

Ashinaga Association in the UK

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024



Company Number: 10634278
Registered Charity Number: 1183750

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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 1st, 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 1st 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 PLEoneer 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.

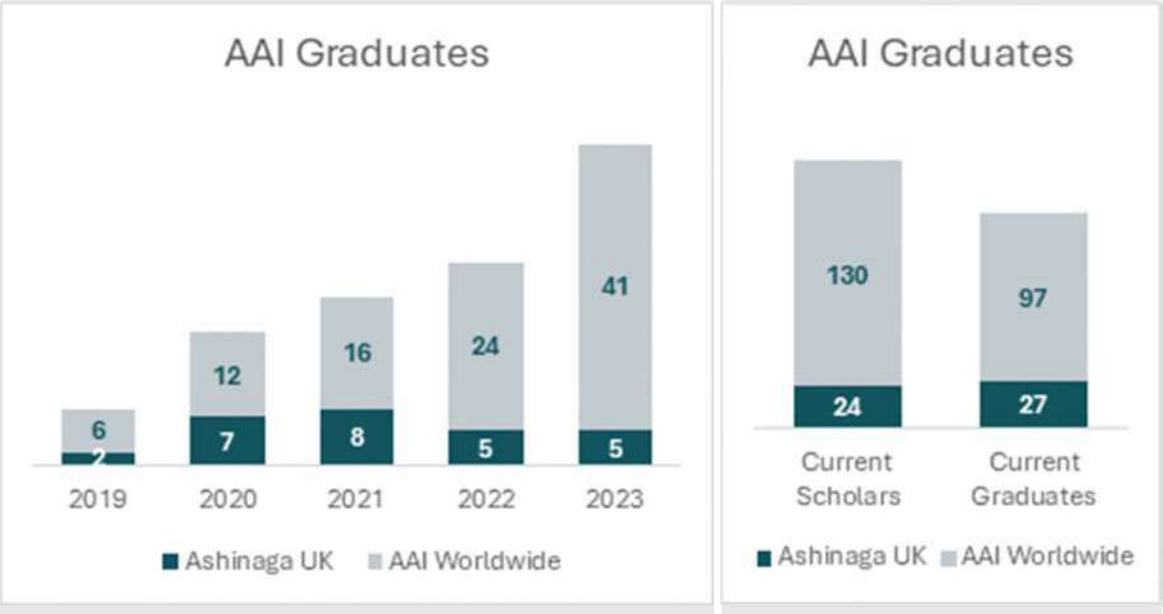
ACROSS THE AAI

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

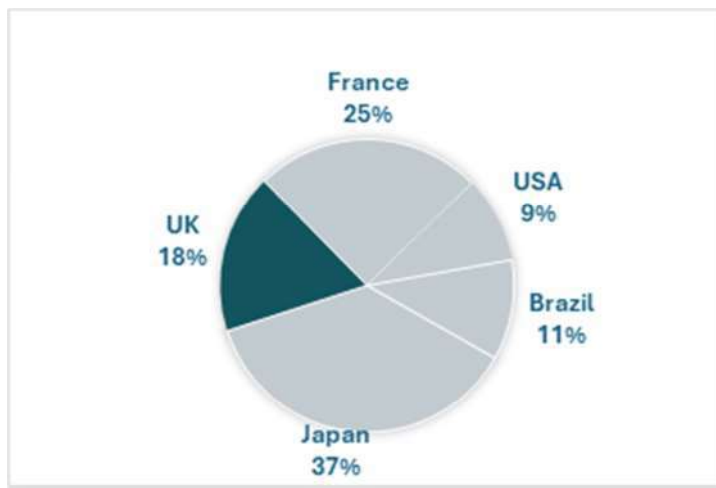
GOVERNANCE

- 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 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*i (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 7th 2024. We are grateful for every single donation: small or large; one-time or regular.

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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 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.

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 *tsudo*i 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

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 Orphans¹ 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.

¹ "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 Trustee's 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

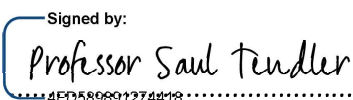
The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. 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:

4FD589891274418.....

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

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

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

- 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

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

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 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	5		496		1,346
			<u>496</u>		<u>1,346</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	6	116,677		122,470	
Cash at bank		<u>108,150</u>		<u>109,396</u>	
		224,827		231,866	
Current Liabilities	7	<u>(282,316)</u>		<u>(295,748)</u>	
Net Current Assets			(57,489)		(63,882)
Total assets less current liabilities			(56,993)		(62,536)
Non-current Liabilities	8		(1,649,134)		(1,858,425)
Total Net Liabilities			<u>(1,706,127)</u>		<u>(1,920,961)</u>
Total Funds					
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 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	14		(1,246)		(82,107)
Net cash used in investing activities			-		-
Net cash generated from financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(1,246)		(82,107)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			109,396		191,503
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			108,150		109,396

Ashinaga Association in the UK

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

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

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.

2 Student support

	2024 £	2023 £
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>

3 (a) Direct expenditure

	2024 £	2023 £
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) Support Costs

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

(c) Governance Costs	2024	2023
	£	£
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>
4 Staff Costs	2024	2023
	£	£
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 : -

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
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 £
Cost				
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>
Depreciation				
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>
Net Book Value				
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)
Total net assets	69,427	(1,775,554)	(1,706,127)

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	1,250	1,155

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

14 Cash generated from operations

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