

We Are *Tomodachi*

Winter 2015



The Government of Japan

We Are *Tomodachi*
Winter 2015

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Prime Minister Shinzo Abe playing with children at an elementary school completed in August 2014 in Miyagi Prefecture. He stopped by the school during his visit to Miyagi Prefecture to see firsthand the progress of reconstruction efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake (October 2014).

Kotohogu



賀 *kotohogu*


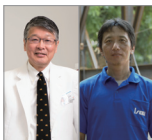









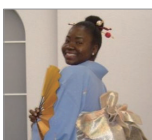
According to one theory, the character 賀 originally meant a ceremony in which farmers prayed for a good harvest. Over time, it evolved to take on the meaning of *kotohogu*—“to celebrate,” “to congratulate,” or “to express best wishes.” *Kotohogu* is a very old word and is rarely used today. The character is well known now by its more common reading: *ga*, which means “something joyous or worthy of celebration.”

For the Japanese, the New Year is a special celebration. At the end of the year, many Japanese do a thorough cleaning of the house to drive away misfortune and quietly welcome the new year with a fresh feeling. On New Year’s Day, people all across Japan celebrate the day, and wherever you go you can hear people offering each other best wishes for the new year. Many of the words used on this occasion to express joy and happiness for the new year, include the character *ga* such as 年賀 (*nenga*), 賀正 (*gasho*), and 謹賀新年 (*kingashinnen*).

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Winterscapes of Japan

In the long chain of islands that form the Japanese archipelago, the winter scenery varies from one region to another. One of the most spectacular is the snowscape, in which everything is blanketed in dazzling white.

The natural wonders of winter fascinate us, with its sometimes harsh, sometimes awe-inspiring, and sometimes overwhelming beauty. A snowscape can sometimes be thrilling and at other times bring us peace of mind and tranquility.

Come and discover for yourself the unique snow-laden landscapes of Japan's cities, villages, and mountains, where people's lives are intertwined with nature.



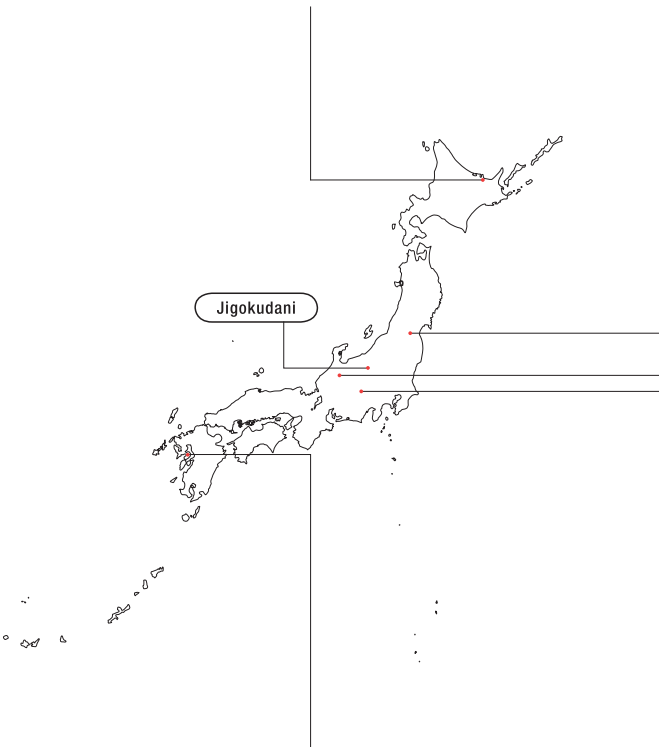
Snow Monkeys: Jigokudani Yaen-Koen (Snow Monkey Park), Nagano

Jigokudani Yaen-Koen is the only place where you can see Japanese monkeys bathing in natural hot springs. Popularly known as “snow monkeys,” they look almost human as they relax in the warm water—an adorable sight that is sure to warm your heart.



Drift Ice: Abashiri, Hokkaido

In mid-January, drift ice reaches the shore of Okhotsk Coast in Hokkaido. You can take a sightseeing boat to view this harsh and dynamic winterscape up close.



Hard Rime: Mt. Myokendake, Nagasaki

Winter comes even to the southern island of Kyushu, forming a beautiful and dazzling winterscape. The trees become covered in hard rime—ice crystals formed from water droplets in the air. It can only be seen under the right conditions, however, which include low temperature, strong wind, and fog.



Soft Rime: Zao, Yamagata

The soft rime covering the Zao Plateau is a natural work of art interweaving weather and vegetation. Skiing among the looming giants—also known as “snow monsters”—is a unique and thrilling experience. (©Kyodo News)



Historic Village: Shirakawa-go, Gifu

Designated as a World Heritage site, the historic village of Shirakawa-go is dotted with traditional *Gassho* style houses. Their distinctive steeply pitched thatched roofs are designed to withstand heavy snowfall. In the past, the villagers raised silkworms in the attic space. The snow falling gently on the village is a truly serene sight.

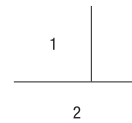


God's Crossing: Lake Suwa, Nagano

When the entire surface of Lake Suwa freezes over in the winter, a rare and awe-inspiring phenomenon can be seen. The ice cracks and is thrust upward across the middle of the lake, forming a pattern that looks like a path—thus earning it the name Omiwatari, meaning “God’s Crossing.”



Moments of Prime Minister Abe Autumn/Winter 2014



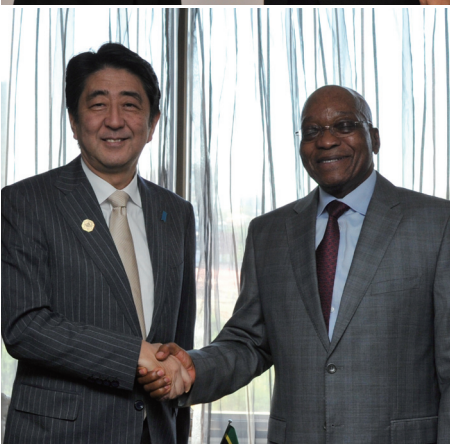
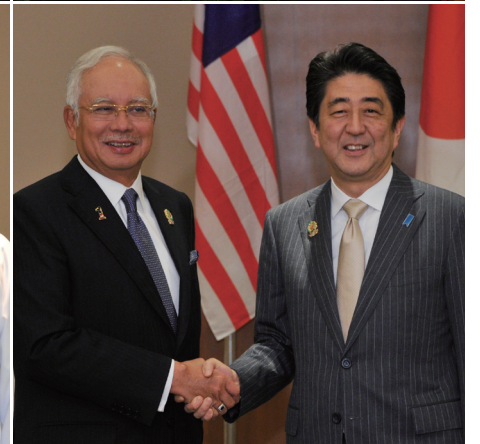
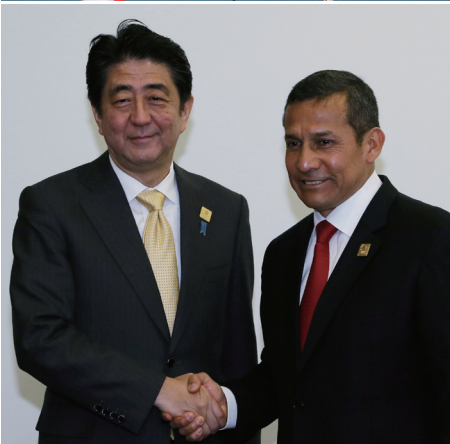
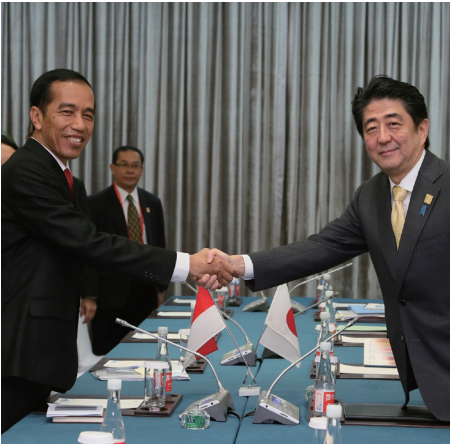
1. Prime Minister Abe in traditional Chinese clothing being greeted by Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, at the welcoming ceremony of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Beijing, China (November 2014). (©Kyodo News) 2. Leaders posing for a group photo at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (November 2014). (©Kyodo News)





3. Commemorative tree planting with other world leaders in Beijing, China, during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (November 2014). (©Kyodo News)
 4. Group photo of leaders at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in Naypyidaw, Myanmar (November 2014).
 5. Group photo of leaders at the East Asia Summit in Naypyidaw, Myanmar (November 2014).
 6. Prime Minister Abe in a bilateral meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama while in Brisbane, Australia, for the G20 Leaders' Summit (November 2014).
 7. Prime Minister Abe in a trilateral meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott during the G20 Leaders' Summit (November 2014).
 8. Prime Minister Abe in a bilateral meeting with the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, during the G20 Leaders' Summit (November 2014).

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Prime Minister Abe seized the opportunity of attending international conferences to engage in bilateral meetings with many world leaders.

1. Prime Minister Abe with Indonesia's president, Joko Widodo. 2. With Canada's prime minister, Stephen Harper. 3. With Russia's president, Vladimir Putin. 4. With Peru's president, Ollanta Moisés Humala Tasso. (1-4. APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Beijing, China, November 2014) 5. With the president of Myanmar, the host country, Thein Sein. 6. With Malaysia's prime minister, Najib Razak. 7. With the president of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino III. 8. With Australia's prime minister, Tony Abbott. 9. With Thailand's prime minister, Prayut Chan-o-cha. (5-9. ASEAN-related summit meetings in Naypyidaw, Myanmar, November 2014) 10. With South Africa's president, Jacob Zuma. 11. With India's prime minister, Narendra Modi. 12. With Singapore's prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong. (10-12. G20 Leaders' Summit in Brisbane, Australia, November 2014)



13. Prime Minister Abe attending the ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the Tokaido Shinkansen (October 2014). Throughout its many years of operation, this high-speed rail has had no passenger injuries or fatalities. 14. Youth delegates participating in the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program (a youth exchange program organized by the Japanese Cabinet Office) paying Prime Minister Abe a courtesy call (November 2014). The prime minister welcomed them to Japan and bid them bon voyage before their departure on the following day. 15. Prime Minister Abe visiting Miyagi Prefecture to see how reconstruction efforts from the Great East Japan Earthquake are proceeding (October 2014). Construction of a cutting-edge wastewater treatment plant is making rapid progress. 16. After hearing a description of recovery efforts from the Great East Japan Earthquake by an agricultural company in Miyagi Prefecture, Prime Minister Abe tries some strawberries grown in a local greenhouse (October 2014). 17. Prime Minister Abe delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the 27th Tokyo International Film Festival, surrounded by film industry professionals (October 2014). (© Jiji)



Fighting against Ebola

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is a threat to international peace and security. As a responsible member of global society, Japan is making every effort to fight against Ebola, including offering financial assistance, dispatching medical experts, and providing protective equipment, ambulances, beds, and other supplies.

Since April 2014, Japan has been providing financial assistance to West African nations and to international organizations to support their activities in the fight against Ebola. In the period from April to August, Japan sent a total of USD2.02 million in emergency grant aid and in the period from May to September USD2.16 million to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea through international organizations. In August and September, Japan delivered tents, blankets, and other emergency relief goods worth USD920,000 to those three countries.

At the United Nations General Assembly in September, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe promised an additional USD40 million in assistance, saying, "We must stop this outbreak any way we can. Japan is determined to put forth its best in the fight against the Ebola virus disease." Japan is fulfilling the aid promise in the form of bilateral assistance and emergency grant aid through international organizations.

The Japanese government has been providing the affected countries with personal protective equipment (PPEs) donated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to protect medical personnel against infection from the Ebola virus; in October, 20,000 sets were sent to Liberia and Sierra Leone, and in November, 700,000 sets were sent to Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Mali, at a cost of USD8.5 million.

Furthermore, the Japanese government sent 13 ambulances and 95 hospital beds donated by Japanese local governments to Liberia and Sierra Leone, at the shipping cost of USD800,000.

Also in November, Japan announced a commitment to offer up to USD100 million in additional aid. To date, the total amount of aid pledged by Japan is USD155 million.

Through its involvement in the World Health Organization (WHO), Japan is also dispatching experts, including Dr. Yasuyuki Kato (introduced on the following page), doctors, nurses, and other private-sector experts who have been actively engaged in efforts to fight against Ebola. Japan has also dispatched Self-Defense Force personnel to the headquarters of U.S. Africa Command, based in Stuttgart, Germany, to support liaison activities, and a medical doctor from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER).

A Japanese pharmaceutical company has developed a drug called Avigan® that is drawing attention as a possible treatment following Ebola infection. This drug is now being administered in places outside Japan that are in urgent need. The Japanese government stands prepared to provide supplies when asked, on condition that its effectiveness and safety of the drug are confirmed.

Through these measures, Japan is actively contributing to efforts to treat people infected with Ebola, prevent the further spread of the disease, rebuild the health-care systems of affected countries, and secure their social stability.



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1. 720,000 PPEs donated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government are being delivered to West African countries. 2. First delivery of PPEs comprised 20,000 sets brought to Accra, Ghana, on December 8 to be distributed in Ebola-infected areas in West Africa. 3. Ambulances and other vehicles donated by several local governments left Japan in October to be shipped to West Africa. 4. Japanese experts in Zambia, working on early detection and outbreak prevention measures. 5. Avigan® tablets created by a Japanese company is expected to be effective in patients fighting against Ebola.

Global Infectious Diseases Expert on the Frontlines in the Fight against Ebola

Ebola hemorrhagic fever is running rampant in West Africa. In May and August 2014, Dr. Yasuyuki Kato (chief physician at the Disease Control and Prevention Center, National Center for Global Health and Medicine) joined the WHO mission to provide medical aid to Liberia, the worst-hit country in the Ebola outbreak. Dr. Kato risked his life on the frontlines to treat and prevent Ebola infection.

He says that the reason he chose the field of infectious disease is that it is so challenging. At the start of his career as an infectious disease specialist, he traveled to SARS-stricken Taiwan and avian influenza-stricken Vietnam, where he witnessed the effects of those outbreaks firsthand. Dr. Kato believes that in order to effectively fight infectious disease, it is essential to understand the social and cultural background of the country and investigate the cause of the outbreak from a wide range of perspectives, in addition to seeing the actual patients. Dr. Kato's experience in Taiwan and Vietnam led him to develop the conviction that one must go to the epicenter of the outbreak.

Thus, in 2012 he set off for Uganda, which was then suffering an outbreak of Ebola. And in 2013 he traveled twice to Liberia to treat and prevent Ebola infection. When he arrived, he found that medical treatment had ceased, and the region was in a state of social instability.

"Of course, I had the constant fear that I could become infected, but I stayed because my desire to find out what caused the outbreak and why it was spreading was stronger." In his investigation of the local beliefs and customs, he found that many of the local people thought that the disease was caused by a curse and were extremely wary of modern medicine, factors that became major obstacles to diagnosis and treatment. He also discovered that one reason the disease was spreading was the religious practice in which families would wash the body of a deceased relative.

Dr. Kato's main duties there were to train the medical staff how to wear the protective gear to prevent infection, give advice on building a system to take in patients who had developed a fever, and assist Ebola treatment units—all crucial measures in suppressing the spread of infection.

However, there were not enough Ebola treatment units to accept every patient. Furthermore, due to the limited medical resources, adequate treatment could not be provided. The 100-person medical staff was devoted to helping as many patients as possible, but did so without regard to their own safety. This increased the risk of infection, leading to the further spread of the disease. At the local medical staff meetings, he reiterated that no one should try to be a hero and emphasized the importance of keeping a level head and being meticulous when performing one's duties.

The local staff's efforts proved fruitful. Dr. Kato says that his happiest moment as a doctor is when he sees a recovered patient.

Relying on his experience in other countries, Dr. Kato has also been instrumental in developing guidelines for the prevention and treatment of viral hemorrhagic fever in Japan. "Controlling the spread of the disease at its source is an essential measure in preventing its spread in Japan. That is why medical aid to other countries is so important," he explains.

"Japan is an advanced country in the treatment of infectious disease, and other countries look to us for solutions." And the fact that more and more young doctors in Japan want to become infectious disease specialists is encouraging news as well. But we don't need heroes who take unnecessary risks. "Taking methodical and level headed actions using Japan's technology will lead to global prevention measures," says Dr. Kato. Because he is someone at the forefront of his field, his words are quite convincing.



Yasuyuki Kato

Born in 1969, Yasuyuki Kato graduated from the Chiba University School of Medicine in 1995 and completed his postgraduate studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, United States. In 2005, he joined the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) and has served as chief physician of the NCGM's Center Disease Control and Prevention Center since 2012. He is a specialist in Class I infectious diseases, which consists of extremely dangerous diseases such as Ebola hemorrhagic fever and Marburg virus disease.



1. Dr. Kato instructing local medical staff in how to put on protective gear. 2. Quickly built, simple facility for treating Ebola patients. 3. Dr. Kato lecturing to the local medical staff about Ebola hemorrhagic fever. Many dedicated researchers came together with the aim of improving available treatment for the virus.

Advanced Waste Disposal Technology Makes Tokyo the Cleanest City

Look at the photograph of the building at the top of the next page. Can you tell what it is for? This building with a sophisticated modern design is actually a center for waste disposal. It's the key that helps maintain cleanliness in the Japanese capital, one of the leading cities in the world and also highly regarded for its efforts to preserve the environment.

There are nineteen waste incineration plants in the central part of Tokyo. For many people, waste incineration plants have a negative image, associated with dirtiness and air pollution. But with the latest technology, waste disposal methods are actually efficient and environmentally friendly.

Household waste generated by approximately 9 million people (roughly 8,000 tons per day) is put out for disposal, collected within a day, and transported to waste incineration plants. The garbage collection rate is 100 percent. At the plant, the garbage is first mixed with a large crane so that all the different kinds and sizes of items are uniformly distributed for easier burning. Next, the waste is incinerated at extremely high temperatures, over 800°C (1,472°F). This reduces not only the volume to 1/20 of what it was but also the amount of dioxin gases produced by incineration. Multiple provisions are made to prevent gases and harmful substances emitted during incineration, such as sulfur oxide and particulate matter, from being emitted outside the facilities. Chimneys of waste incineration plants emit vapor—not smoke—that does not contain harmful substances. Heat energy produced by the incinerator is used to supply the electricity needs of the entire facility, with any remainder being sold (earning approximately JPY 9.8 billion annually, or USD78.6 million, in income from electricity). High-temperature water is also supplied to neighborhood swimming pools and tropical plant greenhouses.

Compared to 1989, the peak year for solid waste generation, the total amount generated now is 40 percent less and continuing to decrease, despite the population growth. Welcoming residents to tour the waste incineration plants and active consultation with the community and ward residents, raises awareness of the 3Rs “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle” and environmental issues. As many as 70,000 elementary and junior high school students take such tours each year, as part of a particular emphasis on connecting with children, who will take on the burdens of the next generation.

Every year an increasing number of visitors from overseas come to study the waste incineration plants and the technology that enables their stable operation in the midst of a big city. Experts are also sent overseas. Examples of their efforts include providing comprehensive training for Malaysia, consulting on waste incineration plants design and teaching Malaysian government employees about building consensus with residents. In addition, they have also begun residents' exchanges to raise environmental awareness.

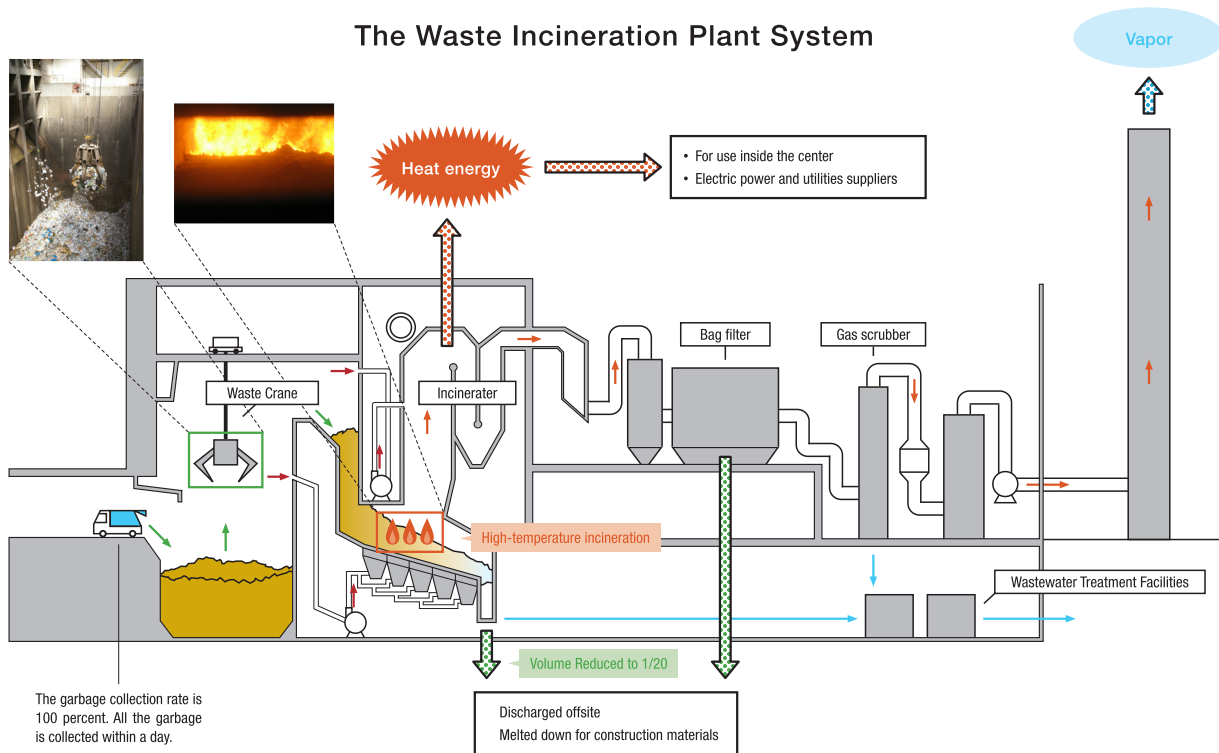
Cities around the world are dealing with serious waste problems due to increasing population and changing lifestyles. The city of Tokyo hopes to contribute to solving their problems using its efficient and environmentally friendly waste disposal system.



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1. Waste incineration plants in Tokyo have modern designs, like this one in Minato City. 2. Elementary school students on a tour of the facilities. Early education raises environmental awareness.

The Waste Incineration Plant System



In November 2014, thirteen visitors from Malaysia toured the Recycling Center as part of the Partnership Program on Waste Management in Tokyo and Malaysia, organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency. In 2015, Japanese residents will visit Malaysia in turn to continue the project.

Struggling with Trash on the Beach of Singing Sands

Japanese refer to picturesque beaches with white sand and verdant pine trees as *bakushaseisbo* (literally, “white sand, green pines”) and have cherished them since ancient times. Located about 120 km (75 miles) north of Kyoto and jutting into the Sea of Japan, Tango Peninsula is blessed with many beautiful *bakushaseisbo* beaches. One of the most interesting of them is the mysterious “singing sand” beach.

When you walk on the sand, it makes a pleasant squeaking sound. “Singing sand contains a lot of silica. The sound comes from the vibrations of the silica grains,” explains a tourist guide at the beach, “but conditions must be just right for the sand to sing.”

The most important condition is that the sand remains clean. Singing sand is very delicate. In the busy swimming season, when the beach is crowded with visitors, the sand doesn’t “sing” as vibrantly —just from the oil on people’s bare feet. Locals work tirelessly to keep the beach clean to protect the ancient singing sand.

Residents work together with the local government to protect the singing sand beach and several measures have been put in place. It was the first beach in Japan to be designated as a “non-smoking beach” in 2001, and it is forbidden to build structures such as restaurants and changing facilities on the beach. In addition, the local government started charging a fee to park at the nearby parking lots, and a portion of the proceeds go to cover cleanup expenses. When beachgoers observe these rules, they help protect this precious natural wonder.

Unfortunately, their efforts are thwarted by the vast amount of trash that washes ashore on this delicate beach. It is relentlessly bombarded by everything from household supplies to TVs and refrigerators and, at times, even dangerous medical waste. Syringes, IV (intravenous) bags, and other trash litter the once-pristine beach. Although one might imagine that it was dumped there by people in the area, much of it actually comes across the sea from neighboring countries such as China and South Korea. The trash is carried by the westerlies and ocean currents that flow along the coast of the Japanese archipelago and finally washes up on the beach. Once, locals planned to hold a barefoot running event at a nearby beach. But it was eventually decided that shoes would have to be worn due to concern that hazardous waste like syringes might cause injury.

Some of the trash that has drifted ashore from neighboring countries is on display at a local museum. Many children visit the museum, and gaze sadly at the display, wondering why people would litter such a beautiful beach.

“But,” explains one of the locals who engages in cleanup activities, “One day, a foreigner who lives in Japan saw locals picking up trash on the beach. He was appalled that so much trash, like polyethylene tanks and plastic bottles, had washed ashore from his country. Since then, he has come to the beach to help clean up every year. There are some people who litter and others who help clean up. More people are realizing that it is a worldwide issue that goes beyond national borders.”



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3 | 1. The singing sand beach, protected by the dedicated efforts of the townspeople. 2. All sorts of trash wash ashore, even large items such as refrigerators. 3. Dangerous items such as medical waste are found on the beach as well.



4 | 5
5 | 4. Countless lighters with labels in Korean and Chinese wash ashore. 5. Vast amounts of trash wash ashore every day. The piece of trash in the photo has Korean writing on it.

Japanese People Contributing Worldwide

Battling on the Frontlines of AIDS

When AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) was recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States 33 years ago, it was an untreatable and deadly disease. Dr. Hiroaki Mitsuya, presently serving as professor at the School of Medicine, Kumamoto University, and director of the Center for Clinical Sciences at the National Center for Global Health and Medicine, achieved a dramatic breakthrough in the 1980s by developing the first three drugs that were effective in combating the disease.

AIDS was first reported in the United States in 1981, and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) was proved to cause the disease subsequently in 1983-1984. Dr. Mitsuya, who had been studying the mechanisms of immunodeficiency at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, began working on the development of drugs to treat patients suffering from HIV infection in 1984. Although Dr. Mitsuya thought that if he were infected with HIV, he would die within years, he thought that somebody had to do it and decided without hesitation to implement the project. While many researchers were reluctant, Dr. Mitsuya felt compelled to fight and potentially win in his lonely battle, since he not only had extensive knowledge about the virus but also had already established immune cells that were highly susceptible to HIV infection. Indeed, prior to going to the United States, Dr. Mitsuya had extensively studied a leukemia virus that is akin to HIV and impacts the human immune system, and thought that he would be able to apply the results of his study in Japan to his AIDS research in the United States.

He conducted experiments by himself in the laboratory from early morning until late at night, and when he ran short of cells to use for his experiments, he drew blood from his own arm to isolate cells for the experiments and repeated experiments hundreds of times. Within one year, Dr. Mitsuya succeeded in establishing his own evaluation system and identified azidothymidine or zidovudine (AZT), the world's first effective drug for treating AIDS. Dr. Mitsuya also played a central role in developing the second and third AIDS drugs. In 2007, Dr. Mitsuya also succeeded in developing a new HIV protease inhibitor, darunavir, which played a significant role in the treatment of HIV but with only a few side effects.

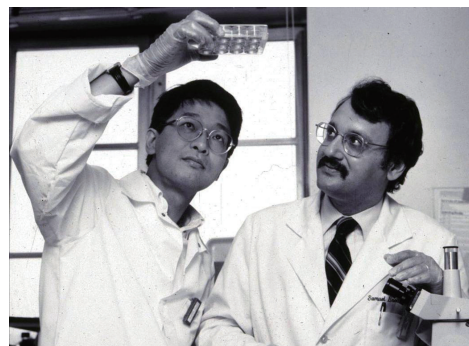
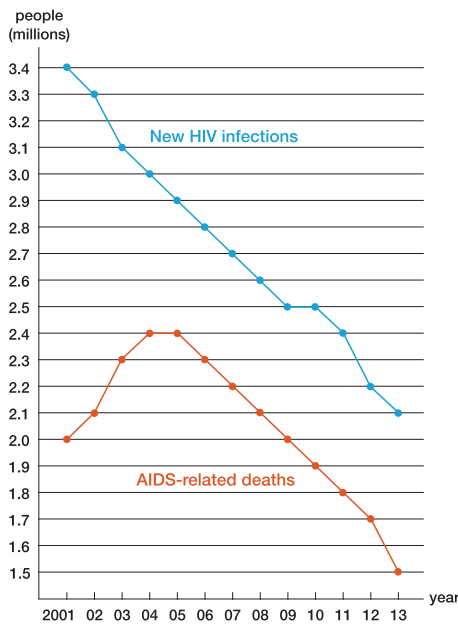
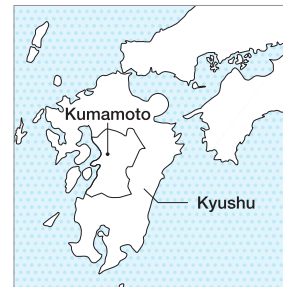
These days, combined use of the drugs allows those with HIV/AIDS to extend their lives close to those of uninfected individuals. Moreover, very recently the early initiation of combined antiretroviral therapy has proven to reduce rates of sexual transmission by 96%, nearly 100%. In large part due to his initial breakthrough, AIDS has now been transformed from a deadly disease to one that is chronic but treatable and preventable.

Dr. Mitsuya continues to commute between Japan and the United States pursuing the development of further potent drugs to combat AIDS. His theory that “the more speedy the research, the more patients' lives can be saved” is based on his own solid belief, and he stresses that “more should be invested in basic medical research.” At the same time, he works hard to train young researchers. He tells them, “Science removes or reduces human suffering and brings about a high quality of life. Scientists pursuing research that makes people healthy and happy is very cool! Attempting to unravel the mysteries of the life sciences is literally a great privileged adventure.” Science continues to benefit from dedicated scientists like Dr. Mitsuya.



Hiroaki Mitsuya

Professor of hematology and infectious diseases at the School of Medicine, Kumamoto University since 1997, and Director of the Center for Clinical Sciences at the National Center for Global Health and Medicine since 2012. Also serves as chief of the Experimental Retrovirology Section of the National Cancer Institute in the United States. Continues AIDS research in both Japan and the United States.



Dr. Mitsuya (left) and his then-supervisor Dr. Samuel Broder (right) at NIH in 1985. Dr. Mitsuya invented the first anti-HIV evaluation system (which they are looking at) to examine candidate drugs and identified AZT as the world's first effective drug for treating AIDS.

HIV, which causes AIDS, infects important cells in the “command centers” of the human immune system, which protects the body from external threats. HIV continues to multiply within the body of infected individuals, resulting in severe systemic immunodeficiency and, without treatment, death. Antiviral drugs work to block this process and restore once damaged immunity. As of 2013, AIDS continues to have a devastating impact, with 2.1 million newly infected patients every year worldwide and annual deaths totaling 1.5 million. As of 2013, according to the UNAIDS Global Plan, there are 35 million AIDS patients worldwide.

Helping to Expand Indonesia's Sewerage Network

Against a backdrop of steady economic growth of five to six percent per year, Indonesia's cities continue to expand. The skyscraper-studded capital, Jakarta, is now home to some 9.6 million people, and the constant influx of migrant workers from provincial areas shows no sign of slowing. But the development of vital infrastructure has struggled to keep pace with this rapid expansion. Chronic traffic congestion is an issue of major concern to Jakarta's residents, as is the flooding that has become a regular occurrence during the monsoon season.

Only an estimated two percent of the city of Jakarta adequately serviced by an underground sewerage system. This results in a grave risk to public health when seasonal floodwaters cause gutters to overflow, carrying raw sewage into streets and homes. But this is not an easy problem to correct. Closing roads into the city to allow sewage pipes to be laid beneath them would make the already problematic traffic jams even worse. Civil engineer Katsuyuki Sasaki is an expert on the laying of sewerage pipes who is working in Indonesia to resolve these issues.

Mr. Sasaki has over 20 years' experience in using remote-controlled tunnel-boring machines in Japan. The drilling of underground paths for the installation of sewage pipes is known as "pipe jacking," and the technology to do this without disrupting road surfaces was developed in Japan to cope with working in the country's cramped metropolitan areas. He is currently training the operators of a local civil engineering firm in the techniques necessary to lay sewage pipes one meter in diameter beneath the main streets of Jakarta.

In the past, it was the norm in Indonesia to install underground sewage pipes 100 meters at a time, due to fears that attempting any more would prove too difficult. But utilizing the pipe-jacking techniques learned through Mr. Sasaki's training, the local team is striving to increase this figure to 300 meters. This will bring numerous benefits, not only in terms of time and money saved but also by reducing the effect of the installation work on traffic flow, through eliminating the need to make holes in road surfaces. Underground obstacles such as boulders are sometimes encountered during the tunneling process. But the ability to make necessary adjustments to the pressure of the boring machine head, stabilize the tunnel face through slurry balance, and calibrate the speed of forward motion while meticulously checking the state and mass of the sand removed from the tunnel, are the hallmarks of an experienced engineer. "Through the experience they gain, I want the local operators to acquire the skills needed to nip any problems in the bud," says Mr. Sasaki.

Japan's sewerage network extends to every metropolitan area. But in Indonesia, Mr. Sasaki has found broad scope for his extensive skills. Extolling the fulfilling nature of his work, he comments: "I had never even considered that anybody else would put our techniques into use, so this makes me very happy."

Of course, during the course of construction work, there are occasional differences of opinion: "The local engineers think I focus too much on safety, when we could be working faster instead," says Mr. Sasaki. But over his 20-year-long career, he has learned the importance of minimizing risk by not overreaching. "Mistakes made during the construction process are often impossible to correct afterward. So, along with the necessary techniques, I also want to pass on the importance of prioritizing safety to everyone I work with," he stresses.



Katsuyuki Sasaki

A technical advisor at Iseki Poly-Tech, a company that has been developing and providing tunnel-boring machines for use in laying pipes for over 40 years. He has been working in this field for over 20 years, and has been based in Indonesia since 2014.



A Jakarta street earmarked for the laying of new underground sewerage pipes. Consistently heavy traffic means the road cannot be closed for the necessary construction work to take place.



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1. Drilling a passage beneath the city streets of Jakarta using a tunnel-boring machine.
2. Local Jakarta staff with Mr. Sasaki. The local staff say they are proud to be involved in this work.



Laying Sewage Lines
in Indonesia with
Unique Japanese Technology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aj7xzpPoFGQ>

The Road to Revival

Friends Forever

When the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 struck, the U.S. Navy was one of the first organizations to partner with Japan. Commanded by Admiral Patrick Michael Walsh, the U.S. Pacific Fleet went into action under the name “Operation Tomodachi.” Named by a U.S. Armed Forces member who is familiar with Japanese culture—*tomodachi* means “friend” in Japanese—Operation Tomodachi began just after the earthquake.

Working with agencies of the U.S. and Japanese governments, Operation Tomodachi carried out search and rescue missions in earthquake-affected areas. Its members also provided support such as food, shelter and comfort for victims.

Like many people, Admiral Walsh was shocked by the power of the 2011 Earthquake and the destruction it caused. “The damage was beyond imagination—both on land and washing out into the sea,” he said. For victims in Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures, the arrival of Admiral Walsh and his team—even while snow was still falling—was a great relief.

Three years later, Admiral Walsh is still moved by the collaboration and friendship between the United States and Japan during those difficult days. He also recalls the heroism, bravery, and sensitivity of the Japanese people after the disaster.

One of the admiral’s clearest memories was of visiting survivors—including school children and the elderly—in rescue shelters. Some shelters had been created at school. When the admiral and his team arrived, they made their way past rows of shoes that were lined up at classroom entrances. “With respect for the victims, we only entered the rooms by invitation,” said Admiral Walsh.

The people in earthquake-affected areas were clearly moved by the admiral and his team’s support. One elderly woman walked up to the admiral and bowed. She held his hand, and would not let go. The admiral felt a deep admiration and respect for her. He was also filled with admiration for the bravery and perseverance shown by search and rescue teams. “In Sendai, we organized the search and rescue team, consisting of U.S. forces, Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the local government, and worked together. I was strongly impressed that though some of local members had lost their families or friends, they worked with a strong sense of honor and responsibility in the mission,” he said.

After successfully accomplishing many great deeds, Operation Tomodachi ended in the spring of 2012. The U.S. Pacific Fleet left quietly in order not to disturb the recovery of those affected by the earthquake. However, Japanese people will never forget the warmhearted and friendly assistance provided by the United States. “The operation represents lasting friendship between Japan and the United States,” the admiral said. “It also shows what is possible when nations and people come together to solve difficult problems,” he added.

Now retired, Admiral Walsh maintains his friendship with the Japanese people. With family and friends and other members of the Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth, the admiral continues to support U.S.-Japan relations. The society, for instance, has carried out campaigns, including donations of comfortable clothing, for people in earthquake-affected areas. Through such efforts, the admiral hopes to ensure the legacy of Operation Tomodachi in the future.



Patrick Michael Walsh

Former admiral for the U.S. Pacific Fleet who led “Operation Tomodachi” after the Great East Japan Earthquake.



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4	

1. With Commanding General Eiji Kimizuka of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force North Eastern Army. 2. A meeting at U.S. Forces, Japan Yokota Airbase. 3. U.S. Army and JSDF troops remove debris under Operation Tomodachi together. 4. U.S. Navy personnel cleaning up debris in a harbor on Oshima Island. (©EPA/Jiji).

Japan's Regional Power

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his cabinet set a high priority on encouraging foreign companies to invest in Japan. We are taking a look at what the governors and mayors are doing as “top sales-people” for their own prefectures/cities, which are actively engaged in soliciting investment from outside Japan.

Hiroshima Prefecture: Open to the companies of the world

Hiroshima's involvement in technology and international trade dates back to the seventh century. Japan sent emissaries to the Asian continent to learn about the world outside its borders. Historical evidence shows that boats used then were constructed in Hiroshima. These envoys brought back the latest information about Buddhism, culture, administration, and technology of Tang dynasty China. Hiroshima was prominent among the Seto Inland Sea ports where these continental cultural influences entered Japan. This put Hiroshima on the cutting edge of innovation, and it retains this forward-thinking spirit to this day.

Hiroshima manufactures and ships over JPY8.5 trillion (USD71 billion) of goods each year, making it consistently the most important manufacturing center in western Japan since 2004. Global manufacturers in the automotive and machinery industries maintain operations in Hiroshima, taking advantage of the prefecture's sophisticated technology. Its population of 2.8 million makes Hiroshima an important consumer market as well. Hiroshima also serves customers in neighboring areas, presenting important opportunities for companies that choose to locate there.

Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki says, “Our automotive industry is already known as one of the best in the world, and we have a very deep bench of corporate players. More than just technology and engineering, we have 14 universities with departments in the sciences and engineering, 19 publicly funded research institutions, and the human resources needed to staff them. We offer support services for inbound investment, and can help you find the best partners for your business. Aside from that, Hiroshima is blessed with the beauty of nature during all four seasons, and it is home to World Heritage Sites and tourist attractions such as the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine and Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome). Foreign residents find Hiroshima a fine place to live. We in the prefectural government are doing all we can to welcome people.”

Support services available for foreign corporations include market research, advice on market entry, and a database to search for potential partner companies. The government offers full support for companies interested in locating in Hiroshima, including consulting services (e.g, cost calculations), and information on subsidies available to foreign companies.

In recent years, the health-care industry has been the focus of much attention. Companies are using the latest technologies to manufacture artificial joints and stents that prevent blood vessels from constricting. Industry and academia are participating in joint research and development. Hiroshima University is working with automobile manufacturers on research on internal combustion engines. Other interesting research going on right now includes things such as high-tech medical socks.

Hiroshima has established sister-city relationships with China's Sichuan Province, the U.S. state of Hawaii, and Mexico's Guanajuato State (2014). Carrying on its tradition of progress and enterprise, Hiroshima is becoming ever more global.

Five Reasons to Invest in Hiroshima



Great Business Partners



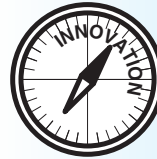
Talented People Who Can Further Your Business



Home to World-Class Businesses

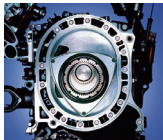


Great Place to Live



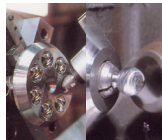
Government Support

Automotive Industry Expands into Health-Care Industry



Automotive Parts Industry

[Surface processing]



[Cutting technology for spherical surfaces]



Application of technology



Support services for inbound investments

Market research

Support for establishing manufacturing operations

- Providing information about investing in Japan.
- Consulting on locating.
- Providing arrangements for factory support.

Database for identifying potential partner companies

Basic facts and figures



Population of 2.83 million. Bordering the Seto Inland Sea, Hiroshima is the main gateway to Japan's Chugoku and Shikoku areas. Two UNESCO World Heritage sites attract many tourists from Japan and abroad. Blessed with natural riches of land and sea, it is famous for its unique cuisine, including fresh oysters and *okonomiyaki*, or Japanese savory pancakes.



Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki

Born 1965 in Hiroshima. Graduated from Tokyo University, MBA from Stanford University. First elected governor of Hiroshima Prefecture in 1993. "I have been working to tune Hiroshima's special qualities, working with the national government to get regions what they deserve, and to correct the overconcentration of resources in Tokyo. I am focusing my efforts on polishing this region's attractiveness as an investment target. As a regional leader in Japan, I am working to turn potential into reality."

Friends of Japan

In this report we introduce the life and work of two friends of Japan.



Osuna-arashi Kintaro

Born in Egypt in 1992. Began sumo in his home country at the age of 15.
Came to Japan in 2011 and joined the Otake sumo “stable,”
competing in his first professional tournament in March 2012.
Currently ranked in the top tier of professional sumo (the *makuuchi* division).

Chasing Dreams, Building Bridges



©Ujji

When Abdelrahman Ahmed Shaalan was a little boy, he admired his father—a football player. Through his father and mother’s support, he developed a love of sports. Living in Egypt, he never imagined he would travel to Japan to find his dream. And yet, the boy from the Egyptian town of Mansoura, has become one of the most recognizable professional sumo wrestlers (*rikishi*) —in Japan.

Shaalan’s love of sports—mainly body building—began when he was 11 years old.

His father had taught him to be ambitious and to work hard. One day, when he was 15 years old, he went to the gym and was surprised—some people were practicing sumo. Fascinated by the sport, he immediately decided to join one of the classes. Soon after, he was challenged to a match against another sumo player. To his surprise, his counterpart who was much smaller, won. On that day, shaalan lost seven straight matches to the same wrestler.

After that experience, shaalan wanted to know the secrets of sumo wrestlers’ strength. He trained hard. He watched videos about sumo. And he read books about Japanese culture. Four years later, when he was 19 years old, he made the decision to follow his dream. He flew to Japan to become a *rikishi*.

Shaalan joined a stable and chose Osuna-arashi as his ring name, which means “the Great Sandstorm.” “Life as a foreign sumo wrestler in Japan is rewarding but challenging,” Osuna-arashi said. First, there is a lot of pressure on him because he is the first *rikishi* from Africa. Second, it took him some time to become used to the hard and competitive life of a *rikishi*. However, thorough determination and support from his trainers and stablemates, Osuna-arashi has matured as a person and as a sumo wrestler.

One of Osuna-arashi’s favorite activities is meeting people and sharing his love of sumo. In Japan, there is a tradition in which men believe they will have good health if they shake the hands of sumo wrestlers, he said. Taking part in this tradition gives him great pride, he added.

He has also learned the virtues of purity, humility and respect. Before a match, for example, sumo wrestlers throw salt on the ring where the match is played (*dohyo*) —as an act of purification. After a match, both the winner and the loser bow to each other in respect and humility. “These are virtues that everyone should learn,” Osuna-arashi said.

Having lived in Japan for three years, Osuna-arashi is also learning more about Japanese culture. Politeness, gentleness, and consideration for others, are some of the traits he likes most about Japanese people. Moreover, sumo has given him a new goal, that of cultural ambassador. “When young people in Africa see me doing sumo in Japan, they’ll know that anything is possible,” Osuna-arashi said with pride.

The man called “the Great Sandstorm” is more focused than ever on his dream. “My dream is to become a *yokozuna*—which is the Grand Champion,” Osuna-arashi said. Along the way, he wants to be a bridge between Africa and Japan.



Diane Kichijitsu

Stage performer of *rakugo*. Born in Liverpool, England.
Arrived in Japan in 1990 and first performed *rakugo* by herself in 1998.

Rakugo – The Art of Making People Smile



In 1990, Diane was traveling around the world. A friend recommended that she visit Japan. “Japan is safe,” her friend said. Following this advice, Diane traveled to Osaka. “I didn’t speak any Japanese, but that was not a problem,” Diane said. “Japanese people are super-friendly.”

Diane traveled around the country for three months. From Osaka, she visited Kyoto, Nara, Tokyo, and Hokkaido. But it was in Osaka that she fell in love with Japan and Japanese culture. Indeed, Diane has trained in pottery, ikebana, *kitsuke*, the art of wearing a kimono, and *sado*, the Japanese tea ceremony. However, it was as a *rakugo* performer that she achieved fame.

Rakugo is the traditional Japanese art of comic storytelling. While living in Osaka, Diane was introduced to Katsura Shijaku, a famous *rakugo* performer and asked to be his *ochako*—a stage assistant—for his English-language *rakugo* performance. This was Diane’s first encounter with the art.

When she saw Shijaku’s performance, she fell in love with *rakugo*. “It was very organic and fresh,” she said. “It was one person sitting on a cushion. With a fan and a folded cloth, he took the listeners on a journey.” Diane also found that *rakugo* matched her humorous personality and strengthened her. “Since childhood, I have enjoyed making people laugh,” Diane said. “But when I was a child, I did not have a lot of confidence.” Through *rakugo*, she discovered selfconfidence. She also found her goal in life—to make people smile.

Diane’s first English-language performance, a story called “Wonderful Japan,” soon followed. She performed it in front of 300 people. Now an expert *rakugoka*, or *rakugo* performer, Diane performs in both English and Japanese. She has also adopted a stage name, “Diane Kichijitsu”—which is a play-on-words meaning “Lucky Diane.”

Diane has traveled to more than forty-five countries, sharing her love of Japanese culture wherever possible. She has performed *rakugo* in the United States, India, the United Arab Emirates, Norway, Finland, Estonia, and England, her homeland. She has also performed across Japan.

Diane’s *rakugo* performances have touched the lives of many people around the world. One of her fondest memories was performing in English in Oslo, Norway. “The kids really enjoyed it,” she said. “One child said, ‘I want to go to Japan,’ after watching a performance.” Diane was happy to make the child smile, and to inspire them to think about Japan.

Diane also remembers her experience as a volunteer in evacuation centers after the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. “I went up to Tohoku and wore a bright kimono,” she said. “I did *rakugo* performances and other times I wore a crazy balloon hat. People would sit and talk to me, give me small gifts and I would listen to their stories.” One boy took a video of Diane’s performance. “When I’m sad, I’ll look at this and remember happier times,” he told her. Diane was moved by his sensitivity and maturity.

Diane’s experience in Tohoku and around the world made her realize the potential power of *rakugo* to make people smile. “Humor is really important at most times and places,” she said. Since coming to Japan over 24 years ago, Diane Kichijitsu has touched the lives of people everywhere she has traveled, and will continue making the world smile for years to come.

“Have an Image of Success!”

Dr. Hiroshi Amano,

Winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics

Dr. Hiroshi Amano learned the wonderful news that he had won the Nobel Prize while he was overseas on business; when he returned to Japan, he was surrounded by his students, who gave him a surprise celebration. This scene was widely broadcasted on television, and images of Dr. Amano sharing with his students the joy of receiving the prize conveyed his unassuming character.

On October 7, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced that the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physics would be awarded to Dr. Isamu Akasaki of Meijo University, Dr. Hiroshi Amano of the Nagoya University Graduate School of Engineering, and Dr. Shuji Nakamura of the University of California, Santa Barbara, for the invention of blue light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

In combination with existing red and green LEDs, blue LEDs made possible the creation of pure white light. Global manufacturers dreamed of being able to utilize the blue LEDs required for this combination of colors, and the realization of this dream dramatically increased the application of LEDs in industrial products. Blue LEDs are now found in everything from televisions and smartphones to lighting and traffic signals, and have become an integral part of everyday life.

Gallium nitride, essential to the creation of blue LEDs and said to be more difficult to crystallize than diamonds, was a key factor in their winning Nobel Prize. Dr. Akasaki and Dr. Amano, the teacher and his disciple, threw themselves into this research, succeeding in developing a technique for producing large crystals. It took a further four years before they managed to create the world's first p-type crystals, needed for blue LEDs. “It was something nobody around the world had been able to do,” Dr. Amano says, recalling the excitement of the time.

When Dr. Amano, who achieved this great feat, was asked what is important to do when engaged in research, he replied, “Always have an image of success while conducting your research. Otherwise, you will fail. When I started researching blue LEDs in my senior year at university, thirty years ago now, I had a clear vision that ‘if this becomes a reality, it will be a game changer in the display industry.’” This positive mind-set must have kept him going when the research was difficult.

Based on his personal experience, he would like students to have their own images of success. For that reason, he tries to maintain an attitude toward students that is more like that between equals than the typical relationship between teacher and student. However, now that he has won the Nobel Prize, his laboratory will come under increasing scrutiny. “It will put pressure on the students in the lab!” Dr. Amano smiles, but his close support of students as they aim for their targets will not change.

We asked Dr. Amano about the future of LEDs. “There are still many things to do. LEDs are still expensive for people around the world to use. Our goal is to reduce their price to one-fifth of the current price by 2020. If we succeed, they will spread even more rapidly around the world. There are also many places in the world without a satisfactory supply of electricity. By providing cost- and energy-efficient technology, we can bring more light to the world,” he says as his eyes sparkled.

Asked about his future as a researcher, he responds, “I have many other visions for changing the world. As I firmly believe I can achieve them, I’d love to check them all off my list before I reach retirement age. And I still have 11 years until then!” Dr. Amano’s “image of success” always extends many years ahead.



Dr. Amano always wears a waist pouch and it has become his trademark.

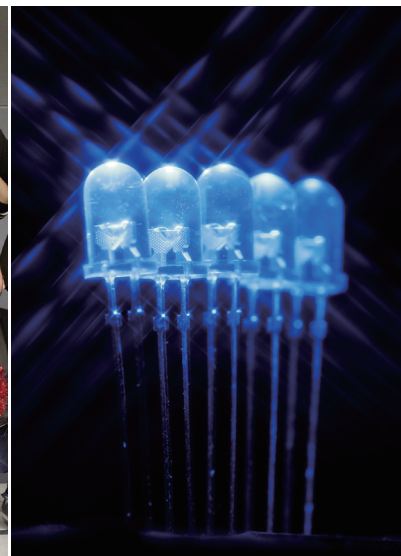


Hiroshi Amano

Professor at the Nagoya University Graduate School of Engineering, specializing in electrical engineering and computer science. Worked as an assistant at Nagoya University after receiving his doctorate. He has also worked as a professor at the Meijo University Faculty of Science and Technology. His previous awards include the Japanese Journal of Applied Physics Award for best review paper and the Rank Prize for Optoelectronics.



Dr. Amano shakes hands with Prime Minister Abe.



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1. Dr. Amano shares in the joy of his students, who greeted him after his return to Japan from a business trip with the message: Congratulations Hiroshi! (©Kyodo News). 2. Blue LED (©Jiji).

The JET Programme: A Great Way to Experience Japan

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity



Ayesha Constable

From St. Catherine, Jamaica. Worked as an ALT for the Yamanashi Prefectural Board of Education from 2007 to 2009. Currently an active Jamaica JET Alumni Association member, involved in the leadership of several organizations that work toward fostering female empowerment and environmental awareness.

Participating in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme was a dream come true for me, for I had long wanted to visit Japan. The reality was even better than I had dreamt, and nothing could have fully prepared me for the fullness of my experience on the JET Programme. I was placed in the picturesque Yamanashi Prefecture at the foot of Mount Fuji, where I was offered a plethora of opportunities to get involved and make the best of my experience as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT).

I loved my students and enjoyed watching them grow from shy students, who were reluctant to say a word in English, to brave young adults, who would approach me and initiate a conversation. It was rewarding to listen to them talk about their dreams of traveling the world, much as I had dreamt of visiting Japan. I taught them English; moreover, I was also a motivator, mentor, and friend, and I value the lessons they taught me. One of the most satisfying parts of my role is that I was able to touch their lives.

Though I was employed as an ALT, my experience was not limited to the classroom. In addition to my teaching duties as an ALT at a senior high school, I was an active member of the local community of fellow JET participants and Japanese residents. I lived intensely, making the most of every opportunity offered. The friendships I built with Japanese and foreigners alike were the richest part of my experience. The friendships I made while participating in JET have survived distance and time, and we remain close friends to this day.

I credit my experience in Yamanashi with making me who I am today. It changed my life and transformed me personally and professionally. The skills that I acquired as an ALT, such as public speaking, the ability to engage with strangers, and confidence, have helped me in interviews and other occasions since I completed my tenure on the JET Programme. Because of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I am now able to give the world a different, firsthand understanding of Japan and its people. I grew to fully appreciate the fact that we are not confined to any one place, but that the world is truly our oyster and we can affect the world in so many ways.

Like many former JET participants, I want to continue to act as a bridge between Japan and the rest of the world by encouraging foreigners to visit and see Japan for themselves. This is why one of the first things I did upon returning to my home country was to volunteer to host a presentation called “Japan: Through the Eyes of a Jamaican” to share my unique experience in Japan as well as details on Japanese culture, people, and society.

I can never thank my students and colleagues in Yamanashi enough for everything—for their friendship, support, and guidance, and for embracing me for who I am. I will be forever grateful to everyone who played a part in changing my life while I was on the JET Programme. It was indeed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



The JET Programme

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme began in 1987 with the goal of promoting grass-roots international exchange between Japan and other nations.

The JET Programme is primarily sponsored and administered at the local level by local government authorities in Japan, which are also the direct contracting organizations of JET participants. At the national level, the JET Programme is administered by the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) in cooperation with three Japanese government ministries: the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

JET participants are placed in every region of Japan and work in one of three positions: Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs), Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs), or Sports Exchange Advisors (SEAs).

Now in its 28th year, the JET Programme has gained high acclaim both domestically and internationally for its role in advancing mutual understanding and for being one of the world's largest international exchange programs. In 2013, the JET Programme welcomed 4,372 participants, and currently, there are approximately 55,000 alumni from over 60 countries living in all parts of the world.

No prior knowledge of Japanese or Japan is required to apply to the JET Programme. If you are interested, please visit the official website for information on how to apply: <http://www.jetprogramme.org>.



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1. Learning about various cultures with elementary-school students. 2. I am as radiant as the sun in the picture the students drew of my smile. 3. At the eighth station of Mount Fuji.

Websites

Official Websites of the Government and Organizations

The following websites offer information from various ministries, information for tourists, and other information relating to the contents of this magazine.

Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet



Cabinet Public Relations Office, Cabinet Secretariat
Information in English about Japanese government policies, speeches and statements by the prime minister, and press conferences by the chief cabinet secretary.

- WEB** <http://japan.kantei.go.jp>
- f** <https://www.facebook.com/Japan.PMO>
- t** https://twitter.com/JPN_PMO

Japanese Government Internet TV



Public Relations Office, Cabinet Office
Videos from the Japanese government relating to the prime minister, press conferences by the chief cabinet secretary, videos of the imperial family, and more.

- WEB** <http://nettv.gov-online.go.jp/eng/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Information from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with links to embassies and consulates overseas.

- WEB** <http://www.mofa.go.jp>
- f** <https://www.facebook.com/Mofa.Japan.en>
- t** https://twitter.com/MofaJapan_en

JNTO Japan National Tourism Organization



Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)
Information about tourism in Japan, including videos and photos. In English and many other languages, including Chinese, Korean, French, and German.

- WEB** <http://www.jnto.go.jp/>
- f** <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/fb/index.html>
- t** (US) https://twitter.com/Visit_Japan

JETRO Japan External Trade Organization



Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
Information about how JETRO supports Japanese companies overseas, attracts foreign companies to the Japanese market, contributes to Japan's trade policy and conducts activities in developing countries.

- WEB** <http://www.jetro.go.jp/>

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JET Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme



Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)
Information about the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme.

- WEB** <http://www.jetprogramme.org>
- f** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/JET-Programme/219440938121634>
- t** (US) <https://twitter.com/JETProgram>

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Publications

Official Publications from the Government and Organizations

The government of Japan and various organizations publish the following periodicals.

Cabinet Office



“Highlighting JAPAN”

Aimed at people in other countries, this regular publication introduces the latest major government policies.

<http://www.gov-online.go.jp/eng/publicity/book/hlj/index.html>



Monthly

Ministry of Foreign Affairs



“niponica”

Using beautiful photographs, this journal illustrates the appeal of present-day Japan.

http://web-japan.org/niponica/index_en.html



Three times a year

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry



“METI Journal”

Explains policies being instituted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) in an easy-to-understand manner.

<http://www.meti.go.jp/english/publications/index.html>



Bimonthly

Japan National Tourism Organization



“Monthly Web Magazine”

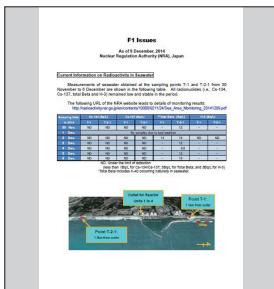
Each issue provides seasonal and updated information on three select features.

<http://japan-magazine.jnto.go.jp/en/>



Monthly

Nuclear Regulation Authority



“F1 Issues Fukushima Daiichi NPS's Issues”

This releases information about the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, such as details about the monitoring of seawater since the accident caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

<http://www.nsr.go.jp/english/>



About once a week

Ministry of Defense



“Japan Defense Focus”

A monthly magazine that introduces various activities of the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces.

<http://www.mod.go.jp/e/jdf/index.html#sub01>



Monthly

Let us update you on recent happenings in Japan.
You can subscribe to the *Tomodachi* newsletter at the following URL.

✉ <http://www.mmz.kantei.go.jp/tomodachi/subscribe.php>

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We would be delighted to have your feedback.
Please send us your comments.

https://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/forms/comment_ssl.html

Links to the websites of ministries

Cabinet Office <http://www.cao.go.jp/index-e.html>
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries <http://www.maff.go.jp/e/>
Ministry of Defense <http://www.mod.go.jp/e/>
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry <http://www.meti.go.jp/english/>
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/>
Ministry of the Environment <http://www.env.go.jp/en/>
Ministry of Finance <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/index.htm>
Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.mofa.go.jp>
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/>
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications <http://www.soumu.go.jp/english/index.html>
Ministry of Justice <http://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/index.html>
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism <https://www.mlit.go.jp/en/>
Reconstruction Agency <http://www.reconstruction.go.jp/english/>
Nuclear Regulation Authority <http://www.nsr.go.jp/english/>

We Are *Tomodachi*
Winter 2015

<http://www.japan.go.jp/tomodachi>



The Government of Japan



<http://www.japan.go.jp>

 www.facebook.com/JapanGov

 [@JapanGov](https://twitter.com/JapanGov)

 [JapanGov](https://plus.google.com/JapanGov)