Ashinaga has been an important cornerstone for my leadership development to achieve my *kokorozashi*. From learning how to set goals and review them, to providing support on my Ashinaga proposal, Ashinaga has been a big part of my academic, personal and professional development journey, ensuring that I have the right tools to develop and make impact in my community back in Lesotho and Africa as a whole.

Outside academics I spend a lot of time in sporting activities and remotely mentoring young African students from rural Ghana through the Akurase Mpuntuo Foundation. I also enjoy helping new Ashinaga scholars to settle in the UK and provide advice on how to deal with things like culture shock. I am also the president of Ashinaga UK students' council where I lead a group of cohort representatives to voice scholars' interests to the office. We plan *tsudoj* activities, as well as building a strong Ashinaga UK scholars' community through mid-year activities.

I am currently taking a three-month internship with United Utilities plc where I work with the engineering department on mechanical aspects of the water treatment plants to provide drinkable water in the Northwest of England. The skills and knowledge I will gain will contribute massively to my engineering competence, and overall professional development.

My goal is to return to my country/Africa and make an impact in my community with the knowledge I will have gained after graduation.

## Nanyori's Story: From Tanzania to Preston and Back Again

Ashinaga Graduate

International Journalism, University of Central Lancashire, 2018-22

My name is Nanyori Olemako and I am from Arusha, in the northern part of Tanzania. My *kokorozashi* is to advocate the eradication of negative socio-cultural practices in rural northern Tanzania.

As my father had passed on when I was young, I had to leave my hometown and live with my mother and her relatives. I mostly don't remember my childhood as I was transferred to multiple schools due to the work my mother was doing. I struggled with being taken to the headmaster's office every now and then due to late payment of school fees.

I started applying for scholarship programs while working part time to pay for my college tuition with the help of my mother, as she was barely getting by with my siblings' school fees and that was when I was invited to an interview by Ashinaga. I wanted to be a journalist with the intention of spreading awareness about the negative social cultural practices that were and still are being performed by the Maasai culture because they have brought so many negative impacts on my friends and relatives back in Loliondo, my hometown.

In the preparation programme in Uganda, I first met the most intelligent and beautiful Ashinaga candidates who have become family. They showed me that I wasn't alone, the struggle is different, but we share the same cause. They inspired me to become courageous and confident and they were my comfort space.

I studied International Journalism at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, UK.

My course was practical which made it very easy to engage with, and motivated me to think of many strategies I could use to fulfil my *kokorozashi*. I did my remote internship at Twende Innovation Centre in Tanzania, and it was thrilling to be part of an organisation that used local technology to create better solutions for their environment.

While I was in university my *kokorozashi* often changed, as I couldn't pinpoint the problem I wanted to solve. However, with the help of my SRC [Student Relations Coordinator] at the time, Jordan McFarlane, I could structure my Ashinaga proposal in a clearer way. Through working on it, I came to understand that I could use different strategies to advocate for women and girls who must endure the negative impacts of social cultural practices that are still entailed in their culture.

I finished my university degree in 2022 and moved back to Tanzania. I volunteered for an NGO called NARESSO and started my internship at UONGOZI Institute. I have always wanted to work at the Institute as one of their leadership programmes is the Women's Leadership Programme. This is a six-month programme that provides strategies and skills to women leaders in their workplace, enabling them to strive harder and get into higher leadership positions (many of our workplaces are male dominated). After my internship, I worked as a consultant for three months at UONGOZI Institute, where I assisted them in events management and coordination.

I am currently working remotely as a Marketing and Communications specialist at Dillon Morgan Consulting firm in Texas, United States, and taking extra classes in Graphic Design. Alongside that, I am working on the brand image of NARESSO, as a communications officer. I plan to work with the NGO to advocate for the eradication of negative socio-cultural practices in rural northern Tanzania.

Through the support of my Ashinaga family and coordinators, I became more confident and resilient. As I started my university degree in Preston, I admit I felt a bit lonely but that was only for a few days when I started blending in and meeting new people, and it was a culture shock but in a good way. I learnt different languages, cultural foods, and I was open minded to discovering new religion which helped my faith grow. Preston was not as scary as it first seemed!

Because of Ashinaga, I feel more confident with teamwork, networking, and in sharing my story.

## Message from the Founder of Ashinaga

During the last year, we have witnessed severe divisions and conflicts around the world, economic uncertainty, including soaring energy prices and inflation, as well as natural disasters and extreme weather patterns. These circumstances reinforce the Ashinaga's determination to provide educational opportunities for orphaned students from sub-Saharan Africa, who are often most affected by challenges like these and who often face many obstacles to achieving their dreams. As part of a global movement, Ashinaga UK's work to support with incredible talent and leadership potential has never been more important.

We believe that educational opportunities are crucial, as they empower compassionate young leaders to showcase their abilities, thrive in society and solve real-world problems. We are proud of our partnerships with top institutions in the UK, such as the University of York and the University of Warwick, which have enabled us to create 59 new scholarships for our Scholars until 2028.

Ashinaga UK's work over the last year has not only been key to supporting students from across sub-Saharan Africa to achieve their dreams, but also to the exponential future impact that will happen as a result of empowering future Young Leaders for Africa.

– Yoshiomi Tamai

# Future

## Our Plans

### Introduction

Our mission is to empower high-achieving, low-income orphaned students with the education, international perspective, skills, connections, and experiences they need to help develop their communities in Africa. We do this through scholarships to study at leading UK universities, professional development opportunities, and leadership development programming.

We have launched a two-year strategy that focuses on beneficiaries, partnerships, and administration.

### Key Objectives

- Partnerships:
  - Our aim is to grow partnerships, support and fundraising in the UK and beyond. By securing sponsorships and support in the UK and beyond, we are aiming for greater financial sustainability and partnerships with organisations aligned with our charitable objectives. This can include financial support and in-kind support such as event space and pro-bono services.
- Student support and supplementary leadership programming:
  - We aim to tailor our pre-university programming to prepare students to study in the UK and thrive academically.
  - We will also focus on strengthening our partnerships with our key university partners to support Scholars even better. We are building a framework to integrate and signpost towards university provided resources and opportunities. This will add a greater dimension of opportunities and expertise available to support Scholars as they study and aim to make an impact in communities across sub-Saharan Africa.
  - We will continue to focus programming on the most impactful areas to best empower Scholars in their leadership development. This includes encouraging and enabling our Scholars to be resourceful and independent as they self-develop and prepare to make an impact in communities across sub-Saharan Africa.
- Operations:
  - To significantly streamline administrative processes such as data collection, scholarship management, payment requests and processing, and book-keeping.

## **Partnerships Overview**

Our longer-term goal is to cover the costs of all UK-based work in a sustainable way and to create additional scholarships. To do this, we aim to establish and grow corporate partnerships with organisations that are aligned with and committed to our charitable objectives. To strengthen ourselves as a charity and expand our impact, we aim to secure financial sponsorship, pro-bono support, additional support for our Scholars, as well as important ad hoc support such as venue space. Finally, we aim to leverage the existing support we receive from our key university partners and develop new ones to support current Scholars and expand the programme in the future.

## **Scholar-facing Overview**

Given our partnerships with the University of York and University of Warwick and the creation of 59 scholarships between 2021 and 2028, we are aiming for all incoming Scholars to attend one of these universities. We will encourage Scholars to take advantage of universities' provision of leadership and professional skills resources and opportunities, allowing us to focus our support on Scholar engagement with sub-Saharan Africa. We will aim to further increase the voice of Scholars in our programming.

## Join the Movement!

We don't think of ourselves as just a charity, but a *movement* of people paying kindness forward and investing in talented orphaned youth.

A large part of our support comes from our university partners and the Ashinaga Foundation in Japan. Since the Japanese Yen has lost 1/3 of its value since 2021, we need more people and organisations to join the Ashinaga movement and keep our work going for the future.

Together, we can empower a new generation of leaders for Africa.

### Ways to get Involved

- **Donate**  
Both one-off and regular donations help us continue our existing support and give Ashinaga Scholars in the UK the best chance of reaching their full potential as leaders.
- **Create New Scholarships**  
With more scholarships we can make a much bigger impact on Africa and the world. New scholarships would be a partnership between a university (covering all or most of the tuition costs), Ashinaga (providing leadership training and staff support) and an individual or organisation (whom the scholarship would be named after).
- **Direct Scholar Support**  
Work directly with Ashinaga Scholars through mentoring, providing internship opportunities, or hosting one of our events.
- **Gifts in-kind**  
Pro-bono support, training, access to resources, or donating items such as laptops and books are important ways that organisations and individuals can support our work.

To find out how you can support our work, and join the Ashinaga movement, contact us at [partnerships.uk@ashinaga.org](mailto:partnerships.uk@ashinaga.org)

# About

## **Our History and Philosophy**

Ashinaga provides access to education and support to orphaned youth worldwide.

There are 147 million orphaned children in the world. Losing a parent can remove all sense of stability and safety from a child's life, impacting their schoolwork and severely limiting their future potential. We enable orphaned children to stay in education, develop skills, overcome their emotional challenges, and become leaders for their communities.

We have supported orphaned youth since the 1960s, beginning in Japan but now working all over the world. Each year, we provide access to education and emotional care to more than 8,600 students in Japan, 1,000 in Uganda and Senegal, and around 130 across the African continent.

Our support includes scholarships – ranging from primary to post-graduate education – emotional care, and skills training. Emotional care is delivered through multiple programs, including social clubs and access to psychotherapists. The social clubs help children cope with their grief through sharing, play, art, sports, and music.

## **A Global, People Powered Movement**

Many of our fundraisers and staff members were once Ashinaga students, keen to help the next generation. 92% of our funding comes from individual donations – thousands of people giving what they can – with the rest from organisations keen to be part of our people-powered movement.

Ashinaga UK was established in 2017 to deliver the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) through UK universities and organisations. Ashinaga also has regional offices in Japan, Brazil, the United States, France, Uganda, and Senegal. These offices deliver the AAI in their respective countries and run separate programs to support orphaned youth nationally and locally.

## Purpose

### As Set out in Governing Document

The charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

- a. advancing the education of Orphans<sup>1</sup> anywhere in the world but in particular, sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) including (but without limitation) by:
  - i. providing scholarships, grants and loans to Orphans to meet expenses associated with education (including course fees, travel and maintenance and subsistence expenses);
  - ii. providing educational and professional guidance and mentoring, emotional and moral support to Orphans;
- b. supporting community and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) by supporting and facilitating Orphans' education with a view to:
  - i. developing their leadership skills and capacity;
  - ii. fostering enthusiasm and tolerance, individual and community self-confidence, and engendering respect for individuality, difference and the importance of teamwork; and
  - iii. using their education and skills to the benefit of their communities (whether national, regional or local) within sub-Saharan Africa;
- c. the prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) by providing or assisting in the provision of education and training; and
- d. such other exclusively charitable purposes as the directors may from time to time think fit.

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<sup>1</sup> "Orphans" means a young adult (and, if the trustees think fit and so determine, a child who is under 18 years of age) who has a parent who has died or who is reasonably believed to be long-term missing.



## Our Trustees in 2023-24

### **Saul Tendler (UK)**

Professor Saul Tendler is the Chair of the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees, having first joined the Board in October 2022. Professor Tendler was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the University of York from 2015-2023. He gained a BSc in Pharmacy at the University of Manchester and a PhD from the University of Aston. He was a Medical Research Council Training Fellow at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, before being appointed to a Lectureship at the University of Nottingham. He was subsequently promoted to Professor of Biophysical Chemistry and then headed Nottingham's School of Pharmacy, before being appointed a Pro-Vice-Chancellor. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and was designated a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

### **Eric Thomas (UK)**

Sir Eric Thomas served on the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees from 2018 until his passing in November 2023. Sir Eric was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol from 2001 to 2015, and President of Universities UK, the body that represents all UK universities, from 2011 to 2013. He was also the first ever member of Ashinaga's Kenjin-Tatsujin Advisory Council, and integral to the foundation and success of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative.

### **'Funmi Olonisakin (UK)**

Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin joined the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees in August 2020. Professor Olonisakin is Vice-President and Vice-Principal International and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King's College London, where she founded the African Leadership Centre. She was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, as one of seven members of the Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. Professor Olonisakin also serves on the board of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and chairs the Africa Regional Advisory Committee of the Open Society Foundation.

### **Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier (Japan)**

Noriko Carpentier-Tominaga joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Noriko is also a board member of the Ashinaga Foundation. Based in Paris, Noriko works to strengthen French-Japanese economic relationships as Deleegue Generale of the Comite d'Echanges Franco-Japonais. Working with companies seeking broader and deeper connections, Noriko cares about the interests of each of them and tries to offer a variety of activities to facilitate them developing their business. Noriko's focus for Ashinaga is to support the development of professional opportunities for alumni to enable them to contribute to African development.

### **Suzan Kilamile (Tanzania)**

Suzan Nimrod Kilamile joined the Ashinaga Board of Trustees UK in July 2021. Suzan studied Medical Physiology and Therapeutics at the University of Nottingham and is among the first Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) Graduates to complete their degree. Suzan is passionate about healthcare in children and maternal health. As a new and inspired academician, Suzan is hoping to have an impact through scientific and clinical research to promote healthcare. As a board member Suzan acts as a voice of Ashinaga Scholars and alumni.

### **Yoshiomi Tamai (Japan)**

Yoshiomi Tamai joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Yoshiomi Tamai is the founder and president of the Ashinaga Foundation. After losing his mother in a traffic accident over fifty years ago, he became passionate about working to support the educational and emotional needs of orphans who lost their parents in traffic accidents. He founded an organisation, Ashinaga, that gave scholarships to these orphans before extending the support to all children who have lost one or both parents. Tamai's work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Global Fundraising award and, most recently, the Goto Shinpei award.

### **Yukie Seki (Japan)**

Yukie Seki has been on the Board of Ashinaga Association in the UK since February 2017. Yukie works as the Secretary General of the Ashinaga Foundation, where she is also a member of the board, with responsibility for international activities. Before joining Ashinaga, Yukie worked at Hewlett Packard as the Business Manager and Corporate Director.

### **Jordan McFarlane (UK)**

Jordan McFarlane is Managing Director of Ashinaga UK. He has 9 years of experience in the charity sector, working in the UK and Canada. After joining Ashinaga UK in 2019, Jordan has led several projects including the development of leadership programming to facilitate Scholars' social impact proposals, recruitment into UK universities, and the transformation of operations to achieve the charity's mission effectively.

### **Michael Rivera King (UK)**

Dr Michael Rivera King joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Michael completed his doctorate at the University of Oxford before publishing a book on alternative care and social work in Japan. Prior to this, Michael set up a volunteer organisation, Smile Kids Japan, to promote local, sustainable volunteering at child welfare institutions, and raised \$900,000 for children affected by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Michael also advised the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare on the 2016 revisions to the Child Welfare Act that promoted family-based foster care and adoption.

### **Board and Committee Meetings**

During the financial year, the Board of Trustees met on three occasions, ensuring the strategic direction and governance of the charity were effectively overseen. The board of trustee meetings took place in March 2023, December 2024 and March 2024, with an attendance rate of approximately 64%.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Our Governing Document

Ashinaga Association in the UK is registered as a private company, limited by guarantee (10634278), and with the Charities Commission (1183750). Our governing document is our Articles of Association. This document is available from Companies House.

### How Our Organisation is Constituted

Ashinaga Association in the UK works closely with the Ashinaga Foundation, based in Japan, and the Ashinaga offices in Uganda, Senegal, France, America, and Brazil. The Ashinaga Foundation has provided seed-funding for these offices, including our own, to undertake their work and to establish a self-sustaining model over time. Yoshiomi Tamai, a UK board member, is the founder of the Ashinaga Foundation. Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier and Yukie Seki are also members of both the UK and Japanese boards. Sir Eric Thomas was a member of the UK board and a member of the *Kenjin-Tatsujin* advisory board.

Day-to-day managerial responsibility is delegated to the Managing Director.

Ashinaga is also a member of the HALI (High-Achieving Low-Income) Access Network. The HALI Access Network is an association of non-profit organizations in Africa that support high-achieving, low-income (HALI) students to access international higher education opportunities. HALI strives to level the playing field in international education to increase inclusion, access and scholarship support for remarkable students who only lack finances to make their educational dreams come true. HALI believes in the power of education to change communities, and in the impact our students have on college and university campuses.

### Methods for Recruiting and Appointing New Trustees, Including Any Constitutional Provisions

The trustees of the charity shall be as follows:

- up to five persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by ordinary resolution;
- up to two persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by Ashinaga Japan from time to time by written notice to the charity;
- up to two persons with expertise, knowledge, or connections of particular value to the charity in furthering its objects (willing to act as trustees) appointed by trustees; and
- up to two persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by the trustees from time to time.

The Board regularly reviews the skills present within its members, and where any gaps lie, and works with the Ashinaga Foundation to ensure the effectiveness of the makeup of the Board. Full details of the appointment process may be found in our Articles of Association.

Training is offered on a continual basis to all Trustees to assist them in their role and governance of the Charity.

## Reference and Administrative Details

**Name:**

Ashinaga Association in the UK

**Company number:**

10634278

**Charity registration number:**

1183750

**Address and registered office:**

13/14 Cornwall Terrace,  
Outer Circle  
London  
NW1 4QP  
UK

**Trustees during the year and to the Date of Report Submission:**

Professor Saul Tendler  
Pablo Pérez Abella (appointed 14 May 2024)  
Nashina Asaria (appointed 13 May 2024)  
Kimeshan Naidoo (appointed 9 May 2024)  
Jordan McFarlane (appointed 19 March 2024)  
Suzan Kilamile  
Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin  
Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier  
Yoshiomi Tamai  
Yukie Seki  
Dr Michael Rivera King (resigned 19 March 2024)  
Sir Eric Thomas (until 10 November 2023)

**Managing Director:**

Jordan McFarlane

**Bankers:**

Barclays Bank  
1 Churchill Place  
London  
E14 5HP

**Solicitors:**

Herbert Smith Freehills  
Exchange House  
Primrose Street  
London  
EC2A 2EG

**Accountants:**

Sidikies  
1 Sun Street  
London  
EC2A 2EP

**Auditors:**

Moore Kingston Smith LLP  
The Shipping Building  
The Old Vinyl Factory  
Blyth Road  
Hayes  
London  
UB3 1HA

## Financial Review

Ashinaga Association in the UK achieved all its key targets for the 2023–2024 fiscal year. While operating in an uncertain climate globally and with some higher-than-expected costs, the board are supportive of what the charity has achieved.

A budget for 2024–2025 has been agreed with Ashinaga Foundation, who will support our activities on an ongoing basis. This support includes a commitment to provide the financial support the organisation needs for at least 12 months from the date of sign-off of these financial statements.

The trustees regularly consider and evaluate the risks and uncertainties the charity faces. The board want to thank staff members for their dedication and hard work to deliver the programme in the UK.

Our reserves policy aims to build up 3 months of operational expenditure, estimated to be approximately £100,000. This policy is underpinned by a letter of support from the Ashinaga Foundation, along with their balance sheet and profit and loss statements. This is based on the trustees' assessment of the appropriate level of security for the charity's operations in the event of a reduction or delays to income. They expect the charity's reserves to build up to this level over the next few years.

Remuneration of senior staff members is reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

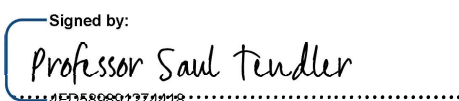
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income, expenditure and financial activities of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

The Trustees' Report is signed on behalf of the Board

Signed by:  
  
4FD588691274418.....

Professor Saul Tandler

Trustee

Date: 20/12/2024

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ashinaga Association in the UK for the period ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable laws and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Ashinaga Association in the UK

### Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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#### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from preparing a Strategic Report.

#### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 36, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.

## Ashinaga Association in the UK

### Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**  
Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

#### **Our approach was as follows:**

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

## Ashinaga Association in the UK

### Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken for no purpose other than to draw to the attention of the company's members those matters which we are required to include in an auditor's report addressed to them. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the company and company's members as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Moore Kingston Smith LLP*

*20 December 2024*

**James Saunders**  
Senior Statutory Auditor  
For and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor

The Shipping Building  
The Old Vinyl Factory  
Blyth Road  
Hayes, London  
UB3 1HA

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2024 (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donated services					
In kind support		18,333	-	18,333	6,109
Donations		12,002	671,809	683,811	674,492
Other income		-	-	-	28,022
<b>Total income</b>		<b>30,335</b>	<b>671,809</b>	<b>702,144</b>	<b>708,623</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Fundraising activities		-	29,695	29,695	38,096
Charitable activities					
Student support	2	18,364	439,251	457,615	605,615
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>18,364</b>	<b>468,946</b>	<b>487,310</b>	<b>643,711</b>
<b>Net movement income/(expenditure) and Net movement in funds</b>		<b>11,971</b>	<b>202,863</b>	<b>214,834</b>	<b>64,912</b>
Transfers		(147,855)	147,855	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Fund Balance brought forward At 1 April 2023		205,311	(2,126,272)	(1,920,961)	(1,985,873)
<b>Fund balance carried forward At 31 March 2024</b>	11	<b>69,427</b>	<b>(1,775,554)</b>	<b>(1,706,127)</b>	<b>(1,920,961)</b>

There were no recognised gains or losses during the year other than the movements shown above.  
All the above results derive from continuing activities.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts.


# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Balance Sheet As at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	5		496		1,346
			<u>496</u>		<u>1,346</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors and prepayments	6	116,677		122,470	
Cash at bank		<u>108,150</u>		<u>109,396</u>	
		224,827		231,866	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	7	<u>(282,316)</u>		<u>(295,748)</u>	
Net Current Assets			(57,489)		(63,882)
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			(56,993)		(62,536)
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>	8		(1,649,134)		(1,858,425)
<b>Total Net Liabilities</b>			<u>(1,706,127)</u>		<u>(1,920,961)</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>					
General Unrestricted Funds	11	69,427		205,311	
Restricted Funds	11	<u>(1,775,554)</u>		<u>(2,126,272)</u>	
			(1,706,127)		(1,920,961)
			<u>(1,706,127)</u>		<u>(1,920,961)</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 20/12/2024 ..... 2024.

Signed by:  
  
 4FD589891274418...  
**Professor Saul Tandler**  
 Director

Company registration number: 10634278 (England and Wales)

## Ashinaga Association in the UK

### Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash absorbed by operations	14		(1,246)		(82,107)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>					
			-		-
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>					
			-		-
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>					
			(1,246)		(82,107)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			109,396		191,503
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>					
			<u>108,150</u>		<u>109,396</u>

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2024

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### 1 Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The incorporated private company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity (charity number 1183750) established as a company limited by guarantee (company number 10634278) and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. The company's registered office address is 13/14 Cornwall Terrace, Outer Circle, Marylebone, London, NW1 4QP.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

#### 1.2 Going concern

The charitable company generated a surplus of £214,834 in the year ended 31 March 2024, and had net liabilities of £1,706,127 at the balance sheet date. The key element of the net liabilities position is committed donations to Universities of £1,911,487, which will be payable over several years. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these commitments on behalf of the charitable company.

A confirmation has been received from Ashinaga Foundation in Japan that it will continue to financially support Ashinaga Association in the UK for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. Donations from Ashinaga in Japan has been the primary source of income for the charity. As a result the directors believe that the charitable company will be able to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. Accordingly, the company has adopted the going concern basis of accounting.

#### 1.3 Income

All income in the Statement of Financial Activities is shown gross of the associated costs and is accounted for where there is entitlement to the income, it is probable that the benefits associated with it will flow to the charitable company and it can be reliably measured.

In kind support is recognised as income when the following criteria are met:

- Entitlement – Control over the expected economic benefits that flow from the donation has passed to the charity and any performance related conditions attached to the donation have been fully met.
- Probable – It is more likely than not that the economic benefits associated with the donated item will flow to the charity.
- Measurement – The fair value or value to the charity of the donated item can be measured reliably.

#### 1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been allocated on the bases indicated below:

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the company and are primarily associated with constitutional compliance and statutory requirements.

Costs are allocated to direct expenditure where they relate directly to the pursuit of the objectives. Non specific administrative costs are allocated to other expenditure.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2024

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### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

All expenditure is presented inclusive of irrecoverable VAT which is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### 1.5 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets anticipated to have a useful life extending beyond the period end are capitalised and included at cost. Depreciation is provided on fixed assets at rates which will write off the cost of the assets over their useful effective lives on a straight line basis.

The effective lives are:

Furniture and fixtures	- 5 years
Office equipment	- 3 years
Computer equipment	- 3 years

#### 1.6 Investments

Realised and unrealised gains and losses are added to or deducted from the appropriate fund in the Balance Sheet.

#### 1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with bank, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and loans from fellow group companies are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.

#### 1.9 Foreign Currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.10 Restricted funds

These are funds which must be used in accordance with the particular terms specified by the donors.

#### 1.11 Unrestricted Funds

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

#### 1.12 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Government grants are recognised as income over the periods when the related costs are incurred.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2024

### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

#### 1.13 Judgements and key sources of estimation purposes

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are not considered to be any critical judgements or key sources of estimation which have a significant impact upon the financial statements, apart from the decision to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis as mentioned above.

<b>2 Student support</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Direct expenditure (note 3 (a))	341,669	478,297
Support costs (note 3(b))	115,946	127,318
	<u>457,615</u>	<u>605,615</u>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>3 (a) Direct expenditure</b>		
Housing, subsistence and living costs	93,574	112,455
Other living services	248,095	365,842
	<u>341,669</u>	<u>478,297</u>
<b>(b) Support Costs</b>		
Staff costs	43,694	51,935
Rent	14,905	13,860
Advertising	17,051	193
Venue hire	100	325
Travel and subsistence	860	960
Stationary	59	279
Telephone and internet	704	714
Computer equipment	1,277	1,206
Repairs and maintenance	95	176
Insurance	1,545	1,474
Recruitment	299	-
Training	1,683	3,610
Bank charges	180	379
Legal and professional	15,001	38,048
Depreciation	850	2,079
Sundry expenses	27	240
Governance costs (see below)	17,617	11,840
	<u>115,946</u>	<u>127,318</u>

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2024

<b>(c) Governance Costs</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff costs	1,089	-
Auditor's remuneration:		
- for audit services	11,532	11,840
- for prior year under accrued audit services	2,368	-
- for non audit services	2,628	500
	<u>17,617</u>	<u>12,340</u>

<b>4 Staff Costs</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	154,954	191,265
Social Security costs	11,555	12,807
Pension costs	9,108	8,701
	<u>175,617</u>	<u>212,773</u>

The average monthly number of persons employed by the charitable company during the year was as follows : -

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Administration	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

No employees were paid in excess of £60,000.

The total amount of key management remuneration received by key management personnel for their services to the charity in the year was £78,661.

Two trustees have been paid remuneration from employment with the charitable company. They only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the role of Managing Director under their contracts of employment. This arrangement has been as allowed by the governing document and as notified to the Charity Commission on charity registration. The value of trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

Jordan McFarlane:	Remuneration £50,000-£55,000 (2023: £nil) Employer's pension contributions £0-£5,000 (2023: £nil)
Dr Michael Rivera King:	Remuneration £10,000-£15,000 (2023: £50,000-£55,000) Employer's pension contributions £0-£5,000 (2023: £1-£5,000)

No trustee had expenses reimbursed in the current year (2023: £42 to one trustee)

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2024

### 5 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Furniture and Fixtures £	Computer equipment £	Office equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023	709	11,078	263	12,050
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	<u>709</u>	<u>11,078</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>12,050</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	(709)	(9,732)	(263)	(10,704)
Charge for the year	-	(850)	-	(850)
At 31 March 2024	<u>(709)</u>	<u>(10,582)</u>	<u>(263)</u>	<u>(11,554)</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>496</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>496</u>
At 1 April 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1,346</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,346</u>

### 6 Debtors and Prepayments

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	112,492	121,035
Other debtors	4,185	1,435
	<u>116,677</u>	<u>122,470</u>

### 7 Current Liabilities

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	761	2,812
Other creditors	263,340	276,734
Accruals	18,215	16,202
	<u>282,316</u>	<u>295,748</u>

### 8 Non-current Liabilities

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors (note 10)	<u>1,649,134</u>	<u>1,858,425</u>

### 9 Retirement benefit schemes

#### Defined contribution schemes

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independent administered fund.

The charge to the income and expenditure account in respect of defined contribution schemes was £9,108 (2023: £8,701).

The balance outstanding at the year end in respect of defined contribution schemes was £nil (2023: £nil).

## Ashinaga Association in the UK

### Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2024

#### 10 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

At the year end, the charitable company had made a financial and pastoral commitment to support a number of students studying in the UK for the rest of the academic year. This financial commitment was estimated to be £56,046 (2023: £61,446).

In 2020-2021 the charitable company signed partnership agreements with the University of York and University of Warwick. Under these agreements the charitable company has agreed to provide restricted grants to the universities, to be used to provide stipends to AAI Scholars over the period. These liabilities were taken on after a full discussion with the Ashinaga Foundation, as the major donor to Ashinaga UK, on the impact of this on the charitable company's budget. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these grants on behalf of the charitable company.

#### 11 Funds

	Balance Brought Forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance Carried Forward £
Unrestricted funds	205,311	30,335	(18,364)	(147,855)	69,427
Restricted funds:					
Healthcare students	13,387	-	-	-	13,387
Ashinaga Senegal	23,594	-	(26,787)	3,193	-
Ashinaga Uganda	-	19,167	(22,359)	3,192	-
Joint campaigns	6,385	1,000	(19)	(6,385)	981
Scholars fund	(61,274)	651,642	(616,658)	147,855	121,565
Partnership agreements	(2,108,364)	-	196,877	-	(1,911,487)
	<u>(2,126,272)</u>	<u>671,809</u>	<u>(468,946)</u>	<u>147,855</u>	<u>(1,775,554)</u>
Total funds	<u>(1,920,961)</u>	<u>702,144</u>	<u>(487,310)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,706,127)</u>

Unrestricted funds are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Healthcare students fund is for the funding and support of Healthcare students.

Ashinaga Senegal fund is for the support of the Senegal initiative.

Ashinaga Uganda fund is for the support of the Uganda initiative.

Joint Campaigns fund is for joint campaigns covering both Senegal and Uganda initiatives.

Scholars fund is for the support of AAI scholars.

Partnership agreements fund represents the grant commitments relating to the partnership agreements referred to in note 10.

The transfer of funds represents a reassessment of funds from previous years which are considered to have been specified and restricted for scholar activities.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2024

### 12 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	496	-	496
Current assets and liabilities	68,931	(126,420)	(57,489)
Non-current liabilities	-	(1,649,134)	(1,649,134)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>69,427</u>	<u>(1,775,554)</u>	<u>(1,706,127)</u>

The deficit on restricted funds will be met by future funding from Ashinaga Foundation, the ultimate controlling party.

### 13 Operating lease commitments

#### Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Operating leases expiring:		
Within one year	<u>1,250</u>	<u>1,155</u>

### 14 Related party transactions

Ashinaga Foundation (Ashinaga) is a not-for-profit organisation based in Japan, which has ultimate control over the company. Ashinaga's corporation number is 0100-05-028962. Its registered office is Main Office 2-7-5 Sabou Kaikan Hirakawa-cho Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, Japan. During the year Ashinaga Foundation made donations to the charity of £663,481 (2023: £618,870). Ashinaga Foundation has also underwritten the grant commitments as referred to in note 10.

## Ashinaga Association in the UK

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
For the year ended 31 March 2024

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### 14 Cash generated from operations

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Surplus for the year	214,834	64,912
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	850	2,079
<b>Movements in working capital</b>		
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	5,793	(35,451)
Decrease in creditors	(222,723)	(113,647)
<b>Cash absorbed by operations</b>	<u>(1,246)</u>	<u>(82,107)</u>

**ASHINAGA ASSOCIATION IN THE UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183750

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# Accounts

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Ashinaga Association in the UK

Annual Report  
and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023



ASHINAGA  
UK

Company Number: 10634278

Registered Charity Number: 1183750

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## 2022-2023 Highlights at a Glance

### Scholars:

- In the 2022-2023 academic year;
  - 67% achieved a 2:1 or higher, with 33% of graduates achieving a First;
  - 88% of Scholars were at a top 500 university (*THE*);
- One Scholar was selected from a pool of 19,000 international applicants to participate in the UNLEASH Innovation Lab 2022 hosted in Bangalore, India. He, along with his team, won the 'Most Impactful Solution' award under the Sustainable Development Goal 3: Health & Wellbeing theme.
- Another Scholar was able to provide access to electricity for 80% of his village in Sierra Leone through securing solar panels. He has employed two people to maintain this project and also has plans for an education programme for children.
- A third Scholar is working on a project that provides safehouses to support marginalised and vulnerable individuals. They are working on gaining the licensing to be recognised as a foundation and have started working with an NPO to deliver services.

### 2022 Graduates:

- All 2022 Graduates have secured jobs or full scholarships for further studies.
- 2022 Graduates are working in various professions such as biomedical laboratory assistants, educators, and pharmacists.
- One 2022 graduate progressed onto the University of Sussex on a full Commonwealth Scholarship studying MSc Gender and Development.

### Partnerships:

- This year, we secured over £557,000 in support for Ashinaga's UK and international work, including over £438,000 in support from university partners, £34,000 from corporate donations, and £22,000 from public fundraising.
- The UK Office has secured and managed two important partnerships for Ashinaga's global work. Rise, a joint initiative from Schmidt Futures and the Rhodes Trust, granted Ashinaga Uganda funds to promote their program for 15-17-year-olds, and improve their IT Centre in Nansana. L'Oréal granted Ashinaga Senegal funds to support girls' education.

- We have continued to work closely with our university partners in the UK. We delivered a successful leadership programme for the University of Bristol for the third year running. In December, the University of York kindly gave us access to their campus again for our annual *tsudo*.

#### **Governance:**

- Professor Saul Tandler, the Provost of the University of York, joined our board of trustees in October 2022.

#### **Across the AAI**

- 159 current Scholars
- 79 graduates (up to March 31, 2023)
- 16 alumni on the ground in Africa

**Ashinaga UK is part of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI):** a leadership development programme that cultivates tomorrow's leaders from today's most disadvantaged.

Talented, high potential orphaned youth are recruited across 49 African countries and go on to study at top universities in Japan, Brazil, France, the UK, and the USA. The AAI provides financial support for international university degrees, along with leadership training and support to develop Scholars into compassionate change-makers. Our final goal is not the Scholars' education, but that through education and training Scholars will initiate change, innovation, and development in Africa.

## Reference and Administrative Details

### Name:

Ashinaga Association in the UK

### Company number:

10634278

### Charity registration number:

1183750

### Address and registered office:

13/14 Cornwall Terrace,  
Outer Circle  
London  
NW1 4QP  
UK

### Trustees:

Ms Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier  
Mr Yoshiomi Tamai  
Ms Yukie Seki  
Dr Michael Rivera King  
Sir Eric Thomas  
Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin  
Ms Suzan Kilamile  
Professor Saul Tendler

### Managing Director:

Jordan McFarlane

### Bankers:

Barclays Bank  
17 St Anns Square  
Manchester  
M2 7PW

### Solicitors:

Herbert Smith Freehills  
Exchange House  
Primrose Street  
London  
EC2A 2EG

### Accountants:

Sidikies  
1 Sun Street  
London  
EC2A 2EP

### Auditors:

Moore Kingston Smith LLP  
The Shipping Building  
The Old Vinyl Factory  
Blyth Road  
Hayes  
London  
UB3 1HA

## A Message from a Scholar

I was born and raised in the remotest village in northern Sierra Leone. I was raised by my mother, a long-time subsistence farmer whose annual income was less than \$50, after losing my father during the civil war.

My mother wished to see me educated and become the person I always wanted to be. I started schooling after a challenging year caused by the devastation of the war, and I was always a hard-working and diligent student. Sadly, in 2011, I lost my mother. This tragedy halted my education as I suddenly became the breadwinner for my household and the sole guardian of my six siblings at the age of 13.

I have always been passionate about pursuing medicine with the goal of supporting my community with maternal mortality. This is my *kokorozashi*: a Japanese concept meaning 'a heartfelt mission in life.' In 2020, my dreams to become a medical professional and a philanthropist for the less privileged started to become a reality when I won a prestigious scholarship to study biomedical science abroad through Ashinaga. I was closer than ever to realising my *kokorozashi*.

My journey with Ashinaga has been nothing short of a blessing. The scholarship has exposed me to an international community, and provided a wide range of opportunities which have motivated me to gain more knowledge and skills so that I can achieve my *kokorazashi*. Today, I have access to multiple professional networks, each one helping me develop my academic, professional, and personal skills.

I am committed to give back to my community. After experiencing the challenges orphaned children faced first-hand – and seeing how other orphans face challenges accessing education, basic social amenities, equality, healthcare and more across Sierra Leone and Africa – I decided to establish the Young Africans Alliance Academy. This is a non-profit organisation which focuses on education, career development, leadership, and social action engagement. To date, we have helped more than 300 dropped-out students gain computer skills and 12 young people get into the best universities in Sierra Leone to study a variety of subjects including nursing, medicine, engineering, and computer science.

In addition, as part of my *kokorozashi*, I am working to minimize maternal mortality. I created MedTech Care, a data tracking, storing, and response software program. This can minimize preventable causes of deaths related to maternal mortality as a result of poor healthcare, outreach support, late referrers, lack of emergency response system, traditional birth attendance, illiteracy, unsafe abortion, anaemia, obstetric haemorrhage and obstructed labour in Sierra Leone.

Upon graduation, I want to use my biomedical science degree to establish a sustainable research institution and a disease control and prevention centre in Sierra Leone. I also want to provide a functioning medical laboratory in collaboration with government institutions and other organisations such as WHO, to improve the healthcare system and its sustainability.

I believe that by increasing access to a quality healthcare system, I can work towards realising my patriotic desire to contribute to Sierra Leone's nation-building and make my country truly independent. Sierra Leone is exposed to multiple health dangers and has one of the highest rates of death from malaria, lower respiratory infections, diarrhoea, tuberculosis, stroke, HIV/AIDS and meningitis.

Thanks to Ashinaga, I can develop my leadership skills, critical thinking abilities, and professional networks. I was once a poor, neglected orphan, but today I feel that I am a valuable member of my community, and a role model for others. I want to thank all of Ashinaga's supporters for uplifting my ambitions and helping me realise my dream to help others.

**Momoh Mustapha Kamara**

## A Message from a Graduate

Growing up as an orphan in a rural town in Benin exposed me to hardships and fuelled my pursuit of education. I lost my mother at two years old, and my father often left home looking for different opportunities across Benin. I lacked a robust support system to supply some of my basic needs. Still, I learned strategies to overcome challenging family dynamics and the difficulties of often relocating to unfamiliar environments to pursue my education. Empowered by my desire to attain knowledge, my passion for entrepreneurial thinking, and my unshakeable resilience, I successfully navigated my academics. With the knowledge I gained in my mining engineering degree from the University of Exeter and my experience learning about African leadership, I made it my mission to rethink the management of natural resources across Africa.

From a young age, I used entrepreneurial thinking to achieve my educational goals. I always valued education and was grateful to start school because it was a luxury. With an extended family, I appealed to my uncle, who could potentially support my education. To convince him to invest in me, I made a pitch demonstrating my academic potential and commitment to giving back. As a result, he relocated me to the biggest city in Benin to complete my studies. In Cotonou, I adapted to a challenging new environment and became the top student in my class. Simultaneously, I was committed to my peers and provided regular tutoring and coaching sessions for more than ten students annually.

My intellectual and cultural curiosity motivated me to seek opportunities abroad. After two years of looking for scholarships, Ashinaga selected me. My participation in the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) exposed me to cross-cultural dialogues with peers from 15 different African nations that reshaped my understanding of Africa. While in the program, I engaged in formal debates and workshops with peers, which helped me realize the complexity of different issues facing the continent. Supplementing this, I had the opportunity to intern at a gold mine in Mali as part of the AAI. My academic focus on mining engineering, the debates with other African youth, and my internship experience in Mali invigorated me. Consequently, I became passionate about addressing African leaders' mismanagement of natural resources and changing government policies and business relationships that disenfranchise African nations or lead to conflict. These experiences inspired me to reimagine systems to extract natural resources to empower Africans to build effective partnerships locally and globally.

After graduating from university and due to the difficulty for recent graduates to find a job on the continent, I decided to spend a few years in the UK to gain valuable experience. I am currently working as a Tunnel Engineer in London for the High Speed 2 (HS2) Project, one of the largest infrastructure projects in Europe. Furthermore, my value for servant leadership motivated me to give back to my community in Benin. To do this, I set up an initiative to provide school supplies to disadvantaged youth. I

partnered with churches and schools to identify low-income students with potential and developed a process for delivering supplies with distributors on the ground, which resulted in me sponsoring more than 100 primary students over the past 3 years. On top of this, I also co-founded a medical company in Dakar, Senegal. The company sources affordable medical diagnostics equipment from suppliers around the globe and makes them available to medical school students and junior doctors. In future, we plan to scale up and become one of the major diagnostic equipment suppliers to hospitals in Senegal and other African countries.

Regarding my future career plans, I would like to transition into mineral economics to advise African governments on how to effectively manage their countries natural resources.

**Thiery Gnimassou**

## A Message from our Founder

Ashinaga is not just a charity; we are a movement. Our goal is not just to provide access to education but to empower orphaned youth through education, enabling them to help others. We do not ask the Scholars selected for the Ashinaga Africa Initiative to repay their scholarship to us. Instead, we ask them to 'pay it forward,' by returning to Africa and working to further its development in the ways they think best.

As a result, when people support an Ashinaga Scholar they are not just helping one person, but enabling that person to help whole communities throughout their life and career.

We firmly believe that those with lived experience and resilience are uniquely placed to understand the realities on the ground and make meaningful change to their communities, countries, and continent. Previously, I imagined that it would be our graduates going on to create positive change. This year, I have been impressed with how many Scholars are making a significant contribution to Africa while they are still studying in the UK. Many Scholars have set up foundations, companies, or volunteer projects to already make a positive difference to communities in need.

The work these Scholars are doing keeps our movement, of people helping people, go even further. For example, one Scholar studying in the UK recently set up an academy in Sierra Leone to support 12 students entering university. Imagine what these 12 students, in turn, will go on to do.

Our work would not be possible without our incredible supporters providing funds, internship opportunities, and mentoring. Ashinaga UK has pioneered fundraising outside of Japan and I have been delighted to see the level of support in the UK for our work. Together, we can help create the next generation of young leaders for Africa and keep this movement going from strength to strength.



**Yoshiomi Tamai**

## A Message from our Director

Over the last fiscal year, we have supported 25 Scholars from 17 countries in the UK, bringing the total number to over 57 Scholars in September 2023. The potential of our beneficiaries to make a sustainable contribution to the African continent in diverse ways is huge, and we are more motivated than ever to continue our mission to empower future Young Leaders for Africa.

It has been an incredibly exciting year for Ashinaga UK, as we have seen an increasing number of Scholars work on projects and programmes across the African continent, demonstrating their commitment to pay it forward in the present, while preparing to make a significant impact in the future. For example, a Scholar from Sierra Leone has sourced funds to provide 80% of his village with access to electricity through solar panels. Another Scholar's non-profit supported 10 students to enter university and secure employment and has made the pledge to increase support to 20 students. The Ashinaga Africa Initiative provides a framework for Scholars to develop their own leadership skills and set themselves up to be changemakers in their communities.

Universities have resumed in-person delivery post pandemic, and we have begun to develop programming to ensure support is tailored to Scholars' university experience and personal leadership goals. I am happy that Scholars' voices are becoming more prominent throughout the delivery of our programme, with increased input from our Student Council who have helped plan our annual *tsudoj* leadership event.

Additionally, we were particularly delighted to welcome Professor Saul Tendler onto our board of trustees this year. Professor Tendler, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the University of York, has offered invaluable insight and input into Ashinaga's efforts.

Ashinaga UK Scholars would not have the opportunities available to them without your support. Our partnerships have grown stronger and these relationships have benefited the Ashinaga Africa Initiative globally. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, we secured £557,479.10 in support for Ashinaga's international work, through our ground-breaking partnerships with universities, generous donations from individuals, corporations and foundations, and various other means. If you want to learn more about our work and how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. By supporting our Scholars, you are investing in future Young Leaders for Africa who are working towards making a significant impact in their communities.

**Jordan McFarlane**

## Introducing our Trustees

### **Eric Thomas (UK)**

Sir Eric Thomas joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2018. Sir Eric was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol from 2001 to 2015, and President of Universities UK, the body that represents all UK universities, from 2011 to 2013. His childhood was in the North-East of England, and he qualified as a medical doctor in 1976 from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He trained as a gynaecologist and was Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Southampton from 1991 to 2001. He was Dean of Medicine there from 1995 to 2000. He currently has a number of charitable trustee roles in the UK.

### **'Funmi Olonisakin (UK)**

Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin joined the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees in August 2020. Professor Olonisakin is Vice-President and Vice-Principal International and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King's College London, where she founded the African Leadership Centre. She was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, as one of seven members of the Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. Professor Olonisakin also serves on the board of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and chairs the Africa Regional Advisory Committee of the Open Society Foundation.

### **Suzan Kilamile (Tanzania)**

Suzan Nimrod Kilamile joined the Ashinaga Board of Trustees UK in July 2021. Suzan studied Medical Physiology and Therapeutics at the University of Nottingham and is among the first Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) Graduates to complete their degree. Suzan is passionate about healthcare in children and maternal health. As a new and inspired academician, Suzan is hoping to have an impact through scientific and clinical research to promote healthcare. As a board member Suzan acts as a voice of Ashinaga Scholars and alumni.

### **Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier (France)**

Noriko Carpentier-Tominaga joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Noriko is also a board member of the Ashinaga Foundation. Based in Paris, Noriko works to strengthen French-Japanese economic relationships as Delegation Generale of the Comite d'Echanges Franco-Japonais. Working with companies

seeking broader and deeper connections, Noriko cares about the interests of each of them and tries to offer a variety of activities to facilitate them developing their business. Noriko's focus for Ashinaga is to support the development of professional opportunities for alumni to enable them to contribute to African development.

### **Yoshiomi Tamai (Japan)**

Yoshiomi Tamai joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Yoshiomi Tamai is the founder and president of the Ashinaga Foundation. After losing his mother in a traffic accident over fifty years ago, he became passionate about working to support the educational and emotional needs of orphans who lost their parents in traffic accidents. He founded an organisation, Ashinaga, that gave scholarships to these orphans before extending the support to all children who have lost one or both parents. Tamai's work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Global Fundraising award and, most recently, the Goto Shinpei award.

### **Yukie Seki (Japan)**

Yukie Seki has been on the Board of Ashinaga Association in the UK since February 2017. Yukie works as the secretary general of the Ashinaga Foundation, where she is also a member of the board, with responsibility for international activities. Before joining Ashinaga, Yukie worked at Hewlett Packard as the Business Manager and Corporate Director.

### **Professor Saul Tendler (UK)**

Professor Saul Tendler joined the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees in October 2022. Professor Tendler is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the University of York. He gained a BSc in Pharmacy at the University of Manchester and a PhD from the University of Aston. He was a Medical Research Council Training Fellow at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, before being appointed to a Lectureship at the University of Nottingham. He was subsequently promoted to Professor of Biophysical Chemistry and then headed Nottingham's School of Pharmacy, before being appointed a Pro-Vice-Chancellor. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and was designated a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

### **Michael Rivera King (UK)**

Dr Michael Rivera King joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Michael completed his doctorate at the University of Oxford before

publishing a book on alternative care and social work in Japan. Prior to this, Michael set up a volunteer organisation, Smile Kids Japan, to promote local, sustainable volunteering at child welfare institutions, and raised \$900,000 for children affected by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Michael also advised the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare on the 2016 revisions to the Child Welfare Act that promoted family-based foster care and adoption.

# Trustees Report (incorporating Strategic Report)

## Objectives and Activities

### Purpose as set out in governing document

The charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

- a) advancing the education of Orphans<sup>1</sup> anywhere in the world but, in particular, in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) including (but without limitation) by:
  - i. providing scholarships, grants and loans to Orphans to meet expenses associated with education (including course fees, travel and maintenance and subsistence expenses);
  - ii. providing educational and professional guidance and mentoring, emotional and moral support to Orphans;
- b) supporting community and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) by supporting and facilitating Orphans' education with a view to:
  - i. developing their leadership skills and capacity;
  - ii. fostering enthusiasm and tolerance, individual and community self-confidence, and engendering respect for individuality, difference and the importance of teamwork; and
  - iii. using their education and skills to the benefit of their communities (whether national, regional or local) within sub-Saharan Africa;
- c) the prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) by providing or assisting in the provision of education and training; and
- d) such other exclusively charitable purposes as the directors may from time to time think fit.

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<sup>1</sup> "Orphans" means a young adult (and, if the trustees think fit and so determine, a child who is under 18 years of age) who has a parent who has died or who is reasonably believed to be long-term missing.

## Main activities related to these purposes

### Ashinaga Africa Initiative: Young Leaders for Africa

Ashinaga Association in the UK works closely with the Ashinaga Foundation, Japan, and Ashinaga offices in Uganda, Senegal, United States of America, France, and Brazil on the 'Ashinaga Africa Initiative'.

**The mission of the AAI is to contribute to sub-Saharan Africa's expanding role in global development by increasing access to higher education abroad. Ashinaga supports orphaned students who are committed to returning home, or to the region of sub-Saharan Africa, to initiate change, innovation, or development.**

The Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) is an international leadership programme that cultivates the next generation of leaders to contribute to the development of sub-Saharan Africa.

AAI Scholars are orphaned students who are committed to returning to sub-Saharan Africa to initiate change, innovation, and development. Each year, Ashinaga aims to select one AAI Scholar from each country in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ashinaga partners with universities and other organisations to provide financial support for international university degrees, along with leadership training and support to develop Scholars into compassionate change-makers. After graduation, Scholars return to sub-Saharan Africa, empowered to turn their vision into reality.

### Ashinaga in Africa

The first stage of this programme is the recruitment and selection of Candidates. This is conducted by the Ashinaga Foundation.

Selected Candidates then complete a year-long programme in Senegal, for Francophone Scholars, or Uganda, for Lusophone and Anglophone Scholars. This centres around a six-month study camp, focused on academic development and university relations, and a two-month prep camp, focused on socio-cultural preparation. Both camps also focus on leadership development. Going forward, study camp will be delivered in-person, while prep camp will be delivered remotely via online classes.

### Ashinaga Association in the UK

The UK office first engages with potential Candidates during the end of the recruitment stage. We provide feedback on applicants based on our evaluation of their suitability for studying in the UK and of their suitability for the AAI's mission. Once selected, we work

with the Candidates on which universities they will apply to and to confirm that their academic plans will enable them to achieve the impact they want to have after graduation.

The vast majority of our work occurs once the Scholars have arrived in the UK. There are three threads to the Ashinaga Africa Initiative: a leadership development programme, a full scholarship for university, and support for the Scholars to settle and thrive while on the programme.

The leadership work is structured on our leadership development framework. This cultivates leadership skills across professional, personal, and academic fields and underpins our work with the Scholars. As part of this programme, Scholars are required to complete an internship in Africa and an 'Ashinaga Proposal'. The latter sees the Scholar identify an issue in their community, country, or region, and lay out a well-researched, structured proposal on how to address it – either as a social entrepreneurship plan or as an advocacy paper. In addition to helping Scholars develop a network and new skills, the internship and Proposal ensure a close bond with Africa is maintained.

The highlight of the year is our annual *tsudo* (leadership camp) focused on leadership development. As well as structured programming, this three-day camp develops a strong cohort mentality, facilitating peer-to-peer support networks. As of the end of this fiscal year, we have never had a Scholar fail to gain entrance to university and no Scholar has failed or left the programme. The role that Scholars play in supporting one another, above and beyond the support we provide, undoubtedly contributes to their success.

Broadly, our work can be divided into three categories: student-facing, partnerships, and administrative. Our student-facing work focuses on cultivating leadership, developing programming, and supporting our students to thrive at university. This work is the heart of what we do: cultivating young African leaders who will determine the development needs of their continent and gain skills to develop innovative means of addressing them.

**In our partnerships work** we team up with people and organisations around the world, enabling us to support more orphaned youth and deepen the support we already give.

In the UK, we welcomed 11 new Scholars to the University of York and the University of Warwick in the Autumn. These Scholars, from 11 different African countries, have all their tuition costs waived by the universities, as part of our landmark scholarship partnership. Scholars who complete foundation programmes at the University of York International Pathway College have also had their tuition costs waived by Kaplan International Pathways.

These tuition fee waivers make an enormous impact on our work and the Scholars who benefit from them. Without these partnerships, we would not be able to empower so many young people with the skills and education they need to change their communities for the better.

We are also proud to continue our tuition-reducing partnerships with the University of Bristol, the University of Portsmouth, the University of Edinburgh, University College London, the University of Central Lancashire, and Royal Holloway.

Outside university partnerships, we have secured much-needed funding and support for Ashinaga's work in the UK and the African continent. We are grateful to Herbert Smith Freehills for their invaluable pro-bono legal support, as well as continuing to support our work with funding to widen and strengthens our impact. We are also grateful for JETAAUK and the Japan Society for their continued support.

The final category of work is administrative. We have continued to implement changes to reduce staff time spent on 'back office' work, allowing more time on the work that matters most, supporting our amazing beneficiaries.

Our work with our beneficiaries is assessed as part of a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system. This tracks both the impact of our work with Scholars and in turn the impact that Graduates have in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our final goal is not the Scholars' education, but that through education and training the Scholars will be equipped to initiate change, innovation, and development in sub-Saharan Africa. As such, it is ultimately not us who defines the aim of this work, but the Scholars, who have a deeper knowledge of the challenges their communities, countries, and regions face. This 'pay it forward' philosophy empowers the Scholars to initiate change on their own terms.

### Confirmation that purposes are for the public benefit, having had regard to Charity Commission guidance on this

Ashinaga Association in the UK was entered on the Register of Charities on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 (Registered charity number 1183750). The Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit has been referred to when reviewing the organisation's aims and when planning future activities and the Trustees are satisfied that the work carried out by the charity complies with the public benefit requirements set out by the Commission.

### Activities, projects, services in the period

As outlined previously, our work in this period centred on the Ashinaga Africa Initiative, with a focus on improving the content of our leadership programme, and building our fundraising capacity. In addition to this, we collaborated with the University of Bristol and Guillemette Villemin once again to provide leadership programming to their international scholarship students. This entailed us creating a leadership development handbook and running an orientation session and one-day leadership workshop. All work carried out this year is assessed in the following section.

## AAI Recruitment Summary 2022-23

With the addition of Equatorial Guinea, a Hispanophone nation, we recruited in all 49 countries in sub-Saharan Africa for the first time ever! However, as a short-term response to immediate pressures resulting from the cost-of-living crisis, we had to limit our recruitment to 50% of normal. As such, in 2022-23 we selected 24 students from 22 countries. In total we had 2,817 registrations, 698 submitted applications, and 93 applicants selected for interview.

## Achievements and Performance

### Our main achievements in the period

The board of trustees are delighted with the progress made in 2022–2023 and the achievements of the UK Scholars and Graduates. All our key objectives for the fiscal year, for Student-facing, Partnership, and Administrative work have been achieved and done so at around 20 per cent under anticipated costs. The board are confident in the future direction of the charity and the team's ability to implement these plans. Taking each of our strands of work in turn:

Our **Student-facing** work covers Student Relations and Programming, as well as University support for Candidates (in the preparation year in Uganda) and Scholars who undertake a foundation year in the UK.

Our Student Relations and Programming work begins in Preparation Year, which is divided into two parts: a Study Camp in Uganda, focused on supporting Candidates with their university applications and developing key academic skills; and a remote Preparation Camp, centred on cultural training and preparation for arrival to the UK. Before the pandemic, staff would travel to Uganda and deliver all Preparation Camp sessions intensively over the course of a week. However, in recent years, the format of conducting this virtually and spread out over a longer period has worked efficiently and we plan to keep this structure in the future, even if the Candidates are at the Uganda Kokorojuku together. This format allows us to spread the workload more evenly across staff members and having regular sessions provides everyone more time to become acquainted with one another.

Orientation for Scholars arriving in the UK was held at both York and Warwick on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September with 11 new Scholars. Staff members met all Scholars at the airport and spent a couple of days with them in their respective university cities. We delivered this welcome induction both in person, with staff members present at both York and Warwick, with some sessions delivered via Zoom so that all new Scholars could engage with the same material at the same time. This year, taking into account the fact that we cover

many topics during Preparation Camp, we kept our Orientation short and focused on essential topics to help the new cohort settle in. Instead, some key topics were delivered later in Monthly Cohort Calls, with the purpose of supporting Scholars during the first year in the UK and on the program. These monthly sessions covered content such as budgeting and financial management and mental wellbeing, which in our experience are incredibly important to focus on as new Scholars adjust to life as students in the UK. Another objective of these monthly calls is to encourage peer support through regular group meetings and foster a sense of community. This was a great success and we are considering expanding this type of call for other stages of the Scholar journey.

This year's *tsudo* (leadership camp) was hosted in-person at the University of York from December 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. The University of York kindly provided the venue free of charge for the second year in a row and were able to organise accommodation for Scholars on campus, allowing for Scholars to bond over the 3 days.

Through interaction with the Student Council and the wider Scholar community, this year we incorporated more Scholar voice, involvement and input than ever before. Scholars were involved in suggesting key themes for the event, as well as delivering particular sessions. *Tsudo* is an important time for Ashinaga UK Scholars to develop a stronger community and seems to impact Scholars' sense of belonging. Moreover, *tsudo* encourages Scholars to fulfil the AAI mission.

We had two external guests join us in person, Hári Sewell and Oluwatoyin Opeleyeru and another two virtually, Muloongo Muchelemba and Dr. Richard Munang. Hári delivered a workshop on Decolonisation and was recommended by an Ashinaga UK Scholar who participated in a previous session he had delivered. The session allowed Scholars to vocalise their own experiences and discuss the reality of being a student from the African continent in the UK. Oluwatoyin, a mental wellbeing specialist, facilitated a workshop focused on mental health and managing stress. Staff were not present for the seminar, allowing Scholars to freely talk and learn how to practically promote wellbeing. A session on networking was led remotely by Muloongo, the Director of Selection for RISE, who offered out of the box insights on how to build effective connections. Finally, *tsudo*'s keynote speaker, Dr Richard Munang, the Deputy Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for Africa delivered an inspiring talk entitled 'Safeguarding Africa's Growth Amidst Climate Change and Emergencies: The Place and Space for Youth.' The session was the perfect way to wrap up *tsudo* 2022 as Scholars were encouraged to seek out opportunities when faced with challenges. Scholars took part in other sessions led by staff, including Ashinaga Proposal focus groups, allowing for Scholars to provide peer-to-peer feedback on their projects, and a Public Speaking & Presentation Skills workshop.

In the 2022-2023 financial year, the UK board approved a two-year strategy, with implementation to begin at the start of the 2023-2024 financial year, to reshape how we deliver AAI programming in the UK. The Student Relations and Programming Team have started to develop a framework to best empower Scholars in their leadership development in the UK university context. This will include tailoring the AAI programme to opportunities provided by Scholars' universities in order to ensure there is a continuous thread of leadership development and so Scholars take full advantage of the resources available at their universities. This will allow our Scholar-facing work to focus on supporting Scholars to build stronger connections with communities across sub-Saharan Africa, to make an impact in the present and not just planning to do so after graduation, and helping them for African job markets.

Our University Relations work begins with Candidate Selection. Through discussions with other offices and by following the country allocation process, we selected 6 Candidates in May 2022. Three are aiming to attend York and Warwick each. In July 2023, we conducted virtual sessions with the six Candidates attending Study Camp. They were asked to create an Academic & Professional Plan to solidify the connections between their *kokorozashi*, their studies, and their professional career. We also created their university lists and the Uganda office has been assisting with their applications. All Candidates have received offers from either York or Warwick, or both.

Our **Partnership** work is divided into University Relations and Fundraising.

For **University Relations** in 2022-23, we had eight university partnerships, including two with the University of York and University of Warwick in which they meet 100% of tuition fees for a fixed quota of AAI Scholars. We will be sending new Scholars each year to the University of York and the University of Warwick up to and including the 2028/29 academic year. We also have memoranda of understandings with six other universities, in which the universities meet up to 75% of tuition fees: the University of Bristol, University of Portsmouth, University of Edinburgh, Royal Holloway (University of London), University of Central Lancashire, and UCL. **Altogether, we received £438,519.50 of donations-in-kind from universities, up from £239,306 the previous year.** This large increase is due to the large number of Scholars starting their studies in the UK, and prioritising student placement at York and Warwick with their 100% tuition discount rates.

**For Fundraising in 2022-3, we generated £118,959.60 from the public, corporations, and foundations.** £26,866.60 was raised for projects in Uganda, and £14,258.65 for work in Senegal.

We benefit enormously from pro-bono legal support from Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF), who have also provided mentorship to our Scholars and Graduates, along with donations which this year enabled five Scholars to take up important internships in the

African continent. We are so grateful to HSF for their caring, steadfast support and their commitment to making a positive impact in the world.

We retained our Google advertising grant, worth up to \$120,000, and worked with Ashinaga Foundation to ensure that other offices are also able to benefit from this. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we used £2,681.89 of this grant, which is recorded in our financial statements as 'In kind support'.

We are also grateful to Platypus Digital, a Marketing Agency who work with charities, for their pro-bono advice and training. With their help, we have been able to improve our communications output and engage more closely with our supporters.

Ashinaga UK successfully applied for two grants for international work. The L'Oréal Fund for Women, a €50 million solidarity fund established by L'Oréal in 2020 to empower women at risk, granted funding for a project at Ashinaga Senegal, improving the scholarship support we provide for young women and girls in Dakar. The application was written by staff at Ashinaga Senegal with support from staff in the UK, who continue to help manage the grant and project.

Ashinaga UK also applied for a grant from Rise, an initiative of Schmidt Futures and the Rhodes Trust, to promote the Rise opportunity in Uganda. Rise finds promising young people and provides opportunity for life as they work to serve others. The project enabled Ashinaga staff to deepen their own partnerships with schools and teachers in the Kampala area, and a side-benefit of the Rise funding was that Ashinaga Uganda could greatly improve their IT support for Ashinaga students as well as Rise applicants. The UK office continues to work with the Uganda office managing the grant and project.

Finally, the UK office took part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge in December. This is a global fundraising initiative that enables charities to double their donations through pledge and champion funders. In just a week we raised £6,385.20 from supporters. £3,000 was given by individual donors, and that amount was then doubled thanks to a £1,500 pledge by Sidikies Accountants and another £1,500 'champion' pledge by The Reed Foundation. A final £445.75 was provided by the UK government via Gift Aid.

The funds raised in The Big Give were split evenly between the Uganda and Senegal offices, and were used to give orphaned youth in both countries access to the computers, the internet, and IT skills training.

We want to thank every donor, fundraiser, and mentor who has supported our work and the Ashinaga Scholars in the UK. We would not be able to succeed in our work without you.

**In total, we raised £557,379.10 in donations and donations-in-kind toward Ashinaga's international activities in the fiscal year.**

## Impact on beneficiaries

Our impact assessment work focuses both on the impact of our work with Scholars and the impact Graduates have on sub-Saharan Africa. Graduates can remain overseas for up to four years before returning to sub-Saharan Africa. This enables them to pursue further study or gain professional experience.

Looking first at our **Graduates' impact**: We now have 22 Graduates. Of these, 12 have completed or are completing postgraduate qualifications, some of whom have secured scholarships from Commonwealth, MasterCard and others. Graduates have secured excellent jobs including working as a policy assistant for the President of their country, in a medical university in Tanzania, as a teacher at a university, as engineers including on HS2 and large-scale projects in Africa, and in the finance industry, spanning Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan, and UBS. One Graduate who has teamed up with a Scholar to set up a foundation in The Gambia, which focuses on improving maternal and child health outcomes.

While Ashinaga UK's support is focused on Scholars at university, Graduates do receive some support after graduation. UK Graduates have been accepted onto the Ashinaga Master's in Africa scholarship and received career coaching from Ashinaga Foundation, which is greatly valued.

Turning next to the **impact of our work on AAI Scholars**, our monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework tracks development over their personal, professional, and academic fields, as well as anonymously looking at the overall wellbeing of AAI Scholars. Before this stage we first evaluate the calibre of Scholars accepted onto the programme. All of the UK-bound Candidates who started university in 2022–2023 received an unconditional offer from their first-choice university.

We continue to monitor the overall well-being of Scholars in the UK using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scales (WEMWBS). Our student support staff all take part in Mental Health First Aid training to appropriately signpost resources and services.

Scholars' academic performance is evaluated by the number of Scholars who achieve a First, the number who achieve a First or Upper Second, the number who pass the year, and the number who graduate. This report draws on the data for the end of the 2021–2022 academic year. Four of the six graduating Scholars achieved at least a 2:1, with 33% achieving a First. In total, 100% of Scholars passed the year. One Scholar was permitted to suspend their scholarship for a year to support themselves through repeating the academic year. For this reason, they have not been included in the above figures as they have not yet progressed to the next academic year. We are very proud that 88% of the Scholars were at a top 500 university (*Times Higher Education*).

This year marked the return to regular in-person activities, including university contact time, internships and Ashinaga programming. Eight Scholars spent their summers in

Africa, including two who did internships in Ghana, one in Rwanda, one in both South Africa and Lesotho, one in Senegal, and one in Nigeria. Scholars have been very proactive to secure professional development opportunities, with some Scholars taking part in internships on the continent and in UK during the same summer. Other Scholars completed

Of particular note is a Scholar from Kenya who participated in the UNLEASH Innovation Lab event in India in December, who along with his team won the 'Most Impactful Solution' Award under the Non-communicable diseases theme. The Scholar is focusing his Ashinaga Proposal on tackling the issue of diabetes in Kenya and was able to present the solution to over 1,000 talents, facilitators, and investors. The Ashinaga Proposal is a project in which Scholars identify an issue in their community, country, or region, and lay out a well-researched, structured proposal on how to address it – either as a social entrepreneurship plan or as an advocacy paper. UK Scholars' Proposals cover topics that span almost all the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including:

- Providing support, information and legal advice to victims of sexual assault in Lesotho.
- Improving National Liquidity and Empowering Women in Malawi through Financial Literacy and Village Banking.
- Using Agricultural Aviation to Eradicate Food Insecurity in Nigeria.
- Raising Awareness on Harmful Cultural Practices Affecting Maternal and Child Health in Rural Gambia (Lower Nuimi District, North Bank Region).
- The Lack of Access to Health Care Materials by Marginalised Communities within Botswana
- Challenges Being Faced by Children Living With Disabilities in Accessing Education and Healthcare in Zimbabwe.
- The Lack of facilities, resources and expertise in the music business, audio engineering and studio recording for emerging artists from marginalized regions.

The Ashinaga Proposals are increasingly moving from a theoretical exercise to projects that Scholars plan on implementing upon graduation. Projects that Scholars have already launched include:

- Using affordable technology to widen access to science materials for those from disadvantaged regions in Ethiopia. This is a critical bottleneck that has limited access to government scholarships.
- Setting up a peer-support group for burn victims in Mauritius, where there is no psycho-social care post-surgery.
- Establishing a Foundation in The Gambia to improve maternal health outcomes.

In addition to this, Scholars are increasingly active in projects in Africa during their time at university. Examples include:

- An AAI Scholar was one of four students to be awarded the William Darling Memorial Prize at the University of Edinburgh for her incredible work supporting survivors of sexual violence in South Africa. This is awarded by the Principal of the University to an individual or group of students who have done most to enhance the reputation of the University.
- One AAI Scholar offers tutoring services to disadvantaged students for free in Ethiopia through the organisation they founded in 2012. The organisation has supported over 250 students per year with their academics, allowing them to access government scholarships to continue their studies, and has provided important school supplies to many more.
- Another Scholar established an organisation called the 'Young African Alliance Academy' to teach IT and other skills, as well as empowering youth through leadership development. The Scholar secured a government donation of five computers and is now supporting 25 community members in their community in Sierra Leone.
- Another Scholar has partnered with the founder of a start-up to help subsistence farmers in rural Zambia to tackle the challenges that affect their crop yields. They aim to do this by connecting farmers with training, consultation services, loans to expand their farms, and marketing services.
- Another Scholar sourced funds and partnerships to provide solar panels to his village in Sierra Leone. This has provided 80% of the village with access to electricity.
- A final example, though there are many more stories to share, is an AAI Scholar who has formed a pro-bono school to provide education to mothers so they can sit or re-sit their Malawi School Certificate of Education (MCSE) examinations. During lockdown, their team increased from four to 13 members and their organisation is now registered, has an office, and two partners and funders from around the world.

When considering the positive impact of our work with Scholars and of our Graduates it is important that we pause to remember the background of our Scholars. All have lost one or both parents, and all have overcome significant hardship to get to where they are today. From growing up in an orphanage to being a refugee of a civil war, even just adjusting to the UK as an international student, the UK Scholars have a different 'start line' from their peers. The quality of Scholar and Graduate outcomes speaks to both their excellence and to the quality of support provided. Our role is to help these young people realise their potential and give them the leadership skills they need to make a significant contribution to sub-Saharan Africa. While there are elements we can further refine, we are tremendously proud of the Scholars, Graduates, and the staff for their tireless work.

## Partnerships Spotlight

**Sidikies** – a team of chartered accountants in London – kindly supported our Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign in December 2022, which made all the difference for our fundraising efforts.

We have used Sidikies's services for years for our accounting needs, and they have been an enormous help, always happy to answer any questions and working quickly and professionally.

Over the summer we started planning our Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign. The Big Give is a global platform which enables charities to gather pledge funding which then doubles the donations made by individuals during a campaign. After speaking to Ashinaga staff in Uganda and Senegal, it became clear that there was an urgent need for IT equipment and skills training for the orphaned children they support in those countries. We decided to raise money for this much-needed cause.

However, The Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign only lasts for one week in December. We knew that if we were going to reach our target, we needed to secure pledge funding so that we could double the public donations when the campaign opened.

Sidikies answered our call swiftly and compassionately, committing to a generous pledge to match all donations up to our target. With them on board, The Reed Foundation also granted us extra "champion funding" which we were only eligible for because of Sidikie's help. This granted even more money in the pledge fund so we could double donations even further, way beyond our initial target.

In the end we raised an incredible £6,385.20 in just one week!

The money raised has already had an enormous impact on the children we support in Nansana and Dakar, enabling them to do things others take for granted, such as complete homework on a computer, and access the internet. This impact will continue for decades to come, as those children grow up to be IT-literate adults in an increasingly online world.

**L'Oreal** provided a large grant for work in Dakar, Senegal, as part of a project run by Ashinaga Senegal and administrated by Ashinaga UK.

The "Taxawu Jàngum Jigeen Nĩ" project ("Let's Support Girls' Education" in Wolof, one of the languages spoken in Senegal) will support orphaned girls and young women with access to education in 2023. Additional support will address the needs of the scholarship holders as a whole, investing in their potential to become agents of change.

The project was made possible by The L'Oréal Fund for Women. This €50 million solidarity fund was established by L'Oréal in 2020 to empower women at risk, and has supported 400,000 women and girls directly and 700,000 people indirectly.

Ashinaga is one of 120 charity and on-the-ground partners in 30 countries worldwide, taking part in L'Oreal's initiative.

The project is particularly needed in Senegal where there is a 47% pay gap between men and women, partly caused by the large difference between girls and boys enrolment at secondary and tertiary level education.

**The Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust** provided funds to help Ashinaga Uganda's Craft Club to get back on its feet after long Covid lockdowns in 2020 and 2021.

The Craft Club gives mothers and sisters of registered children the opportunity to gain skills and learn the importance of investing in their own and their children's futures. Ashinaga provides training in craft making, business skills, and money management.

All profits from the sale of craft products are given directly to the mothers who made them. Our aim is to teach the skills needed and provide the mothers with an income so that they can start their own businesses and become financially independent.

The grant from the Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust, applied for and administered by Ashinaga UK, enabled us to buy new materials and repair sewing machines to get the Craft Club running again. We were also able to run a special workshop training 105 local people in making beads from recycled paper, that can then be used by the Craft Club to create bags and other items.

**The right internship, mentor, or training could change a young person's life and set them on their career journey.** We are so grateful to our generous partners who donate their time, knowledge, resources, and provide financial support to help empower the young people we work with.

Every time an organisation works with us it makes a huge difference to the Scholars: whether that means connecting us with mentors, providing internship opportunities, training staff or Scholars, passing on equipment, or donating funds.

**Do you think your organisation could join our movement and help empower orphaned youth?**

If so, email the team at [partnerships.uk@ashinaga.org](mailto:partnerships.uk@ashinaga.org) - we'd love to discuss opportunities with you.

## Fundraising Spotlight

### The Big Give Donors

Sidikies's generous pledge to double donations in our Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign (see above) would not have meant anything were it not for equally generous donors during the campaign itself.

Nineteen individuals and organisations donated £3,000 during the seven days of the campaign, with a further £445.75 added via GiftAid. These donors ranged from big to small; first time supporters to those who have been with Ashinaga UK from the start. We're grateful for each and every one.

When Ashinaga started in 1960s Tokyo, we didn't have wealthy sponsors. Instead, we relied on the generosity of many individuals and organisations giving what they could. We held our first fundraising campaign in 1967, collecting money on the street, and still collect funds this way, twice a year, across Japan.

In the UK, we continue this spirit of fundraising: seeing donations not just as money, but part of a bigger movement of giving and helping others. The Big Give Christmas Challenge encapsulates this spirit, being a large nation-wide event involving over a thousand other charities and almost 80,000 donors.

Thanks to our Big Give donors, orphaned youth in Uganda and Senegal have been given opportunities to use computers and learn IT skills they would not have otherwise had. The donors also took part in a wider movement of kindness and philanthropy, joining tens of thousands in the Big Give and the hundreds of thousands who have donated to Ashinaga over the past 55 years.

## Our Plans

### Introduction

The primary goals of our three-year strategy for 2020-2023 were to:

1. meet the objectives of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI)
2. in a financially sustainable manner.

On the first goal, we remain the most successful office in terms of Scholars completing the program and Graduates achieving the AAI mission. On the second goal, our key financial target was to reduce the total cost to Ashinaga (including overheads) of a student completing the AAI by over 50% within three years. With the new partnerships agreed with the University of Warwick and the University of York we have already achieved this three-year goal.

A lot has changed since this strategy was created, not least the cost-of-living crisis, and the global situation remains in flux. As such, we have launched a new two-year strategy that focuses on beneficiaries, partnerships, and administration.

### **Key Objectives**

- Partnerships:
  - To partner with organisations and individuals, raising funds for Ashinaga's international activities with a particular focus on Ashinaga UK.
- Scholar-facing:
  - We would like to focus our programming on the most impactful areas to best empower UK Scholars in their leadership development. One way of doing this would be to better leverage external programming and opportunities already provided by universities, such as professional development programming.
- Administrative:
  - To significantly streamline administrative processes relating to payment requests, processing, and book-keeping.

### **Partnerships Overview**

Our longer-term goal is to cover the costs of all UK-based work in a sustainable way. To do this, we have a three-pronged approach encompassing corporate partnerships, governmental organisations, individual donors, universities and grants. For corporate partnerships, we offer not just ways to support our work through philanthropic giving, but also ways to directly support Ashinaga Scholars via internships, mentoring, and training. This enables us to build stronger, longer-term relationships with corporations and their workforces. For grants, we are partnering with organisations on projects in Uganda and Senegal, as well as in the UK, to maximise the number of grants we are eligible for and expand the impact Ashinaga makes on the world. Finally, we aim to leverage the existing support we receive from our key university partners and develop new ones to support current Scholars and expand the programme in the future.

### **Scholar-facing Overview**

Given our partnerships with the University of York and University of Warwick, we are aiming for all new Scholars to attend one of these universities. This allows us to better understand and leverage university provision of leadership and professional skills programming, allowing us to focus our support on Scholar engagement with sub-Saharan Africa, contributing to development while being a Scholar (rather than post-graduation),

and preparing Scholars for African job markets. We will also look to further increase the voice of Scholars in every aspect of our work, from Governance to programming.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Our governing document

Ashinaga Association in the UK is registered as a private company, limited by guarantee (10634278), and with the Charities Commission (1183750). Our governing document is our Articles of Association. This document is available from Companies House.

### How our organisation is constituted

Ashinaga Association in the UK works closely with the Ashinaga Foundation, based in Japan, and the Ashinaga offices in Uganda, Senegal, France, America, and Brazil. The Ashinaga Foundation has provided seed-funding for these offices, including our own, to undertake their work and to establish a self-sustaining model over time. Yoshiomi Tamai, a UK board member, is the founder of the Ashinaga Foundation. Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier and Yukie Seki are also members of both the UK and Japanese boards. Sir Eric Thomas is a member of the UK board and a member of the *Kenjin-Tatsujin* advisory board. Day-to-day managerial responsibility is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.

Ashinaga is also a member of the HALI (High-Achieving Low-Income) Access Network. The HALI Access Network is an association of non-profit organizations in Africa that support high-achieving, low-income (HALI) students to access international higher education opportunities. HALI strives to level the playing field in international education to increase inclusion, access and scholarship support for remarkable students who only lack finances to make their educational dreams come true. HALI believes in the power of education to change communities, and in the impact our students have on college and university campuses.

### Methods for recruiting and appointing new trustees, including any constitutional provisions

The trustees of the charity shall be as follows:

- up to five persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by ordinary resolution;
- up to two persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by Ashinaga Japan from time to time by written notice to the charity;
- up to two persons with expertise, knowledge, or connections of particular value to the charity in furthering its objects (willing to act as trustees) appointed by trustees; and
- up to two persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by the trustees from time to time.

The Board regularly reviews the skills present within its members, and where any gaps lie, and works with the Ashinaga Foundation to ensure the effectiveness of the makeup of

the Board. Full details of the Appointment process may be found in our Articles of Association.

Training is offered on a continual basis to all Trustees to assist them in their role and governance of the Charity.

## Financial Review

Ashinaga Association in the UK achieved all its key targets for the 2022–2023 fiscal year. While operating in an uncertain climate globally and with some higher-than-expected costs, the board are supportive of what the charity has achieved.

A budget for 2023–2024 has been agreed with Ashinaga Foundation, who will support our activities on an ongoing basis. This support includes a commitment to provide the financial support the organisation needs for at least 12 months from the date of sign-off of these financial statements.

The trustees regularly consider and evaluate the risks and uncertainties the charity faces. The board want to thank staff members for their dedication and hard work to deliver the programme in the UK.

Our reserves policy aims to build up 3 months of operational expenditure, estimated to be approximately £155,000. This policy is underpinned by a letter of support from the Ashinaga Foundation, along with their balance sheet and profit and loss statements. This is based on the trustees' assessment of the appropriate level of security for the charity's operations in the event of a reduction or delays to income. They expect the charity's reserves to build up to this level over the next few years.

Remuneration of senior staff members is reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income, expenditure and financial activities of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

The Trustees' Report is signed on behalf of the Board

  
.....

Professor Saul Tandler

Trustee

Date:

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Ashinaga Association in the UK for the period ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable laws and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from preparing a Strategic Report.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 26, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

### **Our approach was as follows:**

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken for no purpose other than to draw to the attention of the company's members those matters which we are required to include in an auditor's report addressed to them. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the company and company's members as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**James Saunders**  
Senior Statutory Auditor  
For and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor

The Shipping Building  
The Old Vinyl Factory  
Blyth Road  
Hayes, London  
UB3 1HA

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2023 (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
<b>Donated services</b>					
In kind support		6,109	-	6,109	29,334
Donations		-	674,492	674,492	784,652
Other income		28,022	-	28,022	26,905
<b>Total income</b>		<b>34,131</b>	<b>674,492</b>	<b>708,623</b>	<b>840,891</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Fundraising activities		4,792	33,304	38,096	1,327
Charitable activities					
Student support	2	1,317	604,298	605,615	648,013
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>6,109</b>	<b>637,602</b>	<b>643,711</b>	<b>649,340</b>
<b>Net movement income/(expenditure) and Net movement in funds</b>		<b>28,022</b>	<b>36,890</b>	<b>64,912</b>	<b>191,551</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Fund Balance brought forward At 1 April 2022		177,289	(2,163,162)	(1,985,873)	(2,177,424)
<b>Fund balance carried forward At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>205,311</b>	<b>(2,126,272)</b>	<b>(1,920,961)</b>	<b>(1,985,873)</b>

There were no recognised gains or losses during the year other than the movements shown above.  
All the above results derive from continuing activities.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Balance Sheet As at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	5		1,346		3,425
			<u>1,346</u>		<u>3,425</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors and prepayments	6	122,470		87,019	
Cash at bank		<u>109,396</u>		<u>191,503</u>	
		231,866		278,522	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	7	<u>(295,748)</u>		<u>(237,914)</u>	
Net Current Assets			(63,882)		40,608
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			(62,536)		44,033
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>	8		(1,858,425)		(2,029,906)
<b>Total Net Liabilities</b>			<u>(1,920,961)</u>		<u>(1,985,873)</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>					
General Unrestricted Funds	11	205,311		177,289	
Restricted Funds	11	<u>(2,126,272)</u>		<u>(2,163,162)</u>	
			(1,920,961)		(1,985,873)
			<u>(1,920,961)</u>		<u>(1,985,873)</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on ..... 20/12/..... 2023.

Professor Saul Tendler  
Director



Company registration number: 10634278 (England and Wales)

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash absorbed by operations	13		(82,107)		106,945
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(2,551)	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			-		(2,551)
<b>Financing activities</b>					
Borrowing		-		-	
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			(82,107)		104,394
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			191,503		87,109
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>109,396</u>		<u>191,503</u>

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2023

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### 1 Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The incorporated private company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity (charity number 1183750) established as a company limited by guarantee (company number 10634278) and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. The company's registered office address is 13/14 Cornwall Terrace, Outer Circle, Marylebone, London, NW1 4QP.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

#### 1.2 Going concern

The charitable company generated a surplus of £64,912 in the year ended 31 March 2023, and had net liabilities of £1,920,961 at the balance sheet date. The key element of the net liabilities position is committed donations to Universities of £2,108,364, which will be payable over several years. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these commitments on behalf of the charitable company.

A confirmation has been received from Ashinaga Foundation in Japan that it will continue to financially support Ashinaga Association in the UK for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. Donations from Ashinaga in Japan has been the primary source of income for the charity. As a result the directors believe that the charitable company will be able to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. Accordingly, the company has adopted the going concern basis of accounting.

#### 1.3 Income

All income in the Statement of Financial Activities is shown gross of the associated costs and is accounted for where there is entitlement to the income, it is probable that the benefits associated with it will flow to the charitable company and it can be reliably measured.

In kind support is recognised as income when the following criteria are met:

- Entitlement – Control over the expected economic benefits that flow from the donation has passed to the charity and any performance related conditions attached to the donation have been fully met.
- Probable – It is more likely than not that the economic benefits associated with the donated item will flow to the charity.
- Measurement – The fair value or value to the charity of the donated item can be measured reliably.

#### 1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been allocated on the bases indicated below:

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the company and are primarily associated with constitutional compliance and statutory requirements.

Costs are allocated to direct expenditure where they relate directly to the pursuit of the objectives. Non specific administrative costs are allocated to other expenditure.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2023

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### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

All expenditure is presented inclusive of irrecoverable VAT which is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### 1.5 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets anticipated to have a useful life extending beyond the period end are capitalised and included at cost. Depreciation is provided on fixed assets at rates which will write off the cost of the assets over their useful effective lives on a straight line basis.

The effective lives are: Furniture, fixtures and equipment - 5 years  
Computer equipment - 3 years

#### 1.6 Investments

Realised and unrealised gains and losses are added to or deducted from the appropriate fund in the Balance Sheet.

#### 1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with bank, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and loans from fellow group companies are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.

#### 1.9 Foreign Currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.10 Restricted funds

These are funds which must be used in accordance with the particular terms specified by the donors.

#### 1.11 Unrestricted Funds

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

#### 1.12 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Government grants are recognised as income over the periods when the related costs are incurred.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2023

### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

#### 1.13 Judgements and key sources of estimation purposes

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are not considered to be any critical judgements or key sources of estimation which have a significant impact upon the financial statements, apart from the decision to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis as mentioned above.

<b>2 Student support</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Direct expenditure (note 3 (a))	478,297	491,196
Support costs (note 3(b))	127,318	156,817
	<u>605,615</u>	<u>648,013</u>

<b>3 (a) Direct expenditure</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Housing, subsistence and living costs	112,455	184,597
Other living services	365,842	306,599
	<u>478,297</u>	<u>491,196</u>

<b>(b) Support Costs</b>		
Staff costs	51,935	82,782
Rent	13,860	13,860
Advertising	193	29,334
Venue hire	325	200
Travel and subsistence	960	520
Stationary	279	387
Telephone and internet	714	728
Computer equipment	1,206	1,109
Repairs and maintenance	176	137
Insurance	1,474	270
Recruitment	-	-
Training	3,610	2,710
Bank charges	379	223
Legal and professional	38,048	12,478
Depreciation	2,079	2,376
Sundry expenses	240	53
Governance costs (see below)	11,840	9,650
	<u>127,318</u>	<u>156,817</u>

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2023

<b>(c) Governance Costs</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditor's remuneration:		
- for audit services	11,840	9,650
- for non audit services	500	-
	<u>12,340</u>	<u>9,650</u>

<b>4 Staff Costs</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	191,265	204,125
Social Security costs	12,807	13,005
Pension costs	8,701	10,694
	<u>212,773</u>	<u>227,824</u>

The average monthly number of persons employed by the charitable company during the year was as follows : -

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Administration	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

One employee was paid in excess of £60,000.

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by a trustee, Dr Michael Rivera King for his services as the chief executive officer, to the company was between £60,000 - £70,000 (2022: £60,000 - £70,000). This arrangement has been as allowed by the governing document and as notified to the Charity Commission on charity registration.

One trustee had expenses reimbursed in the current year for £42 (2022: Nil)

## 5 Fixed Assets

	<b>Furniture and Fixtures</b>	<b>Computer equipment</b>	<b>Office equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cost</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 April 2022	709	11,078	263	12,050
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>709</u>	<u>11,078</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>12,050</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2022	(709)	(7,653)	(263)	(8,625)
Charge for the year	-	(2,079)	-	(2,079)
At 31 March 2023	<u>(709)</u>	<u>(9,732)</u>	<u>(263)</u>	<u>(10,704)</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1,346</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,346</u>
At 1 April 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>3,425</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,425</u>

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2023

<b>6 Debtors and Prepayments</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Prepayments	121,035	85,352
Other debtors	1,435	1,667
	<u>122,470</u>	<u>87,019</u>

<b>7 Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	2,812	-
Other creditors	276,734	224,414
Accruals	16,202	13,500
	<u>295,748</u>	<u>237,914</u>

<b>8 Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other creditors (note 10)	<u>1,858,425</u>	<u>2,029,906</u>

### 9 Retirement benefit schemes

#### Defined contribution schemes

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independent administered fund.

The charge to the income and expenditure account in respect of defined contribution schemes was £8,701 (2022: £10,694).

The balance outstanding at the year end in respect of defined contribution schemes was £nil (2022: £nil).

### 10 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

At the year end, the charitable company had made a financial and pastoral commitment to support a number of students studying in the UK for the rest of the academic year. This financial commitment was estimated to be £61,446 (2022: £35,385).

In 2020-2021 the charitable company signed partnership agreements with the University of York and University of Warwick. Under these agreements the charitable company has agreed to provide restricted grants to the universities, to be used to provide stipends to AAI Scholars over the period. These liabilities were taken on after a full discussion with the Ashinaga Foundation, as the major donor to Ashinaga UK, on the impact of this on the charitable company's budget. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these grants on behalf of the charitable company.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2023

### 11 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	1,346	-	1,346
Current assets and liabilities	140,749	(204,631)	(63,882)
Non-current liabilities	-	(1,858,425)	(1,858,425)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>142,095</u>	<u>(2,063,056)</u>	<u>(1,920,961)</u>

The deficit on restricted funds will be met by future funding from Ashinaga Foundation, the ultimate controlling party.

### 12 Operating lease commitments

#### Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating leases expiring:		
Within one year	<u>1,155</u>	<u>1,155</u>

### 13 Related party transactions

Ashinaga Foundation (Ashinaga) is a not-for-profit organisation based in Japan, which has ultimate control over the company. Ashinaga's corporation number is 0100-05-028962. It's registered office is Main Office 2-7-5 Sabou Kaikan Hirakawa-cho Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, Japan. During the year Ashinaga Foundation made donations to the charity of £618,870 (2022: £761,393).

### 14 Cash generated from operations

	2023 £	2022 £
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	64,912	191,551
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	2,079	2,376
<b>Movements in working capital</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(35,451)	(41,468)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(113,647)	(45,514)
<b>Cash absorbed by operations</b>	<u>(82,107)</u>	<u>106,945</u>

**ASHINAGA ASSOCIATION IN THE UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183750

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# Accounts

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Ashinaga Association in the UK

Annual Report  
and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022



ASHINAGA  
UK

Company Number: 10634278

Registered Charity Number: 1183750

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## 2021-2022 Highlights at a Glance

### Scholars:

- In the 2020-2021 academic year,
  - 38% of graduates achieved a First with all remaining graduates securing an Upper Second-class degree
  - 83% of Scholars were at a top 500 university (*THE*)
  - No Scholar has ever failed to progress to the next academic year.
- One Scholar set up a pro-bono school for mothers so that they can sit their Malawian MCSE exams. The organisation now has 13 members, a registered office, and partners and funders from around the world.
- Another Scholar has partnered with a start-up founder to help subsistence farmers in rural Zambia improve crop yields by connecting farmers with training, loans to expand their farms, and marketing services.
- A third Scholar secured a government donation of five computers and has set up an organisation named Young Africans Alliance Academy. This teaches ICT skills and leadership to young people in Sierra Leone and has supported eight of their students to progress to university.

### 2021 Graduates:

- The 2021 Graduates all secured excellent jobs or full scholarships for further studies.
- 2021 Graduates are working as genetic technologists, engineers, and financial analysts, as well as medical doctors, investment bankers, and accountants.
- One 2021 graduate progressed onto McGill University on a full Mastercard Scholarship for his research master's degree, while a 2020 Graduate secured a full Commonwealth Scholarship to study Structural Engineering at the University of Manchester.

### Partnerships:

- Our first Scholars entered the University of York in September 2021. The University of York have pledged over £2.5 million in tuition fee waivers to support 33 AAI UK Scholars over the next eight years.

- This year, we secured over £310,000 of support for Ashinaga's international work, including over £239,000 of support from university partners and £20,000 worth of laptops for Ashinaga Senegal.
- We have continued our partnership with Herbert Smith Freehills who have provided pro-bono legal support, mentorship to Scholars and Graduates, as well as financial support for our work.

**Governance:**

- In September 2021, Suzan Kilamile, a Tanzanian AAI Graduate working at a Medical University in Tanzania while completing her masters, joined our board of trustees.

## Reference and Administrative Details

### Name:

Ashinaga Association in the UK

### Company number:

10634278

### Charity registration number:

1183750

### Address and registered office:

13/14 Cornwall Terrace,  
Outer Circle  
London  
NW1 4QP  
UK

### Trustees:

Ms Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier  
Mr Yoshiomi Tamai  
Ms Yukie Seki  
Dr Michael Rivera King  
Sir Eric Thomas  
Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin  
Ms Suzan Kilamile

### Chief Executive Officer:

Dr Michael Rivera King

### Bankers:

Barclays Bank  
17 St Anns Square  
Manchester  
M2 7PW

### Solicitors:

Herbert Smith Freehills  
Exchange House  
Primrose Street  
London  
EC2A 2EG

### Accountants:

Sidikies  
1 Sun Street  
London  
EC2A 2EP

### Auditors:

Moore Kingston Smith LLP  
The Shipping Building  
The Old Vinyl Factory  
Blyth Road  
Hayes  
London  
UB3 1HA

## A Message from a Scholar

I grew up in Lesotho, a landlocked country in Southern Africa. Like many other African countries, Lesotho experiences various issues of development that impact the quality of life for its citizens. As a result, throughout my life, I have been privy to the challenges that Basotho faced, especially the socio-economic challenges. Of particular interest to me was the ability of the law to protect and support vulnerable groups. Being a girl, I understood the challenges that women faced in the country. Lesotho's law is more protective of men and provides less support and rights for women. As such Basotho women have limited rights which in turn affects their ability to succeed in the country. As a result, I developed a passion for a career aimed at defending and promoting women and girls' rights. Specifically, I developed an interest in providing support and help to victims of Gender Based Violence and Sexual assault – my *kokorazashi*.

It was critical for me to have an opportunity that would expose me to other opportunities that could support my passion. A scholarship was the most effective start for me, as it would expose me to the international community where I could learn more about defending human rights. Furthermore, studying in a developed country that had completed impactful work in the area of human rights would enable me to learn further about such effective structures, which I could later implement upon my return to sub-Saharan Africa. Thus, when I was invited to join the Ashinaga Africa Initiative, I was convinced it was the perfect start to attaining my goals.

My journey with Ashinaga has been nothing short of fruitful. I have been exposed to an international community, exposing me to a wide array of mindsets. This has motivated me to gain more knowledge and ideas on how I can implement my *kokorazashi*. With the skills learnt from the *tsudoi*, study camp, preparation camp and occasional events, I managed to obtain and apply for further opportunities/experiences that have improved my network and skills.

At university, I participated in the Model African Union Society as the vice president which equipped me with better knowledge on African issues. In the past four years of my university, I was also fortunate to intern with organisations focused on defending and supporting victims of GBV and sexual assault—TEARS Foundation (South Africa) and Women and Law in Southern Africa (Lesotho). I have also been completing my Ashinaga proposal researching effective means of providing support to, and advocating for, victims of sexual assault in Lesotho. This has allowed me to understand the challenges that impede existing organisations in the country from providing more support, and how these can be solved. This research and experience have also supported my nomination

and award of the Sir William Darling Memorial Prize for my dedication and work in assisting with the development of Africa.

In the future, I aim to work with Non-Governmental Organisations whose work is focused on defending human rights on the African continent. I hope to use my law degree, alongside my experience from internships and research, to support and assist victims of gender-based violence and sexual assault in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ashinaga has been a significant building block for me to achieve my dreams, and I believe there is no better way for me to show my gratitude than to pay it forward in the manner above. I am grateful to the Ashinaga Africa Initiative and its donors for supporting me in achieving my *kokorazashi*.

**TLALANE MATSOSO**

## A Message from our Founder

In 2012 I had a conversation with some professors at the University of Oxford on what was to become the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI). To explain the spirit of the program I referenced loggerhead sea turtles, who travel abroad and then return to the place they were born to lay their own eggs. A decade on, it is a great pleasure to see AAI Scholars who have studied in the UK returning to the great continent of Africa to contribute to development in whatever manner they wish. UK graduates in Africa are teaching in medical universities, working as a civil engineer developing infrastructure, and doing policy analysis for a nation's president.

2021–2022 has been a challenging year for Ashinaga and our Scholars. Covid and the cost-of-living crisis have left people at risk of isolation. I am thus very proud that the UK office has never had a Scholar leave the program or fail to progress to the next academic year. It is a testament to the Scholars' resilience and determination as well as the staff's great efforts in supporting them.

Our movement is underpinned by the simple concept of 'people helping people'. Be it UK graduates shaping the futures of their communities and countries or our wonderful donors contributing to these young changemakers' journeys, everything comes back to simple kindness. As we move out of the pandemic I ask for your continued support in helping change the world through the amazing AAI Scholars.



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**Yoshiomi Tamai**

## A Message from our Director

Ashinaga UK is now the largest provider of undergraduate scholarships for sub-Saharan African students in the UK. We supported 29 AAI Scholars over the fiscal year and by September 2022 will have supported 51 Scholars on their journey to impacting Africa.

Our beneficiaries lie at the heart of our work and I am delighted that we were able to welcome Suzan Kilamile onto our board of trustees this year. Suzan is an AAI Graduate of the University of Nottingham who is now working at a Medical University in Tanzania while completing her master's degree. Suzan's lived experience has already been invaluable in board meetings.

I remain profoundly impressed with both UK Scholars and Graduates and the positive contributions they are making to their communities, countries, and continent. It is amazing to see the impact Scholars are having in Africa before they even graduate, through foundations, social enterprises, education charities, and peer-support groups.

We help Scholars cultivate the skills they need to achieve this impact, in part through the Ashinaga Proposal. This sees Scholars identify an issue in their community, country, or region, and lay out a well-researched, structured proposal on how to address it – either as a social entrepreneurship plan or as an advocacy paper. I was proud to hear that one Graduate has been invited to submit their Ashinaga Proposal, on addressing the issues that disabled students face in accessing school, to the President of Namibia's office.

It is both these longer-term impacts and the transformation in our Scholars that brings me the greatest joy. Knowing the challenges Scholars have overcome makes their graduation ceremonies and post-graduation achievements even more meaningful for me.

Ashinaga Scholars would not be able to achieve these goals without your support. I am delighted to see how our partnerships and donor numbers have flourished. This year, we secured over £310,000 of support for Ashinaga's international work, a huge step in the right direction. Yet our work, and the work of Ashinaga's offices around the world, remain at a critical point, with the cost-of-living crisis impacting everything we want to achieve. Now, more than ever, our students need your support and generosity. If you want to learn more about our work and how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. By supporting our Scholars, you are supporting the next generation of compassionate young change-makers for Africa.

**Michael Rivera King**

## Introducing our Trustees

### **Eric Thomas (UK)**

Sir Eric Thomas joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2018. Sir Eric was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol from 2001 to 2015, and President of Universities UK, the body that represents all UK universities, from 2011 to 2013. His childhood was in the North-East of England, and he qualified as a medical doctor in 1976 from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He trained as a gynaecologist and was Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Southampton from 1991 to 2001. He was Dean of Medicine there from 1995 to 2000. He currently has a number of charitable trustee roles in the UK.

### **'Funmi Olonisakin (UK)**

Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin joined the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees in August 2020. Professor Olonisakin is Vice-President and Vice-Principal International and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King's College London, where she founded the African Leadership Centre. She was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, as one of seven members of the Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. Professor Olonisakin also serves on the board of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and chairs the Africa Regional Advisory Committee of the Open Society Foundation.

### **Suzan Kilamile (Tanzania)**

Suzan Nimrod Kilamile joined the Ashinaga Board of Trustees UK in July 2021. Suzan studied Medical Physiology and Therapeutics at the University of Nottingham and is among the first Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) Graduates to complete their degree. Suzan is passionate about healthcare in children and maternal health. As a new and inspired academician, Suzan is hoping to have an impact through scientific and clinical research to promote healthcare. As a board member Suzan acts as a voice of Ashinaga Scholars and alumni.

### **Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier (France)**

Noriko Carpentier-Tominaga joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Noriko is also a board member of the Ashinaga Foundation. Based in Paris, Noriko works to strengthen French-Japanese economic relationships as Delegation Generale of the Comite d'Echanges Franco-Japonais. Working with companies

seeking broader and deeper connections, Noriko cares about the interests of each of them and tries to offer a variety of activities to facilitate them developing their business. Noriko's focus for Ashinaga is to support the development of professional opportunities for alumni to enable them to contribute to African development.

### **Yoshiomi Tamai (Japan)**

Yoshiomi Tamai joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Yoshiomi Tamai is the founder and president of the Ashinaga Foundation. After losing his mother in a traffic accident over fifty years ago, he became passionate about working to support the educational and emotional needs of orphans who lost their parents in traffic accidents. He founded an organisation, Ashinaga, that gave scholarships to these orphans before extending the support to all children who have lost one or both parents. Tamai's work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Global Fundraising award and, most recently, the Goto Shinpei award.

### **Yukie Seki (Japan)**

Yukie Seki has been on the Board of Ashinaga Association in the UK since February 2017. Yukie works as the secretary general of the Ashinaga Foundation, where she is also a member of the board, with responsibility for international activities. Before joining Ashinaga, Yukie worked at Hewlett Packard as the Business Manager and Corporate Director.

### **Michael Rivera King (UK)**

Dr Michael Rivera King joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Michael completed his doctorate at the University of Oxford before publishing a book on alternative care and social work in Japan. Prior to this, Michael set up a volunteer organisation, Smile Kids Japan, to promote local, sustainable volunteering at child welfare institutions, and raised \$900,000 for children affected by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Michael also advised the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare on the 2016 revisions to the Child Welfare Act that promoted family-based foster care and adoption.

# Trustees Report (incorporating Strategic Report)

## Objectives and Activities

### Purpose as set out in governing document

The charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

- a) advancing the education of Orphans<sup>1</sup> anywhere in the world but, in particular, in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) including (but without limitation) by:
  - i. providing scholarships, grants and loans to Orphans to meet expenses associated with education (including course fees, travel and maintenance and subsistence expenses);
  - ii. providing educational and professional guidance and mentoring, emotional and moral support to Orphans;
- b) supporting community and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) by supporting and facilitating Orphans' education with a view to:
  - i. developing their leadership skills and capacity;
  - ii. fostering enthusiasm and tolerance, individual and community self-confidence, and engendering respect for individuality, difference and the importance of teamwork; and
  - iii. using their education and skills to the benefit of their communities (whether national, regional or local) within sub-Saharan Africa;
- c) the prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) by providing or assisting in the provision of education and training; and
- d) such other exclusively charitable purposes as the directors may from time to time think fit.

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<sup>1</sup> "Orphans" means a young adult (and, if the trustees think fit and so determine, a child who is under 18 years of age) who has a parent who has died or who is reasonably believed to be long-term missing.

## Main activities related to these purposes

### Ashinaga Africa Initiative: Young Leaders for Africa

Ashinaga Association in the UK works closely with the Ashinaga Foundation, Japan, and Ashinaga offices in Uganda, Senegal, United States of America, France, and Brazil on the 'Ashinaga Africa Initiative'.

**The mission of the AAI is to contribute to sub-Saharan Africa's expanding role in global development by increasing access to higher education abroad. Ashinaga supports orphaned students who are committed to returning home, or to the region of sub-Saharan Africa, to initiate change, innovation, or development.**

The Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) is an international leadership programme that cultivates the next generation of leaders to contribute to the development of sub-Saharan Africa.

AAI Scholars are orphaned students who are committed to returning to sub-Saharan Africa to initiate change, innovation, and development. Each year, Ashinaga aims to select one AAI Scholar from each country in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ashinaga provides financial support for international university degrees, along with leadership training and support to develop Scholars into compassionate change-makers. After graduation, Scholars return to sub-Saharan Africa, empowered to turn their vision into reality.

### Ashinaga in Africa

The first stage of this programme is the recruitment and selection of Candidates. This is conducted by the Ashinaga Foundation.

Selected Candidates then complete a year-long programme in Senegal, for Francophone Scholars, or Uganda, for Lusophone and Anglophone Scholars. This centres around a six-month study camp, focused on academic development and university relations, and a two-month prep camp, focused on socio-cultural preparation. Both camps also focus on leadership development. This year travel restrictions have meant that much of this work had to be delivered online.

### Ashinaga Association in the UK

The UK office first engages with potential Candidates during the end of the recruitment stage. We provide feedback on applicants based on our evaluation of their suitability for studying in the UK and of their suitability for the AAI's mission. Once selected, we work

with the Candidates on which universities they will apply to and to confirm that their academic plans will enable them to achieve the impact they want to have after graduation.

The vast majority of our work occurs once the Scholars have arrived in the UK. There are three threads to the Ashinaga Africa Initiative: a leadership development programme, a full scholarship for university, and holistic support for the Scholars.

The leadership work is structured on our leadership development framework. This cultivates leadership skills across professional, personal, and academic fields and underpins our work with the Scholars. As part of this programme, Scholars are required to complete an internship in Africa and an 'Ashinaga Proposal'. The latter sees the Scholar identify an issue in their community, country, or region, and lay out a well-researched, structured proposal on how to address it – either as a social entrepreneurship plan or as an advocacy paper. In addition to helping Scholars develop a network and new skills, the internship and Proposal ensure a close bond with Africa is maintained.

The highlight of the year is our annual *tsudo* (leadership camp) focused on leadership development. As well as structured programming, this three-day camp develops a strong cohort mentality, facilitating peer-to-peer support networks. As of the end of this fiscal year, we have never had a Scholar fail to gain entrance to university and no Scholar has failed or left the programme. The role that Scholars play in supporting one another, above and beyond the support we provide, undoubtedly contributes to their success.

Broadly, our work can be divided into three categories: student-facing, partnerships, and administrative. Our student-facing work focuses on cultivating leadership, developing programming, and supporting our students holistically. This work is the heart of what we do: cultivating young African leaders who will determine the development needs of their continent and gain skills to develop innovative means of addressing them.

Our partnerships work covers our work with universities, along with our fundraising and communications efforts. Last year we signed transformative partnerships with the University of York and the University of Warwick. These partnerships have reduced the cost of a Scholar completing the AAI in the UK by 62% and paved the way for more Scholars to study here. In addition to these new partnerships, we are very proud to have agreements with the University of Bristol, the University of Portsmouth, the University of Edinburgh, University College London, the University of Central Lancashire, and Royal Holloway. We also want to thank Kaplan International Pathways for their invaluable support of our work at the University of York, where Scholars entering via the foundation pathway will also have their fees covered.

Our fundraising and communications work this year has been very successful, particularly given the challenges imposed by the cost-of-living crisis impacting our donors. We are grateful to the support of Herbert Smith Freehills, who have provided us with pro-bono legal support, mentored our Scholars and Graduates, and generously supported

our work. We are also grateful to the JET Alumni Association UK and the Japan Society, for their kind support. Finally, we are grateful to every donor and fundraiser who supported our fundraising campaigns this year – your support has been incredible!

The final category of work is administrative. We have continued to implement changes to reduce staff time spent on ‘back office’ work, allowing more time on the work that matters most, supporting our amazing beneficiaries.

Our work with our beneficiaries is assessed as part of a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system. This tracks both the impact of our work with Scholars and in turn the impact that Graduates have in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our final goal is not the Scholars’ education, but that through education and training the Scholars will be equipped to initiate change, innovation, and development in sub-Saharan Africa. As such, it is ultimately not us who defines the aim of this work, but the Scholars, who have a deeper knowledge of the challenges their communities, countries, and regions face. This ‘pay it forward’ philosophy empowers the Scholars to initiate change on their own terms.

### Confirmation that purposes are for the public benefit, having had regard to Charity Commission guidance on this

Ashinaga Association in the UK was entered on the Register of Charities on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 (Registered charity number 1183750). The Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit has been referred to when reviewing the organisation’s aims and when planning future activities and the Trustees are satisfied that the work carried out by the charity complies with the public benefit requirements set out by the Commission.

### Activities, projects, services in the period

As outlined previously, our work in this period centred on the Ashinaga Africa Initiative, with a focus on improving the content of our leadership programme, and building our fundraising capacity. In addition to this, the University of Bristol commissioned us to provide leadership programming to their international scholarship students. This entailed us creating a leadership development handbook and running an orientation session and one-day leadership workshop. All work carried out this year is assessed in the following section.

## Achievements and Performance

### Our main achievements in the period

The board of trustees are delighted with the progress made in 2021–2022 and the achievements of the UK Scholars and Graduates. All our key objectives for the fiscal year, for Student-facing, Partnership, and Administrative work have been achieved and done so at around 20 per cent under anticipated costs. The board are confident in the future direction of the charity and the team's ability to implement these plans. Taking each of our strands of work in turn:

Our **Student-facing** work covers Student Relations and Programming, as well as University support for Candidates (in the preparation year in Uganda) and Scholars who undertake a foundation year in the UK.

Our Student Relations and Programming work begins in Preparation Camp, where we provide support to Candidates in Uganda prior to their arrival in the UK. This was held virtually this year, throughout the month of June. Before the pandemic, staff would travel to Uganda and deliver all sessions intensively over the course of a week. However, this year's format of conducting this virtually and spread out over a longer period worked efficiently and we plan to keep this format for future Prep Camps, even if the Candidates are at the Uganda Kokorojuku together. This format allows us to spread the workload more evenly across staff members and having regular sessions provides everyone more time to become acquainted with one another.

Orientation for Scholars arriving in the UK was held virtually on the 15th and 16th of September with six new Scholars. Since we covered many topics in Prep Camp, we kept our Orientation short and focused on essential topics. Staff members picked up most Scholars at the airport or after hotel quarantine to accompany them to their respective university cities, unless there was a welcome service available from their universities.

As part of our programme delivery for Scholars' first years in the UK, we decided to trial monthly calls in order to cover important content such as budgeting, mental health and the Ashinaga Proposal. Since all this was covered during Prep Year or Orientation, this serves as an important follow-up after the new Scholars have gained first-hand experience in the UK. Another objective of this is to encourage peer support through regular group meetings. This was a great success and we are considering expanding this type of call for other Scholars.

This year's *tsudoj* (leadership camp) was a hybrid event hosted at the University of York from December 21st to 23rd. Three scholars and two staff members attended remotely while the rest (18 Scholars, four staff members) travelled to York. In order to host a safe

event, we created a risk-assessment document, required all attendees to test before and during, prepared PPE, and adjusted accommodation.

We had two external guests join us virtually: Shadrack Frimpong and Ginu Chacko. Shadrack is the founder of Cocoa360 and he spoke about his experience of studying abroad, starting a company in his home country, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the continent. This was the highlight of the *tsudo* for many of the scholars. Ginu is the CEO and founder of Talentrade and she hosted a workshop focused on problem-solving and logical thinking, skills important for the Scholars' Ashinaga Proposal and general leadership. Finally, the *tsudo* was a fantastic chance for Scholars to reconnect and/or meet one another for the first time. The 2020 and 2021 cohort of Scholars had never experienced an in-person *tsudo* before so we were delighted to see them building friendships and a community.

All offices were tasked with implementing the AAI Curriculum to ensure overall coherence of programme delivery across the AAI, while at the same time taking into account differences in each country of study. We have mapped out programme delivery with important additions relevant for Scholars in the UK.

Ashinaga Connect (our web-portal for Scholars) has received a cosmetic change and some technical updates this year. As an office, we are planning on utilising the features of Ashinaga Connect to increase student engagement by moving some of our operations to the platform. In 2021, we began by uploading important scholarship-related information and guidelines for Scholars to access at will, such as the Ashinaga Proposal workbooks and guidelines on the new stipend system. The next stage of the transition will begin in 2022. Finally, we implemented a new stipend system from September 2021 to encourage more financial independence among Scholars and reduce staff administrative time.

Our University Relations work begins with Candidate Selection. Through discussions with other offices and by following the country allocation process, we selected eleven Candidates in June 2021. Five are aiming to attend Warwick while six are aiming to attend York. In July 2022, we conducted virtual sessions with the eleven Candidates attending Study Camp. They were required to create an Academic & Professional Plan to solidify the connections between their *kokorozashi*, their studies, and their professional career. We also created their university lists and the Uganda office has been assisting with their applications. All Candidates have received offers from their first-choice university or foundation program.

Our **Partnership** work covers two broad areas: University Relations and Fundraising. Looking first at University Relations, we currently have memoranda of understandings, in which the universities meet up to 75% of tuition fees, with the University of Bristol, University of Portsmouth, University of Edinburgh, Royal Holloway (University of London), University of Central Lancashire, UCL, as well as full partnerships with the University of York and University of Warwick, in which they meet 100% of tuition fees for a fixed quota

of AAI Scholars. The University of Edinburgh also kindly offers our Scholars access to other scholarships. We were delighted to renew our agreements with the University of Central Lancashire, which includes a partnership with OnCampus, and the University of Bristol in this period. **Our university partners have pledged over £6.1 million in support toward UK Scholars. In 2021-2022 we received £239,306 of donations-in-kind from universities**, in the form of them meeting tuition or stipends. This will increase significantly in 2022–2023, with all eleven new Scholars entering the University of Warwick or University of York.

Our **Fundraising** efforts saw us generate over £70,000 from UK-based supporters, including from the public, corporates, and foundations. This year we launched fundraising activities to support Ashinaga's international activities outside the UK and fundraised over £27,500 for other Ashinaga offices. We are very proud to have pro-bono legal support from Herbert Smith Freehills, who have also provided mentorship to our Scholars and Graduates, along with donations to Ashinaga UK, Ashinaga France, and Ashinaga Foundation. We also retained our Google advertising grant, worth up to \$120,000, and worked with Ashinaga Foundation to ensure that other offices are also able to benefit from this. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, we used £29,333 of this grant, which is recorded in our financial statements as 'In kind support'.

This year we also launched our first ever 'earned income' project, in which we were commissioned by the University of Bristol to provide leadership programming for their international scholarship students. This entailed the creation of a leadership program and handbook, along with online orientation and an in-person day-long workshop. The feedback here was incredible:

- 98% recommend the program to international applicants
- 94% said it improved their experience as an international scholar
- 98% felt more confident regarding their capacity to act with determination
- 96% felt the skills developed in the program will help them transition to the next chapter of their lives (employment, further studies, etc.)
- 98% felt more confident regarding how they can cultivate mental clarity and well-being

**In total, we raised over £340,000 of donations and donations-in-kind toward Ashinaga's international activities in the fiscal year.**

Our **Administrative** work this year focused on further reducing the amount of time spent on administrative processes to allow more staff time to be spent working with beneficiaries. The change in stipend system, as well as simplifying our Scholar Agreement, have been significant and we aim to build on this in the coming year. Other work included ensuring governance mechanisms remained strong, GDPR compliance, and establishing HR goals around staff development and progression. With regard to **Governance**, we are delighted that Suzan Kilamile, a UK AAI alumna, has joined our board of trustees.

## Impact on beneficiaries

Our impact assessment work focuses both on the impact of our work with Scholars and the impact Graduates have on sub-Saharan Africa. Graduates can remain overseas for up to four years before returning to sub-Saharan Africa. This enables them to pursue further study or gain professional experience.

Looking first at our **Graduates' impact**: We now have 17 Graduates. Of these, 10 have completed or are completing postgraduate qualifications, having secured scholarships from Commonwealth, MasterCard and others. Graduates have secured excellent jobs including working as a policy assistant for the President of their country, in a medical university in Tanzania, as engineers including on HS2 and large-scale projects in Africa, and in the finance industry, spanning Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan, and UBS. Of those who haven't yet returned to Africa, all are actively contributing to Africa, including one Graduate who has teamed up with a Scholar to set up a foundation in The Gambia, which focuses on improving maternal and child health outcomes.

While Ashinaga UK's support is focused on Scholars at university, Graduates do receive some support after graduation. UK Graduates have been accepted onto the Ashinaga Master's in Africa scholarship and received career coaching from Ashinaga Foundation, which is greatly valued.

Turning next to the **impact of our work on AAI Scholars**, our monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework tracks development over their personal, professional, and academic fields, as well as anonymously looking at the overall wellbeing of AAI Scholars. Before this stage we first evaluate the calibre of Scholars accepted onto the programme. All of the UK-bound Candidates who started university in 2021–2022 received an unconditional offer from their first-choice university.

Turning next to the wellbeing of AAI UK Scholars, which is assessed anonymously using The Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale, Scholars saw a significant decrease in wellbeing in comparison to 2020–2021. We believe this is related to the effects of prolonged lockdown, remote learning, and limited opportunities for community-building in-person activities, and have re-focused our support there. The second component looked at is the level of confidence Scholars have in fulfilling the mission. We are proud to have achieved the highest confidence of any Ashinaga office though still believe we can do better here.

Scholars' academic performance is evaluated by the number of Scholars who achieve a First, the number who achieve a First or Upper Second, the number who pass the year, and the number who graduate. This report draws on the data for the end of the 2020–2021 academic year. All eight graduating Scholars achieved at least a 2:1, with 38% achieving a First. In total, 96% of Scholars passed the year. The remaining Scholar was permitted to repeat the year on the basis of extraordinary extenuating circumstances

(and went on to achieve a First the following year). We are very proud that 83% of the Scholars were at a top 500 university (*Times Higher Education*).

This year, as last, Scholars' ability to participate in in-person activities to develop their professional skills, such as internships, was restricted by lockdowns and travel restrictions. Despite the challenges, three Scholars did manage to do internships in Africa and a further seven completed remote internships with African organisations. Perhaps the most notable internship was a Scholar who worked with the National Information Office in the Central African Republic. Other Scholars completed domestic internships, gained professional experience in the UK, or worked on their charitable foundations in Africa.

Scholars also used this time to focus on their Ashinaga Proposal. This is a project in which Scholars identify an issue in their community, country, or region, and lay out a well-researched, structured proposal on how to address it – either as a social entrepreneurship plan or as an advocacy paper. UK Scholars' Proposals cover topics that span almost all the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including:

- An Off-grid Standalone Solar Power Energy Generation in Isolated Areas of Afar Region, Ethiopia.
- Creating Awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder by Providing Psychological Support to Individuals and their caregivers in Zambia.
- Providing support, information and legal advice to victims of sexual assault in Lesotho.
- Improving National Liquidity and Empowering Women in Malawi through Financial Literacy and Village Banking.
- Using Agricultural Aviation to Eradicate Food Insecurity in Nigeria.
- Raising Awareness on Harmful Cultural Practices Affecting Maternal and Child Health in Rural Gambia (Lower Nuimi District, North Bank Region).
- Challenges Being Faced by Children Living With Disabilities in Accessing Education and Healthcare in Zimbabwe.
- Empowering Women's Co-operatives by Introducing Collectively Owned Machines.
- Using ATMs to Address Non-compliance of HIV Medication in Benin.

The Ashinaga Proposals are increasingly moving from a theoretical exercise to projects that Scholars plan on implementing upon graduation. Projects that Scholars have already launched include:

- Using affordable technology to widen access to science materials for those from disadvantaged regions in Ethiopia. This is a critical bottleneck that has limited access to government scholarships.
- Setting up a peer-support group for burn victims in Mauritius, where there is no psycho-social care post-surgery.

- Establishing a Foundation in The Gambia to improve maternal health outcomes.

In addition, one Graduate was invited to submit their Proposal, on addressing the issues that disabled students in Namibia face in accessing school, to the President of Namibia's office.

In addition to this, Scholars are increasingly active in projects in Africa during their time at university. Examples include:

- An AAI Scholar was one of four students to be awarded the William Darling Memorial Prize at the University of Edinburgh for her incredible work supporting survivors of sexual violence in South Africa. This is awarded by the Principal of the University to an individual or group of students who have done most to enhance the reputation of the University.
- One AAI Scholar offers tutoring services to disadvantaged students for free in Ethiopia through the organisation they founded in 2012. The organisation has supported over 250 students per year with their academics, allowing them to access government scholarships to continue their studies, and has provided important school supplies to many more.
- Another Scholar established an organisation called the 'Young African Alliance Academy' to teach IT and other skills, as well as empowering youth through leadership development. The Scholar secured a government donation of five computers and is now supporting 25 community members in their community in Sierra Leone.
- Another Scholar has partnered with the founder of a start-up to help subsistence farmers in rural Zambia to tackle the challenges that affect their crop yields. They aim to do this by connecting farmers with training, consultation services, loans to expand their farms, and marketing services.
- A final example, though there are many more stories to share, is an AAI Scholar who has formed a pro-bono school to provide education to mothers so they can sit or re-sit their Malawi School Certificate of Education (MCSE) examinations. During lockdown, their team increased from four to 13 members and their organisation is now registered, has an office, and two partners and funders from around the world.

When considering the positive impact of our work with Scholars and of our Graduates it is important that we pause to remember the background of our Scholars. All have lost one or both parents, and all have overcome significant hardship to get to where they are today. From growing up in an orphanage to being a refugee of a civil war, even just adjusting to the UK as an international student, the UK Scholars have a different 'start line' from their peers. The quality of Scholar and Graduate outcomes speaks to both their

excellence and to the quality of support provided. Our role is to help these young people realise their potential, and give them the leadership skills they need to make a significant contribution to sub-Saharan Africa. While there are elements we can further refine, we are tremendously proud of the Scholars, Graduates, and the staff for their tireless work.

## Partnerships Spotlight

**Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF)** have kindly supported Ashinaga UK with pro-bono legal support, mentorship to Scholars and Graduates, and financial support for our work.

One of their donations enabled us to hold our first in-person *tsudoi* (leadership camp) since the pandemic. 21 Scholars took part: 18 travelling to York for the three-day gathering and 3 joining remotely. As well as covering transport, accommodation, and food costs for the Scholars, HSF's support also meant we could invite outside speakers from the African continent to give talks, run workshops, and answer questions over webcam.

The camp was not only an important opportunity to reconnect after two years of online-only events, but also enabled Scholars to develop skills for life.

**Computer Aid** are a UK organisation who receive donations of IT equipment from companies, schools, and government agencies, and refurbish that equipment to send onto non-profit organisations around the world.

Ashinaga's office in Senegal desperately needed more laptops for both the AAI Scholars studying in their preparatory year before university, and the Scholars Ashinaga supports through primary, secondary, and tertiary education within Senegal. The laptops in the Senegal office were old, slow, and too few for everyone to use.

Working with Computer Aid, we secured 50 high-specification refurbished laptops, which were sent from the UK over to Dakar, Senegal. These were supplied free of charge, with only refurbishment and delivery costs added. The total value of this in-kind donation was estimated to be approximately £20,000.

Only 46% of the population use the internet in Senegal, compared to 90% in North America and Europe. Closing the digital divide is becoming increasingly important. Covid created a permanent rise in remote working around the world, and digital skills are now needed for more jobs than ever before.

With thanks to Computer Aid, Ashinaga UK was able to take unwanted equipment from UK organisations and send them to where they will benefit hundreds of orphaned youth. This, in turn, will enable them to develop the 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills they need to become future leaders.

Looking ahead, we want to do even more to close the digital gap in Senegal and Uganda, and will continue to seek partnerships and funds to improve access to technology for everyone.

**The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation** are a UK-registered charity who provided a £2,500 grant to support Ashinaga's work in Uganda.

This past year was a challenging time for the children we support in Uganda. Schools only reopened in January 2022, after an almost two-year shutdown. With limited remote learning options, 60% of primary and 44% of secondary school children stopped learning altogether during this school closure.

At the same time, Covid lockdowns squeezed household budgets. No child should have to choose between supporting their family and their own education, but orphaned children are often put into this position.

We knew we needed to act urgently to enable orphaned children to return to school. Thanks to this grant from The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation, we were able to provide notebooks, pens, pencils, and mathematical sets to 1,000 orphaned children.

Ashinaga UK secured the grant and Ashinaga Uganda staff purchased the items and distributed them to the children.

The grant was particularly needed as the war in Ukraine has had a knock-on effect on the price of many items in Uganda, including school supplies. This has made it even harder for poor, disadvantaged households to afford education.

**The right internship, mentor, or training could change a young person's life and set them on their career journey.** We are so grateful to our generous partners who donate their time, knowledge, resources, and provide financial support to help empower the young people we work with.

Every time an organisation works with us it makes a huge difference to the Scholars: whether that means connecting us with mentors, providing internship opportunities, training staff or Scholars, passing on equipment, or sending financial support.

**Do you think your organisation could join our movement and help empower orphaned youth?**

If so, email our partnerships coordinator, Suhur, at [partnerships.uk@ashinaga.org](mailto:partnerships.uk@ashinaga.org) – we'd love to discuss opportunities with you.

## Fundraising Spotlight

We are grateful to two of our star fundraisers, Edoardo and John, who raced in the Hackney Half-marathon. Together, they raised an incredible £1,509.38 for Ashinaga UK, with Edoardo's employer, Fitch Ratings, generously donating another £2,000 on top. This meant that the grand total raised by both runners was £3,509.38 – an inspiring achievement!

When John was looking for charities to raise funds for, picking Ashinaga was an obvious choice. He said, "I am vice-principal of a sixth form college, and so I work every day with students hoping to gain access to higher education, and I know the power of education to change lives. The opportunity to support a charity that aims to provide access to education to students from around the world who would otherwise not be able to access it was a no-brainer, and I was delighted to support Ashinaga and the important work they are doing."

Our deep thanks to Edoardo, John, and Fitch Ratings for helping us empower orphaned youth.

There are plenty of ways to support Ashinaga without having to put your running shoes on. If you are interested in taking part in a marathon or half-marathon or have another idea for raising money, consider fundraising for Ashinaga. Otherwise, please help us support the next generation of orphaned youth through a donation today.

Visit our website for more information: [www.ashinaga.org/en/](http://www.ashinaga.org/en/)

## Our Plans

### Introduction

The primary goals of our three-year strategy for 2020-2023 were to:

- (i) meet the objectives of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI)
- (ii) in a financially sustainable manner.

On the first goal, we remain the most successful office in terms of Scholars completing the program and Graduates achieving the AAI mission. On the second goal, our key financial target was to reduce the total cost to Ashinaga (including overheads) of a student completing the AAI by over 50% within three years. With the new partnerships agreed with the University of Warwick and the University of York we have already achieved this three-year goal, with direct student costs reduced by 62%.

A lot has changed since this strategy was created, not least the cost-of-living crisis, and the global situation remains in flux. As such, we are about to launch a new two-year strategy that focuses on beneficiaries, partnerships, and administration.

### Key Objectives

- Partnerships:
  - To fundraise meaningful amounts towards Ashinaga's international activities.
- Scholar-facing:
  - We would like to focus our programming on the most impactful areas in order to best empower UK Scholars in their leadership development. One way of doing this would be to better leverage external programming.
- Administrative:
  - To significantly streamline administrative processes relating to payment requests, processing, and book-keeping.

### Partnerships Overview

Our longer-term goal is to require no additional funding from Ashinaga Foundation. To do this, we have a three-pronged fundraising approach, working with corporates, foundations, and individual donors. Our primary immediate goal is to build connections with potential supporters, including from the African and Japanese diasporas. In parallel with this, we will continue approaching companies and foundations, and initiate a new project where we reconnect with former Ashinaga interns to engage them with our work.

### Scholar-facing Overview

Given our partnerships with the University of York and University of Warwick, we are aiming for all new Scholars to attend one of these universities. This allows us to better understand and leverage university provision of leadership and professional skills programming, allowing us to focus our support on Scholar engagement with sub-Saharan Africa, contributing to development while being a Scholar (rather than post-graduation), and preparing Scholars for African job markets. In addition to this leveraging of external programming, we are going to adopt some technological solutions to improve Scholars' experience of our programming. We will also look to further increase the voice of Scholars in every aspect of our work, from Governance to programming.

### Administrative Overview

Our focus here will be to further simplify payment request, processing, and book-keeping systems, again by using technological solutions.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Our governing document

Ashinaga Association in the UK is registered as a private company, limited by guarantee (10634278), and with the Charities Commission (1183750). Our governing document is our Articles of Association. This document is available from Companies House.

### How our organisation is constituted

Ashinaga Association in the UK works closely with the Ashinaga Foundation, based in Japan, and the Ashinaga offices in Uganda, Senegal, France, America, and Brazil. The Ashinaga Foundation has provided seed-funding for these offices, including our own, to undertake their work and to establish a self-sustaining model over time. Yoshiomi Tamai, a UK board member, is the founder of the Ashinaga Foundation. Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier and Yukie Seki are also members of both the UK and Japanese boards. Sir Eric Thomas is a member of the UK board and a member of the *Kenjin-Tatsujin* advisory board. Day-to-day managerial responsibility is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.

Ashinaga is also a member of the HALI (High-Achieving Low-Income) Access Network. The HALI Access Network is an association of non-profit organizations in Africa that support high-achieving, low-income (HALI) students to access international higher education opportunities. HALI strives to level the playing field in international education to increase inclusion, access and scholarship support for remarkable students who only lack finances to make their educational dreams come true. HALI believes in the power of education to change communities, and in the impact our students have on college and university campuses.

### Methods for recruiting and appointing new trustees, including any constitutional provisions

The trustees of the charity shall be as follows:

- up to five persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by ordinary resolution;
- up to two persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by Ashinaga Japan from time to time by written notice to the charity;
- up to two persons with expertise, knowledge, or connections of particular value to the charity in furthering its objects (willing to act as trustees) appointed by trustees; and
- up to two persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by the trustees from time to time.

The Board regularly reviews the skills present within its members, and where any gaps lie, and works with the Ashinaga Foundation to ensure the effectiveness of the makeup of

the Board. Full details of the Appointment process may be found in our Articles of Association.

Training is offered on a continual basis to all Trustees to assist them in their role and governance of the Charity.

## Financial Review

Ashinaga Association in the UK achieved all its key targets for the 2021–2022 fiscal year and achieved this significantly under the anticipated budget. The board are delighted with the achievements of this fiscal year and feel that the charity is very well positioned to take the next steps in creating more partnerships with supporters of our work. A budget for 2022–2023 has been agreed with Ashinaga Foundation, who will support our activities on an ongoing basis. This support includes a commitment to provide the financial support the organisation needs for at least 12 months from the date of sign-off of these financial statements.

The trustees regularly consider and evaluate the risks and uncertainties the charity faces. These include those associated with the first income-generating project we have undertaken, of providing leadership services to the University of Bristol, and risks faced by beneficiaries, including the disproportionate impact that remote-learning had on AAI Scholars. Larger risks discussed include the potential impact of the cost-of-living crisis on donations, though the board note that the fundraising team has adjusted its approach to reflect these new realities. The board want to thank staff members for their continued flexibility and creativity in this challenging and unusual time.

The trustees would like to highlight the financial commitments made last year, the partnerships with the University of York and University of Warwick. As noted in the financial statements last year (see Note 10), under these partnerships the universities will meet the tuition fees for AAI Scholars and Ashinaga UK will provide restricted grants to the universities for use on AAI Scholars' stipends. These partnerships will reduce the average cost to Ashinaga UK of an AAI Scholar completing the program by 62 per cent. These liabilities were taken on after a full discussion with the Ashinaga Foundation, as the major donor to Ashinaga UK, on the impact of this on our budget. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these grants on behalf of the charitable company. In accordance with the requirements of accounting standards, at the year-end, the charitable company has recognised as liabilities, the contracted value of the commitments made to the universities for the term of the agreements. The benefit of the lack of tuition fees will be recognised over the term of the agreements. The reported deficit in the financial statements reflects these commitments by increasing the reported deficit by £2.3m in the prior year, which also impacts on restricted funds at the year end and resulting in a net deficit position overall.

Our reserves policy aims to build up 3 months of operational expenditure, estimated to be approximately £155,000. In making this calculation, the long-term commitment to the universities mentioned above is excluded on the basis that these are underwritten by Ashinaga Foundation. This policy is underpinned by a letter of support from the Ashinaga Foundation, along with their balance sheet and profit and loss statements. This is based

on the trustees' assessment of the appropriate level of security for the charity's operations in the event of a reduction or delays to income. They expect the charity's reserves to build up to this level over the next few years.

Remuneration of senior staff members is reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities


The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income, expenditure and financial activities of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

The Trustees' Report is signed on behalf of the Board

  
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Dr Michael Rivera King

Trustee

Date: 20th December 2022

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Ashinaga Association in the UK for the period ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable laws and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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### **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from preparing a Strategic Report.

### **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 26, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

### **Our approach was as follows:**

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

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### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken for no purpose other than to draw to the attention of the company's members those matters which we are required to include in an auditor's report addressed to them. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the company and company's members as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Moore Kingston Smith LLP.*

20 December 2022

**James Saunders**

Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor

The Shipping Building

The Old Vinyl Factory

Blyth Road

Hayes, London

UB3 1HA

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2022 (incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
<b>Donated services</b>					
In kind support		29,334	-	29,334	39,158
Donations		-	784,652	784,652	529,419
Other income		26,905	-	26,905	6,920
<b>Total income</b>		<b>56,239</b>	<b>784,652</b>	<b>840,891</b>	<b>575,497</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Fundraising activities		-	1,327	1,327	237
Charitable activities					
Student support	<b>2</b>	44,075	603,938	648,013	2,892,455
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>44,075</b>	<b>605,265</b>	<b>649,340</b>	<b>2,892,692</b>
<b>Net movement income/(expenditure) and Net movement in funds</b>		<b>12,164</b>	<b>179,387</b>	<b>191,551</b>	<b>(2,317,195)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Fund Balance brought forward At 1 April 2021		165,125	(2,342,549)	(2,177,424)	139,771
<b>Fund balance carried forward At 31 March 2022</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>177,289</b>	<b>(2,163,162)</b>	<b>(1,985,873)</b>	<b>(2,177,424)</b>

There were no recognised gains or losses during the year other than the movements shown above.  
All the above results derive from continuing activities.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Balance Sheet As at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	5		3,425		3,250
			<u>3,425</u>		<u>3,250</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors and prepayments	6	87,019		45,551	
Cash at bank		<u>191,503</u>		<u>87,109</u>	
		278,522		132,660	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	7	<u>(237,914)</u>		<u>(85,307)</u>	
Net Current Assets			40,608		47,353
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			44,033		50,603
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>	8		(2,029,906)		(2,228,027)
<b>Total Net Assets</b>			<u>(1,985,873)</u>		<u>(2,177,424)</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>					
General Unrestricted Funds	11	177,289		165,125	
Restricted Funds	11	<u>(2,163,162)</u>		<u>(2,342,549)</u>	
			(1,985,873)		(2,177,424)
			<u>(1,985,873)</u>		<u>(2,177,424)</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on ...20th December 2022.

Michael Rivera King  
Director



Company registration number: 10634278 (England and Wales)

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash absorbed by operations	13		106,945		(11,354)
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,551)		-	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(2,551)		-
<b>Financing activities</b>					
Borrowing		-		-	
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			104,394		(11,354)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			87,109		98,463
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>191,503</u>		<u>87,109</u>

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2022

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### 1 Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The incorporated private company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity (charity number 1183750) established as a company limited by guarantee (company number 10634278) and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. The company's registered office address is 13/14 Cornwall Terrace, Outer Circle, Marylebone, London, NW1 4QP.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

#### 1.2 Going concern

The charitable company generated a surplus of £191,551 in the year ended 31 March 2022, and had net liabilities of £1,985,873 at the balance sheet date. The key element of the net liabilities position is committed donations to Universities of £2,254,320, which will be payable over several years. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these commitments on behalf of the charitable company.

A confirmation has been received from Ashinaga Foundation in Japan that it will continue to financially support Ashinaga Association in the UK for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. Donations from Ashinaga in Japan has been the primary source of income for the charity. As a result the directors believe that the charitable company will be able to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. Accordingly, the company has adopted the going concern basis of accounting.

#### 1.3 Income

All income in the Statement of Financial Activities is shown gross of the associated costs and is accounted for where there is entitlement to the income, it is probable that the benefits associated with it will flow to the charitable company and it can be reliably measured.

In kind support is recognised as income when the following criteria are met:

- Entitlement – Control over the expected economic benefits that flow from the donation has passed to the charity and any performance related conditions attached to the donation have been fully met.
- Probable – It is more likely than not that the economic benefits associated with the donated item will flow to the charity.
- Measurement – The fair value or value to the charity of the donated item can be measured reliably.

#### 1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been allocated on the bases indicated below:

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the company and are primarily associated with constitutional compliance and statutory requirements.

Costs are allocated to direct expenditure where they relate directly to the pursuit of the objectives. Non specific administrative costs are allocated to other expenditure.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2022

---

### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

All expenditure is presented inclusive of irrecoverable VAT which is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### 1.5 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets anticipated to have a useful life extending beyond the period end are capitalised and included at cost. Depreciation is provided on fixed assets at rates which will write off the cost of the assets over their useful effective lives on a straight line basis.

The effective lives are: Furniture, fixtures and equipment	- 5 years
Computer equipment	- 3 years

#### 1.6 Investments

Realised and unrealised gains and losses are added to or deducted from the appropriate fund in the Balance Sheet.

#### 1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with bank, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and loans from fellow group companies are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.

#### 1.9 Foreign Currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.10 Restricted funds

These are funds which must be used in accordance with the particular terms specified by the donors.

#### 1.11 Unrestricted Funds

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

#### 1.12 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Government grants are recognised as income over the periods when the related costs are incurred.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2022

### 1 Accounting Policies (continued)

#### 1.13 Judgements and key sources of estimation purposes

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are not considered to be any critical judgements or key sources of estimation which have a significant impact upon the financial statements, apart from the decision to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis as mentioned above.

<b>2 Student support</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Direct expenditure (note 3 (a))	491,196	2,708,862
Support costs (note 3(b))	156,817	183,593
	<u>648,013</u>	<u>2,892,455</u>

<b>3 (a) Direct expenditure</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Housing, subsistence and living costs	184,597	250,645
Other living services	306,599	172,467
Restricted grant (note 10)	-	2,285,750
	<u>491,196</u>	<u>2,708,862</u>

<b>(b) Support Costs</b>		
Staff costs	82,782	100,987
Rent	13,860	13,860
Advertising	29,334	39,158
Venue hire	200	-
Travel and subsistence	520	40
Stationary	387	273
Telephone and internet	728	667
Computer equipment	1,109	726
Repairs and maintenance	137	343
Insurance	270	1,369
Recruitment	-	504
Training	2,710	946
Bank charges	223	545
Legal and professional	12,478	11,668
Depreciation	2,376	2,832
Sundry expenses	53	25
Governance costs (see below)	9,650	9,650
	<u>156,817</u>	<u>183,593</u>

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2022

<b>(c) Governance Costs</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditor's remuneration:		
- for audit services	9,650	9,650
- for non audit services	-	-
	<u>9,650</u>	<u>9,650</u>

<b>4 Staff Costs</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	204,125	237,172
Social Security costs	13,005	15,394
Pension costs	10,694	12,653
	<u>227,824</u>	<u>265,219</u>

The average monthly number of persons employed by the charitable company during the year was as follows : -

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Administration	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

One employee was paid in excess of £60,000.

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by a trustee, Dr Michael Rivera King for his services as the chief executive officer, to the company was between £60,000 - £70,000 (2021: £50,000 - £60,000). This arrangement has been as allowed by the governing document and as notified to the Charity Commission on charity registration.

No trustees' expenses were reimbursed in the current or the prior year.

## 5 Fixed Assets

	<b>Furniture and Fixtures</b>	<b>Computer equipment</b>	<b>Office equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cost</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 April 2021	709	8,527	263	9,499
Additions	-	2,551	-	2,551
At 31 March 2022	<u>709</u>	<u>11,078</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>12,050</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2021	(560)	(5,426)	(263)	(6,249)
Charge for the year	(149)	(2,227)	-	(2,376)
At 31 March 2022	<u>(709)</u>	<u>(7,653)</u>	<u>(263)</u>	<u>(8,625)</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>3,425</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,425</u>
At 1 April 2021	<u>149</u>	<u>3,101</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,250</u>

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2022

<b>6 Debtors and Prepayments</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Prepayments	85,352	43,956
Other debtors	1,667	1,595
	<u>87,019</u>	<u>45,551</u>

<b>7 Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	-	3,288
Other creditors	224,414	59,908
Other taxation and social security	-	7,597
Loan from Ashinaga Foundation	-	-
Accruals	13,500	14,514
	<u>237,914</u>	<u>85,307</u>

<b>8 Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other creditors (note 10)	<u>2,029,906</u>	<u>2,228,027</u>

### 9 Retirement benefit schemes

#### Defined contribution schemes

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independent administered fund.

The charge to the income and expenditure account in respect of defined contribution schemes was £10,694 (2021: £12,653).

The balance outstanding at the year end in respect of defined contribution schemes was £nil (2021: £1,888).

### 10 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

At the year end, the charitable company had made a financial and pastoral commitment to support a number of students studying in the UK for the rest of the academic year. This financial commitment was estimated to be £35,385 (2021: £42,900).

In 2020-2021 the charitable company signed partnership agreements with the University of York and University of Warwick. Under these agreements the charitable company has agreed to provide restricted grants to the universities, to be used to provide stipends to AAI Scholars over the period. These liabilities were taken on after a full discussion with the Ashinaga Foundation, as the major donor to Ashinaga UK, on the impact of this on the charitable company's budget. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these grants on behalf of the charitable company.

# Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ended 31 March 2022

### 11 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	3,425	-	3,425
Current assets and liabilities	173,864	(133,256)	40,608
Non-current liabilities	-	(2,029,906)	(2,029,906)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b><u>177,289</u></b>	<b><u>(2,163,162)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,985,873)</u></b>

The deficit on restricted funds will be met by future funding from Ashinaga Foundation, the ultimate controlling party.

### 12 Operating lease commitments

#### Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Operating leases expiring:		
Within one year	<u>1,155</u>	<u>1,155</u>

### 13 Related party transactions

Ashinaga Foundation (Ashinaga) is a not-for-profit organisation based in Japan, which has ultimate control over the company. Ashinaga's corporation number is 0100-05-028962. It's registered office is Main Office 2-7-5 Sabou Kaikan Hirakawa-cho Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, Japan. During the year Ashinaga Foundation made donations to the charity of £761,393 (2021: £510,985).

### 14 Cash generated from operations

	2022 £	2021 £
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	191,551	(2,317,195)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	2,376	2,832
<b>Movements in working capital</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(41,468)	16,272
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(45,514)	2,286,737
<b>Cash absorbed by operations</b>	<b><u>106,945</u></b>	<b><u>(11,354)</u></b>

**ASHINAGA ASSOCIATION IN THE UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1183750

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# Accounts

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**ASHINAGA**  
UK

Ashinaga Association in the UK  
**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
2020 / 2021



## Reference and Administrative Details

**Name:**

Ashinaga Association in the UK

**Company number:**

10634278

**Charity registration number:**

1183750

**Address and registered office:**

13/14 Cornwall Terrace,  
Outer Circle  
London  
NW1 4QP  
UK

**Trustees:**

Ms Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier  
Mr Yoshiomi Tamai  
Ms Yukie Seki  
Dr Michael Rivera King  
Sir Eric Thomas  
Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin

**Chief Executive Officer:**

Dr Michael Rivera King

**Bankers:**

Barclays Bank  
17 St Anns Square  
Manchester  
M2 7PW

**Solicitors:**

Herbert Smith Freehills  
Exchange House  
Primrose Street  
London  
EC2A 2EG

**Accountants:**

Sidikies  
1 Sun Street  
London  
EC2A 2EP

**Accountants:**

Moore Kingston Smith LLP  
The Shipping Building  
The Old Vinyl Factory  
Blyth Road  
Hayes  
London  
UB3 1HA

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## 2020-2021 Highlights at a Glance

### Scholars:

- Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19 and distance-learning, we have had seven Scholars graduate and maintained our record of no Scholar ever failing an academic year.
- In the 2019-2020 academic year, 86% of Scholars were at a top 500 university and 92% achieved a first or upper second-class mark in their undergraduate year.
- One Kenyan Scholar won funding for his start-up, EcoSokoni, which aims to 'streamline the flow of ingredients from farms to customers', empowering farmers and increasing their profits.

### 2020 Graduates:

- Two Graduates secured Commonwealth Scholarships for their master's degrees.
- One gained a senior government job back in their home country.
- Two Graduates are working for international engineering firms in roles in which they will gain chartered engineer status, with work in South Africa and Uganda.
- One gained acceptance for postgraduate courses for 2021 entry and the final Graduate is in full-time work supporting their family.
- One Graduate has been invited to submit their Ashinaga Proposal, on addressing the issues that disabled students in Namibia face in accessing school, to the President of Namibia's office.

### Partnerships:

- The University of York have pledged over £2.5 million in tuition fee waivers to support 33 AAI UK Scholars over the next six years.
- The University of Warwick have pledged over £2.2 million in tuition fee waivers to support 25 AAI UK Scholars over five years.
- We have started a partnership with Herbert Smith Freehills who have provided pro-bono legal support, mentorship to Scholars and Graduates, as well as donations to Ashinaga UK, Ashinaga France, and Ashinaga Foundation in Japan.

### Governance:

- Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin, Vice President and Vice Principal (International) of King's College London joined our board in August 2020.
- Professor Olonisakin brings a wealth of expertise, having founded the African Leadership Centre at Kings, and served as one of seven members of the Advisory Group of Experts under the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, on the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture.

# A Message from our Founder

Ashinaga Association in the UK Annual Report 2020/2021

A Message from our Founder



## A Message from our Founder

It is with great joy that I look at the strides the Ashinaga UK team and Scholars have made this year. This has been a most challenging year, with Covid-19 impacting every aspect of our work and Scholars' university lives, but everyone has responded with creativity, drive, and passion.

To the UK Ashinaga Africa Initiative Scholars, I want to congratulate you on a successful year, despite it being very different from how you would have imagined it. What is most important to me is that you have all maintained your good health, as well as your passion to positively contribute to sub-Saharan Africa.

I am particularly pleased to see the positive impact our Graduates are having. From working in a medical university in Tanzania, to an international engineering firm improving infrastructure in South Africa, to securing postgraduate scholarships, to working for their government, our Graduates are taking huge steps forward to becoming compassionate changemakers and young leaders who will positively impact their community, country, and continent.

Ashinaga's vision of development is centred on 'people helping people', of doing what you can to help someone else, who in turn will pay forward that kindness to others. This 'ripple effect' starts with our donors and our partners, who enable Ashinaga to support over 9,500 students around the world, including 23 exceptional Scholars in the UK. I want to thank the University of York and the University of Warwick for their passion and incredible support for our work. I also want to thank everyone who has joined our first fundraising campaigns in the UK. In supporting our work, you are supporting not just our students but all of those whose lives they will touch. Your kindness will echo through our Scholars and Graduates to sound all around the world.

玉井 義信

Yoshiomi Tamai

## A Message from our Director

This year has been a year like no other. Yet along with the challenges and disruption of Covid-19 have come opportunities to innovate and reimagine. This has proved true for the UK Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) Scholars as well as for our staff.

AAI Scholars in the UK have had to adapt to the new realities of distance-learning or blended-learning, a challenge that I was particularly concerned about for those in their first and final years. Yet all the Scholars found new ways to develop their leadership skills, including remote internships, speaking at webinars alongside world-leading experts in their field, and cultivating resilience.

For the AAI, we select Scholars who have lost one or both parents, who are academically excellent, and who have a clear *kokorozashi*, or heartfelt goal, to enact positive change in sub-Saharan Africa after graduation. All of the seven students who graduated this year have taken positive first steps in their leadership journey, from securing meaningful, impactful jobs on the continent, to scholarships for further studies in their field.

Our team also adapted well to the challenges posed by Covid-19, from the day-to-day of remote working to the bigger picture of reimagining our partnership work. I am delighted to be able to announce two new agreements, with the University of York and the University of Warwick, worth nearly £5 million over the next six years. Under these agreements the universities will meet the tuition fees for 33 and 25 UK AAI Scholars, respectively.

It is also with great pleasure that we have welcomed Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin onto our board. Professor Olonisakin brings great experience and expertise to our board, having been a founding member of the African Leadership Centre at Kings and having served as one of seven members of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture, appointed by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

While I am very proud of the achievements of our Scholars, Graduates, and staff I know that we are only a short way into our journey. The next stage of our journey is the most critical: engaging others to join our work. I invite you to join our movement and empower the next generation of compassionate young leaders for Africa.



**Michael Rivera King**

*A Message from  
our Director*

“Ashinaga have presented me with many opportunities which have allowed me to come out of my comfort zone and become the confident lady I am today. I now believe that I can achieve anything I set my mind to.”

Winter

Ashinaga Association in the UK Annual Report, 2020/2021

A Message from a Scholar

*A Message  
from a Scholar*

## A Message from a Scholar

I was raised by my mother as my father passed away when I was five years old. I witnessed the struggles that my mother went through to ensure that we did not sleep with an empty stomach, from working as a temporary teacher, being a street vendor, and struggling through a period of unemployment.

I completed my high school with a dream. My *kokorozashi* (heartfelt goal) is to reduce youth unemployment in Botswana through entrepreneurship. In my country many youth have the desire to start their own business, to create employment for others, but most of them just do not know where to start. For those who are able to start, many end up failing along the way as they don't understand the management and risks that come with running a business.

For me, the first step in achieving my dream was to study Actuarial Science at university. There is a government scholarship in Botswana for 'top achievers' to study abroad, which I had to do as the University of Botswana does not offer Actuarial Science. Unfortunately, as hard as I studied, I also had to do a lot to support my mother and my family, and I was not selected for this programme. However, I did not let my dream die and began my studies at the University of Botswana, in a BSc in Mathematics with Finance. Before going to university, and when I was at university, I used to sell sweets and wash and polish people's cars at the malls in order to generate money. This is because I did not want to trouble my mother with money as I knew how our situation was at home. I used this money for transport, especially to go to church, to do the extra things I wanted for myself and to buy electricity and other necessary things at home. It was not much but my mother said that it was really helpful. It's through this small business that my interest in helping entrepreneurs grew more.

My journey with Ashinaga started in 2018. To me Ashinaga is a family and my blessing from God. I went through all the stages of the application and interview process with a strong assurance inside me that I will get the scholarship. It was not easy, but I made sure to give my best.

Ashinaga is giving me all the support I need to achieve my goals and to develop into a professional future leader of Botswana and Africa. Through the financial, academic and emotional support that Ashinaga provides me with, I am now studying the course of my dreams, Actuarial Science, at the University of East Anglia in the UK. The journey has been challenging because of Covid but amazing so far due to the support I get from my university and Ashinaga. Just a month ago I completed my first year with top results.

While I am studying, I am also working on a project, my Ashinaga proposal, that addresses my *kokorozashi*, tackling youth unemployment in Botswana. My research so far is focused on better understanding the problem so that I can find a solution. Through studying Actuarial Science, I am also beginning to understand the concepts of risk management and insurance. I believe I will be able to use this knowledge in the future and communicate it to the young Botswana entrepreneurs.

After graduation I want to use the skills and knowledge I am gaining from Ashinaga, my university, my course, and from the internships I intend to do while in the UK. I am currently doing an internship virtually with DOWA, Doing Good Work in Africa, which has been helping me understand how I can contribute to the development of our continent.

I am really grateful for Ashinaga, who are so passionate to see us grow and develop. The mentorship from Ashinaga has been a good motivation for me to keep focused and achieve my dream.



Winter Pule

## Introducing our Trustees

### Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier

Noriko Carpentier-Tominaga joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Noriko is also a board member of the Ashinaga Foundation. Based in Paris, Noriko works to strengthen French-Japanese economic relationships as Delegee Generale of the Comite d'Echanges Franco-Japonais. Working with companies seeking broader and deeper connections, Noriko cares about the interests of each of them and tries to offer a variety of activities to facilitate them developing their business. Noriko's focus for Ashinaga is to support the development of professional opportunities for alumni to enable them to contribute to African development.

### Yoshiomi Tamai

Yoshiomi Tamai joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Yoshiomi Tamai is the founder and president of the Ashinaga Foundation. After losing his mother in a traffic accident over fifty years ago, he became passionate about working to support the educational and emotional needs of orphans who lost their parents in traffic accidents. He founded an organisation, Ashinaga, that gave scholarships to these orphans before extending the support to all children who have lost one or both parents. Tamai's work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Global Fundraising award and, most recently, the Goto Shinpei award.

### Yukie Seki

Yukie Seki has been on the Board of Ashinaga Association in the UK since February 2017. Yukie works as the secretary general of the Ashinaga Foundation, where she is also a member of the board, with responsibility for international activities. Before joining Ashinaga, Yukie worked at Hewlett Packard as the Business Manager and Corporate Director.

### Eric Thomas

Sir Eric Thomas joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2018. Sir Eric was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bristol from 2001 to 2015, and President of Universities UK, the body that represents all UK universities, from 2011 to 2013. His childhood was in the North-East of England, and he qualified as a medical doctor in 1976 from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He trained as a gynaecologist and was Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Southampton from 1991 to 2001. He was Dean of Medicine there from 1995 to 2000. He currently has a number of charitable trustee roles in the UK.

### 'Funmi Olonisakin

Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin joined the Ashinaga UK Board of Trustees in August 2020. Professor Olonisakin is Vice-President and Vice-Principal International and Professor of Security, Leadership and Development at King's College London, where she founded the African Leadership Centre. She was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, as one of seven members of the Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) on the Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. Professor Olonisakin also serves on the board of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and chairs the Africa Regional Advisory Committee of the Open Society Foundation.

### Michael Rivera King

Dr Michael Rivera King joined the Board of Trustees of Ashinaga Association in the UK in February 2017. Michael completed his doctorate at the University of Oxford before publishing a book on alternative care and social work in Japan. Prior to this, Michael set up a volunteer organisation, Smile Kids Japan, to promote local, sustainable volunteering at child welfare institutions, and raised \$900,000 for children affected by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Michael also advised the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare on the 2016 revisions to the Child Welfare Act that promoted family-based foster care and adoption.

## Objectives and Activities

Purpose as set out in governing document.

The charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:

- a advancing the education of Orphans anywhere in the world but, in particular, in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) including (but without limitation) by:
  - i. providing scholarships, grants and loans to Orphans to meet expenses associated with education (including course fees, travel and maintenance and subsistence expenses);
  - ii. providing educational and professional guidance and mentoring, emotional and moral support to Orphans;
- b) supporting community and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) by supporting and facilitating Orphans' education with a view to:
  - i. developing their leadership skills and capacity;
  - ii. fostering enthusiasm and tolerance, individual and community self-confidence, and engendering respect for individuality, difference and the importance of teamwork; and
- iii. using their education and skills to the benefit of their communities (whether national, regional or local) within sub-Saharan Africa;
- c) the prevention or relief of poverty or financial hardship in sub-Saharan Africa (or any part thereof) by providing or assisting in the provision of education and training; and
- d) such other exclusively charitable purposes as the directors may from time to time think fit.

Nothing in the articles shall authorise an application of the property of the charity for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and/or section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

<sup>1</sup> "Orphans" means a young adult (and, if the trustees think fit and so determine, a child who is under 18 years of age) who has a parent who has died or who is reasonably believed to be long-term missing.

## Main activities related to these purposes

### Ashinaga Africa Initiative: Young Leaders for Africa

Ashinaga Association in the UK works closely with the Ashinaga Foundation, Japan, and Ashinaga offices in Uganda, Senegal, United States of America, France, and Brazil on the 'Ashinaga Africa Initiative'.

**The mission of the AAI is to contribute to sub-Saharan Africa's expanding role in global development by increasing access to higher education abroad. Ashinaga supports orphaned students who are committed to returning home, or to the region of sub-Saharan Africa, to initiate change, innovation, or development.**

The Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) is an international leadership programme that cultivates the next generation of leaders to contribute to the development of sub-Saharan Africa.

AAI Scholars are orphaned students who are committed to returning to sub-Saharan Africa to initiate change, innovation, and development. Each year, Ashinaga aims to select one AAI Scholar from each country in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ashinaga provides financial support for international university degrees, along with leadership training and support to develop Scholars into compassionate change-makers. After graduation, Scholars return to sub-Saharan Africa, empowered to turn their vision into reality.

### Ashinaga in Africa

The first stage of this programme is the recruitment and selection of Candidates. This is conducted by the Ashinaga Foundation.

Selected Candidates then complete a year-long programme in Senegal, for Francophone Scholars, or Uganda, for Lusophone and Anglophone Scholars. This centres around a six-month study camp, focused on academic development and university relations, and a two-month prep camp, focused on socio-cultural preparation. Both camps also focus on leadership development. This year travel restrictions have meant that much of this work had to be delivered online.

### Ashinaga Association in the UK

The UK office first engages with potential Candidates during the end of the recruitment stage. We provide feedback on applicants based on our evaluation and their suitability for studying in the UK and of their suitability for the AAI's mission. Once selected, we work with the Candidates on which universities they will apply to and to confirm that their academic plans will enable them to achieve the impact they want to have after graduation.

The vast majority of our work occurs once the Scholars have arrived in the UK. There are three threads to the Ashinaga Africa Initiative: a leadership development programme, a full scholarship for university, and holistic support for the Scholars.

The leadership work is structured on our leadership development framework. This cultivates leadership skills across professional, personal, and academic fields and underpins our work with the Scholars. As part of this programme, Scholars are required to complete an internship in Africa and an 'Ashinaga Proposal'. The latter sees the Scholar identify an issue in their community, country, or region, and lay out a well-researched, structured proposal on how to address it – either as a social entrepreneurship plan or as an advocacy paper. In addition to helping Scholars develop a network and new skills, the internship and Proposal ensure a close bond with Africa is maintained.

The highlight of the year is our annual *tsudoi* (camp) focused on leadership development. As well as structured programming, this three-day camp develops a strong cohort mentality, facilitating peer-to-peer support networks. To date in the UK, we have never had a Scholar fail to gain entrance to university and no Scholar has failed or left the programme. The role that Scholars play in supporting one another, above and beyond the support we provide, undoubtedly contributes to their success.

Broadly, our work can be divided into three categories: student-facing, external, and administrative. Our student-facing work focuses on cultivating leadership, developing programming, and supporting our students holistically. This work is the heart of what we do: cultivating young African leaders who will determine the development needs of their continent and gain skills to develop innovative means of addressing them.

Our external work covers our work with universities, along with our fundraising and communications efforts. Our new partnerships with the University of York and the University of Warwick are transformative in their impact of our work. These partnerships have reduced the cost of a Scholar completing the AAI in the UK by 62% and paved the way for more Scholars

to study here. In addition to these new partnerships, we are very proud to have agreements with the University of Bristol, the University of Portsmouth, the University of Edinburgh, University College London, the University of Central Lancashire, and Royal Holloway. We also want to thank Kaplan International Pathways for their invaluable support of our work at the University of York, where Scholars entering via the foundation pathway will also have their fees covered. Finally, we are grateful to King's College London, which hosts our annual leadership camp for free.

Our fundraising and communications work this year has focused on establishing a platform to broaden awareness of our work and to start to fundraise. We are grateful to the support of Herbert Smith Freehills, who have provided us with pro-bono legal support, mentored our Scholars and Graduates, and donated money to Ashinaga UK, Ashinaga France, and Ashinaga Foundation, Japan. We are also grateful to the JET Alumni Association UK and the Japan Society, for nominating us as their charity to support. Finally, we are grateful to every donor and fundraiser who supported our fundraising campaigns this year – from juggling footballs to running marathons, thank you all for your incredible support!

The final category of work is administrative. This year we have made significant changes in practice that will reduce staff time spent on 'back-office' work. We continue to work to reduce time spent on this to ensure we are as efficient as possible.

Our work with our beneficiaries is assessed as part of a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system. This tracks both the impact of our work with Scholars and in turn the impact that Graduates have in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our final goal is not the Scholars' education, but that through education and training the Scholars will be equipped to initiate change, innovation, and development in sub-Saharan Africa. As such, it is ultimately not us who defines the aim of this work, but the Scholars, who have a deeper knowledge of the challenges their communities, countries, and regions face. This 'pay it forward' philosophy empowers the Scholars to initiate change on their own terms.

## Confirmation that purposes are for the public benefit, having had regard to Charity Commission guidance on this

Ashinaga Association in the UK was entered on the Register of Charities on the 6th of June 2019 (Registered charity number 1183750). The Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit has been referred

to when reviewing the organisation's aims and when planning future activities and the Trustees are satisfied that the work carried out by the charity complies with the public benefit requirements set out by the Commission.

## Activities, projects, services in the period

As outlined previously, our work in this period centred on the Ashinaga Africa Initiative, with a focus on building new partnerships with universities, improving the content of our leadership programme, and building our fundraising capacity. This work is assessed in the following section. There were no additional projects or services offered in this period.



### Where AAI Scholars study

1. University of Strathclyde
2. University of Edinburgh
3. University of Central Lancashire
4. University of Manchester
5. Liverpool John Moores University
6. University of York
7. Imperial College London
8. Royal Holloway, University of London
9. University of Portsmouth
10. SOAS University of London
11. King's College London
12. University of Bristol
13. University of Exeter

# Achievements and Performance

## Our main achievements in the period

The board of trustees are very happy with the progress made in 2020-2021, which marks a transition from establishing foundations to building upwards. In 2020 the board approved a three-year strategy, which guided our work during this fiscal year. Our primary target was to reduce the total cost to Ashinaga (including overheads) of a student completing the AAI by over 50% within three years. With the new partnerships with the University of York and the University of Warwick, which reduce costs by 62%, we have already achieved this goal. Our second key three-year strategic goal, to further develop our comprehensive, holistic student programming, has seen good progress and is ongoing.

In addition to the successes with these longer-term objectives we hit all our key objectives for the year and did so well under our anticipated budget. The board are confident in the future direction of the charity and the team's ability to implement these plans. Taking each of our strands of work in turn:

Our **Student-facing** work covers Student Relations, Programming, and university support for Candidates and Scholars. For our Student Relations work our main objectives were: all Scholars progressed to the next academic year; 2019 Scholars successfully transitioned to life in the UK; seven students graduated and are well supported in their transition out of the programme; and that all relevant staff completed mental health first aid (MHFA) training. All of these objectives were achieved, with the exception of two staff members whose MHFA training was postponed to 2021-2022 due to Covid-19 impacting on course delivery.

For our Programming work, our objectives were: to redevelop the 'Ashinaga Proposal' for all Ashinaga offices; to start to customise the new AAI curriculum to fit the UK context; and to work on the support delivered in the final year of the programme.

Two UK staff members were responsible for pioneering an AAI-wide upgrade to the 'Ashinaga Proposal' framework. Under the new framework Scholars can choose between developing an implementable social project, through the Social Entrepreneurship track, or proposing recommendations for change to decision makers, through the Advocacy track. The new Ashinaga Proposal framework will encourage Scholars to remain connected to the continent by building networks and relevant experience, as well as gaining transferable skills and developing an innovative mindset to approaching problems. Finally, Scholars' participation in researching real-world issues and

proposing solutions will directly touch upon skills in the AAI's Leadership Development Framework, which underpins all our programme delivery.

One of our first steps in customising the AAI curriculum was creating a new tracking spreadsheet that allows students to regularly self-evaluate and track their progress in each skill on the AAI Leadership Development Framework. This approach took into account Scholars' feedback on our previous method of data collection as well as our broader approach of coaching self-development, rather than doing things 'for' Scholars. In this new model we coach Scholars to set 3-5 tangible goals every few months and conduct a review of each goal at the end of that period. We trialled this in January 2021 and have received positive feedback from Scholars, who feel that this new format allows them to easily visualize their own progress in a select few leadership development skills. Self-reflection is an essential component of the AAI curriculum, and we are confident that this new approach will meet the Scholars' needs here.

Our work on the support delivered to final year Scholars this year was two-fold. First, we worked with each individual graduating Scholar on their post-graduation plans and the steps they needed to make to achieve their dreams. Second, on a programme level, we invested time in further developing 'Ashinaga Connect', a platform that facilitates cross-office, cross-cohort, Scholar and Graduate communication. This platform now has a postgraduate scholarship board, as well as internship and job opportunities.

The two largest events in the Scholar-facing calendar are the orientation for new Scholars upon arrival, and the *tsudo* (leadership camp). Two new Scholars from cohort six travelled to the UK in September. Although both had to go through a self-isolation period, they were able to arrive and start their online studies through their universities. Orientation was conducted virtually during the self-isolation period and older Scholars volunteered to prepare parts of the content and answer questions from the new Scholars.

Our online *tsudo* was held between the 21st and 23rd of December 2020. We invited Estelle Bougna Fomeju, founder of Tissi Consulting, to host a workshop regarding identity in leadership. Students explored the process of developing a clearer sense of self in the context of leadership and discussed how antiracism and cultural inclusion affect leadership. We also had other Ashinaga staff members conduct sessions on career development and soft skills such as time management and communication. Time was allocated to announce the new stipend system and the abolishment of the forgivable loan, to which Scholars responded positively. Finally, a significant amount of time was dedicated

to the Ashinaga Proposal. Scholars in their final year had an opportunity to present on the evolution of their work as this would be their final *tsudoï*, while younger Scholars also took part in workshops to help integrate Scholars into the new Ashinaga Proposal system. Despite the challenges online delivery posed, both orientation and *tsudoï* were successful and received very positive feedback from Scholars.

Due to Covid-19 and travel restrictions, we, along with HQ, determined that we would not be able to fund any internships in sub-Saharan Africa during the summer of 2020. In order to support the Scholars' development over the summer lockdown, we created a summer goal-setting document and asked each Scholar to identify which skills they wanted to develop and how. One Scholar, for example, chose to take multiple online courses to earn certificates in hard skills that would help boost their CV.

As part of our ongoing work to incorporate Scholars' feedback into our work and programming, we revised our stipend system to give Scholars more control of their finances. This new system, which will start in September 2021, gives Scholars much more flexibility over where they live and how they choose to spend their stipends. We are grateful to the Scholars for always sharing with us their thoughts on areas they think we can improve, and will continue to seek new ways to respond to and incorporate Scholars' ideas into our work. Other work completed by the student-facing team includes a method for anonymously tracking student wellbeing across all offices and the creation of an extensive 'homework pack' for Candidates to complete during the preparation camp in Uganda, prior to arrival in the UK. This 130-page handbook replaced the work we normally do in person with Candidates in Uganda, with travel impossible this summer.

Finally, we provided Candidates, Scholars, and Graduates with university-related support. First, we worked with Candidates studying with the Uganda office to confirm that their academic plans would allow them to have the impact they wanted post-graduation, and on the list of universities they would apply to. All six Candidates have now received unconditional offers for September 2021 at a partner university or foundation course. We also worked with the first-year students who were doing foundation programmes in the UK on their university progression. Three of the four students progressed to their first-choice universities, with the fourth student successfully entering their back-up choice. Finally, we supported final-year Scholars and Graduates with their applications for master's programmes and funding. So far three AAI Graduates have secured Commonwealth Scholarships for their postgraduate studies in the UK, and one has secured MasterCard Funding for their

postgraduate studies in Canada. The academic year was rounded off by a wonderful virtual graduation ceremony that younger Scholars held for our seven Graduates.

Our **External** work covers three broad areas: University Relations, Fundraising, and Communications.

This year we signed two new long-term partnerships, with the University of York and the University of Warwick. Under the agreement with the University of York, three Scholars will enter in September 2021 and then six Scholars will enter per year for the following five years. Of these Scholars, four will enter via the foundation pathway with Kaplan and two will enter undergraduate directly. Under the agreement with the University of Warwick, five Scholars will enter per year for five years, of whom four will enter via Warwick's foundation pathway. This agreement will commence in September 2022. Under both agreements AAI Scholars will have to gain admission through the standard admission processes. These agreements will see Ashinaga making a donation to the universities, to be used for AAI Scholars' stipends, and the universities will waive the tuition fee. Earlier in the year we also signed a partnership with University College London, for a joint tuition scholarship on an ad hoc basis for AAI Scholars.

### **Our university partners have pledged over £5.85 million in support towards UK-based AAI Scholars, of which £170,770 was received in 2020-2021.**

We launched our first ever fundraising campaign in February 2020, a campaign that had to be rapidly revised after the outbreak of Covid-19. While we did not quite reach our initial target of £30,000, we did raise £18,000 for the UK office along with a further 5,800 Euros for Ashinaga France and 5,000 US Dollars for Ashinaga Foundation, Japan, totalling just over £26,600.

We are very proud to have secured pro-bono legal support from Herbert Smith Freehills, who have also provided mentorship to our Scholars and Graduates, along with donations to Ashinaga UK, Ashinaga France, and Ashinaga Foundation. We also gained a Google advertising grant, worth up to \$120,000, and worked with Ashinaga Foundation to ensure that other offices are also able to benefit from this. In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, we used £39,158 of this grant, which is recorded in our financial statements as 'In kind support'.

Our fundraising work has shifted in focus since January 2021. After an extensive feasibility assessment which included internal consultations, analysis of last

year's activities and input from an expert fundraiser, we decided to change our fundraising strategy. The new strategy will take a more focused approach to fundraising for Ashinaga internationally, specifically building funding partnerships with organisations aligned with Ashinaga's mission and values and based in key donor markets: the UK, the USA, and the EU. As part of the new strategy, we will also develop a new case for support for Ashinaga's impact internationally. There are two key reasons why we are doing this. First, the 'Case for Support' is much stronger when we are discussing 9,500 students supported globally, rather than the 23 in the UK. Second, this approach allows us to capture all of Ashinaga's funding needs, create a larger portfolio of fundraising projects and widen the scope of applicable grants and interested companies.

Our Communications work has focused on increasing our brand awareness with relevant audiences in the UK. To this end, we ran four campaigns in 2020-2021: The 2.6 Challenge; I Know Someone Who...; Access to Education for All; and African Heroes. Two of these were tied with fundraising efforts. The first of these saw us join a nationwide campaign responding to the cancellation of the London Marathon. We encouraged people to join in fundraising activities themed on '2.6'. One highlight of this campaign was one of our Scholars beating our director in a football juggling challenge!

The aim of the I Know Someone Who... campaign was to introduce our Scholars and their ambitions to the world, to help our audience in the UK and beyond relate to them and their ambitions. Our Access to Education for All campaign was focused on advocacy and sharing expertise. We were delighted to welcome Dr Joanna Newman, the secretary-general of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin, Vice-President and Vice-Principal International at King's College London, to join one AAI UK Scholar and one AAI Graduate in a webinar titled 'The World in Crisis: Does International Access to Education Still Matter?' We also shared our expertise in applying to universities in the UK to those in the African continent and beyond. As part of this, we held a webinar with the University of Edinburgh and the University of Bristol on 'How to Make a Successful International Application to a UK University'. These two webinars had over 5,000 views and generated significant interest in our work.

As part of our communications work, we overhauled and updated our website to reflect our new focus. We are also revising the communications strategy, which will shift towards supporting our more targeted fundraising approach. The new communications strategy will support building Ashinaga's profile among international donors in key donor markets.

Our **Administrative** work this year has had several focal points. The first was to improve work processes, reducing staff time spent on administration. We have created new systems to simplify payments to Scholars and the administrative process that tracks Scholar funding. We also proposed changes to the Terms and Conditions that led to these being simplified, which benefits Scholars and staff. Other work included ensuring governance mechanisms remained strong, GDPR compliance, and establishing HR goals around staff development and progression. We have also started the process of reviewing all forms that Scholars have to submit to ensure these are as streamlined as possible.

Finally, there are two other types of work that we are currently exploring. The first is establishing a master's programme for Japanese students of single or no-parent families to study in the UK. The second is to provide leadership development services to universities. Both of these activities will be developed further in 2021-2022.

## Impact on beneficiaries

Our impact assessment work focuses both on the impact of our work with Scholars and the impact Graduates have on sub-Saharan Africa.

In our programme, Scholars can remain overseas for up to four years before returning to sub-Saharan Africa. This enables them to pursue further study or gain professional experience.

Looking first at our **graduates' impact**: our first two Scholars graduated in the summer of 2019, with a further seven Scholars graduating in the summer of 2020. Of these Graduates, four are in sub-Saharan Africa and five are in the UK. Of the four in Africa, all are working at a high level in their chosen field, of politics, health, and engineering.

Four of the nine Graduates have either started a master's or are due to start in 2021, with two gaining a Commonwealth Scholarship. Of the Graduates who are in the UK and working, one has a graduate job in an international engineering firm that does a significant amount of work in Uganda, one is working to provide for their family, and two are working to save for their master's degree, to start in 2021.

Turning next to the **impact of our work on AAI Scholars**, our monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework tracks development over their personal, professional, and academic fields, as well as anonymously looking at the overall wellbeing of AAI Scholars. Before this stage we first evaluate the calibre of Scholars accepted onto the programme. All of the UK-bound Candidates who started university in 2020-2021 received an unconditional offer from their first-choice university.

The wellbeing of AAI Scholars in the UK, which is assessed anonymously on an externally-validated survey, AAI Scholars in the UK scored above the national average for wellbeing. This is surprising, given that many of our Scholars have challenging or traumatic backgrounds, and speaks to the work of the UK team in supporting the Scholars and the strength of the peer-to-peer support network among Scholars. We have revisited mental health as a topic annually with our Scholars and have created a space where Scholars feel comfortable discussing their wellbeing with staff, peers and most importantly with professional counsellors.

The second component we consider is the level of confidence AAI Scholars have in fulfilling the AAI mission. Here we performed worse than expected and are looking at ways we can improve our Scholars' confidence for next year.

The academic performance of AAI Scholars is evaluated by the number of Scholars who achieve a First, the number who achieve a First or Upper Second, the

number who pass the year, and the number who graduate. This report draws on the data for the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. Of the UK Scholars doing an undergraduate course (i.e. excluding the three in foundation programmes), 40% achieved a First for the year and a further 52% achieved a 2:1. Finally, all UK Scholars passed the academic year and all in their final year successfully graduated. This is all the more impressive when we consider that 86% of the Scholars are enrolled in one of the top 500 universities worldwide.

While UK Scholars' academic performance was not too impacted by the pandemic, the lockdown had a greater impact on Scholars' ability to undertake in-person activities to develop their professional skills, such as internships. We have encouraged Scholars to engage in remote internships and other online activities, such as professional courses, to help fill this gap. Other Scholars have used this time to focus on their personal development and Ashinaga Proposal.

The most notable improvement this year across UK Scholars has come in the Ashinaga Proposals, in which Scholars identify an issue in their community, country, or region, and lay out a well-researched, structured proposal on how to address it – either as a social entrepreneurship plan or as an advocacy paper. At various points throughout their journey, the Scholars present their Proposals to their peers, staff, and external experts. UK Scholars' Proposals cover topics that span almost all the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including:

- Using robotics and AI to replace child labour on Cocoa Farms in the Ivory Coast
- Using 'ATMs' to address non-compliance of HIV medication in Benin
- Empowering women's co-operatives by introducing collectively owned machines
- Reducing child marriage in Malawi
- Empowering more women to enter STEM degrees and careers in Mauritius
- Providing support, information, and legal advice to victims of sexual assault in Lesotho
- Improving maternal health outcomes in Ethiopia

The Ashinaga Proposals are increasingly moving from a theoretical exercise to projects that Scholars plan on implementing upon graduation. Projects that Scholars have already launched include:

- Using affordable technology to widen access to science materials for those from disadvantaged regions in Ethiopia. This is a critical bottleneck that has limited access to government scholarships.
- Setting up a peer-support group for burn victims in Mauritius, where there is no psycho-social care post-surgery.
- Establishing a Foundation in The Gambia to improve maternal health outcomes.

In addition, one Graduate has been invited to submit their Proposal, on addressing the issues that disabled students in Namibia face in accessing school, to the President of Namibia's office.

When considering the positive impact of our work with Scholars and of our Graduates it is important that we pause to remember the background of our Scholars. All are from single or no-parent families and all have overcome significant hardship to get to where they are today. From growing up in an orphanage to being a refugee of a civil war, even just adjusting to the UK as an international student, the UK Scholars have a different 'start line' from their peers. The quality of Scholar and Graduate outcomes speaks to both their excellence and to the quality of support provided. Our role is to help these young people realise their potential, to give them the leadership skills they need to make a significant contribution to sub-Saharan Africa. While there are elements we can still improve, such as the Scholars' confidence, this year has been a tremendously positive one in terms of impact.

**“I am a passionate and ambitious law student who is hoping to work in the field of international human rights law and actively advocate against sexual violence against women and girls. Having Ashinaga’s support has been, and continues to be, of great help to me not only because of the opportunity it granted me to study at one of the leading universities in law, University of Edinburgh, but also because it enabled me to exemplify a black African girl that can dream and achieve, despite being raised in a community not supportive of the idea.”**

Tlalane

**“Losing my mother during childbirth shifted my focus from wanting to be a journalist to having a deeper understanding**

**of the socioeconomic, political, geographical and cultural determinants of poor health in The Gambia. Ashinaga has been the greatest driving force in achieving my dream of being a Global Health specialist by giving me the opportunity to study in one of the world’s best Universities, training me to be a better leader and helping me grow to the best version of myself.”**

Mariama

**“Everyone has a story but not everyone can tell it. I want to be a journalist so that I can help girls and women who are marginalised in Tanzania. Ashinaga has provided me with the intellectual and emotional support to hone my journalist skills and fulfil my potential.”**

Nanyori

# Our Graduates



Mokhele



Comfort



Allan



Kristoph



Idriss



Gaelle



Eyerusalem

# OUR PLANS

Ashinaga Association in the UK Annual Report - 2020/2021

Our Plans

Ashinaga UK visit to the University of York, where we met Vice-Chancellor Professor Charlie Jeffery & Provost Professor Saul Tandler

## Our Plans

At the end of 2019-2020 the UK board approved a three-year strategy for the period 2020-2023. The primary goals of this were to (i) meet the objectives of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) (ii) in a financially sustainable manner. Our key financial target was to reduce the total cost to Ashinaga (including overheads) of a student completing the AAI by over 50% within three years.

With the new partnerships agreed with the University of Warwick and the University of York we have already achieved this three-year goal, with **direct student costs reduced by 62%**.

As we have made such good progress here, we are currently revising our three-year strategy, which will be presented to the UK board in the 2021 summer board meeting. The goals for the 'internal facing' work will not change and the team are working on creating and implementing a more comprehensive and holistic leadership programme. The success of this will be measured through our Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning system.

The most significant change comes with the fundraising and communications teams. Previously these had a narrowly-defined focus, of fundraising for the UK and raising awareness of our work within the UK context. As noted previously, the fundraising team will now fundraise for all of Ashinaga's international work and support fundraising activities in all the Ashinaga offices. Specifically, the fundraising team is focusing on partnership work, with corporates and foundations.

This change has been agreed with all Ashinaga offices and allows us to present a significantly stronger 'Case for Support'. Ashinaga supports over 9,500 Scholars around the world, with programmes spanning from primary school education in Uganda to master's level support in Japan. With this shift, there is now less of an urgent need to build a broad awareness of our work in the UK so we will be refocusing our work here from general work on social media to more tailored PR and communications.

Within administrative work we will invest in staff training to allow us to start bringing in some of the work that is currently outsourced, allowing us to reduce costs. This is part of a broader drive to develop staff capacity across all aspects of our work and invest in our team members' professional development.

Finally, with Governance we will look to add a Graduate of our programme to our board to increase the voice of our beneficiaries at all levels of our organisation.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Our governing document

Ashinaga Association in the UK is registered as a private company, limited by guarantee (10634278), and with the Charities Commission (1183750). Our governing document is our Articles of Association. This document is available from Companies House.

### How our organisation is constituted

Ashinaga Association in the UK works closely with the Ashinaga Foundation, based in Japan, and the Ashinaga offices in Uganda, Senegal, France, America, and Brazil. The Ashinaga Foundation has provided seed-funding for these offices, including our own, to undertake their work and to establish a self-sustaining model over time. Yoshiomi Tamai, a UK board member, is the founder of the Ashinaga Foundation. Noriko Tominaga-Carpentier and Yukie Seki are also members of both the UK and Japanese boards. Sir Eric Thomas is a member of the UK board and a member of the Kenjin-Tatsujin advisory board.

Day-to-day managerial responsibility is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.

Ashinaga is also a member of the HALI (High-Achieving Low-Income) Access Network. The HALI Access Network is an association of non-profit organizations in Africa that work with high-achieving, low-income (HALI) students to access international higher education opportunities. HALI strives to level the playing field in international education to increase inclusion, access and scholarship support for remarkable students who only lack finances to make their educational dreams come true. HALI believes in the power of education to change communities, and in the impact our students have on college and university campuses.

### Methods for recruiting and appointing new trustees, including any constitutional provisions

The trustees of the charity shall be as follows:

- Up to five persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by ordinary resolution;
- Up to two persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by Ashinaga Japan from time to time by written notice to the charity;
- Up to two persons with expertise, knowledge or connections of particular value to the charity in furthering its objects (willing to act as trustees) appointed by trustees; and
- Up to two persons (willing to act as trustees) appointed by the trustees from time to time.

The Board regularly reviews the skills present within its members, and where any gaps lie, and works with the Ashinaga Foundation to ensure the effectiveness of the makeup of the Board. Full details of the Appointment process may be found in our Articles of Association.

Training is offered on a continual basis to all Trustees to assist them in their role and governance of the Charity.

## Financial Review

Ashinaga Association in the UK achieved all its key targets for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and its 2023 financial target for reducing costs. These goals were achieved well under the anticipated budget. The board are delighted with the achievements of this fiscal year and feel that the charity is very well positioned to take the next steps in its growth.

A budget for 2021-2022 has been agreed with Ashinaga Foundation, who will support our activities on an ongoing basis. This support includes a commitment to provide the financial support the organisation needs for at least 12 months from the date of sign off of these financial statements.

The trustees regularly consider and evaluate the risks and uncertainties the charity faces. Some of the challenges posed by Covid-19, addressed in last year's trustees' report, remain, most notably on fundraising, though the trustees note that the organisation has managed and adapted well to the new landscape we find ourselves in. We thank the staff members for the flexibility and creativity they have shown in this period. Other risks assessed include that of our beneficiaries, the AAI Scholars, potentially struggling with extended periods of online-only-learning, which is the current mode of delivery of most universities. To address this risk, the student relations team have been checking in more frequently with Scholars on their academic plans and concerns. The Charity also continues to consider the opportunities and associated risks with forming strategic partnerships, in particular with universities, to develop the activities in line with its objects.

The trustees would like to highlight the financial commitments made this year. As noted in the financial statements, see Note 10, this year we entered partnerships with the University of York and University of Warwick. Under these partnerships, the universities will meet the tuition fees for AAI Scholars and Ashinaga UK will provide restricted grants to the universities for use on AAI Scholars' stipends. These partnerships will reduce the average cost to Ashinaga UK of an AAI Scholar completing the program by 62 per cent. These liabilities were taken on after a full discussion with the Ashinaga Foundation, as the major donor to Ashinaga UK, on the impact of this on our budget. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these grants on behalf of the charitable company. In accordance with the requirements of accounting standards, at the year-end, the charitable company has recognised as liabilities, the contracted value of the commitments made to the universities for the term of the agreements. The benefit of the lack of tuition fees will be recognised over the term of the agreements. This treatment has caused the balance sheet to reflect a net deficit position.

Our reserves policy aims to build up 3 months of operational expenditure, estimated to be approximately £155,000. In making this calculation, the long term commitment to the universities mentioned above is excluded. This policy is underpinned by a letter of support from the Ashinaga Foundation, along with their balance sheet and profit and loss statements. This is based on the trustees' assessment of the appropriate level of security for the charity's operations in the event of a reduction or delays to income. They expect the charity's reserves to build up to this level over the next few years

Remuneration of senior staff members is reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees.

## Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income, expenditure and financial activities of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

The Trustees' Report is signed on behalf of the Board



**Dr Michael Rivera King**  
Trustee

**27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

“Ashinaga UK is a family to me. It was a privilege to interact with the scholars especial during *Tsudoi*. They motivated me to focus on my studies and renewed my confidence.

I am look forward to starting my master’s in structural engineering. With more specific and concrete knowledge, I plan to gain professional experience while also networking with the disabled community in my home country to bring my ideas to life.”



Christoph

# Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Ashinaga Association in the UK

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ashinaga Association in the UK for the period ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable laws and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' annual report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from preparing a Strategic Report.

## Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 26, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

## Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However,

the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charitable company.

### Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity SORP, and UK financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charitable company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken for no purpose other than to draw to the attention of the company's members those matters which we are required to include in an auditor's report addressed to them. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to any party other than the company and company's members as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

**Mahmood Ramji**  
**Senior Statutory Auditor**  
**For and on behalf of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, Statutory Auditor**

27<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The Shipping Building  
The Old Vinyl Factory  
Blyth Road  
Hayes, London  
UB3 1HA

## Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Income from:</b>					
<b>Donated services</b>					
In kind support		39,158	-	39,158	-
Donations		18,434	510,985	529,419	1,728,358
Other income		6,920	-	6,920	41
<b>Total income</b>		<b>64,512</b>	<b>510,985</b>	<b>575,497</b>	<b>1,728,399</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Fundraising activities			237	237	-
Charitable activities					
Student support	<b>2</b>	39,158	2,853,297	2,892,455	590,717
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>39,158</b>	<b>2,853,534</b>	<b>2,892,692</b>	<b>590,717</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>25,354</b>	<b>(2,342,549)</b>	<b>(2,317,195)</b>	<b>1,137,682</b>
Fund Balance brought forward At 1 April 2020		139,771	-	139,771	(997,911)
<b>Fund balance carried forward At 31 March 2021</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>165,125</b>	<b>(2,342,549)</b>	<b>(2,177,424)</b>	<b>139,771</b>

There were no recognised gains or losses during the year other than the movements shown above.  
All the above results derive from continuing activities.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts.

## Balance Sheet

### As at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	5		3,250		6,082
			<u>3,250</u>		<u>6,082</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors and prepayments	6	45,551		61,823	
Cash at bank		<u>87,109</u>		<u>98,463</u>	
		132,660		160,286	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
	7	<u>(85,307)</u>		<u>(26,597)</u>	
Net Current Assets			47,353		133,689
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			50,603		139,771
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>					
	8		(2,228,027)		-
<b>Total Net Assets</b>			<u>(2,177,424)</u>		<u>139,771</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>					
General Unrestricted Funds	11	165,125		139,771	
Restricted Funds	11	<u>(2,342,549)</u>		-	
			(2,177,424)		139,771
			<u>(2,177,424)</u>		<u>139,771</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021.



**Michael Rivera King, Director**

Company registration number: 10634278 (England and Wales)

## Statement of Cash Flows

### For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash absorbed by operations	13		(11,354)		58,866
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(4,988)	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			-		(4,988)
<b>Financing activities</b>					
Borrowing		-		-	
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			(11,354)		53,878
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			98,463		44,585
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>87,109</u>		<u>98,463</u>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## For the year ended 31 March 2021

### 1 Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The incorporated private company is a public benefit entity for the purposes of FRS 102 and a registered charity (charity number 1183750) established as a company limited by guarantee (company number 10634278) and therefore has also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. The company's registered office address is 13/14 Cornwall Terrace, Outer Circle, Marylebone, London, NW1 4QP.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

#### 1.2 Going concern

The charitable company generated a deficit of £2,317,195 in the year ended 31 March 2021, resulting in a balance sheet with net liabilities at the year-end of £2,177,424. The key element of expenditure are committed donations to Universities of £2,285,750, which will be payable over several years. This commitment, in particular, will be supported by Ashinaga Foundation Japan, the ultimate controlling party.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been significant. From an operational perspective, the charitable company has amended plans for orphans it supports given social distancing and travel restrictions, and revised methods of learning by education institutions. The directors of the charitable company expect to continue to meet the charitable objectives.

A confirmation has been received from Ashinaga Foundation in Japan that it will continue to financially support Ashinaga Association in the UK for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. Donations from Ashinaga in Japan has been the primary source of income for the charity. As a result the directors believe that the charitable company will be able to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. Accordingly, the company has adopted the going concern basis of accounting.

#### 1.3 Income and Expenditure

All income in the Statement of Financial Activities is shown gross of the associated costs and is accounted for where there is entitlement to the income, it is probable that the benefits associated with it will flow to the charitable company and it can be reliably measured.

In kind support is recognised as income when the following criteria are met:

- Entitlement – Control over the expected economic benefits that flow from the donation has passed to the charity and any performance related conditions attached to the donation have been fully met.
- Probable – It is more likely than not that the economic benefits associated with the donated item will flow to the charity.
- Measurement – The fair value or value to the charity of the donated item can be measured reliably.

#### 1.4 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been allocated on the bases indicated below:

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the company and are primarily associated with constitutional compliance and statutory requirements.

Costs are allocated to direct expenditure where they relate directly to the pursuit of the objectives. Non specific administrative costs are allocated to other expenditure.

#### 1.5 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets anticipated to have a useful life extending beyond the period end are capitalised and included at cost. Depreciation is provided on fixed assets at rates which will write off the cost of the assets over their useful effective lives on a straight line basis.

The effective lives are: Furniture, fixtures and equipment - 5 years. Computer equipment - 3 years.

#### 1.6 Investments

Realised and unrealised gains and losses are added to or deducted from the appropriate fund in the Balance Sheet.

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### For the year ended 31 March 2021

#### 1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with bank, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

#### 1.8 Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other payables and loans from fellow group companies are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest.

#### 1.9 Foreign Currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. All differences are taken to the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.9 Unrestricted Funds

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the directors.

#### 1.10 Restricted funds

These are funds which must be used in accordance with the particular terms specified by the donors.

#### 1.11 Unrestricted Funds

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

#### 1.12 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

Government grants are recognised as income over the periods when the related costs are incurred.

#### 1.13 Judgements and key sources of estimation purposes

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are not considered to be any critical judgements or key sources of estimation which have a significant impact upon the financial statements, apart from the decision to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis as mentioned above.

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

<b>2 Student support</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Direct expenditure (note 3 (a))	2,708,862	452,588
Support costs (note 3(b))	183,593	138,129
	<u>2,892,455</u>	<u>590,717</u>
<b>3 (a) Direct expenditure</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Housing costs	131,060	154,212
Subsistence and living costs	119,585	150,666
Other living services	172,467	147,710
Restricted grant (note 10)	2,285,750	-
	<u>2,708,862</u>	<u>452,588</u>
<b>(b) Support Costs</b>		
Staff costs	100,987	78,952
Rent	13,860	13,805
Advertising	39,158	-
Venue hire	-	1,575
Travel and subsistence	40	2,820
Stationary	273	1,107
Telephone and internet	667	647
Computer equipment	726	691
Repairs and maintenance	343	1,594
Insurance	1,369	1,225
Recruitment	504	474
Training	946	4,030
Bank charges	545	247
Legal and professional	11,668	17,573
Depreciation	2,832	1,844
Sundry expenses	25	25
Governance costs (see below)	9,650	11,520
	<u>183,593</u>	<u>138,129</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### For the year ended 31 March 2021

<b>(c) Governance Costs</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditor's remuneration:		
- for audit services	9,650	11,520
- for non audit services	-	-
	<u>9,650</u>	<u>11,520</u>

<b>4 Staff Costs</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	237,172	201,285
Social Security costs	15,394	14,221
Pension costs	12,653	10,716
	<u>265,219</u>	<u>226,222</u>

The average monthly number of persons employed by the charitable company during the year was as follows :

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Administration	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

No employees were paid in excess of £60,000.

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by a trustee, Dr Michael Rivera King for his services as the chief executive officer, to the company was £59,032 (2020: 59,838). This arrangement has been as allowed by the governing document and as notified to the Charity Commission on charity registration.

No trustees' expenses were reimbursed in the current or the prior year.

**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

**5 Fixed Assets**

	<b>Furniture and Fixtures</b>	<b>Computer equipment</b>	<b>Office equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cost</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
At 1 April 2020	709	8,527	263	9,499
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	<u>709</u>	<u>8,527</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>9,499</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2020	(418)	(2,766)	(233)	(3,417)
Charge for the year	(142)	(2,660)	(30)	(2,832)
At 31 March 2021	<u>(560)</u>	<u>(5,426)</u>	<u>(263)</u>	<u>(6,249)</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 31 March 2021	<u>149</u>	<u>3,101</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,250</u>
At 1 April 2020	<u>291</u>	<u>5,761</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>6,082</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### For the year ended 31 March 2021

<b>6 Debtors and Prepayments</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Prepayments	43,956	60,373
Other debtors	1,595	1,450
	<u>45,551</u>	<u>61,823</u>
<b>7 Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	3,288	7,893
Other creditors	59,908	3,287
Other taxation and social security	7,597	-
Loan from Ashinaga Foundation	-	-
Accruals	14,514	15,417
	<u>85,307</u>	<u>26,597</u>
<b>8 Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other creditors (note 10)	<u>2,228,027</u>	<u>-</u>

### **9 Retirement benefit schemes**

#### **Defined contribution schemes**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independent administered fund.

The charge to the income and expenditure account in respect of defined contribution schemes was £12,653 (2020: £10,716).

The balance outstanding at the year end in respect of defined contribution schemes was £1,888 (2020: £3,280).

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### For the year ended 31 March 2021

#### 10 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

At the year end, the charitable company had made a financial and pastoral commitment to support a number of students studying in the UK for the rest of the academic year. This financial commitment was estimated to be £42,900 (2020: £67,400).

In 2020-2021 the charitable company signed partnership agreements with the University of York and University of Warwick. Under these agreements the charitable company has agreed to provide restricted grants to the universities, to be used to provide stipends to AAI Scholars over the period. These liabilities were taken on after a full discussion with the Ashinaga Foundation, as the major donor to Ashinaga UK, on the impact of this on the charitable company's budget. Ashinaga Foundation has agreed to underwrite these grants on behalf of the charitable company.

#### 11 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	3,250	-	3,250
Current assets and liabilities	161,875	(114,522)	47,353
Non-current liabilities	-	(2,228,027)	(2,228,027)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>165,125</u>	<u>(2,342,549)</u>	<u>(2,177,424)</u>

The deficit on restricted funds will be met by future funding from Ashinaga Foundation, the ultimate controlling party.

#### 12 Operating lease commitments

##### Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Operating leases expiring:		
Within one year	<u>1,155</u>	<u>1,155</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

### For the year ended 31 March 2021

#### 13 Related party transactions

Ashinaga Foundation (Ashinaga) is a not-for-profit organisation based in Japan, which has ultimate control over the company. Ashinaga's corporation number is 0100-05-028962. Its registered office is Main Office 2-7-5 Sabou Kaikan Hirakawa-cho Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, Japan. During the year Ashinaga Foundation made donations to the charity of £510,985 (2020: £1,728,358).

#### 14 Cash generated from operations

	2021 £	2020 £
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(2,317,195)	1,137,682
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	2,832	1,844
<b>Movements in working capital</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	16,272	8,392
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	2,286,737	(1,089,052)
<b>Cash absorbed by operations</b>	<u>(11,354)</u>	<u>58,866</u>

**“Becoming part of the Ashinaga family has been life-changing. Not only has Ashinaga enabled me to achieve my aspirations of studying medicine to help vulnerable people, but it has helped me to become a strong woman who is not afraid to chase her dreams to create a better world.”**

Sakiinah

**“I gained leadership experience and a feeling of unity at the annual training events, in which we acted as ‘future leaders,’ discussing effective solutions that we could potentially implement to improve Africa.”**

Mokhele

**“My vision is to empower more people through education and entrepreneurship. Throughout my time in Ashinaga I have been surrounded by inspiring people who have shown me a world of possibilities. Ashinaga has played a crucial role in helping me refine my goals and work towards achieving them.”**

Josephine



# ASHINAGA UK

## Join Us

The Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI) is Ashinaga's flagship programme in sub-Saharan Africa. Its mission is to contribute to the region's development by providing students who have lost one or both parents with the education, network, and opportunities necessary to become leaders in their home countries. Ashinaga invests in students who want to study internationally and then return home to make a positive difference in their country and community.

There are many ways you can support the Ashinaga movement in the UK. Tell your family and friends about our work, connect us with like-minded people or organisations, or donate to support our students. Your donation empowers the next generation of compassionate changemakers for Africa.

 [AshinagaOfficial](#)  [AshinagaGlobal](#)  [ashinaga.org/en/ashinaga-uk/](http://ashinaga.org/en/ashinaga-uk/)  [AshinagaGlobal](#)

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