

We Are *Tomodachi*

Winter 2020

FEATURE >>>

Welcome to TOKYO 2020

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COVER

On November 28, 2019, Prime Minister ABE Shinzo hosted a reception for the gathering of foreign cadet graduates of the National Defense Academy (NDA), at the Prime Minister's Official Residence. Among the participants were around 50 foreign cadet graduates from 12 countries who are making contributions by acting as a bridge between their respective countries and the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan, as well as foreign cadets currently studying at the NDA. These cadets actively engaged in exchanges.
(Photo: Prime Minister Abe met cadets from the Republic of Korea)



Welcome to TOKYO 2020 A Testament to the Recovery from Natural Disasters

2020 is here. This summer the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Japan, the first time in 56 years. Overcoming difficult times following recent natural disasters, Japan will give thanks to the people of the world with its *omotenashi*, or warm hospitality.

The days when the eyes of the world are on Japan are here again. On July 24, 2020, the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 will finally commence. This will be the second summer Olympics held in

Japan, since the 1964 Tokyo Games of 56 years ago. As with the previous Games, which were a symbol of postwar reconstruction, many people are awaiting these Games with strong feelings.

The main venue, the Olympic Stadium, was completed in November 2019. Both people-friendly and environmentally-friendly, the universal stadium was finished with a “Stadium in Forest” concept.



The new Olympic Stadium, located in the heart of Tokyo, yet surrounded by greenery, aims to be a stadium lasting well into the future. Olympic- and Paralympic-related displays around the streets are setting the mood ahead of the Games. Pre-Games events held in various places around the country have also been a great success.

H O S T T O W N

Kumamoto and Indonesia Joined by Badminton

Kumamoto Prefecture, a thriving place for badminton, having produced some fine Olympic players, acts as host town to the Indonesian badminton team. Originally seeking some connection with Indonesia, Kumamoto found it had badminton in common with the country and put itself forward as a possible place for a pre-Olympic training camp. Indonesian badminton players were invited to Kumamoto to interact with local players and experience some of the Japanese culture like wearing kimono. As such, the Indonesians took a liking to Kumamoto paving the way to becoming a place for

the training camp.

Preparations are being made in Kumamoto Prefecture to train staff on the different customs surrounding eating and worship to provide sufficient *omotenashi* to the Indonesian team, made up largely of Muslims. The prefecture also aims to maintain a long-lasting relationship with Indonesia beyond Tokyo 2020, with a focus on people-to-people exchange through badminton, such as with junior player exchanges, etc.

Damaged by the 2016 Earthquake, Kumamoto Castle is now being restored, making the magnificent appearance of the castle tower a pleasure for all to see once again.



H O S T T O W N

Niigata and France Deepening Ties with Karate

Niigata City has a history of exchange with France on a citizen level for nearly 30 years. In 1999, the city signed an agreement with Nantes, further deepening ties, and since 2009 the two cities have maintained a sister city relationship. It is because of this close relationship built up over many years that Niigata City was selected as a place for pre-Olympic training camp for the French karate team. And, with the coach of the Japanese karate team coming from Niigata City, this became a deciding factor due to his



Having long prospered as a port town, Niigata City is home to many former merchants' houses, allowing visitors to experience the splendor of those bygone days.

close friendship with the French Karate Federation.

Many people from both Nantes and Niigata visited each other's cities in 2019, the 10th year of their sister city relationship. Being one of the traditional martial arts originating from Japan, karate is a new event at this Olympics.

Taking this opportunity to welcome the French team, a powerhouse in terms of karate and a country known to have a deep interest in Japanese culture, Niigata, having flourished as a port town for many years, is planning its own brand of *omotenashi* making use of its unique food and culture.

Traditional Japanese architectural knowledge has been used throughout the structure that blends in with the natural surroundings. The entrance gate to the stadium uses a huge amount of domestic timber, including wood from areas recovering from the great earthquakes, or more specifically, Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi and Kumamoto Prefecture. The background to this is an important concept for the Games, dubbed the "Recovery and Reconstruction Games."

Two years before it was decided

to hold the Tokyo 2020, a huge earthquake and tsunami struck a wide area of eastern Japan, including Tokyo, in March 2011. As well as showing to the world how it has recovered from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Tokyo 2020 Games will be a place of appreciation for the tremendous support that Japan has received from all parts of the world. Preparations have been made not only in Tokyo, but also throughout the country, including those areas affected by the disaster. National teams are being hosted

for pre-Games training camps or cultural exchange events in all 47 prefectures, bringing the whole of the country together in readiness for the Games.

As momentum for the Games gains pace, the Grand Start of the torch relay in Japan has been set for the J-Village sports facility in Fukushima Prefecture, 230km north of Tokyo. J-Village opened as Japan's first national training center for football in 1997. It has been used for various training camps and tournaments by some of the



J-Village, one of the symbols of the country's reconstruction efforts. Many local residents came to celebrate its revival on the day that it reopened. A new station, opened nearby on the same day as J-Village's reopening, made the facility even more convenient than before.

world's top teams, including the Argentina national football team during the 2002 FIFA World Cup, which was jointly hosted by Japan and South Korea. At the same time, J-Village was open to the general public, becoming a key part of the local community and the pride of the people. But that all stopped when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck. Since then, the facility has been used as a base for responding to earthquake disasters.

However, J-Village aimed to revive itself as a symbol of recovery. After the decision was made to relocate the base, J-Village declared that operation would resume by April 2019, the year before the Tokyo 2020 Games, and fully reopened eight years since the earthquake struck. Reestablished with the world's best natural turf on eight pitches, as well as the addition of an all-weather practice field, hotel, and banquet

hall, the facility has been brilliantly restored to meet a wide range of sports and business needs. The men's and women's Japan national football teams will both use J-Village as their training camp in the build up to the Tokyo Olympics. Moreover, concerts and other such events are held here, bringing life and energy into the community, and helping the region to get back on its feet. When the Olympic torch, starting its journey in Greece, arrives at J-Village in March 2020, the partly damaged JR Joban Line will resume operations on all sections, restoring the old everyday Fukushima landscape once more.

As you watch the world's best athletes fight it out on the biggest stage this summer, spare a thought for how Japan has stood firm throughout repeated disasters, recovering to become stronger and stronger each time. ✿

East Japan





Enjoy the magic of the city of Tokyo along with the Tokyo 2020 Games. (Clockwise from top right) Shibuya Crossing, Kaminari-mon Gate in Asakusa, Sumida River and Tokyo Skytree.

FEATURE >>> Welcome to TOKYO 2020

Tokyo Will Create a Legacy of Sustainability

In 2020, all eyes will be on Tokyo as the host city of the next Olympic and Paralympic Games. Focus will not only be on the success of the games but also the initiatives undertaken by the host city, including creating a lasting legacy once the Games are over.

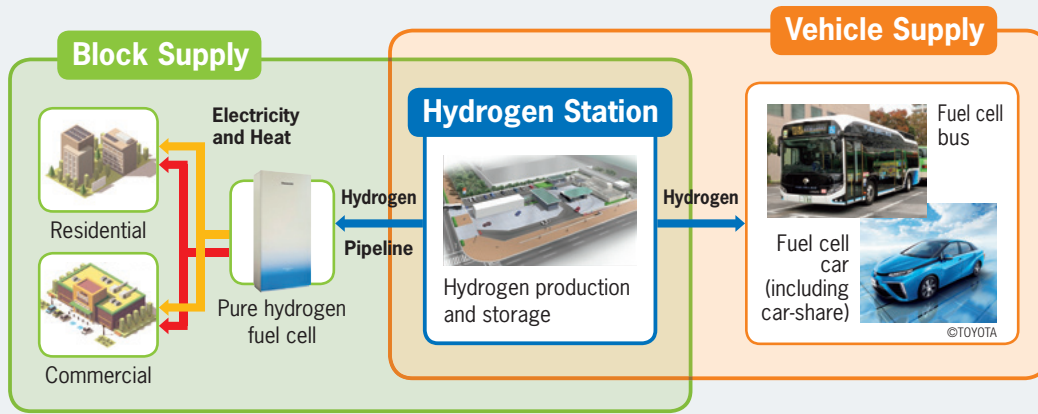


Collecting small home appliances such as used mobile phones. This is the first time at an Olympics and Paralympics when metals have been extracted to create medals.



Tokyo is one of Asia's foremost cities' with a population of 14 million. While the city offers cutting-edge technologies, new culture and trends such as anime and fashion to the world, its long history and traditions are still very much alive. This unique blend of tradition and modernity, the ultimate allure of Tokyo, attracts attention from around the world this year.

In September 2013, Tokyo was



Active use of hydrogen energy for a sustainable Olympics and Paralympics. Above is a vision of the Olympic Village after the Tokyo 2020 Games.

selected for the second time to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session in Buenos Aires, marking 56 years since Tokyo last hosted the Games. Since then, Tokyo has been making every effort to build momentum and make preparations for the greatest Games yet.

One of the unique initiatives of the sustainable Olympics and Paralympics is the Tokyo 2020 Medal Project. This initiative is an attempt to recycle small electronic devices such as used mobile phones from homes and offices, extracting the gold, silver, and bronze materials needed to make the medals. Launched in 2017, the project has succeeded in collecting enough materials within the space of two years to produce approximately

5,000 medals (collecting about 32kg of gold, about 3,500kg of silver, and 2,200kg of bronze). This is the first time in the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games that medals will be made exclusively from recycled materials. Look out for these totally sustainable medals proudly won by athletes at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

The After Medal Project, promoting the collection of small home appliances, was also launched by the Japanese government to encourage many people to get involved in recycling. The various efforts to recycle the Earth's limited resources will no doubt become a lasting legacy of the Tokyo 2020 Games.

During the Games, the Olympic Village aims to be a low-carbon venue, and once the Games have

finished, it is to be designated for residential and commercial use, becoming a model for an environmentally advanced city. In the Olympic Village, a hydrogen station, a hydrogen pipeline, and pure hydrogen fuel cells will be set up, with the plan that the active use of hydrogen will be established in both residential and commercial facilities after the Games end. This kind of advanced hydrogen energy will be incorporated into everyday life with fuel cell buses and vehicles that run on hydrogen ferrying people around. The creation of a new city to realize such a hydrogen-based society is forging ahead. Take note of the urban development brimming with Japan's technological strength, while enjoying the festival of sports at the Tokyo 2020 Games. *

TOKYO 2020 to Connect Children with the World

As a part of the educational initiatives surrounding the Olympics and Paralympics, the Global Friendship Project is being implemented in Tokyo to teach Japanese children about the countries and regions scheduled to participate in the Tokyo 2020 Games, in an effort to lead to real international exchange. All public schools in Tokyo will learn about the language, culture, and history,

etc. of five designated countries and regions. By studying those particular countries, interacting with embassies, speaking to international students, and exchanging e-mails with local schools, students will have the opportunity to cultivate a profound sense of internationality. Children, too, are getting ready for the Games!



Children learning about the culture of Togo.

Enthusiasm for Sports Promotes Inclusive Society

In 1964, Tokyo hosted the second Paralympic Games, which was actually the first time that the word “paralympics” had been used. In 2020, while preparing to become the world’s first host of a second Paralympics, Japan is working to realize an inclusive society through sports.

At a “Kids-Spocha” (Sports Challenge) event for local children with and without disabilities supported by Honda Sun, all children can experience the joys of sports while exercising.



The world’s first international wheelchair-only marathon was held in Oita prefecture in 1981. It has now become a magnet for top-level athletes worldwide. In 2019, the marathon served as a preliminary skirmish for Tokyo 2020, and it was here that the world’s first full-carbon-frame wheelchair “Kakeru” supported the victory of Swiss racer Manuela Schar, and set new world records. The Kakeru is prized by the world’s top athletes for being lighter

than conventional aluminum-frame wheelchairs, with superior acceleration and driving stability. Schar, who praised the Kakeru for the beauty of its carbon-fiber-frame and its high performance, said “it’s pretty unique because it’s the first wheelchair that has a damper and most of the parts are contained inside the frame. I think it’s really fast in a downhill race.”

The team supporting the development of the wheelchair for



Manuela Schar (left), a Swiss athlete who won the 2019 Oita Wheelchair Marathon, and KINA Tsubasa, who took second place and set a new Japanese record. Both athletes used the Kakeru.

racing comprises Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (hereafter 'Honda'), Yachiyo Industry Co., Ltd., and Honda Sun Co., Ltd. Honda Sun, which has its roots in Japan Sun Industries, a firm in Oita, was founded in 1965. The company is based on the concept of promoting the social independence of physically or mentally challenged people, and was established as a Honda subsidiary in 1981 by HONDA Soichiro as a place where disabled and able-bodied people could work alongside each other.

There are many marathon racers at Honda Sun, some of whom inaugurated a study group for the development of wheelchairs for competitive sports in 1993. The group teamed up with Honda to start developing a model for track events, hoping "to make the lightest wheelchair in the world." The technical development project that these athletes and technologists cooperated on produced a Japanese-made racer that was the envy of the world. Moreover, Honda Sun supports sports events for all children to experience the joys of sports. HOSHINO Hiroshi, the president of Honda Sun, says "We would like to expand the range of participants in disabled sports through this event."

Meanwhile, in Tokyo, a center for supporting the first steps towards an

KAWAMURO Ryuichi, an employee of Honda Sun and a competitor in full wheelchair marathons. He says, "As long as I train whenever I find the time, my performance improves. Now, I work in the mornings, and the whole afternoon is filled with training."



inclusive society through sports has also been established: the Tetsudo Kosaikai Foundation Prosthetics and Orthotics Support Center. The center runs the only facility in the private sector in Japan where rehabilitation and manufacture of prosthetics and orthotics are carried out under one roof.

In addition to prosthetics for daily living, the center became involved in research and development on an artificial leg designed for sports, which is called the "spring blade," as well as developing and fine-tuning artificial limbs for athletes to use in the Paralympics. In 2017, the center started holding periodic track meets, called "The First Step." These meets are intended for first-time users of the sports prosthetic leg. The event draws participants ranging from primary school students through seniors in their 60s, and encourages them to take their first steps as runners, which is particularly difficult with ordinary prosthetic legs designed for routine use.

The Support Center also facilitates



Honda Sun, which employs 192 people. A positive work environment has been created by elaborating on the height and angle of the worktable, allowing all employees the same ability to work.

school visits by experts to promote better understanding of disabilities and para-athletics. NAKANO Hirofumi, general manager of the Support Center, states that "By explaining prostheses and orthotics and letting young children touch and feel them, we hope to create an environment in which it is 'perfectly normal' for a person to use one of these devices."

Tokyo, and all Japan, through hosting sporting events that fascinate everybody regardless of their physical ability, continues to progress steadily towards realizing an inclusive society. ✿



At the center, a regular staff of about 30 specialists in prosthetics and orthotics (left), with physical therapists (right) supports users from around the country.



Prosthetists and orthotists in their 20s and 30s are also getting more active. Looking towards Tokyo 2020, the center aims to "provide prosthetists and orthotists to support the athletes as much as possible."

Lithium-ion Batteries Accelerate the ET Revolution

The Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2019 was awarded to Japanese scientist YOSHINO Akira and two other scientists developing lithium-ion batteries for their contributions to the realization of a mobile society. Lithium-ion batteries are a technology that is greatly expected to play an important role in solving environmental problems.



After completing his master's course at Kyoto University, Yoshino joined Asahi Kasei, a major material manufacturer. The company succeeded in developing lithium-ion batteries by engaging in research on new secondary batteries. In 2019, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry along with Dr. John B. Goodenough and Dr. Stanley Whittingham.

The Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2019 was awarded to the developers of new secondary batteries (batteries that can be recharged and reused) that are essential for our daily lives. The lightweight, safe, rechargeable lithium-ion batteries created by Dr. YOSHINO Akira, an honorary fellow of Asahi Kasei Corporation, and others led the Information Technology (IT)

revolution of the late 1990s, especially the dissemination of mobile IT equipment such as mobile phones and laptop computers, and changed the lives of people around the world.

This technology is now spreading to electric vehicle batteries and large-scale rechargeable batteries, which are indispensable for the popularization of renewable energy, leading to high expectations for the

realization of a fossil-fuel-free world. “Normally, winning the Nobel Prize would be the goal of research, but it was a great honor for the batteries to have also been included in a second race dubbed the ‘Challenge to Environmental Problems,’” Yoshino says with a smile.

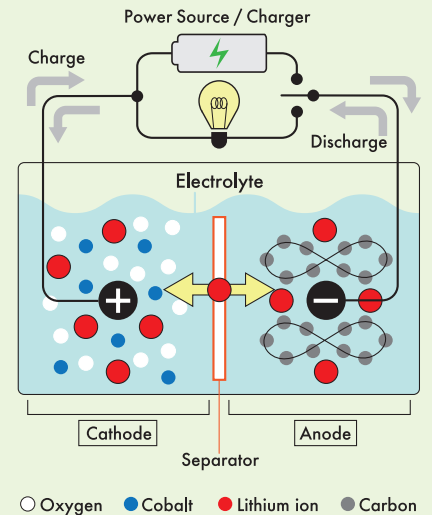
Yoshino’s development of lithium-ion batteries started with the use of an electrically-conductive plastic called polyacetylene, which was created in 1981 by Nobel Prize laureate Dr. SHIRAKAWA Hideki, as the anode. The breakthrough came with using lithium-cobalt oxide as a material for the cathode, and later using carbon for the anode. In this way, Yoshino succeeded in developing a battery that can generate a high voltage, and completed the world’s first prototype lithium-ion battery. He then conducted safety tests for commercialization and confirmed that there were no ignition issues.

Small, lightweight, and safe, lithium-ion batteries have contributed significantly to the popularization of mobile IT. Amid the need to reduce CO₂ emissions, electric vehicles equipped with lithium-ion batteries will also become more widely used.



Mechanism of lithium-ion batteries

Lithium-ion batteries use lithium-cobalt oxide for the cathode and carbon materials for the anode. Lithium ions flow between the cathode and anode to charge and discharge. Since the working principle of a battery is very straightforward, the battery shows much less degradation and the life cycle of charging and discharging lengthens. Yoshino's achievement was that he succeeded in developing a prototype using carbon materials for the anode and that he paved the way for practical applications.



Nevertheless, it took about 10 years from the initial development in 1985 until the lithium-ion batteries gained popularity on the market. While waiting for the moment to arrive and continuing to make modifications, Yoshino sensed a particular scent—an indication of the IT revolution—had begun to gain momentum. “Would I describe this as a scent? What is important is to set the goal of contributing to society. We must think about what the world wants (needs) five or 10 years from now and think about the technology (seeds) for that purpose. I didn’t give up because I could strongly sense this scent that lithium-ion batteries were reaching a society that extensively needed this technology.”

Yoshino’s sense of trend is now detecting signs of a new revolution. “Technologies that make energy use more efficient, such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things (IoT), are rapidly evolving. When these technologies and batteries are well combined, the revolution in environmental and

energy technologies, or the ET revolution, will occur.”

Lithium-ion batteries, which have supported the mobile society, will play a central role in the imminent realization of a sustainable society. While there are still improvements to be made, such as in terms of cost and energy density, and most significantly durability, Yoshino

maintains his hope for the younger generation. “I want them to take on risks with courage. There are many unknown fields. Even in lithium-ion batteries, there are parts where basic research has been neglected. If young people return to the starting point and study while others go forward, they will certainly be able to discover great treasures.” *

The Nobel Prize award ceremony took place on December 10, 2019, and Yoshino was awarded the Nobel Prize. At the lecture, he asserted that “a sustainable society that balances solving environmental problems with economics and convenience can undoubtedly be realized very soon, and lithium-ion batteries will play a central role.”



Young Innovative Scientist Tackles Climate Change

Inventor of a suitcase-shaped device that collects CO₂ from the atmosphere, 19-year-old Japanese scientist MURAKI Kazumi's ambition is to research ways to stem global warming and generate energy from CO₂

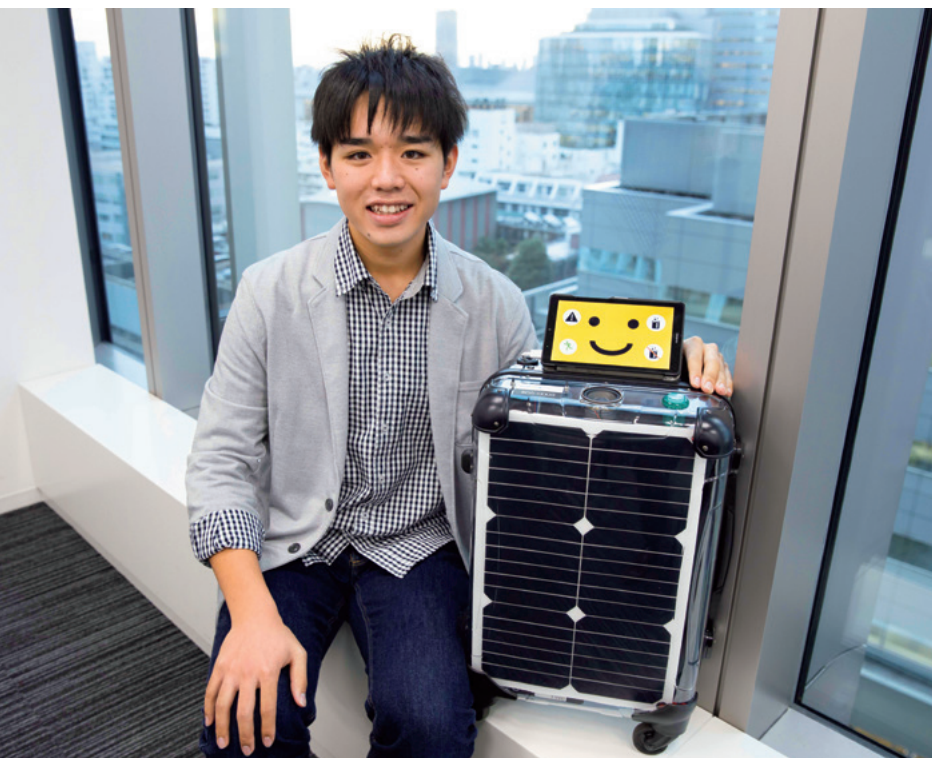
Global warming is one of the most serious challenges humanity faces. While scientists around the world are grappling with this problem, the ideas of a university student only 19 years old could possibly change our future.

MURAKI Kazumi, who is currently proceeding with his own private

research on CO₂ while attending the University of Tokyo, has loved science since childhood. Inspired by reading a book by Professor Stephen Hawking at the age of 10, he has developed an interest in Mars and knows that for humans to live on Mars, it is first necessary to remove the CO₂ blanketing that

planet's surface. The more he studied about CO₂, the more impressed he was with the giant potential hidden in this substance. But he also was troubled by the shocking truth that global warming is not stopping. His thinking about how he could contribute, led him to focus not on curtailing CO₂ emissions but on collecting it. It is a technology that someday could also lead to his dream of humans living on Mars.

At the age of 15, just one year since his initial concept, Muraki had developed a CO₂ collection robot "CARS- α (Carbon dioxide Air-Recovering System version Alpha)." The CO₂-absorbing liquid contained inside the device, made from a modified small trolley suitcase, is able to collect six liters of CO₂ in one hour at the press of a switch. The lightweight and portable device is intended to be used widely in ordinary households just like an air purifier. One extra special feature



Born in 2000 in Yamanashi Prefecture, MURAKI Kazumi is a student at the University of Tokyo. He founded and became president of the Carbon Recovering Research Agency, CRRA, a research agency conducting integrated research ranging from methods for stemming global warming to colonization of Mars.



CARS-α, which has a lovable face, can even have a conversation with you! The units are proving to be a big hit with children. It is hoped that they may inspire thinking about global warming.



is an AI-loaded tablet fitted to the top of the case. When it is switched on, you can enjoy talking with an adorable character with a yellow face that was also designed by Muraki. That idea was also born out of his commitment to the spirit of a device that individuals can use in everyday life.

“I think that in order to solve the problem of global warming, we must begin by changing how we think about the issue. We tend to feel helpless when confronted with a global-level problem, but with this device in our homes, I’m sure we could begin to feel like agents of change. The idea of the 7.5 billion people on Earth having the power to stem global warming with a press of a switch is far more attractive than some scientists grappling with specialized endeavors that hardly anyone understands, don’t you think?” Muraki says with a broad smile.

The device isn’t completely ready for practical use yet, but the CARS-α is being lent out to places like a city government office and schools, providing ample opportunity for data collection and field testing. In tandem with CARS-α, Muraki is developing a device to reuse the

collected CO₂ as a functional gas and as dry ice. And pursuing an even bigger concept, he aims to generate ethanol from CO₂ to use it as a fuel for motor vehicles, etc. Apparently, his mind is filled with many more ideas on how to deliver the hidden potential of CO₂ to the real world.

Muraki says his dreams are to rescue all 7.5 billion people by stopping global warming and to experience setting foot on Mars. “But even if the day came when

people could go to Mars, nothing could be sadder than if our planet were facing ruin at that time. I am going to do everything I can for our planet’s future, and someday, I want to be in schoolbooks around the world as the ‘man who stopped global warming.’” *



It is not only in research that Muraki works to stem global warming. He is also widely active in promoting understanding at symposiums and the like.

Protect the “Singing Sands” from Ocean Waste

— Visit Kyotango and save a beach of pure white sand and the “Singing Sands” —

A beach of pure white sand extending for as far as the eye can see... Such a landscape is one fine example of particularly Japanese natural scenery. Kotohiki Beach, which has long been known as a place of picturesque scenery seems like something out of a painting. Many visitors reach the beach, which is part of the city of Kyotango, by taking a train north from Kyoto toward the Sea of Japan. Besides the views, Kotohiki Beach is also distinctive for its “singing sands.” When you walk along the beach, the sands emit little squeaks. The sound comes from vibrations caused by grains of sands rubbing against each other. Without the ocean washing the sands clean, however, it would not sing.

Local volunteers have been working to conserve the environment

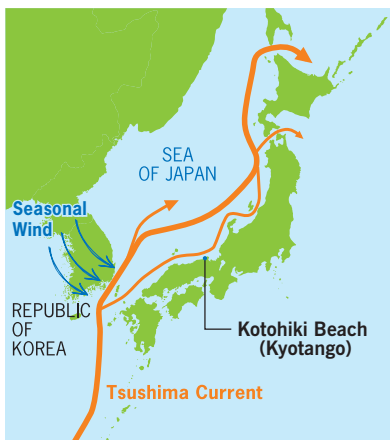
at Kotohiki Beach for more than 30 years. They have regularly organized cleanups and awareness-raising campaigns, but the severity of the marine debris has become greater in recent years. The trash that rides the ocean currents in summer and drifts onto Kotohiki Beach by the seasonal winds of autumn and winter. Fishing gear such as nets and bobbers, along with medical waste like syringes, are also a problem, but the overwhelming majority of the trash is plastic.

The threat from ocean plastic waste is now a serious problem. At the G20 Summit in June 2019, countries agreed to swiftly take action both nationally and internationally, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to prevent and significantly reduce discharges

of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans. In addition, the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision,” which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050, was shared.

A survey is conducted regularly to analyze the text printed on lighters to determine where the marine debris originates. The results indicate that over 70% of the garbage at Kotohiki Beach comes from nearby countries. Although cleanup efforts by residents have preserved the beach’s scenery, due to the nonstop inflow of trash the root cause of the problem cannot be addressed.

The years of work by the community around Kotohiki Beach has spread awareness about protecting the site to high school students and other young people.



Garbage with labels written in foreign languages are conspicuous. To research where it comes from, local high schoolers came up with the idea of sorting lighters by the text printed on them. Communities across Japan have now started up similar efforts.



For many years, this beautiful beach has been protected by the continuous devotion of the local community. Now, the next generation is taking over the reins to carry on the work.

There has been an annual musical event held for the past 25 years, “The Barefoot Concert,” where the price of admission is a piece of garbage collected from the beach. In 2019, participants gathered 9,440 pieces of plastic in just two hours. Afterward, high schoolers sorted the trash to produce panels that were exhibited in different areas to inform the public about what is happening at Kotohiki Beach. Meanwhile, young workers in the local tourism business

invite students from other countries visiting on school trips to experience the true beauty of Kotohiki Beach for themselves. These years of efforts have extended the circle of contribution beyond conservation groups to also encompass further action led by the next generation. This is the creation of a virtuous cycle. Local pride in the beach is the driving force behind their work. One man who has been involved for many years said, “We want to

protect this beautiful beach because it is dear to us. The first step in protecting it is to understand more about the sea that laps its shore. If we lack understanding, we will also lack the desire to protect; a certain amount of knowledge is necessary to garner interest. That’s why I want people to know more about the sea.” The expanding scope of community involvement should lead to a future in which the singing of Kotohiki Beach will be heard for eternity. ✿



The seasonal wind in winter send an especially large amount of ocean debris to the beach. Locals join cleanup efforts on a nearly daily basis and regularly conduct surveys. Volunteers of all ages now contribute to this action.

Prime Minister in Action

Prime Minister Abe continues to actively engage in “Diplomacy That Takes a Panoramic Perspective of the World Map.” He met with numerous world leaders who attended the Sokuirei-Seiden-no-gi, Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden (State Hall), held on October 22.

In November, he met with His Holiness Pope Francis in Japan and visited Thailand to attend the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings and held summit talks with attending leaders.



Met with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Japanese Prime Minister's Office. (November 2019)



Met with numerous world leaders who attended the Sokuirei-Seiden-no-gi and held the Banquet Hosted by the Prime Minister and His Spouse. (October 2019)



Attended the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings and met with attending leaders, in the Kingdom of Thailand. (November 2019)



Attended an event in Tokyo to commemorate the independence of the Republic of Palau and the 25th anniversary of its diplomatic relations with Japan, with H.E. Mr. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau. (November 2019)



Met with H.E. David W Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, at the Japanese Prime Minister's Office. (November 2019)



Only in Winter: Great Artwork of Nature

Sometimes the beautiful formative art created by nature far surpasses human imagination. In winter, when severe cold arrives, spectacular landscapes appear that cannot be seen in any other season.





A wild and exquisite icefall

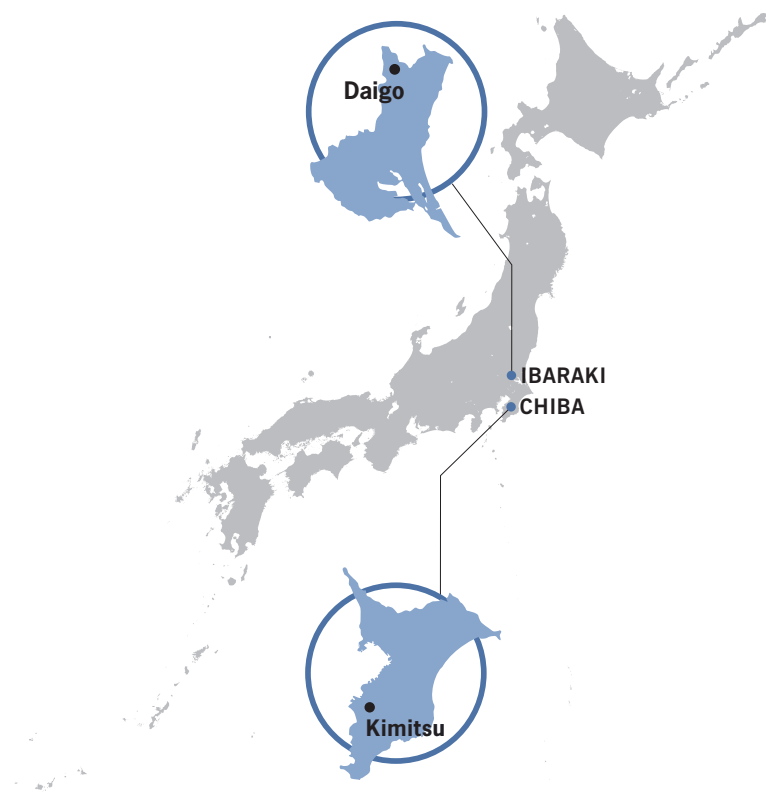
Ibaraki Prefecture has dazzling scenery that can only be encountered during the winter. At Daigo Town in the northern part of the prefecture, Fukuroda Falls, counted as one of the three most famous waterfalls of Japan, has fascinated people for over 800 years. The size of the falls is 120m (394ft) high and 73m (240ft) wide. The flowing water, which drops over massive rock walls in four stages, looks as smooth as threads of silk from spring to autumn, but is completely transformed during the winter. Severe cold freezes the entire waterfall, forming an icy cascade of wild shapes that make a deep impression on visitors.

<https://english.ibarakiguide.jp/>

An infinite vista of hills and valleys

Chiba Prefecture, located just east of Tokyo and easily accessible from there, has a large population, yet there are also areas of rich natural beauty. One such area in the southern part of the prefecture is Kujukutani, a breathtaking landscape that unfolds from the southern face of Mount Kano in Kimitsu City. The name, which means "Ninety-nine Valleys," refers to the complex landforms shaped by erosion, forming a repeating pattern that extends into the distance. During winter, seas of clouds form in the early morning, creating profoundly mysterious landscapes that, when viewed from above, resemble *sumie* (Japanese ink paintings).

<http://japan-chiba-guide.com/en/>



Brilliant Proposals from Young Students at the G20 Ministerial Meetings

Faced with pressing global problems, young people leading the future have begun to take action. Their innovative ideas offer hope for a sustainable world.

Student Proposals | Matsuyama

Managing Your Own Work Style and Retirement — A Vision for the Future of Work



The students who worked out these ideas have many opportunities to interact on a regular basis with diverse cultures through international exchanges.

Students from the Super Global High School Club at Ehime Prefectural Matsuyamahigashi Senior High School have numerous opportunities to interact with diverse cultures through conducting fieldwork in Asia and Africa, as well as through international exchanges with foreign residents and exchange students in Japan.

At the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting convened in

Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, 34 members of the club presented their ideas on ideal working lifestyles. WATANABE Mahiro said, "We are the workers of the future, so we searched

for the messages that we can convey." The students proposed two ideas. The first was a "retirement age self-determination system." IWAI Ayana said, "we thought that if laborers could plan their later stages of life and consult with their employers to decide on their retirement age, they could build a rich life." The other idea was "work-life integration" to combine work life with private life as a step beyond work-life balance, enabling laborers to enjoy life and find satisfaction in their occupations. MUKAI Ayane advocated "creating various means of implementing these ideas by introducing AI and childcare services." She added, "We want to build a happy and prosperous future by recognizing the value of work."



Presenters representing their school. From left: Watanabe, Iwai, and Mukai.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set 17 goals to achieve by the year 2030 to create a society that will "leave no one behind." For example, the third goal seeks to realize "good health and well-being." In places with a shortage of doctors, there are still people who

lack the necessary access to health care. Meanwhile, for the eighth goal, which aspires to supply "decent work and economic growth," providing the right environment to make this happen will be critical. The question then becomes: What should we do so that everyone can find decent work for themselves?

At the G20 Ministerial Meetings held in Ehime and Okayama prefectures, local high school students formulated ideas and presented proposals on working lifestyles and health care. These ideas, full of the inventive thoughts of young people, are the first step toward a sustainable future. *

Student Proposals | Okayama

Aspiring to Create a Society Where Women and Children Enjoy Healthy Lives



The presentations at the G20 ministerial meeting urged audiences to not only learn about issues, but to connect with those affected.

At the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting held in Okayama Prefecture, students from three schools gave a joint presentation on "health care and medical issues affecting women and children." These issues were deeply related to a ministers' meeting theme: universal health coverage.

The first proposal, which came from students at Okayama Joto High School, was about "the importance of deepening understanding about female menstruation." HIRAI Seira said that they were surprised to learn that some people know little about menstruation and that some women in poverty use unsanitary cloths instead of buying

sanitary products. Hirai, who has struggled with illness, believes that all people should have the right to good health. She said, "In the future, I want to do work related to health care."

HASHIMOTO Ayaka and other students from Okayama Gakugeikan High School proposed that "there is the need to acknowledge the critical state of health care for women and children in developing countries." The

students have also initiated action to promote health education in Cambodia for children who have grown up there without knowing about how their bodies work. Hashimoto said, "In the future, I want to become a clinical laboratory technician who can contribute to the advancement of medical care in developing countries."

When presenting a solution to reduce the number of pregnant women who die due to inadequate health care, Okayama Sozan Senior High School cited an initiative to offer perinatal care via telemedicine for Okayama Prefecture's remote islands where there are no obstetrician-gynecologists. One of the students, ITADANI Maika said, "In the half-year spent preparing this proposal, we met people working in medicine and at international institutions. This led us to set a clearer, stronger goal of a society offering comprehensive assistance to people in need around the world, and to support the fostering of attitudes that will make that society possible."

Presenters representing their respective schools.
From left: Hirai, Hashimoto, and Itadani.



Local Businesses Revitalizing Regional Economies: Case of Oita

In May 2019, I spent two days meeting four companies in the Oita City area: Oita Bank, Yatsushika Brewery Company, Oita Made Company, and Fundokin Shoyu Company. How did this come about, why did I do this, and what did I learn?

For some years, I have gone to Japan twice a year for several weeks each time. I always go to some cities I have never visited, somewhat randomly selected. I am no longer particularly interested in sightseeing; rather, my purpose is to learn about local companies and the financial institutions that support them. I do not have a major research project; I simply am curious about local companies and their economic environment.

Colleagues at the Development Bank of Japan (DBJ) make the arrangements for these company meetings. In Oita, I was accompanied by Hirofumi Maki from DBJ in Tokyo and Kimihiro Fukuyama, DBJ chief representative in Oita. Patricia Hara of Pacific English Inc. served as

my interpreter since my Japanese is not good enough to handle a substantive discussion with companies. Oita is a small prefecture on the east coast of Kyushu noted for its hot springs, Beppu in particular. The prefecture's population was 1.15 million in 2018, about 10 percent below its 1955 peak.

As with other rural prefectures, Oita has to deal with a declining population as younger people, after graduation from high school, go off to college and careers in the larger cities. This process has been exacerbated by the now overall decline of Japan's population.

Oita Bank, established in 1893, with 94 branches throughout the prefecture, is successful, though its profits have been under pressure due both to the Bank of Japan's sustained low interest rate policy and the lack of demand for loans. However, it has sustained profits by realizing capital gains in the sale of Japanese Government Bonds (JGB), and other securities.

The bank's strategy is to invest in new projects and companies to "revitalize Oita Prefecture" and create new lending and financing opportunities. The bank is participating with local government and other institutions in a project to raise high-quality beef (*wagyu*) on 50 hectares of rolling hill pasture where the cows can roam freely and have calves. This contrasts with raising cows in small pens and feeding them grains and hay, making the labor input smaller. The bank expects this project to be very profitable.

In 2017, Oita Bank, since it is allowed to own only 5 percent of a company's share, together with four prefectural companies, established Oita Made Company to promote goods produced by its clients and other local companies. Its retail store, catering to mostly Japanese tourists, sells a wide range of crafts and other products including food, sake, and *shochu*.



Hugh Patrick

Hugh Patrick is founder and chairman of the Center on Japanese Economy and Business, codirector of Columbia's APEC Study Center, and R. D. Calkins Professor of International Business Emeritus at Columbia Business School. He completed his BA at Yale University in 1951, earned MA degrees in Japanese studies (1955) and Economics (1957), and a PhD in Economics at the University of Michigan (1960). His professional publications include 18 books and some 60 articles and essays, including

most recently *How Finance Is Shaping the Economies of China, Japan, and Korea* (Columbia University Press, 2013), co-edited with Yung Chul Park. Professor Patrick has been awarded Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships and the Ohira Prize. He has been a member of the Council on Foreign Relations since 1974. In November 1994, the Government of Japan awarded him the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Star (*Kunmitō Zuihōshō*). He received an Eagle on the World award by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York, Inc., in November 2010.



Its main business is as a wholesaler of these Oita products. It is developing the export of *wagyu*, fish, and shiitake mushrooms to Taiwan, as well as promoting soy sauce, miso products, and other agricultural goods. In 2019, Oita Made introduced the upscale “JAPAN BLUE fountain pen,” using a newly developed metal material colored with natural indigo.

Yatsushika Brewery Company in Kokonoe-machi town is a significant regional producer of high-quality, award-winning sake and *shochu*, with several brand names. Founded in 1864, the current president is the sixth generation to manage and operate this family-owned firm. The company only started producing *shochu* in 1981 since, despite its less elite reputation, *shochu* was profitable while sake was not. The domestic markets are regional and decreasing, so the company is actively developing markets in China and Southeast Asia. The elder son of the CEO has developed a sparkling sake in pressure-resistant bottles made in France. The entrepreneurial family has re-invested profits for generations.

Fundokin Shoyu Company, located in Usuki City, is another fascinating, innovative, family-owned company in a traditional food-related industry. Established in

1861, the business initially produced *shoyu* (soy sauce) and miso (fermented soybeans). The current president, the fifth generation, joined the company in 1985 after working for several years at the Development Bank of Japan. Fundokin is the largest soy sauce producer in Kyushu, and ninth-largest in Japan, and is the largest producer of miso in Kyushu and fifth-largest in Japan. In response to market opportunities, about 30 years ago, the company began developing dressings with soy sauce flavors. The company has created a variety of dressings, including a popular sesame dressing, which now comprises about half of its dressing sales. Fundokin has four factories, each making its own special products. Each is owned by a separate entity established as a cooperative with other local producers as minority shareholders.

My Oita trip reaffirmed my appreciation that one of Japan’s strengths is small, privately-owned companies. These flourish everywhere in Japan and make Japan far more than an economy of major cities and large companies. I have written brief reports about each company; they are on Columbia University’s Center on Japanese Economy and Business website at www.gsb.columbia.edu/cjeb/research/companyreports. ✨

Quality Work on Port Construction Opens African Gateway

Japan has developed “quality infrastructure investment” in response to the pressing need to support quality growth in developing countries. A good example of this is the development of Nacala Port, the gateway to Mozambique’s inland economy.

Located in the northern part of Mozambique, the Port of Nacala is the country’s third most important commercial port. It is a natural deep-water harbor sheltered from high waves. The Port of Nacala is an important logistics base for the surrounding economy, including inland states.

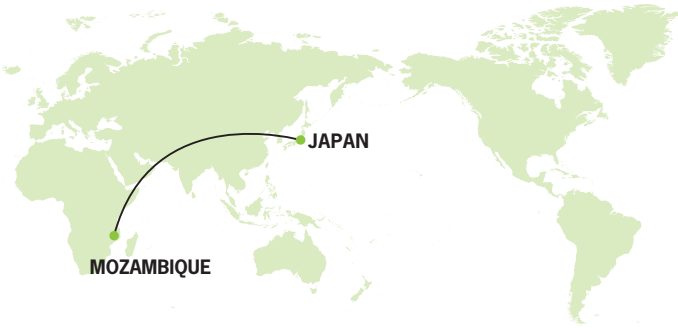
It is at this port that large-scale construction is underway by a major Japanese construction company. This construction project forms part of the “quality infrastructure investment” that Japan is promoting to strengthen Japanese ties with Africa.

Built 40 years ago, the Port of Nacala has been in a state of

deterioration in recent years, but in 2014 urgent rehabilitation of the port was carried out with the help of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan. Penta-Ocean Construction Co., Ltd., which has considerable expertise in large-scale offshore civil engineering work around the world, undertook



Driving in of steel pipe sheet piles at Nacala Port for new quay construction. Large cargo vessels will be able to enter the port, bolstering the sea transport capacity of northern Mozambique.



As with construction sites in Japan, all workers do traditional Japanese morning exercise.



Endo says that building a sense of comradeship is also a way to help ensure safety.

part of the port’s rehabilitation. And since 2018, a joint venture led by Penta-Ocean Construction has been carrying out a planned three-year development of the port.

Main construction work involves marine driving of steel pipe sheet piles into the seabed for construction of a 400m quay. ENDO Yuichi, senior manager of the International Civil Engineering Divisions Group, says, “Because the water depth will be deeper than the existing quay, the harbor will be able to accommodate larger ships. There will also be container yards to handle the increase in cargo.” With consideration of the environment being key, construction of a disposal site is also underway to contain contaminated soil, which

has been generated during dredging of the newly built quay wall.

Nacala is a sheltered port, but sometimes the harsh weather conditions, such as torrential rain and windstorms, can hinder construction. On those occasions, more flexible handling is required. The technology and knowledge cultivated over many years’ experience in port construction have been indispensable in ensuring the safety of workers, keeping to construction timelines, and executing design plans down to the very last detail. Japanese companies have a reputation for being good at coordinating with each organization, in consideration of the construction schedule, and responding to troubles.

“Equally as important as achieving high-quality construction is the establishment of easy-to-maintain and lower operational costs after completion” continues Endo.

In order to improve construction quality, it’s important to gain the trust of local workers and strengthen feelings of togetherness. The Penta-Ocean Construction site

has therefore incorporated a very unique Japanese custom - morning exercise. Each morning, everyone stretches and moves in tune with Japanese exercise music to build a sense of comradeship and improve concentration. Meetings are also held regularly to share ideas on ensuring worker safety. “The people of Mozambique are congenial once a relationship of trust has been established,” remarks Endo. “They are very friendly and make serious efforts in following instructions. I feel like their composed character is similar to that of Japanese people.”

Once the port has been fully equipped, not only will it help to expand trade, but all sorts of benefits can be expected, such as wider utilization of Mozambique’s high-quality natural resources and development of fertile agricultural land. The port will contribute to the economic development of northern Mozambique, helping to narrow the gap between rich and poor. Japanese companies will continue their endeavor to realize such a sustainable future. ✨



The establishment of a container yard is also planned in this renovation project. Serving as a gateway, Nacala Port is expected to lead to economic development of the surrounding area.

Removing Barriers Through Teaching the Spirit of Judo

Female Japanese coach FUJII Yuko is leading the men's national team from judo powerhouse Brazil. Her focus is on guiding her students to Tokyo 2020 to more widely inform the world about the essentials of judo, which encompass mind, technique and body, as well as deep humanity.

Brazil's national judo team held a camp at a *dojo* (training hall) in Nara. In between rounds of free practice against *judoka* (judo practitioners) from Japan, France, Ukraine and elsewhere, the team's members took their turns going to FUJII Yuko to seek advice. Fujii listened attentively to what each person had to say, and gave specific suggestions in her fluent Portuguese.

Fujii, who went to Brazil in 2013 as a technical coach, was appointed head coach of Brazil's national men's judo team in May 2018. It was the first time a foreigner, much less a woman, had become the head coach of the men's team from Brazil, a judo powerhouse. It is rare anywhere in the world for a female coach to

Fujii takes care to engage in close communication with the athletes who learn from her. Due to their closeness, they are all smiles in between rounds of practice with their international rivals.



lead a men's sports team. When Fujii was appointed to the position, the Brazilian Judo Confederation told her, "Yuko, as the technical coach, you have proven that a foreigner would give her blood, sweat, and tears for Brazil. It is for this reason that we want you to change everyone's preconceptions by teaching the male *judoka*." Naturally, Fujii accepted immediately.

After an athletic career with accomplishments including a third-

place finish at Japan's national high school championships, Fujii retired from competition at the age of 24, when she finished graduate school. While studying English abroad at the University of Bath in Britain, she had a part-time job teaching at the university's judo club. This work put her on the path toward becoming an instructor.

However, she was unable to communicate effectively in English, and she had no prior experience teaching. Each day was a struggle running up against the barriers in her way, but it also led her to ponder the significance of teaching judo. What was the judo that she wanted to convey? Fujii reflected on the "rational judo" she herself had learned in Japan. Outside her homeland, judo was mostly about power, and the fundamentals were given scant attention, but she



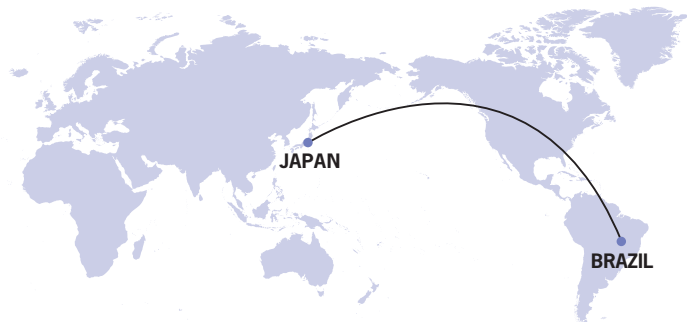
At the 2019 World Judo Championships in Tokyo, Brazil took a bronze medal in the mixed team event. Fujii is at the far right in the front row.



Fujii sometimes teaches at "Reaction Institute," one of the social projects for teaching sports for free.



Rafael Silva, a *judoka* in the over 100 kg division who stands more than two meters tall, listens attentively to Fujii's advice.



concluded that it was important to be faithful to the fundamentals and to teach the deeper aspects of the art. Figuring out what she wanted to teach opened her eyes, and every day since then she has devoted all the powers of her intellect to building and applying her own teaching method.

Since arriving in Brazil, Fujii has taught at clubs around the country as a technical coach. She has also provided free sports lessons to support children in poor parts of Brazil. Judo has become especially popular since Rafaela Silva, who is from one of those poverty-stricken areas, won a gold medal at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games (she also happened to receive instruction from Fujii). In the past, Fujii occasionally told children who were not trying hard enough not to come to practice anymore. However, she noticed that it

is important for children who cannot escape from their state of poverty to come to the *dojo* and see the world outside. Since then, Fujii says that she has made it a point to use judo as a means for teaching what it means to be a member of society.

As the head coach, she often talks with the national team about the mind and soul. Fujii says that in Brazil, where judo was brought over by Japanese immigrants who came to the country 110 years ago, *judoka* are viewed with respect. She says she wants to carry on the spirit cultivated by their predecessors and that she wants to train who are not only strong, but who also excel in their humanity and make a positive contribution to society. At Tokyo 2020, the Brazilian team will be outstanding for its powerful combination of mind, technique and body, as well as deep humanity. ✨



FUJII Yuko

Having practiced judo from the age of five, she retired when she was 24. She moved to Brazil in 2013, where she was involved in technical instruction around the country. At the 2016 Rio Olympics, she helped the women's team win gold and bronze medals as a coach, and in 2018 was selected as the head coach for the men's national team.

Matching Hijabs and Kimono in Kyoto

Two foreign women working in Kyoto have made Japanese kimono more universal and enjoyable to wear by introducing hijabs with traditional Japanese *wagara* patterns



Mansour and Aryanto wearing *wagara* hijabs to match the color of their kimono sashes. They also wear kimono when working as guides for Yumeyakata's walking tours around Kyoto.



Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital, which draws over 50 million tourists per year, has seen a rise in the number of tourists from the Islamic world in recent years. It is there that the kimono rental shop Yumeyakata offers female Muslim visitors a rental service of hijabs adorned with traditional Japanese patterns using natural motifs known

as *wagara*. Two employees, Samar Mansour from France and Seftiana Aryanto from Indonesia, are involved in the endeavor.

To accommodate for Muslim customers, Yumeyakata brought in Muslim staff and set up a prayer room in 2018. Consequently, the store began receiving questions, on an almost daily basis, from Muslim women on how best they could coordinate their hijabs with a kimono. At first, the store asked customers to bring in their daily-use hijabs, which are typically plain, to be complemented with the colors of the kimono sash. However, to enable visitors to enjoy the pairing of the kimono and hijab much more, the shop has been providing specially-made hijabs since 2019, adorned with *wagara* that can be worn in combination with the Japanese kimono.

Mansour, who was inspired by

Japanese anime and manga, entered a Japanese language school in Kyoto in 2015. Then, the following year, she began working at Yumeyakata. Up until then, she had had little experience with fashion, let alone kimono. Even so, she started learning how to correctly put kimono on after joining the company, because she wants people from many different countries to enjoy wearing kimono with confidence. Mansour therefore joined the project of creating the *wagara* hijab with other Muslim staff.

The designs and fabrics are intended to fit easily around the head and match the pattern of the kimono. There are now more than 50 kinds of hijab available in the store. "Having received feedback from customers who have used the service, we began employing the pattern around the face to reflect the design of the kimono, with chiffon



The prayer room in Yumeyakata is used by many Muslim customers.



Samar Mansour

Born in Paris, France, she became interested in Japanese culture through anime and manga, and after graduating from university, worked as an English-French translator before coming to Japan in 2015. She studied at a Japanese language school in Kyoto, and then started working at Yumeyakata in 2016. She takes part in many activities, including sales interpretation, kimono dressing, and photography.

Seftiana Aryanto

Born in Jakarta, Indonesia, she was first fascinated by kimono when she wore one as a member of a theater club at her university in Jakarta. She came to Japan in 2018 and studied at a Japanese language school in Kyoto. Around the same time, she started working at Yumeyakata, helping Muslim visitors. She is currently learning how to wear kimono, and is also responsible for dealing with customers mainly from Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia and Malaysia.



A hijab with *wagara* around the face to match the design of the kimono. All sorts of patterns and materials are used, such as lace, chiffon and cotton.

to make it easier to wrap the hijab around the head,” says Mansour.

Talking about its appeal, Aryanto, working as a staff member of Yumeyakata, who helps the customers choose and coordinate the well-fitting *wagara* hijab with kimono, and a Muslim herself, says “Kimono cover most of our body in the same way Muslim clothes do. Because of this similarity, hijab users can enjoy dressing the kimono stylishly together with the hijab.” She goes on, “In Japan, everything to do with wearing a kimono has a meaning, and nothing goes to waste. Just wearing a kimono makes us feel graceful and takes us back to a traditional Japanese way of life.”

Since the *wagara* hijab was introduced at Yumeyakata, more and more inquiries have come from Southeast Asia, as well as Europe, the United States and the Middle East. At Yumeyakata, Mansour and

Aryanto are now busy with many things, such as giving advice to customers on how to wear the *wagara* hijab and kimono, as well as providing guided walks around Kyoto dressed in kimono, and offering tea ceremony experiences. Speaking of her goal, Mansour says, “I want more

foreigners to enjoy getting dressed up in Japanese clothes regardless of where they’re from or their religion, to understand the beauty of Japan that is so different from that of the West. It’s because of this that I want to introduce the *wagara* hijab to a lot of people.” ❀

On this day, Muslim Women from Malaysia who learned about Yumeyakata’s *wagara* hijab service on the Internet visited the store. Mansour and Aryanto responded to feedback from these women who wanted softer material and a better shape around the head.



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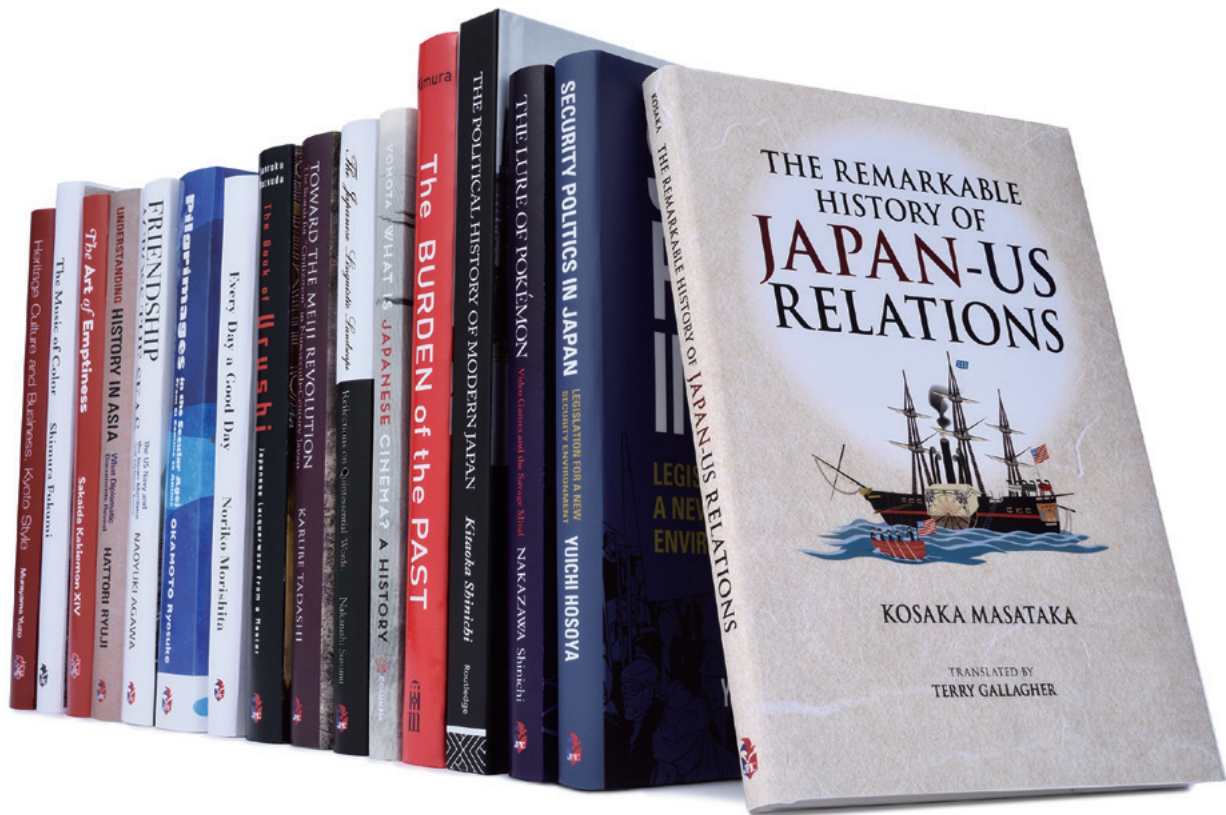
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