

We Are *Tomodachi*

Spring 2015



The Government of Japan

We Are *Tomodachi*
Spring 2015



Prime Minister Abe invited former U.S. president Bill Clinton to the prime minister's official residence. Former Japanese prime minister Yoshiro Mori and U.S. ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy were also present, and many old friendships were renewed (March 2015).

Tomodachi



友達 *tomodachi*

With this issue we celebrate one year of *We Are Tomodachi*, the official magazine of the Japanese government. Thank you for all of your support. In honor of this occasion, we would like to tell you about the characters that make up the word *tomodachi*.

Tomodachi means friends. The first character 友 (*tomo*) means “friend.” It depicts two hands overlapping and helping each other in friendship. The second character 達 (*dachi*) is a suffix to indicate plural. We hope that more people across the world become our *tomodachi*, and we can provide a helping hand to one another.

We Are Tomodachi will continue to feature more *tomodachi* from around the globe, so please do not miss an issue!

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Heralding the Spring



Cherry Blossoms (*sakura*): Hirosaki Castle, Aomori Prefecture

The cherry blossom is the flower most representative of Japan, heralding the arrival of spring. Since ancient times, cherry blossom viewing has been one of the greatest pleasures of springtime for the Japanese. At this time of year, all Japan is obsessed with cherry blossoms. People track the “cherry blossom front line,” the map showing the geographic area where the cherry trees are in bloom, as the leading edge moves up the Japanese archipelago from south to north, dyeing the nation with the pale pink of spring. Hirosaki Castle, in the Tohoku region, is surrounded by beautiful cherry trees and renowned as one of the best settings in Japan to view these picturesque blossoms.

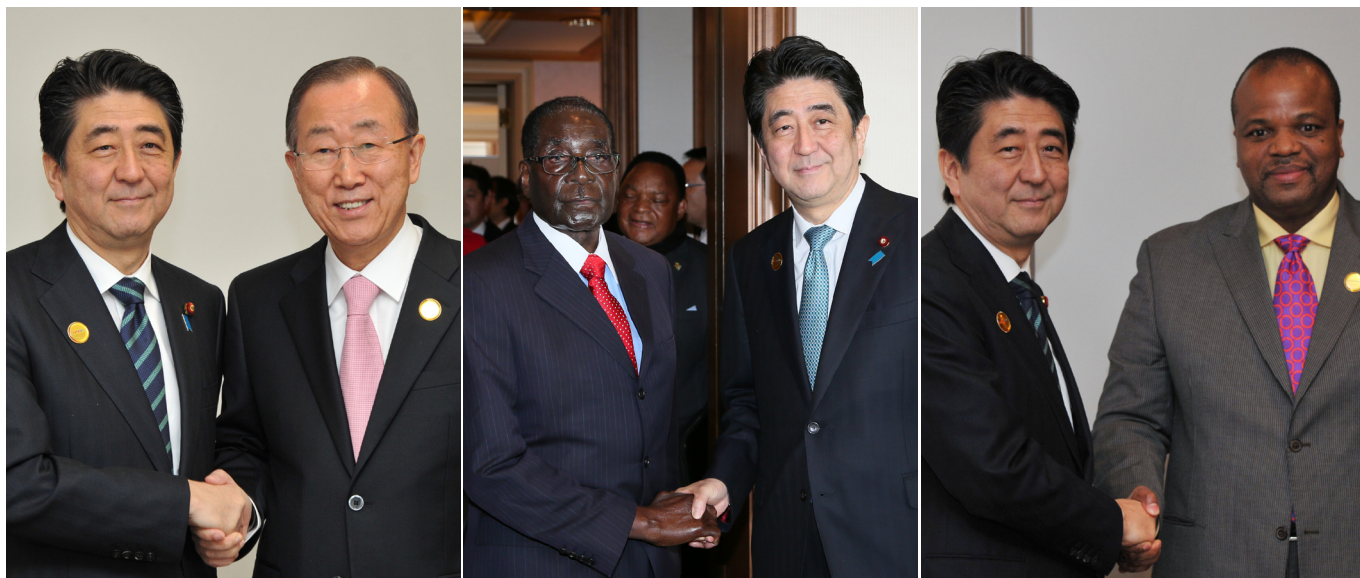


Carp Streamers (*koi nobori*): Tsuetate Onsen Hot Springs, Kumamoto Prefecture

Japan enjoys four distinct seasons. Various festivals throughout the year mark the turning of the seasons. One of these, the *tango no sekku* (Boys' Day Festival), is held on May 5 each year, when people wish for the health of male children. Households mark the occasion by hoisting carp streamers and displaying other traditional items in the home. In the gardens of Japanese homes, the colorful carp streamers flutter in the warm breeze against the blue sky, creating an image of spring. There are festivals at which many carp streamers are displayed, such as the one at Tsuetate Onsen in Kumamoto Prefecture where over 3,500 streamers are hung out each year as if swimming upriver.



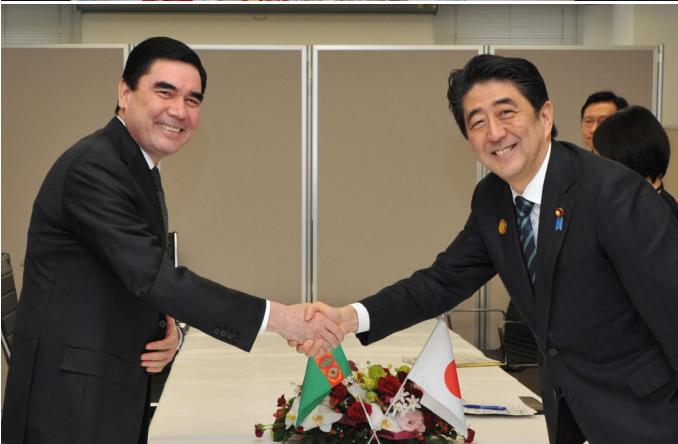
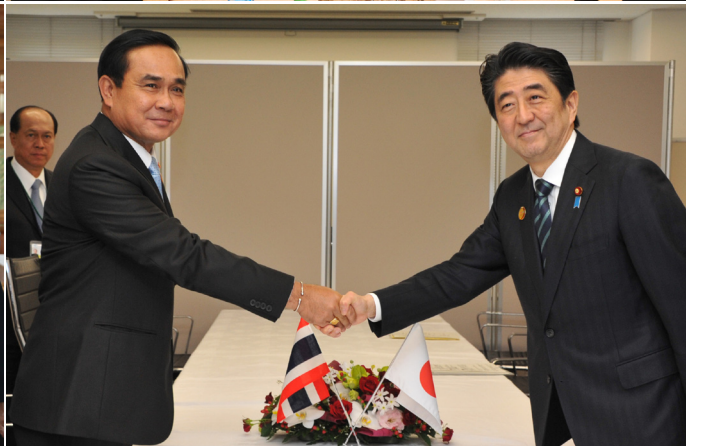
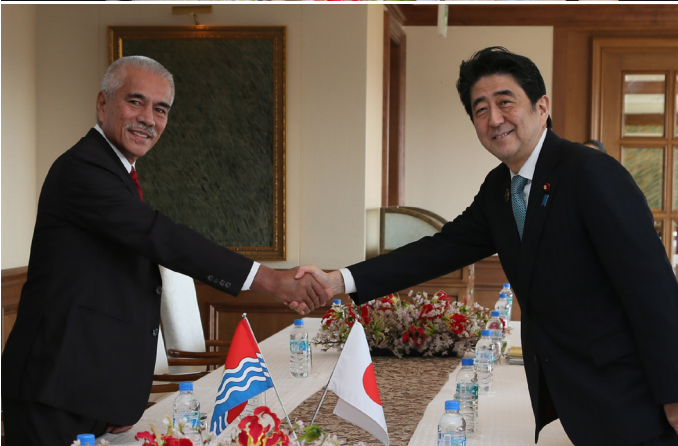
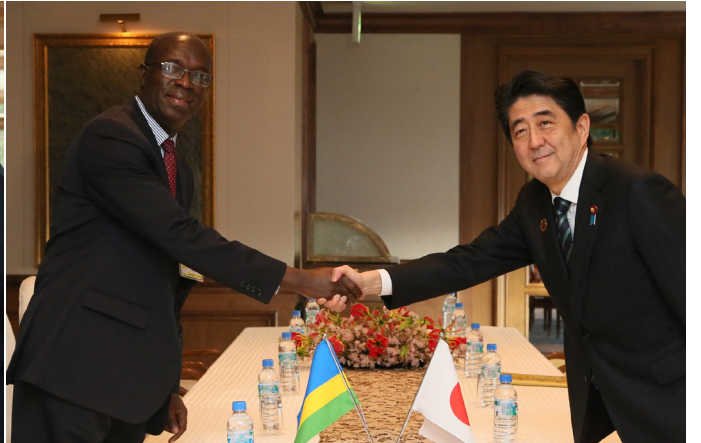
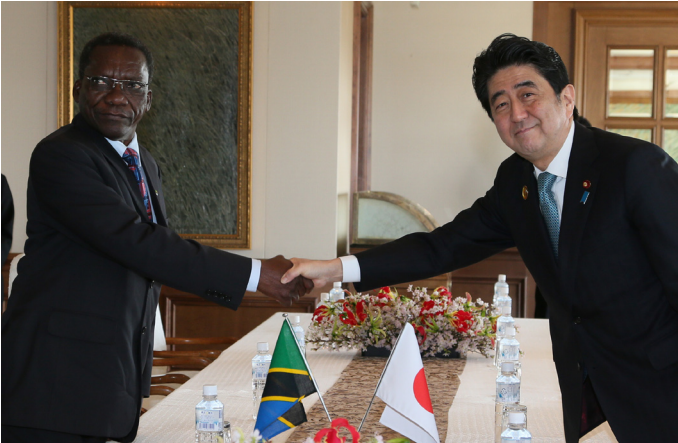
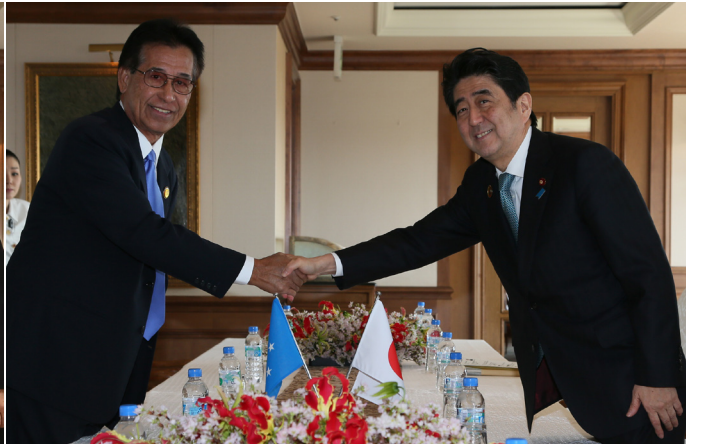
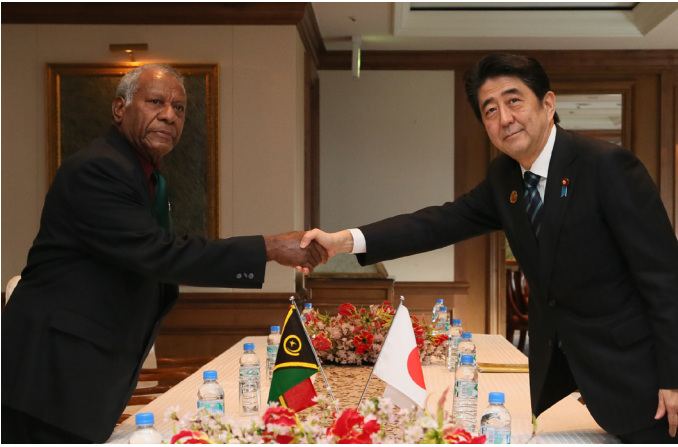
Moments of Prime Minister Abe in Spring 2015



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Prime Minister Abe attended the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan. During the conference he engaged in talks with world leaders and other notable figures (March 2015).

1. Prime Minister Abe giving a speech at the High Level Segment. 2. Giving a speech at the High Level Partnership Dialogue. 3. With United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. 4. With Zimbabwean president Robert Gabriel Mugabe. 5. With King Mswati III of Swaziland. 6. With Vanuatuan president Baldwin Jacobson Lonsdale. 7. With Micronesian president Emanuel Mori. 8. With Tanzanian prime minister Mizengo Kinyanda Peter Pinda. 9. With Rwandan prime minister Anastase Murekezi. 10. With Kiribatan president Anote Tong. 11. With Thai prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. 12. With Turkmen president Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. 13. With Cambodian prime minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

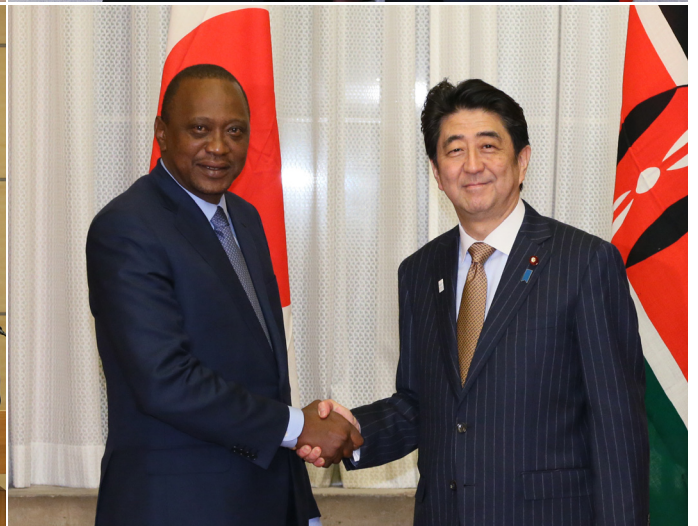
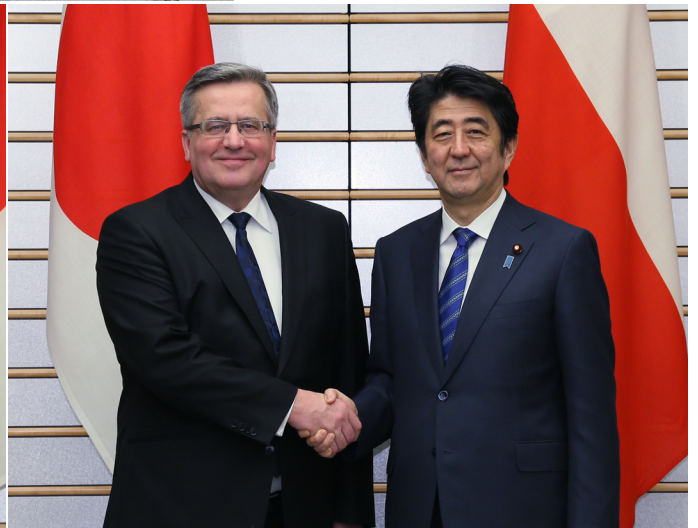
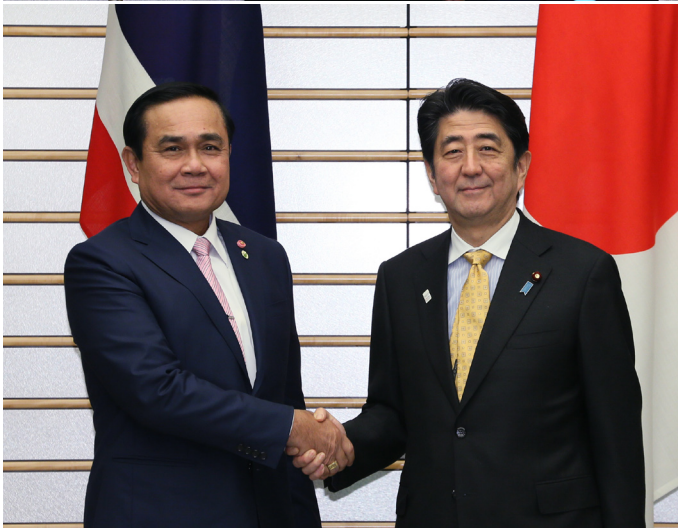


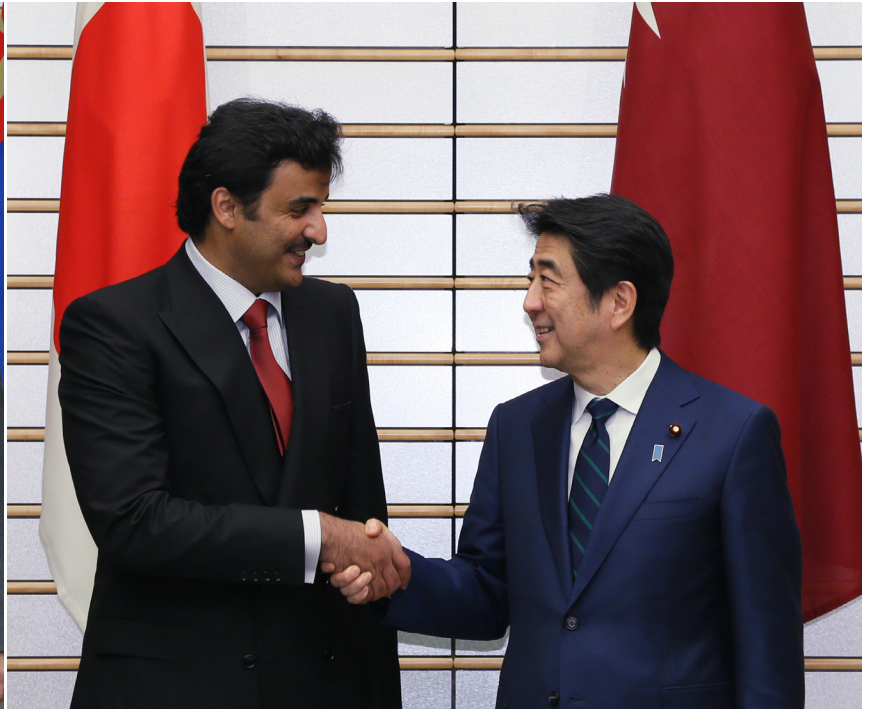


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Prime Minister Abe engaged in bilateral meetings with many world leaders who came to Japan.

1. With German chancellor Angela Merkel (March 2015). 2. With Thai prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha (February 2015). 3. With Polish president Bronislaw Komorowski (February 2015). 4. Making a joint press statement with Laotian prime minister Thongsing Thammavong (March 2015). 5. At a dinner with Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta (March 2015).





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6. With Mongolian prime minister Chimed Saikhanbileg at the Prime Minister's Office (February 2015). 7. With the emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, at the Prime Minister's Office (February 2015). 8. Prime Minister Abe visited Miyagi Prefecture to see firsthand the progress of reconstruction efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake. During his visit he talked with knitters at a business making hand-knitted items and tried on one of their products (February 2015). 9. Giving a speech at a symposium to mark the 70th anniversary of the United Nations at the United Nations University (March 2015). 10. Giving students words of encouragement at a high school graduation ceremony in Fukushima Prefecture, where reconstruction efforts from the Great East Japan Earthquake are progressing (March 2015).

JFK's Three Legacies and Japan

Excerpts from the Address by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe
Delivered in Tokyo, March 18, 2015

At “The Torch Has Been Passed: JFK’s Legacy Today,” a Symposium Jointly Organized by
Waseda University and the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation

Full text: http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201503/jfksymposium.html



There is a book entitled *Profiles in Courage*. For the young students in the audience in particular, you can find a Japanese translation as well, and I highly recommend you read it. This is a book by JFK, the man we honor today. In it, while he was a Senator, before the “torch” was passed to him as president, he recounts the courage displayed by eight of his forerunners in the Senate. As the author himself explains, “courage” is “grace under pressure,” a description I find truly outstanding. As we consider JFK’s legacy, the first thing we should remember is his ability to lead, demonstrating noble grace and

never yielding to pressure, and the guts to back it. In particular, during the Cuban missile crisis, the solitary decision President Kennedy took saved the world from the danger of nuclear war breaking out, making humankind able to continue to live as we do. “Grace under pressure:” to walk the path you believe is right, no matter how much pressure you face. There is a saying of Mencius I often quote that matches this notion exactly. JFK also said that that’s exactly what constitutes courage for a politician. We in Japan saw what leadership was in this young and vigorous president. I think that remains engraved in our mind’s eye even today. And then, what resonates in our mind’s ear is JFK’s voice. It was September 1962, was it not, when he said, in that slightly high-pitched yet deeply penetrating voice, “We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade, ...not because [it is] easy, but because [it is] hard.”

His second legacy is exhibiting to people all around the world the power to dream. And, in fact, the United States succeeded in sending humans to the moon in 1969, just as JFK had pledged. At that time I was a young boy dreaming dreams of my own—naturally I had that time in my life as well—but it was not merely a coincidence in timing. That era was when Japan itself was sprinting as fast as it could towards growth, with the holding of the Tokyo Olympics as a major turning point. Japan had the state of mind of “the little engine that could,” telling itself, “we can do this, we can do this” as it dashed forward. Through that power to dream, I think the U.S. under JFK propelled forward a great number of people and nations all around the

world. It was in 1963 that Japan became a full member of GATT, and the following year, 1964, when Japan became a full-fledged member of the IMF and the OECD. That same year, Tokyo hosted the IMF-World Bank annual meetings just before the Olympics got underway. Each and every one of these symbolizes the post-war resurgence of the Japanese economy and the fact that Japan chose to join the free and democratic camp. Not a single one of these would have come to fruition without the leadership of JFK, who knew a great deal of Japan. This reality is something we are apt to forget. Here we find a legacy of JFK that is important for Japan in particular. JFK's United States gave us all-embracing support as we moved to enter the circle of the developed free world camp during the run-up to the Tokyo Olympics.

After leadership and the power to dream is the determination to battle to stamp out discrimination. That is the third legacy that JFK left us. This year marks the 60th year since the Montgomery bus boycott began. Over 50 years have passed since President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act. And right in the time between those two landmark events was JFK, who stood up for eliminating discrimination based on the color of one's skin. The U.S. was moving forward to remedy glaring injustices through people's own efforts, with people struggling at times and suffering at times. In the civil rights movement, we watched the United States grapple with contradictions. The United States did not exert its leadership throughout the world merely through its power to dream. I believe it was also truly that grace under pressure, that ability to reinvent itself in eliminating discrimination, that led the world. I consider this to be moral leadership that only the post-war United States was able to bring to bear. And I wholeheartedly believe that this also continues to be necessary for the world.

In talking about JFK, there is one scene I cannot help but touch upon, sad as it is. It was the testing day of a simultaneous TV broadcast across the Pacific—the first in history—as part of the run-up to the Tokyo Olympics that would be held the following year. The name of the broadcasting satellite that the United States had launched was "Relay." Many Japanese gathered around their TV sets, knowing that scenes of what was happening at that very moment in the faraway U.S. on the same day at the same time would come streaming into their living rooms. And yet when they turned on their sets with hearts racing, wondering what would appear, it was pictures of Dallas, Texas streaming into their homes. Yes, it was that mournful scene. And so, Ambassador Kennedy, that horrifically tragic incident for your family was seen by the Japanese people—only by the Japanese people, in all the world—in real time, together with you, the people in the U.S., and it became deeply seared into our memory. There are various layers within the relationship joining one country and another. But the deepest layer, the one in which hearts come together, where we share with each other our joys and sorrows and our feelings come rain or come shine, is usually very rare indeed. In Asia, the United States undeniably forged that exceptional relationship here in Japan. I hope you keep that always in mind.

I intend to make the future Japan a country where one can dream dreams, hand-in-hand with many people from China, the ROK, and the rest of Asia. President Clinton, Ambassador Kennedy, and distinguished representatives of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, Japan is now dreaming that kind of dream. Let us, both the United States and Japan, cultivate the ability to dream, as well as reinforce our determination more and more to stamp out discrimination and respect human rights. And in the age to come, let us together make the world a better place, even if only one step at a time. I believe that is the road to properly reciprocating the legacy that JFK left us.

Coastal Cleanup by People Who Are Embracing the Sea: Tackling Trash Washed Ashore on the Coast of Japan

To Change the Sea's Name or to Protect Sea from Debris?

▶ “Sea of Japan” A globally established name
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ac58ARaacAM>

In a small coastal town on the Sea of Japan, a group of people is working diligently to keep the beaches clean. We followed the cleanup efforts led by a woman in the Hokuriku region.

Debris from current in the Sea of Japan often washes ashore on the popular beach destination that is on a bay that faces northwest. We asked a woman, who leads the beach cleanup efforts, about what kinds of things turn up.

She explained that trash typically consists of things like fishing gear, plastic bottles, and polyethylene tanks. And sometimes they find medical waste such as syringes. More than half of the debris comes from outside of Japan, and most of that has Korean writing on it. What is more surprising is that sometimes several items of the same thing wash ashore—leading one to suspect that they were disposed of systematically and intentionally. She also said that medical waste and polyethylene tanks contain residual hazardous substances, such as caustic soda, and are extremely dangerous; because of this they have to take special care to keep children away during their clean up activities.

People who throw such things away must not have given any thought to where they will end up. “In the past when waste was dumped into the sea it eventually dissolved and returned to nature because it was made from organic materials such as straw and wood. By contrast, these days more materials are man-made, and they do not break down when thrown away; they just float along with the current. I think that people’s way of thinking has not kept up with such changes. We want to convey a simple message to Koreans: Don’t dump into the ocean! Don’t pollute the ocean.”

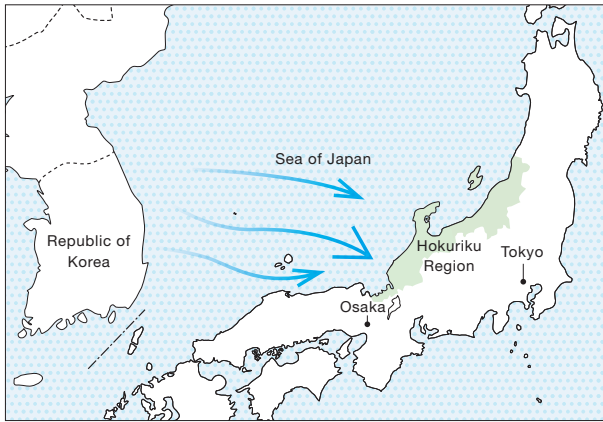
She went on to say, “Some time ago when I heard that trash from Japan was washed ashore in Hawaii, it made me feel ashamed. If people who throw trash into the sea understand that such garbage causes problems far away and share a sense of shame, perhaps things will change.”

The group currently has around 30 members, who conduct cleanup activities once a month. They work with the local government, which supports them by collecting the trash free of charge. They also work to educate children about the importance of keeping the environment clean by having parents pick up trash with their children, especially during school summer holidays and after local events.

The west-facing bay is the final destination for debris that drifts in on the ocean currents, and because the garbage never stops coming, some members comment that the work is never-ending. Despite this, the group continues to work with the following conviction: “If we keep up these efforts, in the end there will be no more trash.”

In this way, the marine environment is protected by the diligent efforts of people who are embracing the sea. People who throw trash into the sea need to be conscious of what is happening and understand the negative consequences of littering.

Recently, a movement to change the name of the Sea of Japan to the East Sea has gained attention in the United States. However, we have to think about this carefully. If we truly care about these waters, preserving the marine environment is far more important than trying to change its name. The ocean transcends national borders. Every person who benefits from the ocean’s bounty must think about the ocean as a whole as well as those on the other sides of it and join together to protect our global marine environment.



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1. The Hokuriku region of Japan is facing the Sea of Japan. 2. People engage in cleanup activities undaunted by the vast amounts of trash that wash ashore.



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3. Korean-made TV that washed ashore. 4. Even refrigerators wash up on the beach. The labels on most of them are in Korean. 5-8. Plastic products like polyethylene tanks and fishing gear, such as rope and buoys, are inorganic and therefore not biodegradable. A considerable amount of trash, such as bottles containing chemicals that you wouldn't even want to touch, also wash ashore.



“Sea of Japan”
A globally established name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ac58ARaacAM>

The *Hina* Dolls That Crossed the Sea

Fifty-three years ago a Japanese woman living in Kitami, a city in Hokkaido, Japan, wrote a letter to the president of the United States, John F. Kennedy, congratulating him on becoming the president. As they were about the same age, she felt an affinity for him. Not long after, she received a thank you letter from the President Kennedy. Moved by the unexpected letter, she sent the president a set of traditional Japanese *hina* dolls to express her gratitude.

Hina dolls are dolls that Japanese people display in their homes for *Hinamatsuri* (Doll Festival), a traditional Japanese festival celebrated on March 3 to pray for the health, safety, and growth of their daughters. The festival itself dates back to the twelfth century, and by the seventeenth century the dolls became part of aristocratic women's dowries.

Half a century later, Kennedy's oldest daughter Caroline began her service as U.S. ambassador to Japan. In preparation for the *Hinamatsuri* in March 2015, the ambassador sent for the *hina* dolls, which were being stored at the United States National Archives and Records Administration, and displayed them at the ambassador's official residence. At the same time she asked for an extensive search to be carried out to find "Matsumoto-san from Kitami," the woman who sent the dolls. In February, she was finally tracked down.

Matsumoto-san from Kitami, whose full name is Tsuyako Matsumoto, is now ninety-two years old and living in a nursing home in Kitami. "I never thought I would receive a reply from the president. It made me really happy," Matsumoto says, looking back. She was so moved by the letter that she bought a set of *hina* dolls with the money she earned from her part-time job and sent it to the White House. "It was a pretty expensive and hard-to-find set, so I thought it would surprise him."

President Kennedy gave Matsumoto's dolls to his beloved daughter Caroline when she was four years old. "When I was a little girl many people from the world sent me dolls from their home country. But these were among the most special because they were so beautiful."

The *hina* doll set she was given is a complete seven-platform set of fifteen dolls including *sannin-kanjo* (three court ladies) and *gonin-bayashi* (five musicians). "What a wonderful country Japan must be," she recalls thinking as a young child.

In February 2015, Matsumoto received a thank you letter and video message from Ambassador Kennedy through the United States Consulate General in Sapporo. The letter read, "I am so happy to be able to bring the *hina* dolls back home to Japan and display them at the ambassador's residence as a symbol of friendship between the United States and Japan." In the video, the ambassador said, "I would like to thank her for sending these beautiful dolls all the way to the United States such a long time ago. It really shows me that when we send gifts out into the world, you never really know whose lives you are going to touch and change."

"It moved me beyond words," said Matsumoto when she saw the video, wiping tears from her eyes. "Thank you so much for treasuring the dolls."

Now back home in Japan, Matsumoto's beautiful dolls were displayed at the ambassador's official residence for *Hinamatsuri* on March 3.



Ambassador of the United States to Japan Caroline Kennedy brought her *hina* dolls home to Japan in 2015 and displays them in the ambassador's official residence in March.



1. Tsuyako Matsumoto holding a photograph from Ambassador Kennedy. When Matsumoto saw the photo she was at a loss for words, "You treasured them so much..." she said. 2. *Hina* dolls' costumes emulate the attire worn by the nobility of the imperial court (the photograph is of the empress doll). 3. Kennedy and Chief of Staff Debra DeShong Reed admiring the *hina* dolls at the ambassador's official residence. (photos by Courtesy of the United States Embassy Tokyo)

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The Cherry Blossoms Blooming Friendship Between Japan and the United States

The cherry trees along the banks of the Potomac, blooming every year in late March and early April, are emblematic of spring in Washington DC. The roughly 4,000 trees are a treasure enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. The National Cherry Blossom Festival, which dates back to 1927, now attracts over 1.5 million people every year. It is a huge social occasion that brings everyone together, and the root of this “cherry blossom diplomacy” was one Japanese man: Jokichi Takamine.

Takamine was a biologist, best known for discovering the enzyme takadiastase and the hormone adrenalin. At the age of thirty-six he emigrated to the United States, and until his death at the age of sixty-eight he continued his research in the United States. Because of his many accomplishments, he is sometimes called the “father of modern biotechnology.”

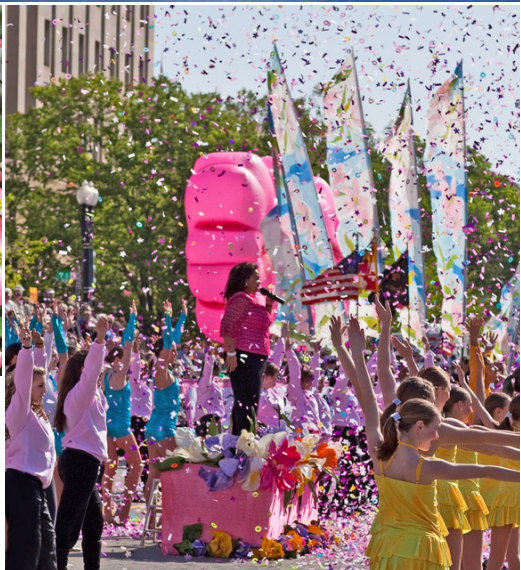
Cherry trees were first brought to Washington DC over 100 years ago. In 1909, First Lady Helen Taft had the idea of planting cherry trees along the banks of the Potomac, which Takamine enthusiastically supported. He made an appeal to the mayor of Tokyo, Yukio Ozaki, to bring beautiful cherry trees, the symbol of Japan, to the United States. In the following year, with the cooperation of the city of Tokyo and funding from Takamine’s own pocket, approximately 2,000 cherry trees were presented to Washington DC. Unfortunately, however, just before planting, a quarantine inspection revealed that the trees were infested and they were all incinerated. But Takamine did not give up; two years later, in 1912, another 6,000 trees were procured in Japan and arrived safely in the United States; half of those were delivered in Washington DC. This was the beginning of the famous cherry trees of Washington DC.

Today, about 100 of those original trees are still standing, including the very first one, planted by First Lady Helen Taft herself. Typically, cherry trees live about 70 years, but the trees in Washington DC have been very well managed under conditions very suitable for their preservation. Takamine’s cherry trees and their descendants have graced the shores of the Potomac for a century or more.

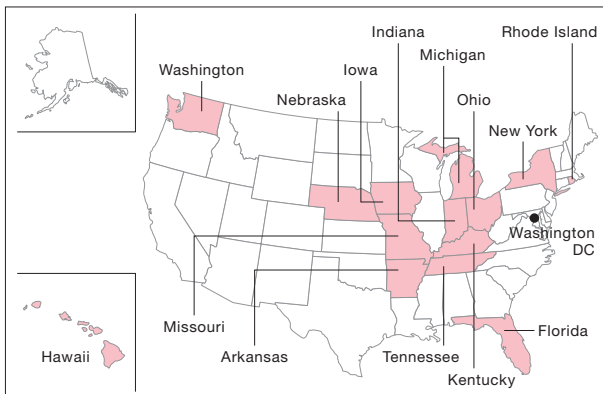
The movie director, Toru Ichikawa, who made a film about Takamine on location in America, said:

When the infestation of the original cherry trees was discovered, some newspapers in the United States had some very harsh things to say, creating a difficult situation. But Takamine’s motto was “try, try again.” He was not daunted by this criticism, and he fought to bring another batch of Japanese cherry trees to America. As a result, his cherry trees are loved by many Americans as a symbol of Japan-the United States friendship. It is fair to say that the “diplomacy of flowers” has borne great fruit.

This tale of the gifted flowers has a second chapter. In 1915, three years after the Japanese trees were successfully introduced, the United States government sent a gift to the city of Tokyo: seeds and saplings of dogwood, considered a symbol of America. These were the first dogwoods ever to be planted in Japan. Like the cherry trees of Washington DC, to this day they are beloved by many people in Japan as a symbol of spring.



SAKURA PROJECT



In 2012, to mark the centennial of Japan's gift of cherry trees to the United States, cherry tree planting projects were launched in fourteen U.S. states (Rhode Island, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Nebraska, Florida, Washington, and Hawaii), with the cooperation of twenty organizations.

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1. The most popular spots for a snapshot on the banks of the Potomac River have cherry trees with the Jefferson Memorial in the background.(photo by Aflo) 2. Jokichi Takamine (1854-1922) is known as one of Japan's ten greatest inventors for his discoveries of the enzyme takadiastase and the hormone adrenalin.(photo by Dr.Jokichi Takamine Kenshokai) 3. In 1915, dogwood trees were sent from America in thanks for Japan's gift of cherry trees. This episode of international exchange was highlighted in middle-school English textbooks in Japan (revised in 1981).(photo by Aflo) 4. Every year, more than 1.5 million people visit the National Cherry Blossom Festival. The crowning event of the three-week festival is the parade, with marching bands, giant balloons, hip-hop dancers and other entertainments. (National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade®)

Japanese Prime Ministers Who Have Delivered an Address at the United States Congress

The United States is a country of freedom and democracy. The first Japanese prime minister to deliver an address at the United States Congress was Shigeru Yoshida in 1954, more than 60 years ago. Later, Prime Ministers Nobusuke Kishi and Hayato Ikeda also delivered an address at the United States Congress. They all helped to strengthen the alliance between Japan and the United States and contributed to peace and prosperity in both countries and around the world.

Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi is known for accomplishing a complete revision of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America (Japan-United States Security Treaty). He was also instrumental in setting the course for a welfare state through the establishment of national pension and public healthcare systems and the introduction of a minimum wage system. Other praiseworthy achievements include the New Long-Term Economic Plan, reflation measures, and the boosting of infrastructure through the Five-Year Plan for Road Construction.

On June 20, 1957, Kishi spoke of the ideals of democracy in an address at a Senate Reception. He talked of how Japan was working together with the free countries of the world and that as an Asian democracy, the United States was its most important ally. He also passionately described his hopes for a firm and lasting friendship.

In the second half of his tenure, while Kishi was revising the Japan-United States Security Treaty, cold war tensions between the western and eastern blocs spread into Japan, bringing political instability. But the revision of the treaty helped ensure Japanese security in a volatile Asia and in maintaining world peace.

Kishi's successor as prime minister was Hayato Ikeda, known for proposing the Income-Doubling Plan. Having inherited the foundation of the Security Treaty and a social security system, Ikeda focused his efforts on boosting the economy and opening it up to the world. As a result, national income doubled in just four years, in what was dubbed an "economic miracle," as Ikeda built a platform for Japan's period of rapid economic growth.

On June 22, 1961, Ikeda delivered an address at a House Reception. He stressed the importance of nation-building based on democracy and stated that Japan's economic growth through the Income-Doubling Plan had been achieved through a liberal system. He also stated that Japan would play a more active role to ensure peace and progress in the international community and that it had moved from the being a country that received support to one that provided it.

Ikeda's other shining achievements include major improvements to the road and rail system and the successful hosting of the Tokyo Olympics, the first games held in Asia, bringing the eyes of the world on Japan and its capital city.

In the postwar era, supported by its close ties with the United States, Japan achieved peace and prosperity through national security and economic growth. Today, the fruits of that peace and prosperity are enjoyed around the world.



Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi addresses the United States Senate (June 1957). (©Bettmann/CORBIS/amanaimages)



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1. Prime Minister Kishi chatting with President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the White House (June 1957). (photo by AP/Aflo)
2. Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda with President John F. Kennedy at the White House (June 1961). (photo by AP/Aflo)

Japanese People Contributing Worldwide

Mother and Child-Friendly Advanced Medical Care

In Miami, Florida, in the United States, a Japanese woman is dedicated to prenatal diagnosis of congenital heart disease. Nicklaus Children's Hospital plans to add an obstetrics department by 2017, with the aim of becoming a pediatric cardiology medical center capable of providing comprehensive care—from diagnosis, childbirth, and surgery to aftercare. Dr. Nao Sasaki is one of the project's key members.

"Prenatal diagnosis greatly benefits not only the expectant mother but also the baby to be born," says Dr. Sasaki. Prenatal diagnosis refers to testing the unborn child for birth defects while it is still in the womb. Dr. Sasaki specializes in diagnosing heart defects with ultrasound diagnostic imaging. In the case of serious illness, unless surgery is performed immediately after birth, the baby may lose its life within a few days. If prenatal diagnosis is not carried out and a problem is discovered after the child is born, the delay in action will put the newborn at greater risk, and telling the mother that her child has a birth defect while she is in such a stressed state after giving birth can cause her great psychological trauma.

"I am the mother of two children, so my experience of giving birth makes it easy for me to relate to the worries of expectant mothers. After giving birth, the mother's hormones are out of balance and she will be exhausted and both mentally and physically unstable. Hearing that her baby has a heart defect can cause immeasurable psychological trauma. Providing the mother with the correct information and explaining the need for surgery before the baby is born allows her to mentally prepare and eases her anxieties."

But telling the mother is far from easy. Dr. Sasaki told us about one case in which prenatal diagnosis revealed a serious heart defect in the unborn child. Unless surgery was performed immediately after birth, the child would not survive. Explaining this to the mother was very hard. The mother became very upset when she was told that her baby had a heart defect.

"That's the hardest part of my job. But I try to explain to them in a calm, straightforward manner. I do my best to ease their worries and gain their trust. I tell them that their child's heart is different from a normal one and that surgery and after care will be necessary; I also tell them that I will be with them every step of the way, before and after the baby is born."

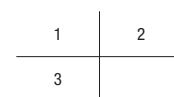
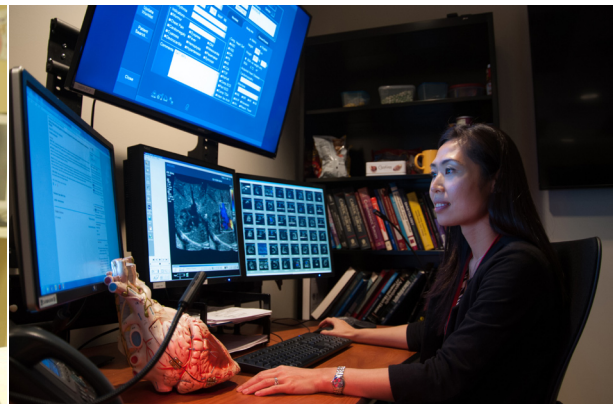
That mother gave birth to a boy, and he currently receives regular examinations at the hospital. He is now two and walking steadily. When he sees Dr. Sasaki, he runs to her with a big smile on his face. "Such moments make me realize I chose the right profession. It makes me really happy that I'm a doctor."

"In Florida, there is still much that needs to be improved about comprehensive care for expectant mothers whose children have birth defects. Our plan for the future is to carry out prenatal diagnoses for children with serious disorders here, deliver them here, and perform surgeries here if necessary. In other words, our goal is to be able to provide total care for both mother and child without having to separate them."



Nao Sasaki

Nao Sasaki graduated from Tokyo Medical and Dental University in 2003. She served as an intern at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Yokosuka, Japan, and moved to the United States in 2004. After completing her residency in general pediatrics and pediatric cardiology in New York, she worked in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Miami until 2014. She is currently a pediatric cardiologist at Nicklaus Children's Hospital, where she specializes in diagnostic imaging, focusing particularly on fetal echocardiography.



1. Offering advice to an expecting mother during a prenatal ultrasound examination.
2. Reading an echocardiogram in the Non-invasive Laboratory.
3. The new ER entrance.

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.



1

2

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>

Japan's Regional Strength

Okayama Prefecture has developed as a transport hub for western Japan and has fostered the growth of a range of industries and economic and cultural activities. It is also a center for manufacturing technology, with industries concentrated at such sites as the Mizushima Coastal Industrial Complex. This article introduces efforts to encourage foreign investment in the prefecture.

Okayama Prefecture: Clear Signs of Regional Revitalization

“Rather than shutting the door to what comes from overseas, Okayama Prefecture always remains open to the outside world. By letting in international capital, technologies, and tourists, as well as stimulating exchange of human resources, I would like to develop Okayama into a wealthy region by making maximum use of its potential,” explains Ryuta Ibaragi, governor of Okayama Prefecture.

After working for a foreign management consulting firm, he earned an MBA at Stanford University, and went on to hone his practical experience working in tough business environments both in Japan and in other countries. His knowledge of international business has shaped his active efforts to attract companies to the area.

Okayama Prefecture is an ideal place for business. One reason for this is the excellent climate; it is warm and there is little rain, and the prefecture is known as the “land of sunshine.” The abundant water sources mean that there is a good supply of industrial water, ensuring smooth manufacturing operations.

The prefecture's convenient transport connections are another strength. They include an extensive expressway network, Shinkansen, Japanese high-speed train, and other rail links, daily flights to Seoul and Shanghai from Okayama Airport, and eighteen regular international container services a week along seventeen routes from the Port of Mizushima. These connections allow for business expansion in Japan and continental Asia.

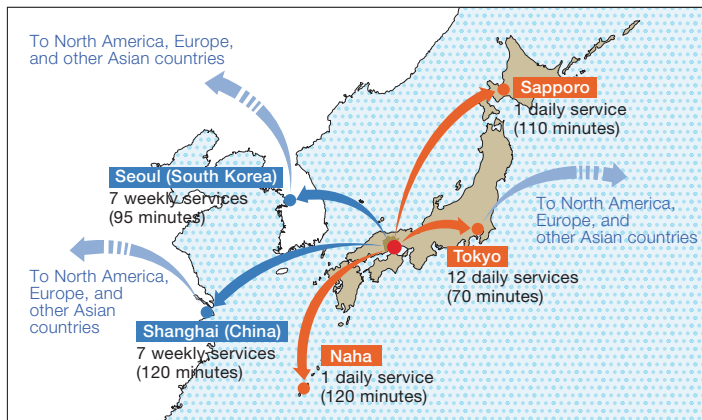
The superb business environment has brought many of Japan's leading companies in the steel, automobile, chemical, oil refining, shipbuilding, and other industries to Okayama Prefecture. Efforts aimed at boosting foreign investment in Japan include plans to work particularly on encouraging industries in the fields of ultra-precision equipment, biotechnology, medicine, welfare, health, and the environment. With the same goal in mind, the prefecture is also focusing on production and research in the growth fields of new energy, next-generation vehicles, and aerospace.

Specific policies for attracting overseas corporations to relocate to the area include setting up a subsidy system to encourage the transfer of head office functions to Okayama (JPY 500,000 [USD 4,200] per person up to a maximum of JPY 25 million [USD 210,000]) and promotion of the development and establishment of new industrial parks to take in companies. In addition, the prefecture plans to create new port facilities and reinforce the international competitiveness of the Port of Mizushima to coincide with the fiscal 2017 start of operations of a foodstuffs complex with a total investment of JPY 27 billion (USD 225 million) at Tamashima Harbor Island in the port.

While putting in place structures to welcome foreign companies, Okayama Prefecture is also actively developing overseas markets for its agricultural products. Under the Okayama brand, it is proactively advertising the Shimizu white peach, Muscat and Pione grapes, and other fruits for which the region is already known throughout Japan for its exceptional harvest. The governor himself visited various locations last year, including Malaysia and Singapore, to promote agricultural products and is working to bolster sales in Asia.

“The more overseas businesses actively invest, the more they will gain. And through deeper mutual exchange, I believe that both Okayama and Japan itself will become richer.”

Okayama Airport's Excellent Connections to Asia



Regular international container routes from the Port of Mizushima



South Korea	Busan, Incheon, Ulsan, Pohang
China	Shanghai, Dalian, Qingdao, Xiamen, Fuzhou, Ningbo, Tianjin
Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang
Taiwan	Kaohsiung, Taichung, Taipei

Fruits grown in Okayama are popular with overseas consumers



The prefecture holds Okayama Fairs, mainly in Asia, such as in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia, where it actively promotes Shimizu white peaches, Muscat grapes, and other Okayama-grown fruits.

Development of a new industrial district attracts foreign businesses



The Okayama Research Park industrial district aims to increase the level and added value of the prefecture's industry. The prefectural government plans to establish additional similar business districts, promote strategic efforts to attract businesses, and bring top businesses to the area. Total investment in land for industrial use last fiscal year was JPY 68 billion (USD 567 million). Available employment opportunities are expected to increase by 900.

Basic facts and figures



The population of Okayama Prefecture is around 1.92 million. The prefecture is located 180 kilometers (110 miles) west of Osaka and serves as a transportation hub in the Seto Inland Sea. A total of 16 million people live within two hours' travel time by expressway. Manufacturing accounts for a large proportion of the industrial sector, with many of Japan's top material, fiber, and machine processing companies located in the area.



Governor Ryuta Ibaragi

Governor Ibaragi was born in 1966 in Okayama Prefecture. After graduating from the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Tokyo in 1990, he joined a foreign management consulting firm. In 1995, he earned an MBA at Stanford and in 1998 became chairman of his family's company, Tenmaya Co., Ltd. In 2012, he was elected as governor of Okayama Prefecture.

So Much to See and Do!

Japan's Regional Areas

Dignitaries from Overseas Visiting Various Places throughout Japan

Japan comprises a long string of islands stretching north to south, located in a temperate zone. Its climate and landscape vary greatly from region to region, and each town and village has unique charms. And because Japan has four distinct seasons, you can enjoy different sights at the same place different times of the year. From the scenery of mountains and rivers to the locally rooted lifestyles and diverse food culture, everything is intricately intertwined with the changing of the seasons, so one can always find something new and interesting no matter how many times one visits.

Wanting more dignitaries from other countries to experience such local charms, the government of Japan is actively encouraging them to visit regional cities when they come to Japan. Let's take a look at the trips taken by President Christopher J. Loeak of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and President Emanuel Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia.

President Loeak visited Hiroshima Prefecture in February 2014. Hiroshima is well known throughout the world as a city that was devastated by an atomic bomb, but it also boasts many sightseeing destinations, such as Hiroshima Castle, Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, and other historical buildings. After touring Peace Memorial Park and Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the president visited Miyajima Island, where the famous Itsukushima Shinto Shrine is located. Listed as a World Heritage Site, the shrine features uniquely designed structures built on the water, such as the immense 16.6-meter (54.4-foot) *torii* gate rising out of the sea and the vermilion-lacquered corridor that leads to the shrine. President Loeak's heart was surely moved by Hiroshima's hope for world peace, and he experienced two faces of Hiroshima—its beautiful scenery and its vibrant townscapes.

President Mori visited Kochi Prefecture, the birthplace of his great-grandfather, in November 2014. Located in the southern part of Shikoku facing the Pacific Ocean, Kochi boasts a rich natural landscape of lush forests and picturesque shores, and is blessed with the bounty of land and sea. The president visited the Kochi Prefectural Industrial Technology Center and watched attentively as liquor was made from local citrus fruits and bananas. Next he visited the Makino Botanical Garden, where he planted a breadfruit tree with Kochi Prefectural Governor Masanao Ozaki as a symbol of the friendship between Kochi and Micronesia. The breadfruit tree can grow up to 15 meters (about 50 feet) tall. The occasion has surely provided fertile ground for the friendship between Japan and Micronesia to grow just as big.

Several other dignitaries have visited other regional cities—each with its own unique qualities. We hope that readers will visit Japan's regional cities as well.



1 & 2. President Loeak offering flowers at the Peace Memorial Park. 3. The famous immense *torii* World Heritage Site at Itsukushima Shinto Shrine.



4. President Mori watching attentively as machines make liquor from local fruits. 5. President Mori and Kochi Prefectural Governor Ozaki taking part in a commemorative breadfruit tree planting ceremony.

Please use the links below to see videos of visits to regional Japan by overseas leaders:

▶ **President of the Marshall Islands visits Hiroshima**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mO4_jWfOQKk

▶ **President of Micronesia visits Kochi**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEunFX-051Y>

For more videos of places dignitaries have visited in Japan, do a search for "dignitaries visiting Japan from overseas" on the Prime Minister's Office of Japan YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/pmojapan>

Innovative Vehicle That Runs on Next-Generation Energy

The first mass-produced Fuel Cell Vehicle (FCV)

The world's first mass-produced fuel cell vehicle (FCV) went on sale in December 2014. It runs on hydrogen, takes only three minutes to refuel, and has a cruising range of 650 km (404 miles). It produces zero emissions and is more than twice as energy-efficient as gasoline-powered cars. The car has created quite a stir and has drawn attention from both within and outside of Japan. Using hydrogen as fuel—a promising, next-generation energy that is a virtually unlimited source of power—this ultimate eco-friendly car will no doubt dramatically change the over 100-year history of the gasoline engine. The future of the automobile for the next 100 years lies with the FCV.

Research and development for the FCV started in Japan in the early 1990s. It took over twenty years to reach commercial application. A representative from Toyota Motor Corporation, the company which is bringing the FCV to mass market, had the following to say, “In order to continue using cars, we have to overcome the fuel problem. Fossil fuels that we use today such as gasoline are a limited resource. And burning it emits CO₂, which causes global warming. Hydrogen energy can solve these problems in one stroke. That is why the hydrogen-powered FCV is being called the ideal eco-car.”

The FCV generates electricity by causing a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen in a fuel cell. This electricity powers the motor that runs the car. The core technologies are the fuel cell and high-pressure hydrogen tanks. And through repeated rigorous testing, Toyota was able to improve performance and safety, and achieve a compact, low-cost solution.

“We’re an auto manufacturer so we have plenty of knowledge and experience of mechanics. But the core technology of this car is based on chemistry, so it really was unknown territory for us. Developing a car that would be the first of its kind was a worthwhile challenge,” continues the representative.

In addition to the core technology, Toyota also incorporated technology from its hybrid vehicles to reduce costs. Defying speculation that it would be impossible to price the car under JPY 100 million (USD 830,000), the sticker price has been set in the JPY 7 million plus range (USD 58,000 upwards). And an incentive for advanced vehicles offered by the Japanese government brings the price down to JPY 5 million plus range (USD 42,000 upwards). With such an affordable price, orders have been overwhelming. In the first month of its launch, Toyota has received orders for 1,500 cars. It is so popular that orders placed now will not be delivered until 2018.

But challenges still remain before FCVs become widespread. Even with its extended cruising range, there are not enough fueling stations to ease drivers’ worries of running out of fuel. Aiming to create an environment where people can easily refuel hydrogen fuel cells, the national and local governments are working together with energy companies and other corporations to build more hydrogen stations. Many people also wonder if hydrogen is safe or not. If more people understand that it is safe if used correctly, it will surely drive the spread of FCV.

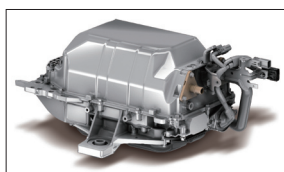
The realization of the “hydrogen age,” the next energy revolution, is off to a running start in the tangible form of a car. And when the world sees the FCV on the streets of Tokyo during 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, it will be a great way for Japan to promote its cutting-edge next-generation energy technology.



1 | 2

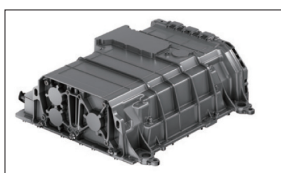
1. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe test drove the FCV and commented, "The car was very easy to drive, stylish, and good for the environment, and I believe it represents the start of a new era." 2. The design on the side of the car going towards the back reflects flowing water being created from the air.

Operating principles



Fuel cell boost converter

A compact, high-efficiency, high-capacity converter newly developed to boost fuel cell stack voltage to 650V. A boost converter is used to obtain an output with a higher voltage than the input.



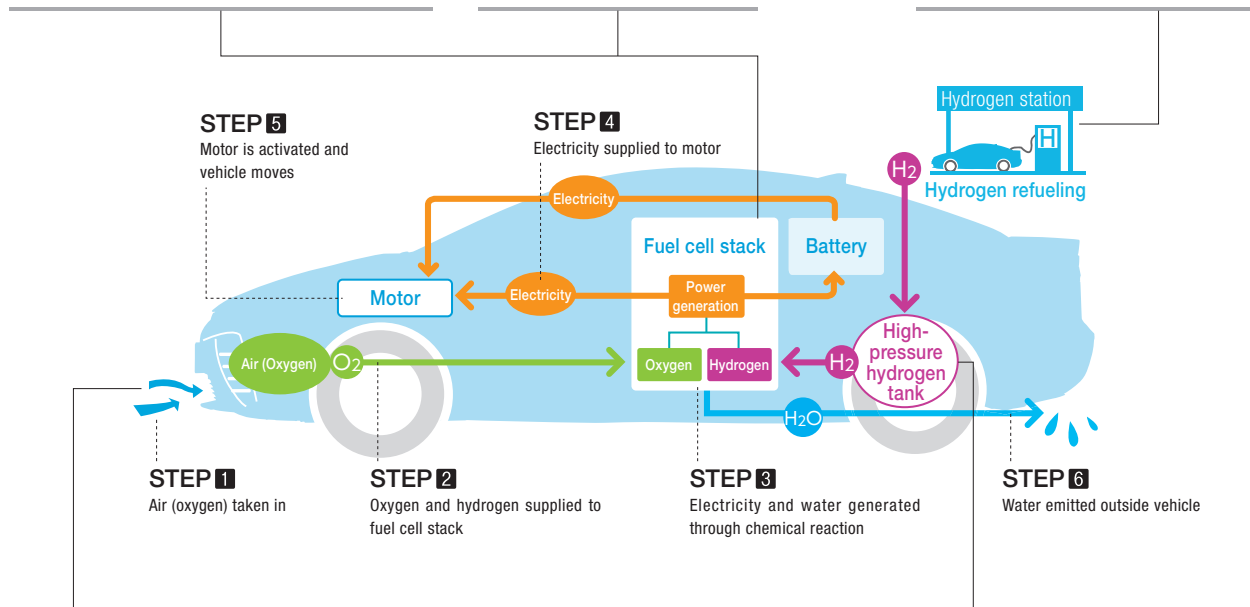
Fuel cell stack

Mass-production fuel cell, featuring a compact size and the world's top level output density.



Hydrogen refueling

In response to new fueling standards — the same in Japan, the United States, and Europe —, fueling time of approximately three minutes has been achieved.



Aerodynamics

Clearance lamps designed to streamline airflow.



High-pressure hydrogen tank

Tank storing hydrogen as fuel. The nominal working pressure is a high pressure level of 70 MPa (approx. 700 bar). The compact, lightweight tanks feature the world's top level tank storage density.

Friends of Japan

In this report we introduce the life and work of a friend of Japan.



James French

Employed at Panasonic since 1995, James “Jim” French, has been the president of Panasonic R&D Company of America since April 2010. He helped to start up the Panasonic Semiconductor Development Company in Cupertino. In his free time, he enjoys home renovation, and volunteering.

Tradition Meets Modernity— the Japanese Way of Living and Working

My first encounter with a Japanese approach to business was in 1995 in Silicon Valley, California. It was then that I was asked to help establish the American arm of one of the best-known Japanese electronics companies. Although my knowledge of Japanese culture was limited, I was determined to work for a Japanese company. I strongly felt that working for a Japanese company would allow me to immerse myself in a new challenge and learn a new way of thinking and doing.

An enjoyable part of working for a Japanese multi-national is the way they take delight in making the customer happy. This isn't just a company mantra; it is an important part of doing business. And, while speed is important, the Japanese cherish a deliberate way of working. Teamwork is also highly regarded, while the individual is allowed to feel that they can make a valued contribution. The Japanese also prioritize personnel development over creating products.

When I think about it, of all the Japanese principles of business I've encountered, I mostly revere the following: contribution to society, fairness and honesty, cooperation and team spirit, untiring efforts for improvement, courtesy and humility, adaptability, and gratitude. These are the seven core values of Konosuke Matsushita, the Japanese industrialist who founded Panasonic in 1918, and this was the company I would later help establish in the United States. I truly believe these principles are also a core part of Japanese life.

Since my work allows me to travel to Japan, I have seen how these values come together in the private and public lives of the Japanese. During my first trip, in 1996, I was able to visit a number of cities including Tokyo and Osaka. I fondly remember the humility, friendliness, and sensitivity with which I was welcomed. Simple unspoken gestures, such as anticipating the other person's needs, are among the reasons each visit has been so pleasant. I always feel a preference in Japan for building personal relationships, and for face-to-face business contacts.

On subsequent visits I have developed a greater understanding and appreciation of the culture, including the food, of Japan—from the patient and majestic actions of the tea ceremony, to the all-important *wa* (harmony). Indeed, I find Japan to be a land of simple yet ancient customs that have a strong reverence for the proper way of doing things and peaceful coexistence.

Twenty years after I joined the company that Matsushita built, I have to say that my knowledge of and respect for Japanese business and culture has deepened. This culture has also influenced my own professional and personal ethics. That is why I try to give back to society in the best way I can. As I am passionate about education, I not only volunteer in my old university's student advisory council, but also take part in the sister-city programs between my hometown in Sunnyvale, California, and Iizuka City in Fukuoka Prefecture, including student exchanges. These activities are in large part due to a long and fruitful life during which I've enjoyed doing business the Japanese way.



Jim French meeting with university students after giving a lecture on engineering innovation and entrepreneurship.

The JET Programme: A Great Way to Experience Japan

Finding Shared Values and Building Lifelong Friendships

My interest in Japan grew after my freshman year at university in 1981 after I read a book called *Japan as Number One*, by Ezra Vogel. Around the same time, I started practicing a Japanese martial art called Shorinji Kempo which increased my interest in Japan. I came to realize that Asia, including Japan, was not only off the beaten track for Americans but also where the future would be and I began to study Japanese.

Arriving in Japan in 1985 as a Monbusho (Ministry of Education, Science and Culture)* English Fellow (MEF), I became an Assistant English Teacher (AET) in Gifu Prefecture. In the next two years I visited a great many junior high and high schools in the prefecture.

My goal was to inspire students to develop an interest in speaking English and the outside world. I felt like an ambassador enabling the kids to expand their dreams. I also supported teacher-training programs to help Japanese colleagues use English as a tool of communication.

In my third year in Japan, the MEF Programme became the JET Programme, and I am proud to have been one of the first participants in JET— by then I was a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) in Gifu, a position that covered prefectural and local government as well as grass-roots and local business relations.

With the Gifu-Chubu Future Expo (Expo '88) being held that same year, I was able to be involved in the planning and implementing of a variety of events. And the connections I was able to build through this became a valuable asset for me.

Indeed, what attracted me to the JET Programme in the first place was a desire to immerse myself in Japanese culture, and JET was the best way I could think of to do that. My experiences as an AET and CIR have played, and continue to play, a significant role in my life ever since.

I learned, for instance, that as an American I share many of the same values as the Japanese—values such as commitment, strong relationships, good health, self-reliance, and focus on quality—even if our languages are different.

The knowledge I acquired in Japan has helped me build my career as an entrepreneur. Today I am the president and CEO of an omni-channel brand response company which offers products under the concept of “enriching lifestyles worldwide,” and the response has been fantastic. We operate not only in Japan but across Asia, offering great products and brand with Japanese service. Such brands are very popular outside of Japan as people see products that are well-received in Japan as synonymous with quality. Even though we may speak different languages, the desire for quality products is universal.

The JET Programme changed my life. To aspiring JET program applicants, I say: come to Japan with a passion to share and to learn; you will meet great people, learn, and build lifelong friendships for your career and for your life.



Harry A. Hill

Entrepreneur, philanthropist and participant in the first year of the JET Programme. Originally from New York City, Hill's life and career has traversed the United States and Japan and won him the highest accolades in both countries. He is the CEO of a company that runs an omni-channel brand response company called Shop Japan.

*Now known as Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)



1. Teaching as a young AET teacher in Gifu Prefecture.
2. Harry A. Hill is an accomplished martial artist with a passion for the Japanese martial art of Shorinji Kempo.
3. Hill places great importance on communicating well with his colleagues.

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 2014, the JET Programme welcomed 4,476 participants, and currently, there are approximately 60,000 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>.

Websites

Official Websites of the Government and Related 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)



pp.28-29

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/tb/index.html>
t (US) https://twitter.com/Visit_Japan

JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization)



pp.26-27

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/>

JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Programme



pp.34-35

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>

Publications

Official Publications from the Government and Related 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”

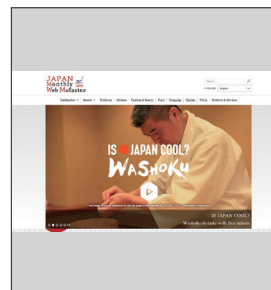
Explains policies being instituted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) in an easy-to-understand manner.

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



Bimonthly

Japan National Tourism Organization



“Monthly Web Magazine”

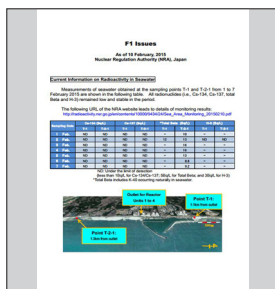
Each issue provides seasonal and updated information on three select features.

<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

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