

TAMAI'S PROFILE

Yoshiomi Tamai, born in 1935, started his career as “traffic critics” in 1965 after having lost his beloved mother due to traffic accident. Having established “Association for Traffic Orphans” in 1969, he started providing educational and emotional support to traffic orphaned students in Japan. In 1975, he established “Study Abroad University” for high school orphaned students unable to go on to higher education, and over 18 years, 552 students participated in programs in China, Brazil, Australia, and the U.S. He also found “Japan-Brazil Exchange Association” with 750 participants dispatched over 30 years. With the establishment of “Ashinaga” in 1993, named after the 1912 American novel by Jean Webster, *Daddy-long-legs*, he widened its support to children who have lost one or both parents as a result of illness, accidents, or disaster. Ashinaga has provided \$1 billion in educational aid to some 90,000 orphaned students in Japan, and its activities have extended to 21 countries and regions.

He has won numerous prestigious awards in Japan. He has also met with successive Japanese Prime Ministers and their Majesties the Emperor and Empress as well as influential people worldwide, such as H.E. President Yoweri K. Museveni in 2003, President Hu Jintao of China, President Barack Obama of the U.S. and President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan.