

# We Are *Tomodachi*

## Summer 2015



The Government of Japan

We Are *Tomodachi*  
Summer 2015





Prime Minister Abe attended the Summit Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Asian African Conference 1955 (Bandung Conference) held in Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia (April 2015).

# *Ryo*



涼 *ryo*

The character *ryo* (涼) consists of two elements. The left side of the character represents water, and the right side represents a house on a high hill. It is used mainly to mean “cool,” from the idea of water that is refreshingly cool like the breezes at a well-aired elevation.

Over the years the Japanese have come up with a variety of simple ways to find cooling relief during the hot and humid days of summer, such as with paper fans, both rigid and folding, and servings of shaved ice with syrup, as well as by sprinkling water to cool off the ground in front of their homes and shops. Nowadays, of course, people rely heavily on air conditioners to keep them cool. Thanks to ongoing technological advances, Japan’s air conditioners are among the world’s most energy-efficient. And new technologies continue to emerge and spread, including equipment that sprays “dry mist” to cool the air. Meanwhile, increasing use is being made of eco-friendly approaches to keeping the temperature inside buildings down, such as by growing “green curtains” of vines on the sides of buildings and planting greenery on rooftops.

Japanese people consider it “cool” to enjoy the heat in style. Wouldn’t it be cool to come to Japan and experience this summertime savvy for yourself?

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# Beautiful Summer Destinations



## Field of Lavender: Furano, Hokkaido

Hokkaido, at a latitude corresponding roughly to the area from southern France to northern Spain in Europe and to Boston in North America, has natural beauty on a grand scale and a comfortably cool summer season, making it a popular tourist destination. In Furano, located at the center of the prefecture, lavender plants in bloom color the fields purple from June through early August. Many visitors come and enjoy the picturesque scenery and the scent of lavender carried on the wind.





### **Kamikochi: Nagano Prefecture**

The Japan Alps, with a series of peaks topping 3,000 meters (10,000 feet), are a grand repository of nature and attract many climbers. Kamikochi, located in a valley among the peaks, was introduced to people around the world through the glowing descriptions of Walter Weston (1861–1940), the British missionary who is called the father of modern mountaineering in Japan, and now attracts 1.2 million visitors annually. A ban on private cars has helped preserve the environment, and visitors continue to be captivated by the splendid scenery, such as the view of majestic peaks and the Azusa River from Kappa Bridge, a wooden suspension bridge.

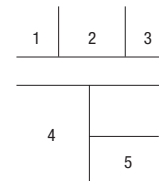
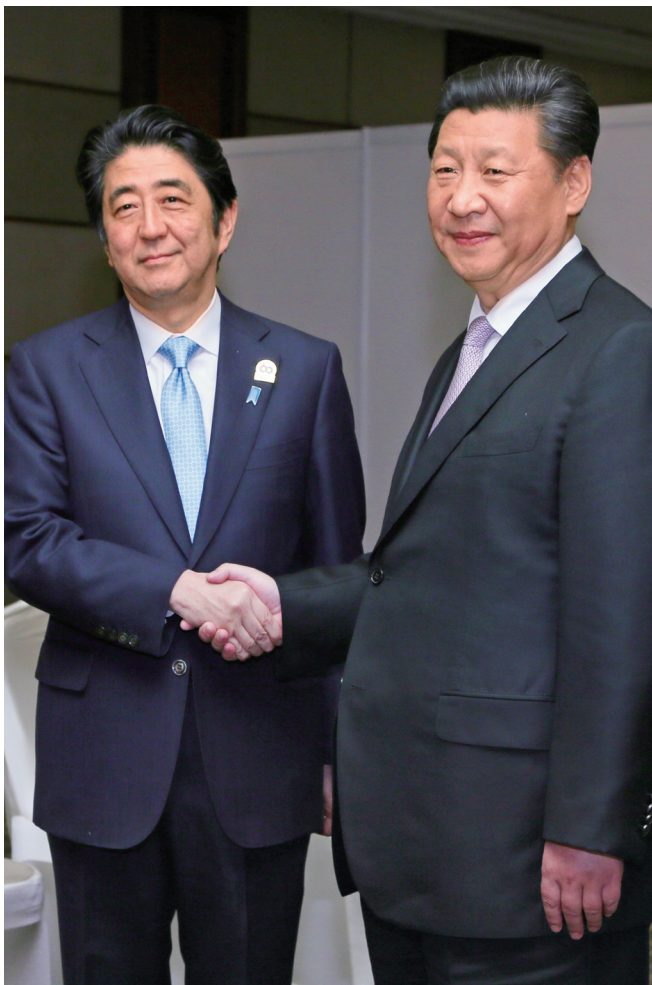




Asian African Summit  
 Strengthening South-South Cooperation  
 to Promote World Peace and Prosperity  
 Jakarta, Indonesia, 22-23 April 2015



## Moments of Prime Minister Abe in Summer 2015



On the occasion of his attendance at the Asian African Summit, Prime Minister Abe exchanged views with a number of other top leaders (April 2015).

1. With His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan.
2. Being welcomed by President Joko Widodo of Indonesia.
3. With President Hassan Rouhani of Iran.
4. With President Xi Jinping of China.
5. With Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh.







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Prime Minister Abe made the first official visit to the United States by a Japanese prime minister in nine years. He attended a number of events in Washington DC (April 2015). 6. Welcome ceremony at the White House. 7 & 8. Walking around the Lincoln Memorial guided by President Barack Obama. (8. ©Kyodo News) 9. Summit meeting with President Obama. 10. Visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.





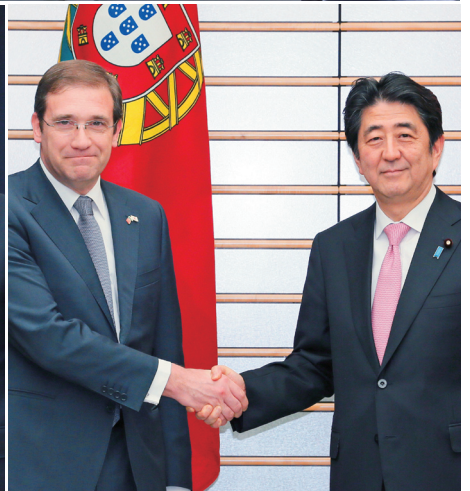
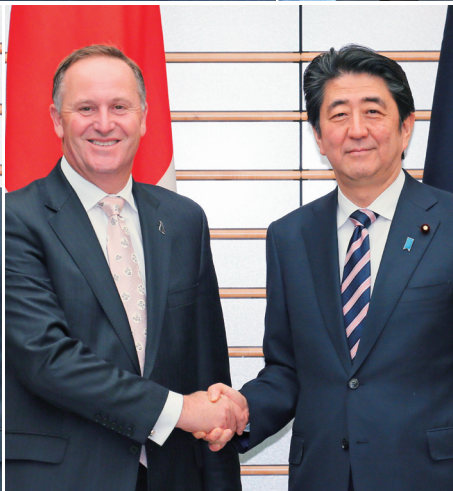


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During his official visit to the United States, in addition to Washington DC, Prime Minister Abe visited the Boston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles areas (April–May 2015).

1. Delivering a speech at Harvard Kennedy School. 2. Touring facilities belonging to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). 3. Attending a public symposium hosted by the Silicon Valley Japan Innovation Program at Stanford University. 4. Demonstrating a Japanese Shinkansen simulator for Governor Jerry Brown of California. (©Kyodo News) 5. Visiting the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.





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6 & 7. While in San Francisco, Prime Minister Abe visited the headquarters of Tesla Motors and Facebook and met with their CEOs (April 2015). 8. Meeting with President Joko Widodo of Indonesia at the Prime Minister's Office (March 2015). 9. With Prime Minister John Key of New Zealand at the Prime Minister's Office (March 2015). 10. With Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho of Portugal at the Prime Minister's Office (March 2015). 11. Taking a commemorative photograph at a cherry blossom viewing party hosted by Prime Minister Abe (April 2015).



# Toward an Alliance of Hope

Excerpts from the Address to a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Congress  
by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Delivered in Washington DC, April 29, 2015

Full text: [http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97\\_abe/statement/201504/uscongress.html](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201504/uscongress.html)

Back in June 1957, Nobusuke Kishi, my grandfather, standing right here, began his address by saying, and I quote “It is because of our strong belief in democratic principles and ideals that Japan associates herself with the free nations of the world.”

Thank you so much, Ambassador Kennedy, for all the dynamic work you have done for all of us.

A lady named Catherine Del Francia let me live in her house when I spent a spell in California. She was a widow, and always spoke of her late husband saying, “You know, he was much more handsome than Gary Cooper.” My wife, Akie, is there. I don’t dare ask what she says about me.



## American Democracy and Japan

As for my family name, it is not “Eighb,” as former President Lincoln was affectionately known. The son of a farmer-carpenter can become the President . . . Our encounter with America was also our encounter with democracy.

## World War II Memorial

Before coming over here, I was at the World War II Memorial. More than 4,000 gold stars shine on the wall. I gasped with surprise to hear that each star represents the lives of 100 fallen soldiers. I believe those gold stars are a proud symbol of the sacrifices in defending freedom. History is harsh. What is done cannot be undone. With deep repentance in my heart, I offer my eternal condolences.

## Late Enemy, Present Friend

In the gallery today is Lt. Gen. Lawrence Snowden. Seventy years ago, he landed on the island of Iōtō, or Iwo Jima, as a captain in command of a company. Concerning the memorial services held jointly by Japan and the U.S. on Iōtō, he said, and I quote, “We didn’t and don’t go to Iwo Jima to celebrate victory, but for the solemn purpose to pay tribute to and honor those who lost their lives on both sides.” Next to General Snowden sits Diet Member Yoshitaka Shindo, who is a former member of my Cabinet. His grandfather, General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, whose valor we remember even today, was the commander of the Japanese garrison during the Battle of Iwo Jima. Enemies that had fought each other so fiercely have become friends bonded in spirit. I pay tribute to your efforts for reconciliation.

## America and Postwar Japan

Postwar, we started out on our path bearing in mind feelings of deep remorse over the war. Our actions brought suffering to the peoples in Asian countries. We must not avert our eyes from that. I will uphold the views expressed by the previous prime ministers in this regard.

## TPP

Prosperity is nothing less than the seedbed for peace. We must take the lead to build a market that is fair, dynamic, sustainable, and is also free from the arbitrary intentions of any nation. We cannot

overlook sweatshops or burdens on the environment. Nor can we simply allow free riders on intellectual property. Let us bring the TPP to a successful conclusion through our joint leadership.

### Reforms for a Stronger Japan

We are bringing great reforms toward the agriculture policy that's been in place for decades. Rock-solid regulations are being broken, and I am the spearhead. We are changing some of our old habits to empower women. Japan will not run away from any reforms. There is no alternative. And there is no doubt about it whatsoever.

### Postwar Peace and Japan's Choice

Together with the U.S. and other like-minded democracies, we won the Cold War.

### The Alliance: Its Mission for the Region

We must make the vast seas stretching from the Pacific to the Indian Oceans seas of peace and freedom, where all follow the rule of law. We must fortify the U.S.-Japan alliance. That is our responsibility.

### Japan's New Banner

In Cambodia, the Golan Heights, Iraq, Haiti, and South Sudan, members of our Self-Defense Forces provided humanitarian support and peacekeeping operations. Their number amounts to 50,000. Based on this track record, we are resolved to take yet more responsibility for the peace and stability in the world. It is for that purpose we are determined to enact all necessary bills by this coming summer. And we will do exactly that. We must make sure human security will be preserved in addition to national security. We must do our best so that every individual gets education, medical support, and an opportunity to rise to be self-reliant. In our age, we must realize the kind of world where finally women are free from human rights abuses. "Proactive contribution to peace based on the principle of international cooperation" should lead Japan along its road for the future. Problems we face include terrorism, infectious diseases, natural disasters, and climate change. No new concept should ever be necessary for the alliance that connects us, the biggest and the second biggest democratic powers in the free world, in working together.

### Hope for the Future

When I was young in high school and listened to the radio, there was a song that flew out and shook my heart. It was a song by Carole King. "When you're down and troubled, . . . close your eyes and think of me, and I'll be there to brighten up even your darkest night." And that day, March 11, 2011, a big quake, a tsunami, and a nuclear accident hit the northeastern part of Japan. But it was then we saw the U.S. armed forces rushing to Japan to the rescue at a scale never seen or heard before. Lots and lots of people from all corners of the U.S. extended the hand of assistance to the children in the disaster areas. Yes, we've got a friend in you.

Ladies and gentlemen, the finest asset the U.S. has to give to the world was hope, is hope, will be, and must always be hope. Let us call the U.S.-Japan alliance an alliance of hope. Alliance of hope . . . Together, we can make a difference. Thank you so much.



▶ Edited video of the speech  
<http://youtu.be/h2m8izwHliw>

# Bridges That Link Lives and Build Friendship

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## Two Examples from Over Six Decades of Japanese ODA

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Japan commenced its program of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 1954, less than 10 years after it was defeated and left in ruins at the end of World War II. A major characteristic of Japan's ODA is its focus on support for building the economic and social infrastructure essential for economic growth. The construction of bridges is a prime example. Some 2,000 bridges have been built in developing countries with assistance from Japan, and the amount of funds provided is on the order of JPY 1 trillion (USD 8.3 billion), including about JPY 700 billion in ODA loans and JPY 250 billion in grant aid. Bridges improve people's living conditions and facilitate transport, and they also play a major role in strengthening regional ties across national borders.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) is where the Congo River, with the world's second-largest basin area, flows into the Atlantic. The port of Matadi, accessible to ocean-going ships, has grown up on the banks of the Congo 150 kilometers (93 miles) from the mouth of the river. Nearby is the Matadi Bridge, a 722-meter (2,370-foot) suspension bridge.

The Matadi Bridge, which was completed in 1983, made use of Japan's world-class suspension-bridge technology and financial assistance from Japan. It serves as a link across the Congo for National Road No. 1, which leads to Kinshasa, the country's capital. Over the three decades since its completion, the country has experienced two civil wars, but the bridge has been maintained by engineers of the Organization for Equipment of Banana-Kinshasa (OEBK), who have referred to the maintenance manual left by the Japanese who were involved in the construction project. Even today the bridge plays a major role as a key piece of the country's infrastructure.

A recent project was the construction of Tsubasa Bridge in the vicinity of Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia. The opening ceremony for this 640-meter (2,100-foot) bridge was held on April 6 this year. The construction cost of about JPY 12 billion (USD 100 million) was covered almost entirely by grant aid from Japan. As the completed bridge looks like two birds with their wings spread, it takes its name from the Japanese word for wings, *tsubasa*, expressing hope for the further development of the relationship between Japan and Cambodia.

The bridge crosses the Mekong River where it had cut National Road No. 1, Cambodia's most important arterial road. Previously the river had to be crossed by ferry, and even with three ferries operating on full schedules, the waits at peak periods were seven or eight hours, and there was no ferry service at night. The opening of this bridge has made it possible to cross the Mekong freely at any time of day or night. This has dramatically improved the functioning of the arterial road, and it also makes it much easier for local residents to get to destinations like schools, workplaces, and hospitals.

Cambodia's National Road No. 1 is part of the Greater Mekong Region Southern Economic Corridor connecting Ho Chi Min City (Viet Nam), Phnom Penh, and Bangkok (Thailand), and the opening of Tsubasa Bridge is expected to promote economic development not just within Cambodia but also in the entire Mekong region and to promote ASEAN connectivity.

In the countries where they are located, the Matadi Bridge and Tsubasa Bridge are symbols of friendship with Japan. We earnestly hope that the bridges will continue to serve the people of their countries on into the future.





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1. The Matadi Bridge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The structure is built to allow a railway to run underneath the roadway. (©Shinichi Kuno/JICA) 2. OEBK employees maintaining the bridge. From March 2012 through March 2015, Japan implemented a project supporting capacity development for bridge management. (©Shinichi Kuno/JICA) 3. The Matadi Bridge has become a tourist attraction for its robust, graceful appearance as a suspension bridge and for the views of the mighty Congo River flowing below it. (©Shinichi Kuno/JICA)



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4. Tsubasa Bridge in Cambodia. The construction work was carried out in the face of many challenges, including Cambodia's worst-ever flooding in 2011. (©JICA) 5. Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen of Cambodia cuts the tape at the April 2015 opening ceremony for Tsubasa Bridge. (©JICA)



# International Cooperation with a Human Face

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## Half a Century of JOCV Activities

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This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program, launched in 1965. To support the social and economic advancement of developing countries, in addition to providing financial assistance in such forms as grant aid and ODA (Official Development Assistance) loans, Japan has been extending technical cooperation, including the dispatch of experts to developing countries and the hosting of trainees in Japan. The JOCV program is one of the pillars of this international cooperation based on human interaction.

This program recruits, selects, and trains people between the ages of 20 and 39 with appropriate technical and other knowledge and experience who wish to use their capabilities for people in developing countries. It sends them on two-year assignments in response to requests from developing countries, where they have been providing assistance in over 100 capacities—for example, as schoolteachers, nurses, auto mechanics, IT engineers, and sports instructors.

JOCVs have become well known in other countries as Japan's grass-roots diplomats. As of the end of April 2015, a total of 47,630 volunteers had been dispatched to 96 countries; these include the participants in the Senior Volunteers (ages 40–69) program that was launched in the 1990s and other related programs. Below we introduce two of these volunteers.

Ayaka Nitta went to Burkina Faso as a JOCV. One of the least developed countries, Burkina Faso had a chronic problem with trash littering its streets. Citizens' attitudes lagged behind the need to deal with the problem, and action had been put off for years. Nitta undertook activities in the town of Koupela that combined trash reduction with the development and sale of recycled products. She reports, "Making recycled products contributed to dealing with environmental problems, and in this way I was also able to help increase people's cash incomes."

Atsushi Munakata went to Rwanda as a JOCV one year after graduating from university and worked in the eastern part of the country at maintenance and management of water supply facilities and prevention of waterborne diseases. People need safe water to live. Munakata notes that at first, "Even if we fixed a broken well, there was nobody—no organization or engineers—to look after it." He worked with Rwandan colleagues and local residents to repair hand-pump wells and to transmit the know-how for taking care of them. These efforts resulted in a sustainable supply of safe water for some 7,000 residents.

The fruits of the activities of these two JOCVs are being carried on by local people. And their encounters with the cultures of Burkina Faso and Rwanda and experiences as volunteers have become major assets in their lives.

JOCVs share enthusiasm for the social and economic advancement of developing countries. Today, half a century after the program was launched, volunteers carry on with an approach to cooperation based on living and working together with local people, along with a passionate desire to do their utmost for the sake of developing countries and the rest of the world. Their efforts are always received with thanks by the host countries.





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1. Ayaka Nitta joins children in making soccer balls out of plastic bags and other trash as part of her environmental education activities.  
2. Atsushi Munakata repairs a well together with local residents. For two years he taught residents how to fix wells so that they could continue to have a supply of safe water even after he left.



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3. JOCVs depart for the Philippines (1966). The flow of volunteers to developing countries has continued unabated for half a century. 4. Kichie Zuirin, one of the five JOCVs first dispatched to Laos in 1965, checks agricultural produce.



Safe water supply  
in Rwanda

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSTbl2XWMJc>

# Contributing to Global Peace and Stability

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## SDF Participation in U.N. Peacekeeping Operations

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Japan has been contributing to the international community in security as well as in other areas. Its contributions include the dispatch of contingents from the Japan Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to participate in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKO). The first PKO dispatch of an engineering unit from the SDF was to Cambodia in 1992-93. Since then, Japan has participated in a number of these operations, including one in Timor Leste from 2002 to 2004. Additionally, since 2011, SDF personnel have been taking part in the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).

In 2011, following a long civil war, South Sudan became an independent nation. Then, fighting between government forces and rebels broke out in 2013, and the country is still far from achieving internal security or economic stability. UNMISS, composed of approximately 14,000 armed forces personnel and police officers from countries around the world, is conducting activities that include the protection of civilians, monitoring the human rights situation, and the establishment of conditions to enable the implementation of humanitarian assistance. Presently there are four staff officers and an engineering unit of approximately 350 members from Japan.

The engineering unit from Japan is based in Juba, the capital city, and has brought in heavy equipment. Before the security situation deteriorated in 2013, the unit contributed to nation-building in South Sudan with infrastructure improvement activities including arterial roadway construction and repair in the Juba area and site-preparation work inside and outside U.N. facilities. When the security situation worsened in 2013, some 30,000 residents took temporary refuge in U.N. facilities. On this occasion, the Japanese contingent also worked to supply water, install toilets, and provide medical care for the refugees. Since May 2014, when the mandate was revised, the unit has mainly been involved in activities contributing to the protection of civilians, such as structural reinforcement work on U.N. facilities, along with road repairs and improvement and site preparation both inside and outside the U.N. facilities.

The Japanese contingent also conducts activities in tandem with other providers of international assistance. These undertakings include ODA-related activities, such as work on community roads and drainage ditches, as well as participation in the construction of temporary camps for returnees by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Lieutenant Colonel Yuichi Nagata of the Ground Self-Defense Force, who was the deputy commander of the fifth engineering unit from December 2013 to May 2014, explains the SDF's activities as follows:

“The engineering unit has been conducting repair and improvement work on community roads and arterial roadways. The fifth unit, to which I was assigned, also installed drainage channels in refugee camp locations where there was a high likelihood of flooding from heavy rains. We encountered extremely tough challenges, but we overcame them through our desire to protect people's daily lives.

“During the intervals between missions, engineering unit members from other units interacted with local residents by visiting facilities such as elementary schools and orphanages. One unit installed a pedestrian crosswalk on an arterial road for children's safety. More recently, unit members have been working together with local residents to clean up community roads repaired by previous units. The unit has also started to provide vocational training support for the young people who will build the future of South Sudan.”

Nagata declares, “The fighting continues, but I hope that my comrades now in South Sudan will work hard so that the assistance from Japan can become a symbol of security and peace.”


Japan will continue its activities as a responsible member of the international community in order to contribute to global peace and stability.





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1. SDF personnel have recently been teaching about vehicle maintenance at a vocational school. 2. Lieutenant Colonel Nagata answers questions during an interview for the article. 3 & 4. Engineering unit members have used their capabilities in infrastructure projects, such as work on an arterial roadway linking Juba and other major cities. 5 & 6. Unit members installed a pedestrian crosswalk and showed children how to cross the road safely.



## Preserve Peace in South Sudan

[http://youtu.be/4XC\\_65g1ZIs](http://youtu.be/4XC_65g1ZIs)

# Japanese People Contributing Worldwide

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## Speaking to the World with Music

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Internationally active conductor Tomomi Nishimoto studied classical music from an early age under the influence of her mother, a music school graduate. Growing up close to the music world, she knew firsthand how tough it was to become a professional, but when she was in high school, she decided to pursue a musical career.

One day, she went hiking in the mountains among the fresh greenery of early summer. “The light and shadows and the interwoven patterns of the trees were so beautiful, they moved me to tears. I felt then that no artificial beauty could compete with that of nature. I wished I could put what I saw into a picture, but I didn’t have that sort of talent. Then it occurred to me that I’d like to express the scene through music.”

After studying composition at a Japanese music school, she traveled to Russia, where she studied under Ilya Musin. “He gave passionate instruction without regard to nationality, gender, or age. I wasn’t able to speak Russian when I arrived there, but he taught me: ‘Don’t think of it as a negative. Acquire a power of expression that can communicate without using words.’ And he encouraged me to apply the strengths I’d gained from studying composition.” Nishimoto mastered her mentor’s lessons brilliantly. After performing mainly in Europe with various symphony orchestras and at opera houses, in 2010–11 she became the first foreign principal guest conductor of the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia.

There are still few Asian or female conductors in the classical music world. But that has not stopped Nishimoto. In 2012, she formed the IlluminArt, a group with no home base that changes its format to match the venue and program, and became its artistic director and principal conductor. Nationality, race, religion, gender, and age are not criteria for membership in the group. “The important factors are appeal, talent, and capability,” she explains.

Nishimoto does not remain within the bounds of classical music; she also conducts in performances of new types, such as collaborative work with video creators. She has also become involved in various presentations of Japanese culture. When directing the opera *Madame Butterfly* in Japan, she incorporated kabuki staging, *maiko* (apprentice geisha) performers, and folk art elements. Outside Japan, she has won critical acclaim for efforts to adapt concerts to the areas where they are held, such as by adding local folk instruments to the orchestra.

In November 2013, IlluminArt became the first Asian group to be invited to the International Festival of Sacred Music and Art in Rome. It won great applause for its performance of *orasho* (from the Latin *oratio*, “prayer”), Christian chants from Ikitsukijima Island in Nagasaki Prefecture. It was something of a homecoming for this music, which derives from Gregorian chant transmitted to Japan by Catholic missionaries in the sixteenth century and passed down orally from generation to generation by “hidden” Christians on the island after their faith was banned. At the same time, it was so old it had not previously been heard in the Vatican. The orchestra was invited back in 2014, and Nishimoto’s skill and achievement in researching and reconstructing *orasho* were recognized as she became the first Asian and the youngest winner of an honorary award given by the organizers of the festival.

Nishimoto says that one role art must play is to display things of excellence from various angles. She declares, “I want to continue to express the wonders of Japan through the shared language of music.” The curtain will never fall on Nishimoto’s dreams.





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1. Tomomi Nishimoto conducts. "Simply wielding a baton is not enough; a conductor must show the direction for the performance. It is wonderful to pull everyone's ideals into a whole." (Photo by Hideki Shiozawa) 2. Nishimoto's IlluminArt Philharmonic performs liturgical music for Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome during the 2014 International Festival of Sacred Music and Art. It is invited to perform *orasho* again this year. "It is an honor to be responsible for providing the music that is a key element of the Mass," says Nishimoto 3. *Maiko* walk along the *hanamichi* platform between spectators at the Nishimoto-directed performance of the opera *Madame Butterfly*. Audiences enjoyed the use of a distinctive kabuki stage for the performance rather than a concert hall. (© Shochiku)



#### Tomomi Nishimoto

Artistic director and chief conductor of IlluminArt Philharmonic Orchestra. The first foreigner to hold conducting posts in Russia, she has performed in around 20 countries as a conductor. In 2014, she became the first Asian to be invited twice to the International Festival of Sacred Music and Art in Rome and the youngest winner of an honorary award from the organizers in recognition of her talent and artistic skill. She will appear for the third time at the festival in 2015. Nishimoto was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2007, and she completed Harvard Kennedy School's executive education program in public leadership as a fully funded fellow in 2012.

Official website: <http://www.tomomi-n.com/>



Illuminate Cultural Diversity  
Through Classical Music

<http://youtu.be/MkuB5uoiUYo>

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## Using Robots for Healthier, More Comfortable Lives

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Think “I want to walk,” and your legs start moving naturally. This and all the movements we make are based on directions from the brain. Neural impulses, which are commands from the brain, are transmitted via the nervous system to muscles. And as they are transmitted, faint bio-electrical signals leak out to the skin. A wearable robot has been developed that catches these signals through sensors placed on the skin, processes them rapidly, and assists the wearer’s movements. The developer, Dr. Yoshiyuki Sankai, has for many years led the academic field of “Cybernetics,” which is a fusion of human, machine, and information systems. The most notable fruit of the research in this field is Robot Suit HAL (Hybrid Assistive Limb®), the world’s first cyborg-type robot, which improves, supports, and regenerates people’s physical and brain-nerve functions.

HAL provides treatment for patients’ physical functions and assists the activities of people with disabilities. HAL for lumbar support can help movements like lifting up heavy objects. The prime feature of this device is that it catches the wearer’s motion intention as bio-electrical signals and achieves the desired movement. Not only that, but the sense of having moved is fed back to the brain as a signal through the body’s own sensory system. Through repetition of this process, using HAL makes it possible for the wearer to facilitate synaptic connections and to relearn how to move the body properly even without HAL.

HAL is now available in various forms, including a medical model for neuro-rehabilitation treatment, an independence-support model for physical training, a caregiving-support model, and a labor-support model.

HAL also offers great promise in helping resolve the social problem presented by the rapid rise in the numbers of people requiring care as the result of aging populations in developed countries. The medical model can enhance people’s physical functioning, allowing them to live more independently, while the caregiving-support model can lessen the burden on caregivers and promises to help keep them from quitting their jobs. In other words, HAL can be expected to allow people to lead healthy lives while lowering society’s economic costs overall. Dr. Sankai declares, “Through utilizing Cybernetics, we aim to achieve a society of ZERO intensive nursing-care™ and a world where people can lead healthier lives.”

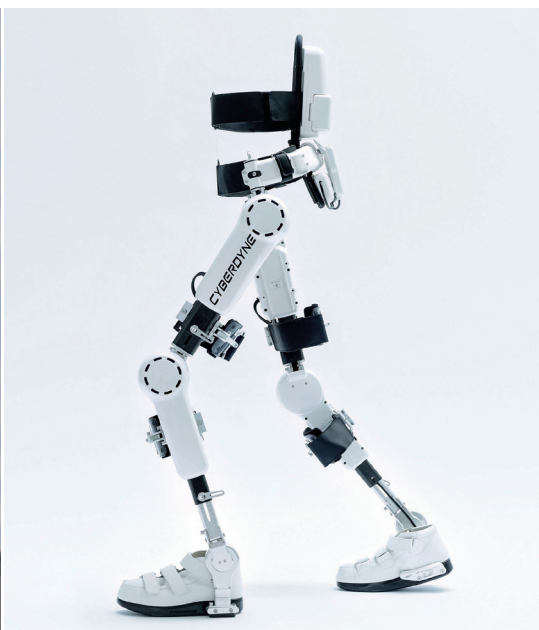
HAL has been certified throughout the EU for use as a medical device, becoming the first robotic therapeutic device in the world, and in Germany, treatment using medical HAL is now covered under public workers’ compensation insurance. An application for medical device approval has been processed in the United States, and a decision is expected in 2015. As Dr. Sankai explains, “If HAL is introduced into homes, people will be able to receive the same sort of high-level support provided by medical facilities while living at home. I believe we will see the realization of a situation where humans, technology, and society support each other in this way.” This is the future that is approaching thanks to Dr. Sankai’s Cybernetics.



Deploy Pioneering Medical  
Robots in Germany

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jn94x3yApqA>

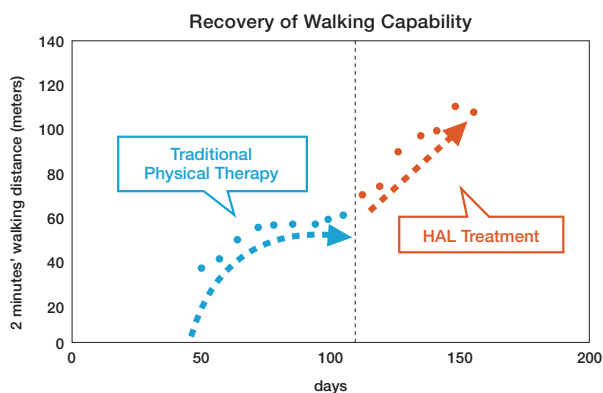




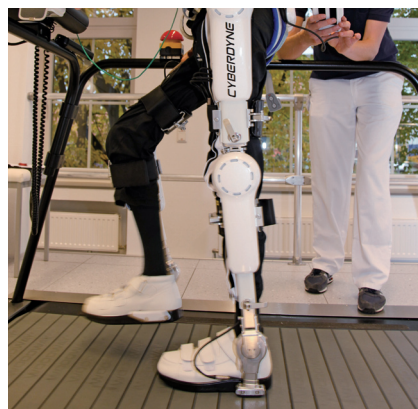
Prof. Sankai, University of Tsukuba / Cyberdyne Inc.

#### Yoshiyuki Sankai

Professor, Graduate School of Systems & Information Engineering, and Director, Center for Cybernics Research, University of Tsukuba, and Program Manager of the Impulsing Paradigm Change through Disruptive Technologies (ImPACT) Program, initiated by the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Cabinet Office, Japan. After earning his Ph.D in engineering from the University of Tsukuba in 1987, he served there as an associate professor and as a professor of the Institute of Engineering Mechanics and Systems; he also served as a visiting professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Member of the Global Agenda Council on Robotics & Smart Devices, World Economic Forum. CEO of Cyberdyne Inc., which he established in 2004 to realize social implementation of Cybernics technologies.



Source: Ibaraki Prefectural University of Health Science, Tsukuba University.



Prof. Sankai, University of Tsukuba / Cyberdyne Inc.



Prof. Sankai, University of Tsukuba / Cyberdyne Inc.

1	2
3	

1. A graph showing the degree of recovery of ambulatory function using traditional physical therapy and using HAL (beginning at the dotted line). It is apparent that treatment with HAL results in a much higher degree of recovery over a shorter period. 2. Medical HAL (for lower limbs): HAL picks up bio-electrical signals from the brain, such as "I want to walk" or "I want to stand," as they are transmitted via the spinal cord to muscles and moves together with the wearer's legs. It is now covered throughout the EU under its Medical Devices Directives, having been certified as a conforming device by one of Europe's top third-party certification organizations. 3. HAL is now in full-scale use in Europe, particularly Germany, as a device for medical treatment. The fruits of research in the field of "Cybernics" have brought smiles to the faces of patients and many others, and it promises to change both medical care and people's social lives for the better.

# Bringing the View of Fuji Back to Tokyo: How the Metropolis Cleaned Up Its Air

On a clear day you can see the beautiful sight of Mount Fuji from Tokyo, more than 100 kilometers (62 miles) away. Last year the mountain was visible from central Tokyo on 138 days. But 50 years ago, because the air was severely polluted, it could be seen only about 20 days a year. The history of the development of Tokyo, with a population of over 13 million and clusters of many industries, is also a history of fighting against air pollution.

In the 1950s and 1960s, as the concentration of factories and offices in Tokyo supported high-paced economic growth, the burning of heavy oil gave rise to large amounts of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) promoted a shift of fuels, encouraging factories and workshops to switch to low-sulfur heavy oil, electricity, or gas. This policy succeeded in dramatically reducing SO<sub>2</sub>, carbon monoxide, and other pollutants in the air, and in 1983 Tokyo cleared the general environmental standard for air quality.

However, Tokyo continued to be far from meeting the environmental standards for automobile exhausts, particularly the suspended particulate matter (SPM) emitted in large quantities by older diesel-powered vehicles. The metropolitan government responded to this situation with a sweeping move to banish such vehicles.

TMG started in 1999 with a campaign to familiarize residents with the facts. Collecting the soot emitted by a diesel vehicle and displaying it in a clear bottle, the authorities provided visual backing for their message: "A diesel-powered car emits a gram of SPM for just a single kilometer [0.6 miles] traveled." In this way they promoted a sense of crisis. In 2000, the metropolis adopted an Ordinance on Environmental Preservation, which set a strict standard for particulate matter (PM) emissions from diesel vehicles and prohibited vehicles not meeting it from driving in Tokyo. What was ground-breaking about this was that the standard applied not just to new vehicles but to ones already on the road. At the time there were more than 200,000 diesel vehicles in use; requiring them to meet the new standard entailed costs and efforts, but it meant that the results of the new ordinance would appear quickly and surely. The Tokyo Metropolitan Research Institute for Environmental Protection perfected a low-cost device for reduction of PM emissions and supplied it at a subsidized price; this provided further support for the metropolitan government's undertaking.

Tokyo extended the reach of its efforts, teaming up with three neighboring prefectures to impose controls, and was able to implement a pioneering set of wide-area environmental measures unprecedented in the world. Additional far-reaching measures included the installation of surveillance cameras on the Metropolitan Expressway to catch violators and the deployment of automobile pollution inspection officers to enforce the standard.

Industry groups took note of TMG's serious commitment and contributed to its efforts with moves of their own, such as quickly supplying low-sulfur diesel fuel and promoting the development, production, and sale of low-emission diesel vehicles.

Tokyo's ordinance produced a dramatic improvement: As of 2002, the levels of SPM were above the environmental standard at all 34 of the monitoring stations within the metropolis, but in 2005, just two years after the ordinance went into effect, the standard was cleared at all 34. And Tokyo's skies were blue again.

The move to control diesel emissions produced results across a wide area within a short time frame. The metropolitan government has been receiving an ongoing succession of requests from both within Japan and overseas, particularly from other Asian countries, to share the know-how behind this success. We urge anybody with an interest to visit the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Buildings. The view of Mount Fuji from the observatories 202 meters (about 660 feet) above ground is one of Tokyo's treasures, recovered thanks to the efforts of many people.





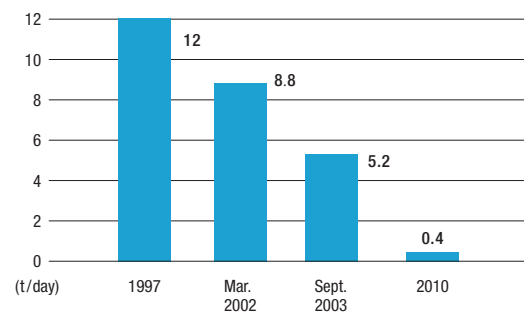
Tokyo's air is now quite clear. The beautiful sight of Mount Fuji can be seen on the western horizon from the center of the metropolis.



1 & 2. When there were more diesel vehicles on the roads, exhaust fumes caused serious air pollution in Tokyo. 3. Clear bottle containing soot. 4. Enlarged view of soot.



Daily Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) from Vehicles



5. Surveillance cameras installed on the Metropolitan Expressway. 6. Automobile pollution inspection officers checking vehicles for compliance with emission standards. 7. A device to reduce PM emissions that can be installed in existing vehicles.



# Japan's Regional Strength

Gifu Prefecture, located at the geographical center of Japan, boasts good accessibility. By Shinkansen, Japan's high-speed rail, it is just two hours to Tokyo and only 50 minutes to Osaka. And when maglev train service starts (scheduled for 2027), the travel time to Tokyo is to be shortened to 30 minutes. Gifu is also internationally accessible via Chubu International Airport (Centrair), which is an hour away. And it is at a node of a network of expressways heading in every direction, providing convenient links to international hub ports and logistic hubs.

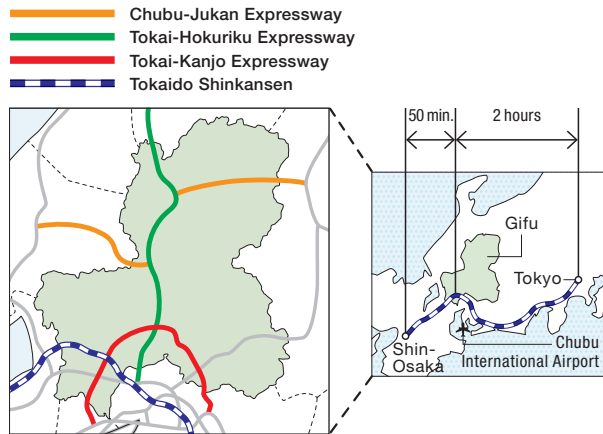
Thanks in part to this convenient location, Gifu has long thrived as a commercial and industrial area, and it is one of Japan's leading prefectures in manufacturing. Gifu has a strong presence in industrial, transportation, and electrical machinery, and it is home to many companies with superior technologies. A special strength is the aerospace industry, with a production of about JPY 200 billion (USD 1.67 billion) a year. The three prefectures of Gifu and neighboring Aichi and Mie together account for about 50% of Japan's total aerospace sales. In 2011 the national government designated this area as a "Special Zone to Create Asia's No. 1 Aerospace Industrial Cluster." With this designation came relaxation of regulations, along with tax breaks and financial support, aiming at doubling sales by 2025. Also, Gifu Prefecture is undertaking initiatives of its own, such as providing support for local enterprises participating in international trade exhibitions, including the Paris Air Show, to help local industry expand globally.

Last year, Gifu Prefecture adopted a growth and employment strategy with a view to long-term economic activity. The strategy identified five growth fields—aerospace, medical and welfare equipment, pharmaceuticals, food products, and next-generation energy—and the prefecture is seeking to attract and expand businesses in these fields. For example, it established a system of subsidies for initial investment outlays (up to JPY 1 billion, USD 8.3 million), along with subsidies for office rent and fixed asset acquisition costs, to encourage companies to move their headquarters to Gifu. And last year it became the first local government to launch a "corporate concierge" project, assigning government officials responsible for each company moving into the prefecture. Now Gifu is equipped to provide total support for corporate management—one-stop service ranging from consultation about sites to responses to management issues and information about subsidies.

Gifu Governor Hajime Furuta is enthusiastic and confident about attracting foreign companies: "People from overseas will surely be satisfied with the high level of technological capability that Gifu Prefecture has carried on for many years, as well as with our attentively tailored responses to their needs. I strongly hope foreign enterprises will consider setting up operations here."

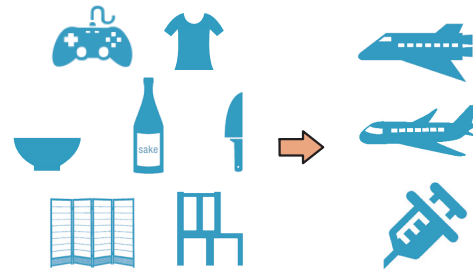
Gifu is also earnestly promoting international sales of local products and inbound tourism. "Hon-minoshi," the Japanese paper traditionally crafted in Mino City, was inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in November 2014. Along with other local crafts, such as woodwork, cutlery, textiles, pottery, and porcelain, it has numerous tourist attractions, such as the historic village of Shirakawa-go, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and foods like Hida beef, Fuyu persimmons, and *ayu* (sweetfish). Gifu has been striving to publicize these noteworthy attractions to the world. The number of foreign visitors has been growing rapidly; in 2014 the figure was 660,000, up by almost 60% in a year. The prefecture is aiming to raise this to 1 million and to promote sales of local products with efforts including the opening of antenna shops in 10 cities around the world to advertise Gifu's charms.

## Convenient access



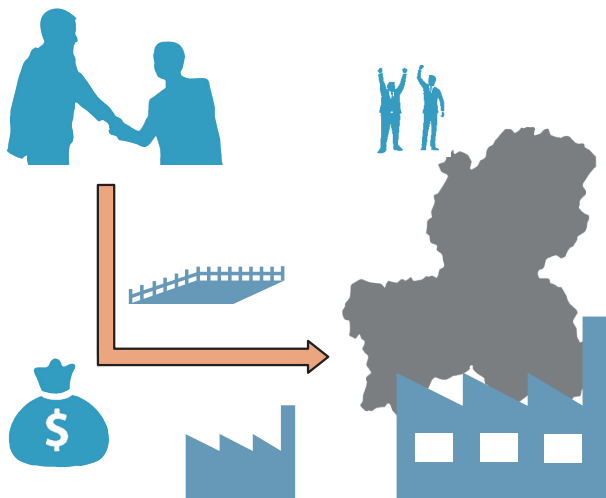
Gifu offers convenient access via rail, expressway and air, and it enjoys good conditions as a logistics hub. Chubu International Airport (Centrair) provides round-the-clock service.

## Development of manufacturing



Gifu has been famous for manufacturing, including cutlery and *washi* (Japanese paper) production. Well-established ceramic engineering has fostered cutting-edge technology for fine ceramics, which are widely used in electronic parts, the aerospace industry, and state-of-the-art medical devices.

## “Corporate concierge” project



This project, assigning officials responsible for each incoming company, provides one-stop integrated service, including introductions to local businesses, information on subsidies, and help with siting and management issues.

## Advertising Gifu to the world



The governor has traveled to Singapore, Indonesia, and Paris to promote Gifu at fairs featuring the prefecture's tourist attractions, foods, and crafts. Guests were offered sake and Hida beef.

## Basic facts and figures



Gifu Prefecture has a population of about 2.04 million. It has developed as a major locus for cultural, economic, and industrial exchanges. It is topographically diverse, with steep mountain peaks of above 3,000 meters (10,000 feet) in the north and riverside districts at zero-meter elevation in the south, and it boasts many clear-flowing rivers, notably the Nagara River.



### Governor Hajime Furuta

Born in 1947 in Gifu Prefecture. After graduating from the University of Tokyo, he joined the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). In 1974 he studied at France's École nationale d'administration (ENA). He served as executive secretary to the prime minister and head of the Economic Cooperation Bureau in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While he was director-general of the Economic Cooperation Department at MITI, he acted as Japan's official representative to APEC.



# Japanese Technology Revolutionizes Microsurgery

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## World's Thinnest Needles Contribute to a Better Quality of Postoperative Life

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Medical treatment is among the fields in which superior Japanese technology has won international recognition. And in quite a few cases the companies that provide this technology are small or medium-sized enterprises. This article introduces one such company.

Japan is the source of the world's thinnest surgical needles. These have made it possible to perform operations that require the suturing of tiny tissues and blood vessels, such as the transplanting of a thin layer of skin without excision of the muscle underneath or the reattachment of an infant's severed finger. They have a diameter of only 0.03 millimeters (about a thousandth of an inch) and are just 0.8 mm long. The thread they pull is so fine, with a diameter of 0.012 mm, that it is invisible to the naked eye. The company that developed these revolutionary medical implements is Kono Seisakusho Co., Ltd., which is headquartered in Ichikawa, Chiba Prefecture, and has about 150 employees.

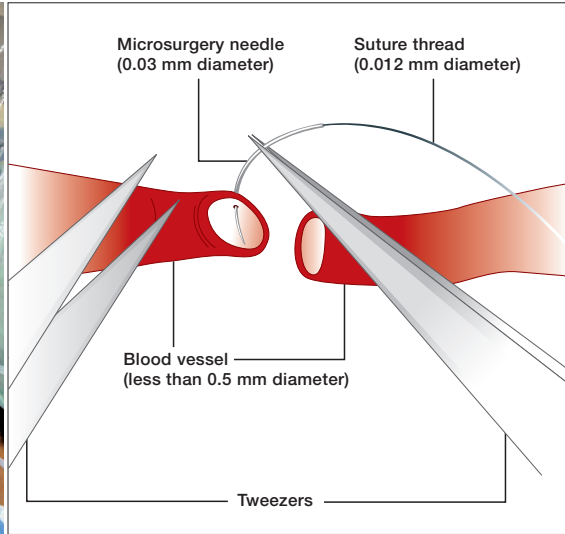
This 0.03 mm needle was first produced in 2004 after three years of development. Previously a diameter of 0.1 mm was standard for the needles used in microsurgery (surgery conducted using microscopes). Most surgeons felt no need for thinner needles, and manufacturers did not have the technological capability to produce them. But advances in medical techniques gave rise to demand for ultra-thin needles, and Junichi Kono, president of Kono Seisakusho, undertook to meet this demand.

The development process turned out to be extremely difficult. With such a small diameter, a needle, even if it is made of metal, is as limp as cotton fiber. The needles need to be cut, polished, and finished by hand while being viewed through a microscope. Kono's firm had to develop its own special tools and machinery for the process. Also, it is not possible to drill a hole for thread in such a thin needle, and using a laser beam melts the metal. After repeated failures, the developers finally came up with a solution inspired by a traditional technique: split the base of the needle in two and squeeze the thread between the prongs.

The commercial production of 0.03 mm needles revolutionized multiple types of medical procedures, including regenerative surgery and transplant operations. By allowing surgeons to suture blood vessels, lymph vessels, nerves, and other tissues less than 0.5 mm thick—a level of precision that was previously considered impossible—these needles have lessened the physical stress of patients and contributed to a better quality of postoperative life.

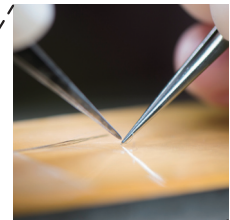
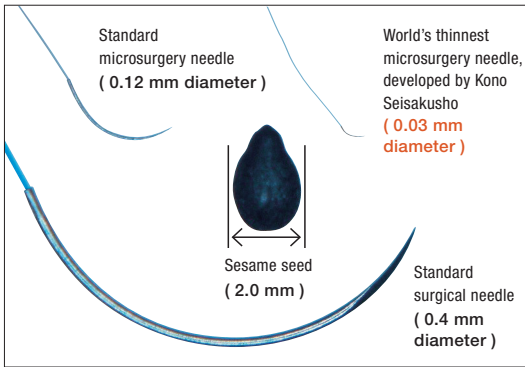
Kono Seisakusho's lineup includes about 10,000 types of needles, which it supplies to hospitals around the country. President Kono says the company's distinctive strength lies in its ability to turn out many different types of products in small lots. The company also produces many of the manufacturing devices that it uses to make this flexibility possible. Women make up the majority of the employees sustaining the company's precision crafting operations. Many commute to work by bicycle after dropping their children off at nurseries or kindergartens. Employees praise the workplace environment and say that they enjoy working there.

Kono's firm often receives visitors from other Asian countries, such as Thailand, Viet Nam, and China, and it is hoping to expand its international presence. Kono declares, "We will continue to focus on quality and on skilled manufacturing, turning out products with pride."



1 | 2

1. A surgeon performs an operation using an ultra-thin needle and thread while looking through a microscope. (Photo courtesy of Professor Isao Koshima, University of Tokyo.)  
2. Suturing blood vessels using a micro-surgery needle and thread.



3 | 4

3. A standard surgical needle (bottom) and microsurgery needles from Kono Seisakusho. The tiny size of the latter is evident. 4. Threading a microsurgery needle, barely visible to the naked eye, using a microscope and tweezers. Women are active in many of Kono Seisakusho's operations, including this kind of precision work.



5 | 6

5. Junichi Kono, president of Kono Seisakusho, says the company focuses on products with high added value and aims to play a broad role in the medical field around the world. 6. The world's thinnest surgical needles are produced in the main plant of Kono Seisakusho, located in a residential district of Ichikawa, Chiba Prefecture.



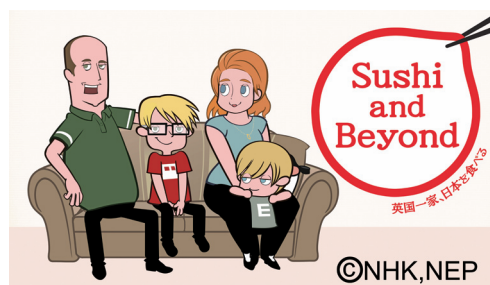
# Friends of Japan

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



## Michael Booth

British author of award-winning, best-selling nonfiction books including *Sacré Cordon Bleu* and *Sushi and Beyond*. He also writes for newspapers including the *Guardian*, *The Times*, *The Telegraph*, the *Washington Post* and the *Independent*, and is a correspondent for *Monocle* magazine and Monocle24 radio. He now lives in Denmark with his wife and two sons.



*Sushi and Beyond* was animated and is now being aired on NHK World.

<http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/english/tv/sushi/>

## Sushi and Beyond: Smitten with Japan and Its Food

It was 15 years ago when I first visited Japan on an assignment for a British newspaper. I remember just wandering around in a daze, amazed at all the new and different sights. Ever since that visit, I had longed to return.

I had spent a year training to be a chef at the Cordon Bleu, Paris. It had been a fantastic time, but classic French food had taken its toll on my waistline! I began to learn about traditional Japanese food and realized that it had everything that Western nutritionists and dietary experts were advising us to eat: lots more vegetables, fish, far less animal fat or dairy, less cooking or “alteration” of ingredients, eating in seasons, and so on. It was just what I needed at that point. I was interested that this very traditional cuisine was in fact super-modern and super-healthy. And so I decided to visit Japan again in 2007, to conduct research for a book about Japanese food.

I spent 100 days traveling the length of Japan with my wife and two small sons. My account of our fascinating journey was published in 2010. *Sushi and Beyond: What the Japanese Know about Cooking* got some lovely reviews, and it won the most prestigious food writing award in the UK, from the British Guild of Food Writers. It was translated into Japanese in 2013, and NHK, Japan’s public broadcaster, has turned it into an animated series now being aired in English and Japanese. I am delighted to say they have produced something with which I am extremely proud to be associated—and my sons love it too.

Throughout my journey, I was surprised and impressed by the Japanese mastery of umami. Also, I had understood that the Japanese liked delicate flavors, but I discovered all the many fermented foods they have—not just miso and soy sauce but also *katsuobushi*, *natto*, and so on, as well as dishes like *tonkotsu* ramen, which smells and tastes kind of funky. I’d been used to liking French foods which had more than a whiff of the barnyard about them, but never expected to find those kinds of strong flavors in Japan. Another point that surprised me was the relatively low cost of staying in Japan. Many think of Japan as expensive. But it is far cheaper to visit than London in terms of restaurants and accommodation—and far better to dine in.

One of the reasons I keep returning to Japan, and try to travel beyond Tokyo whenever I can, is because wherever you go you find fascinating regional foods and variations on dishes. The intensity, quality, and variety of these variations are extraordinary. I still have a very, very long list of places I would like to visit and foods I would like to eat.

As for the inclusion of “Washoku” (traditional Japanese cuisine) in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2013, while it may have helped a little to promote Japan in the rest of the world, I suspect it was more important for Japanese people in encouraging them to better appreciate their traditional foods.

I don’t know anyone who, once they have visited Japan for the first time, does not want to return. It is the kind of place that haunts you, in a sense. It is unforgettable. Virtually everything about Japan is surprising or different. That is one of the great appeals to me and so many other Japanophiles.



*Katsuobushi*, dried bonito flakes (left), *natto*, fermented soybeans (upper right), and *tonkotsu* ramen, noodles served in a savory pork broth called *tonkotsu* (lower right). (©PIXTA)



# The JET Programme: A Great Way to Experience Japan

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## Connecting with Others on a Personal Level

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My interest in Japan began while studying Japanese in high school. I loved the language, and after participating in a 10-day study abroad program in Japan I became equally enamored with the Japanese people. This affinity, coupled with a strong desire to immerse myself in something new, motivated me to participate in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. The experiences I have enjoyed over the past four years working as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, have enriched my life immensely.

Interacting with students is one of the most fulfilling aspects of my job as an ALT. I have taught all grades, from elementary to high school, and have been impressed by the strong desire of students to speak English. I challenge them to communicate their thoughts and ideas naturally through hands-on activities, such as role plays. I also actively participate in field trips and extracurricular activities, and students relish the opportunity to talk and ask questions in a casual and relaxed setting. This has made me aware of the different backgrounds of my students, and I have been pleasantly surprised to find they share many of the same values as their Australian counterparts.

As an ALT I benefit from trusting and supportive relationships with fellow teachers and other faculty. Sharing planning and classroom responsibilities under the team teaching system has made for a positive work environment by providing a framework to share ideas with colleagues. This has provided me a broader understanding of the thoughts and feeling of others, allowing me to exercise greater patience in the classroom and in everyday life.

Living in Sendai is a joy. The unique history and beauty of the area and kindness of the people make it an ideal place to live and visit. Sadly, the devastating earthquake four years ago has deterred visitors from Japan's northern region. Sendai is only a short ride away from Tokyo on the Tohoku Shinkansen, and it is my goal to persuade people of the many charms to be found here.

In my remaining time with the JET Programme, I would like to continue focusing on making a difference in the lives of others. I hope to further develop the English program I introduced. It is aimed at improving the confidence and communication skills of students by having them write and perform original drama pieces in English. I also aim to continue participating in events to support children living in temporary housing after the earthquake and similar charity work designed to strengthen community bonds.

After the JET Programme I would like to apply the knowledge and experience I have gained toward serving as a bridge not only between Australia and Japan, but also between them and other Asian countries. One way I hope to do this is through participating in the JET Alumni Association (JETAA). The JETAAs in Australia are very active, such as in cooperating with the Japanese Embassy and Consulate-Generals in providing training to new participants prior to their departure as well as hosting cultural events promoting stronger ties and understanding among Australia's diverse communities. I also look to participate in activities supporting Brisbane's diverse Asian communities.

Through my JET experience I have become a kinder and more understanding person. I am confident these attributes will support me in my time as an ALT and as I prepare for life's next adventure.



# **Nathan Barnes**

Born in Queensland, Australia.  
Arrived in Japan as a JET participant in 2011. Currently teaching at Sendai High School.

During lessons students ask and answer questions in English and are encouraged to communicate naturally using facial expressions and gestures.



1. Barnes poses with students for a class photo. 2. Barnes plans the next lesson with a Japanese colleague. 3. The school's vice-principal provides support in learning day-to-day duties at the school.



The JET Programme official website  
<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](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](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/tb/index.html>  
**t** (US) [https://twitter.com/Visit\\_Japan](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/>

### 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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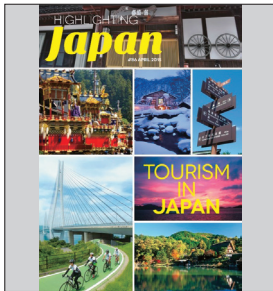
pp.32-33

# Publications

## Official Publications from the Government and Related Organizations

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

### Cabinet Office



#### “Highlighting JAPAN”

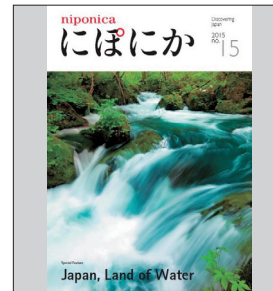
Aimed at people in other countries, this regular publication introduces the latest major government policies.

<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](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”

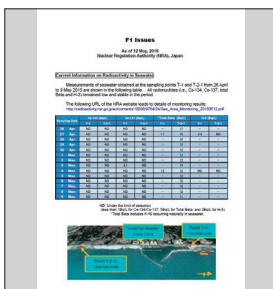
Each issue provides seasonal and updated information on three select features.

<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



*We Are Tomodachi*  
Summer 2015

Published by



**The Government of Japan**

Edited by

Public Relations Office, Cabinet Office  
and  
Office of Global Communications, Cabinet Secretariat

1-6-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo  
100-8914, Japan

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Please send us your comments.

[https://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/forms/comment\\_ssl.html](https://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/forms/comment_ssl.html)

Links to the websites of ministries

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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/>

# The Government of Japan



JapanGov website



JapanGov app

 <http://www.japan.go.jp>  
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 <https://twitter.com/JapanGov>  
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You can download the JapanGov app from the following stores.

 <https://itunes.apple.com/app/japangov-official-gateway/id893574708?mt=8>

 <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.go.japan.japanapp>

 <http://www.amazon.com/The-Government-of-Japan-JapanGov/dp/B00LEAM010>





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