

PUT YOUR PASSION INTO WORDS and TAKE ACTION

G-net is developing future leaders by encouraging a spirit of entrepreneurship to achieve regional revitalization in Japan.

G-net was founded in 2001. We are a Gifu-based non-profit organization dedicated to empowering the brightest young people from around Japan to make lasting connections and create positive change to revitalize the local community. We offer three core services as outlined below.

Innovative Internship Program:

G-net provides the first and the largest independent long-term internship program in cities and towns across Japan. Internship opportunities bring together dedicated college students, local business leaders, colleges and universities, and national and local governments. G-net's mission is to revitalize communities by empowering people especially younger population in smaller towns and cities. We believe it is fundamentally important to foster committed individuals who understand the need to be involved and socially engaged to promote the development of local communities.

Students in this program receive guidance to secure substantive, learning-oriented internships in Gifu and Aichi regions. At the internship, they will get hands-on work experience while making connections with local business leaders. This program will help them to develop useful skills they need for their career, expand their network, gain confidence by assuming professional responsibilities, and broaden their interpersonal skills through working on real projects.

Recruitment Support:

G-net offers specialized recruitment services using our strong network of local SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises), our program participants and alumni leaders in Gifu and Aichi area. Our approach is to develop long-term careers of the highly-motivated candidates who would like to utilize their skills in local businesses and to build strong relationships with our clients to help achieve their career goals.

Entrepreneur Support:

G-net supports entrepreneurs focusing on local community-development businesses in start-up stages. We provide seminars and professional workshops to foster partnerships around Gifu area. These seminars are open to college students and provide opportunities to learn from individuals who gained hands-on experiences from the challenges they faced. Our incubation program has been sponsored by Brother International Corporation since 2007.

G-net also is reaching out to young people in big cities including Tokyo, encouraging them to work in community-based or employee-owned businesses in Gifu city.

Organization Overview

Staff: 12 full-time employees, 2 student interns, 30 volunteer staff members

Established: October, 2001 (registered as an NPO in May 2003)

Location: 2nd Floor, Brother City Bldg., 6-2, Yoshino-Machi, Gifu, Gifu 500-8844 Japan

Contact: Tel: 81-58-263-2162 Email: info@gifist.net URL: <http://www.gifist.net>

OUR STAFF

The G-net team is made up of passionate and dedicated individuals who work closely with local SMEs, students, college and universities, and community networks. Our internship coordinators connect more than 100 students with our programs annually, provide support to business/educational partners, and help them maximize the impact of their programs and services.

BOARD of Directors

G-net is led by the Board of Directors made up of individuals who are leaders in corporate, education and nonprofit sectors in Gifu. The Board plays a critical role in developing our strategic plan and ensuring that we are able to meet the ambitious goals we set for ourselves.

AKIMOTO, Shoji: Founder/ Executive Director/ CEO

- Director, Okazaki Business Support Center
- Project Advisory Board member, Small and Medium Enterprise Agency
- Visiting assistant professor, Shiga University Faculty of Economics
- Visiting institute members, Keio University Graduate School of Media and Governance
- Lecturer, Gifu University
- Lecturer, Aichi Prefectural University

Shoji Akimoto is a founding director of G-net. He started G-net when he was an undergraduate student at Waseda University. In 2004, he was named the youngest model producer for "Challenge Community Project" sponsored by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. As one of the leading young social entrepreneurs in Japan, he attracts national media attention such as TV, newspapers, and magazines.

Shoji's academic background is in education and politics. He won the first-place in a national debate competition and was awarded a Prefectural Honor Award by his home prefecture Gifu in 1997.