

## The World in Our Minds ~ Beyond Diversity ~

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### **Abstract:**

The term "neurodiversity" is becoming more common in Japan. Neurodiversity is a concept that stems from the fact that our brains and nerves are diverse, and this applies to all of us. Due to these individual characteristics, some may feel a sense of "difficulty in living." However, this "difficulty" is not solely caused by personal characteristics. It arises from the interaction between individual characteristics and the physical and social environment. By respecting individual characteristics and creating an appropriate environment, we can alleviate this "difficulty" and transform personal characteristics into "strengths."

We are promoting activities aimed at creating a society where everyone can express their unique strengths by complementing and enhancing individual brain functions and bodies with technology, and by redesigning physical spaces, social systems, and customs from the perspective of diversity and inclusion to alleviate difficulties in living.

We believe that the spread of neurodiversity will bring out new creativity in everyone and lead to the development of society as a whole, and we are aiming to achieve this by forming a community of researchers from across organizations.

### **Biographical information:**

Nanako Ishido graduated from the Faculty of Engineering, the University of Tokyo and conducted research as a visiting scholar at the MIT Media Lab. Ishido later founded and assumed the role of president at CANVAS, Digital Ehon and Learning of Tomorrow. Additionally, she holds the position of external director at Matsuya Co., Ltd.

She has been a member of various Ministry Committees, including the Information and Communications Council of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), and served as a member of NHK Central Broadcast Programs Council. Ishido also serves as the director of the Digital Signage Consortium. Ph.D. in Media and Governance.

Her publications include "Children's Creativity Switch!", "What are Smart Kids Doing with Smartphones?", "The Forefront of Online Education in Japan - Considering Learning in a post-COVID world", "What is Programming Education? 45 questions that parents want to know" and "Digital Education Manifesto" and more. She also supervises many books, including "Understanding Programming Education Through Manga: For Parents and Children".