

Japan Post Group's Support for Sports Activities

1 Women's Athletics Team

Japan Post Group Women's Athletics Team was founded in 2014 with the aims of fostering a sense of unity among Group employees and contributing to the community and society through sports. The team enters various middle- and long-distance running competitions, mainly road relay races (*ekiden*), where runners are connected by a sash much like how our postal services connect people by mail.

In the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018, two team members represented Japan at the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships held in London. The team also competed in the 37th All-Japan Women's Corporate Ekiden Championships (Queens Ekiden in Miyagi) where they finished in third place and became seeded as a result. Moreover, Hanami Sekine made her marathon debut at the Nagoya Women's Marathon 2018 which marked a major milestone in the team's legacy when she earned a spot in the Marathon Grand Championship (MGC), the qualifying trial to represent Japan in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, the team will work as one to achieve even greater leaps forward.

Major Activities and Results in fiscal year ended March 31, 2018

| Month/Year | Activity/Competition | Athlete | Result | Record |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| June 2017 | 101st Japan National Championships (women's 10000 m finals) | Ayuko Suzuki Hanami Sekine | 2nd 6th | 31:41.65 32:23.83 |
| June 2017 | 101st Japan National Championships (women's 5000 m finals) | Rina Nabeshima Ayuko Suzuki | 1st 2nd | 15:19.87 15:20.50 |
| August 2017 | 16th IAAF World Championships (London, 2017) (women's 10000 m finals) | Ayuko Suzuki | 10th (out of 31 runners) | 31:27.30* ¹ |
| August 2017 | 16th IAAF World Championships (London, 2017) (women's 5000 m preliminary round) | Ayuko Suzuki Rina Nabeshima | 14th in Heat 1 (26th overall) 9th in Heat 2 (18th overall) | 15:24.86 15:11.83* ² |
| November 2017 | 37th All-Japan Women's Corporate Ekiden (Queens Ekiden in Miyagi) Leg 1: Ayuko Suzuki Leg 2: Eri Utsunomiya Leg 3: Rina Nabeshima Leg 4: Chitose Shibata Leg 5: Hanami Sekine Leg 6: Nozomi Terauchi | Japan Post Group | 3rd | 2:17:54 |
| March 2018 | Nagoya Women's Marathon 2018 | Hanami Sekine | 3rd (1st of Japanese runners) | 2:23:07* ³ |

*¹ Ranked 1st in Japan for women's 10000 m in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018

*² Ranked 2nd in Japan for women's 5000 m in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018

*³ Fourth fastest marathon debut record in Japan; ranked 2nd in Japan for women's marathon in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018



Ayuko Suzuki and Rina Nabeshima at awards ceremony of the 101st Japan National Championships 5000 m race
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Hanami Sekine at the Nagoya Women's Marathon 2018

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Members as of April 1, 2018