

FAQs • A2/SIM Strategic Partnership for Japan

This is a list of frequently asked questions regarding the A2/SIM USA Strategic Partnership for Japan.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON 11.11.11

Q: Who is SIM?

SIM is a mission organization, based in Charlotte, NC with a long and rich history. Originally founded in 1893 as the Sudan Interior Mission, today it has grown to include work on six continents involving over 2,100 missionaries from over 65 countries. SIM has a good track record of partnerships with other organizations. SIM aims to help create multicultural mission movements that respond to needs, proclaim the gospel, and equip the church. Their vision, mission and values, along with their sheer size, make them a great partner for Asian Access. This strategic partnership for Japan is between Asian Access and SIM USA, the U.S. division of SIM.

Q: Why is this partnership happening? What are the benefits?

Both Asian Access and SIM have a long track record of partnering. And both organizations have complementary vision, but different strengths. Here are just a few of the benefits of this partnership:

- The new partnership will yield better stewardship and economy of scale, saving both organizations significant amount of funding required to achieve its goals.
- The collaboration leverages the strengths of both SIM and Asian Access to accelerate the gospel's advance in Japan:
 - SIM USA provides the mobilization engine to recruit, train and send more missionaries to Japan;
 - Asian Access provides the vision, model and strategy for deploying church multiplication missionaries, as well as a strong relationship with the Japanese Church.
- The united effort reflects a joint partnership with a kingdom mindset.
- More missionaries will be deployed for church multiplication ministry in Japan and, we trust, more churches for Japanese people.

Q: Isn't this partnership really a "merger?"

No, both organizations will remain completely independent. In addition to managing the vision and mission of church multiplication work in Japan, Asian Access is currently operating its leadership development ministry in 10 countries across Asia and will continue to do so. Both Asian Access and SIM have completely separate and autonomous boards of directors. Though collaborating in Japan, we will be distinct 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

Q: Will Asian Access and SIM offices consolidate into one office?

Although there will be some realignment of the functions of recruiting, HR and finance related to sending missionaries, there will be no consolidation of offices. Asian Access is headquartered in Los Angeles and will continue to have offices in Canada, Japan and Singapore. SIM USA is based in Charlotte, NC and SIM has dozens of offices worldwide, but none in Japan.

Q: Which Japan-related functions will be managed by SIM and which will be managed by Asian Access?

Under the new agreement, SIM USA assumes responsibility for the functions of mobilization (recruiting missionaries), human resources (missionary training and U.S.-based care) and financial accounting, while Asian Access retains responsibility for championing the vision, managing the strategy of missionary deployment through its vast network of Japanese churches, and coordinating missionary care on the field.

Q: Will Asian Access missionaries switch over to SIM?

Yes and No — some will and some will not, based on citizenship and geographic deployment.

This strategic partnership applies to U.S.-based missionaries serving in Japan. Current Asian Access missionaries to Japan will likely switch to SIM over the next year; funds given toward their work will be receipted by SIM. New missionary candidates will automatically be under the SIM umbrella. Missionary candidates already accepted by Asian Access for Japan will transition first; then existing A2/Japan missionaries will be making the switchover in the following months. All U.S.-based A2/Japan missionaries are set to switch by the end of 2012.

- All U.S.-based missionaries for Japan will be raising funds through SIM, as well as be trained and supervised by SIM prior to leaving for Japan. However, it is important to note that once any SIM/Japan missionaries are actually deployed to Japan, all will be seconded (i.e., loaned) to Asian Access for their ministry assignments and supervision.
- Canadian-based A2 missionaries will continue to be receipted by Asian Access' Canada office. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) will continue to be handled by the Canada office.
- A2 missionaries NOT assigned to Japan will continue to serve with Asian Access and funds given toward their work will continue to be receipted by Asian Access at this time.

Q: Who will manage missionary deployment in Japan and carry out the vision for church multiplication there?

SIM USA will recruit potential missionaries for Japan and screen their applications. After being accepted for assignment in Japan by Asian Access/Japan leadership, SIM/Japan missionaries will be seconded or loaned to Asian Access/Japan. Asian Access will continue to champion the 2020 Vision and manage the implementation of church multiplication strategy. Practically speaking, this includes managing missionaries and where they are assigned, as well as handling member

care on the field. This is the advantage of the partnership—SIM will utilize its strength as a missionary sending organization, and Asian Access will concentrate on its depth of relationships and ministry expertise in Japan.

Q: I support an Asian Access missionary. How do I continue to support their work?

Please wait for further information from your missionary. Because SIM will assume the financial accounting for Japan missionaries, checks for Asian Access missionaries to Japan can be sent to SIM in Charlotte, NC once the switchover for your missionary has occurred. The timing depends on if/when your missionary will transition to SIM, and it would likely not occur until June 1, 2012 at the earliest. Asian Access and your missionary will send complete information for the transition when the time comes.

For gifts toward the work of Asian Access missionaries NOT based in Japan, please continue sending your gifts to A2's headquarters:
Asian Access, P.O Box 200, San Dimas, CA 91773

Please check with your Asian Access missionary to get the latest information, including when/if their switchover will take place. Until you receive official notification to make a change, please continue to send your gifts to Asian Access, PO Box 200, San Dimas, CA 91773 USA. Rest assured that wherever you send your gifts, they will be credited to your missionary.

Q: If I have an EFT set up with Asian Access. How do I switch this over to SIM?

If you have an electronic funds transfer (EFT) set up to support an Asian Access missionary in Japan who transitions to SIM USA, then you will be alerted as to how and when to make this change. Both Asian Access and SIM USA will work hard to make this transition as smooth and timely as possible.

Q: Will the go2japan website still be used to mobilize missionaries for Japan?

Yes, for the time being, www.go2japan.org will still be maintained with the latest information about how missionaries can serve in Japan under the new A2/SIM partnership. It may take a few weeks to update all the details, but please check often. As always, go2japan will be a place to explore being a missionary in Japan, connect with real missionaries on the forum, and prepare for service there.

Q: What are the leaders saying about this partnership?

A. Joe Handley, President of Asian Access

After nearly three years of intensive review, we are excited to announce the formation of a strategic sending partnership with the U.S. division of the international mission SIM. SIM brings the stability of operational support that we needed and the mobilization horsepower to help us fulfill our [vision and mission for Japan](#). In addition, SIM is so kingdom-minded and

humble, that they see tremendous value in letting Asian Access run the mission on the field. Thus, this strategic partnership is not a merger or simply a sharing of back office functions, but it is truly a new way of doing mission together – each bringing their strengths and committing to a common Kingdom vision.

We believe that we are stronger together leveraging our resources and strengths to fulfill the vision God has called us to in Japan. This bolstering is all the more important given the triple-disaster that hit Japan on March 11, 2011. This is a [kairos or God-moment for Japan](#) that requires our best efforts to influence the country for the beauty of Christ and His Kingdom. We are thrilled to be working with such a strong mission like SIM and are eager to see the Lord work through our strategic partnership to fulfill his mandate for the people of Japan.”

B. Bruce Johnson, President SIM USA

“SIM’s global focus and Asian Access’ 2020 vision for Japan fit so well together. In SIM we are helping to create multicultural mission movements that respond to needs, proclaim the gospel, and equip the church. And Asian Access’ 2020 vision of helping Japanese pastors plant reproducible churches, as well as seeing a mission heart infused in those churches resonates with SIM. This alliance immediately opens up a whole new country to send SIM missionaries, rather than having to set up a beachhead with a few pioneer missionaries. On top of that, to partner with an organization like Asian Access, which already has history, success and reputation in Japan is a privilege and honor.”

Q: Where can I find more information?

- **Asian Access:**
 - website: <http://www.asianaccess.org>
 - Partnership: <http://www.asianaccess.org/japan-partnership>
 - Serving in Japan: <http://www.go2japan.org>
- **SIM:**
 - SIM: <http://www.sim.org>
 - SIM USA: <http://www.simusa.org>