

We Are *Tomodachi*

Summer 2014



The Government of Japan

We Are *Tomodachi*
Summer 2014



At the G7 working dinner in Brussels on June 4, 2014.

Wa



This character (和) is pronounced *wa*.

Wa has several meanings, though perhaps the best way to grasp the overall concept is to imagine an atmosphere in which a group of people can comfortably and amiably coexist. The word also carries connotations of maintaining harmony and getting along with each other. The character is included in the word *heiwa* (平和), which means “peace.” The original meaning conveys the sense of a group working together peacefully and helping one another.

The character *wa* is also used to refer to Japan and Japanese people and culture. For example, in the term *washoku* (和食), *shoku* means “cuisine,” giving this compound the meaning “Japanese cuisine.”

Wa is tremendously valued by the Japanese, and it is a word that directly expresses the spirit of the Japanese people. In sharing *wa* with our friends (*tomodachi*) around the world, we hope to play a role in bringing peace to the world.

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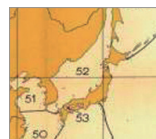
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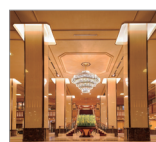
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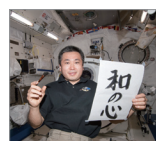
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Seasons and Customs: Fireworks Festivals



Sumida River Fireworks Festival, Sumida & Taito Wards (Tokyo), July 26

In 1733, Tokugawa Yoshimune, the eighth shogun of the Edo Period (1603–1867), decreed that a water-god festival, *sujinsai*, “be held on the Sumida River every year on July 9 to mourn those who had died in famine and other disasters. Fireworks were launched at the event, and that event is now recognized as the start of the Sumida River Fireworks Festival, Japan’s most famous fireworks festival, which boasts a history of almost 300 years.

In the beginning, the Kagiya guild of fireworks makers was in charge of the rockets, but in 1810, some members of the group broke away to form the Tamaya guild and the two guilds entered into competition with each other; their rivalry is widely believed to have spurred the unique development of Japanese fireworks. From 1961, due to traffic congestion and worsening pollution of the river, the festivities were discontinued for 17 years, but there was a strong desire among local residents to bring back the fireworks. In 1978 the launch site was moved upstream, and the festival was revived under its modern name, the Sumida River Fireworks Festival. The event attracts over a million spectators every year, and, as it is held on the last Saturday of July, it makes people feel right at the heart of summer!

Japan has four distinct seasons, and the pride of each one is the wide variety of flowers (*bana*) that bloom at the respective times of year. The Japanese love these seasons and especially the changes from one season into another, and they take great pleasure not only in the flowers themselves, but also the beautiful depiction of the flowers in many of the arts and crafts. To the Japanese, even fireworks appear to them as beautiful flowers and the word for fireworks in Japanese, *hanabi* means “flowers of fire.”

The Japanese know that summer has truly arrived when they see a succession of “fire-flowers” open their petals in the night sky, in a similar way to their floral namesakes. If you happen to hear a distant booming sound in summer in Japan, look up to the night sky. A magnificent bouquet of fire-flowers will surely be welcoming you to the Japanese summer!



Festival of Fire (Honō no Saiten), Toyohashi (Aichi), September 13

At most fireworks festivals, the fireworks are launched from mortar tubes on the ground, but the fireworks at this event are very different. These fireworks are from the eastern part of Aichi Prefecture and are known as *tezutsu hanabi*. They are said to have originated from the beacon fires of the Sengoku period (1467–1568).

To make these fireworks, gunpowder is packed into bamboo tubes that are up to a meter in length. The tubes are then hand-held, and the fuse is lit by a man who holds the tube aloft and stands calmly as the *tezutsu hanabi* spouts a roaring column of fire. The sight of such bravery is tremendously impressive! The flames project up to 10 meters from the mouth of the tube, and the spectacle ends with a loud “crack” as the bamboo tube splits apart. At the Honō no Saiten festival, you can enjoy not only the impressive sight of a long row of men launching their *tezutsu hanabi* simultaneously, but also starmines, set-piece fireworks (*shikake hanabi*) and many other kinds of fireworks.

Seasonal Attraction: Fireworks

Fireworks seen in Japanese fireworks displays can be categorized into four types according to their construction: *warimono*, *han warimono*, *katamono*, and *shikake hanabi*. *Warimono* is a typical Japanese fireworks. When the casing breaks, the pyrotechnic pellets (stars) packed inside scatter to form a sphere. With *han warimono*, on the other hand, the stars packed inside the shell fall downward when the shell splits in two in the air. *Katamono* fireworks form letters or a variety of patterns in the night sky. There are many kind of *shikake hanabi*. For example, they can be constructed with the help of wooden frames and wire or launched from over the water. The crowds at fireworks festivals are always delighted by the dynamic patterns and pictures they form.

Warimono



Chrysanthemum

This typical *warimono* forms a round flower shaped like a chrysanthemum in the night sky. Long plumes spread out from the center while maintaining the spherical shape in every direction.



Peony

Chrysanthemum and peony are the two most typical *warimono*. Stars packed inside the casing emit flames that flare straight out without leaving a trail, and the core being a distinctive feature. Usually, two or three colors are layered so that the changing shades of the core and petals can be enjoyed.

Han warimono



A Thousand Chrysanthemums

When the shell splits in the air, there is a momentary delay before variously colored chrysanthemum-shaped stars burst open in unison, filling the night sky with color. This kind of fireworks first appeared in the mid-Taisho era (late 1910s) in single colors.



Flower Thunder

This is one of a type of fireworks known as *otomono*, which produces a very loud bang, and emits a strong light studded with sparks. Sports festivals in Japan are customarily announced by the flare and accompanying loud, thundering boom of *otomono* fireworks.

Katamono



Butterfly

The stars in the shell are distributed in such a way as to form the shape of a butterfly. Since it opens out in three dimensions, it looks like a butterfly from some angles, but from other angles it appears to be round fireworks opening out.



Heart

A typical heart shape. Technical advances from the early Meiji period on have made it possible to create *katamono* with many variations and complex shapes.

Shikake Hanabi



Waterfall

A picture of a waterfall is evoked by using wire to suspend narrow tubes packed with pyrotechnic pellets at regular intervals and igniting them all at once. Generally called Niagara, this *shikake hanabi* is a popular set piece at fireworks displays.



Water Fireworks

Often featured in fireworks displays held near water, various methods are used to set off the fireworks. For example, *warimono* can be launched from in the water to create a fan-shaped flower blooming over the surface, or a launch pad for the fireworks can be set up over the water.



**Toronagashi and Fireworks Festival,
Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture
August 16**

In an extension of traditional summer *obon* rituals, this festival started in 1950 as a way to give solace to the souls of those who had lost their lives in World War II. A sutra is chanted as around 6,000 paper lanterns float out to sea, with the largest fireworks display on the Sea of Japan coastline. The sea and the night sky look mysterious and otherworldly as they are illuminated by the lanterns and fireworks.



**Omagari National Fireworks Competition,
Daisen, Akita Prefecture
August 23**

The Omagari Fireworks began in 1910 with a hiatus during the war years. This event has had a long history and will take place for the 88th time in 2014. The festival also looks to the future, and the yearly unveiling of new and innovative fireworks also attracts much attention.



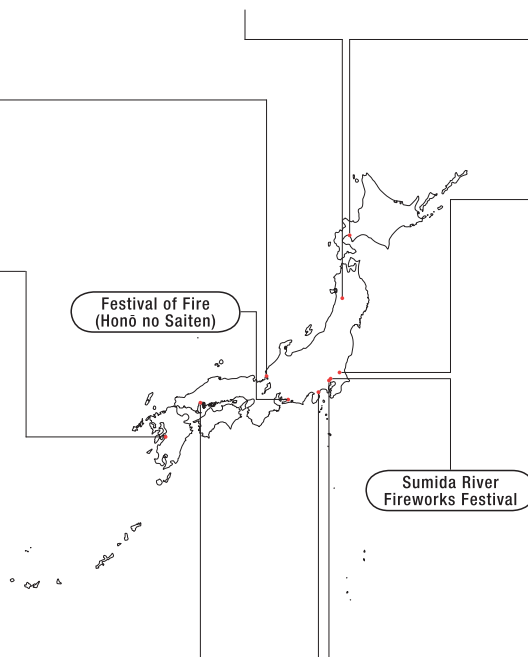
**Lake Toya Long-Run Fireworks Display,
Abutagun, Hokkaido Prefecture
April 28–October 31**

For the enjoyment of visitors to hot-spring (onsen) towns on the shores of Lake Toya, fireworks light up the sky above the lake for 20 minutes each evening. The fireworks displays are repeated from spring to autumn, and can even be enjoyed while one is taking a relaxing hot springs bath at a hotel.



**Yatsushiro National Fireworks Festival,
Yatsushiro, Kumamoto Prefecture
October 18**

There are a number of events across the country that gather together Japan's fireworks specialists in competition, but this is the most significant such occasion in Kyushu. Spectators come from all over the country to see the latest and the best creations of the participating pyrotechnicians.



**Tsuchiura All Japan Fireworks Competition,
Tsuchiura, Ibaraki Prefecture
October 4**

Akimoto Baiho, the head priest of Jinryuji Temple, who had close ties with the local flying corps, established this festival in 1925 with two goals. He wanted to give repose to the souls of those who had died in aerial combat and boost the local economy. The event was created on the banks of Lake Kasumigaura from private donations and has by now become one of the three largest fireworks displays in Japan, drawing attention from all over the country.



**Miyajima Marine Fireworks Display,
Hatsukaichi, Hiroshima Prefecture
August 11**

As a world heritage site, Miyajima enjoys great popularity with many visitors to Japan from overseas. At full tide, the area from the bright red *torii* gate to the inner sanctuary of the Itsukushima Shrine becomes submerged by the rising ocean. In the momentary flash of exploding fireworks, the shrine and the *torii* gate rise from the darkness and are reflected for an instant on the surface of the water like a fantastic illusion.



**Atami Sea Fireworks Festival,
Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture
July 21, 26; August 5, 8, 17, 20, 29;
September 15; December 7, 14, 23**

Atami is located less than an hour by bullet train from Tokyo. The convenient location and the opportunity to enjoy both hot springs and fireworks combine to make Atami a popular resort town. The finale of the fireworks displays is Daikuchu Niagara, which takes its name from the Niagara Falls. It is a huge fireworks display that cascades from the sky like the famous waterfall, lighting up the festival site as brightly as if it were daytime.



**Tokyo Bay Grand Fireworks Festival,
Chuo Ward, Tokyo
August 10**

This festival has many highlights, from the chance to watch fireworks against the backdrop of the famous Rainbow Bridge and the Tokyo evening skyline to the hundred or so large-scale fireworks and others that burst in the shape of various flowers or other unique and artistic patterns. The wide choice of viewing spots, including from rooftops or boats, all adds to the enjoyment. With advance reservations, the fireworks can be seen from really close up.

The Spirit of a Distinguished Traditional Fireworks Maker Lives On

The arrival of summer means that fireworks festivals are held all across Japan. Every time fireworks go up, cries of “Kagiya!” can be heard mingled with the applause and cheers. Kagiya is the name of an old established fireworks guild that has been in continuous existence since it was founded in 1659 by Yahe. Its long proud history spanning more than 350 years includes participating in the Ryōgoku Kawabiraki (now the Sumida River Fireworks Festival) in 1733, held at the order of the eighth Tokugawa shogun, Tokugawa Yoshimune.

The present fifteenth-generation head of this old established fireworks guild, Soke Hanabi Kagiya, and the first woman ever to succeed to the position, is Akiko Amano. Amano was surrounded by fireworks and professional fireworks-makers ever since she was a child, vowing to become one herself since second grade in elementary school. The daughter of a fireworks maker, she chose instead to be trained in demanding conditions in workshops away from her family’s business. In those days, only men could handle explosives. She learned to handle these explosives and also endured great hardship in excessive heat conditions. As a result in 2000, she succeeded to the position as the fifteenth-generation head of Kagiya at the age of 29. Such a rapid rise to this traditional position was unprecedented in the long history of Kagiya.

One may marvel at Amano’s mettle, and therein lies her secret. Not only does she make fireworks, but she also wears another hat as an accomplished judo player and referee. Her father and grandfather were both judo players. Amano holds a black belt and was an international referee of judo competitions at the Beijing Olympics. She attributes her backbone to judo.

Amano spoke about the feeling she puts into her fireworks. “Nowadays fireworks can be fired by computer, but I believe that the appeal of Japan is the cultural appreciation for timing (*ma*). That’s why I value the sense of staging a live performance, and we stick to remote push-button ignition. In the course of a display lasting one hour or more, we’d send signals to say, “Now!” more than 200 times. In Japan we take exceptional care with every single shot. Our work is extremely precise.”

In answer to the question “What are fireworks?” Amano replied: “Fireworks have something that energize us. I believe that good fireworks can make the audience feel positive about the future.”

With a body and spirit toughened by judo, Amano carries on the traditions of Japanese culture and the traditional art of fireworks. Behind the soothing summer scene of a night sky dotted with fireworks in full bloom, is the spirit of Japan.



Akiko Amano

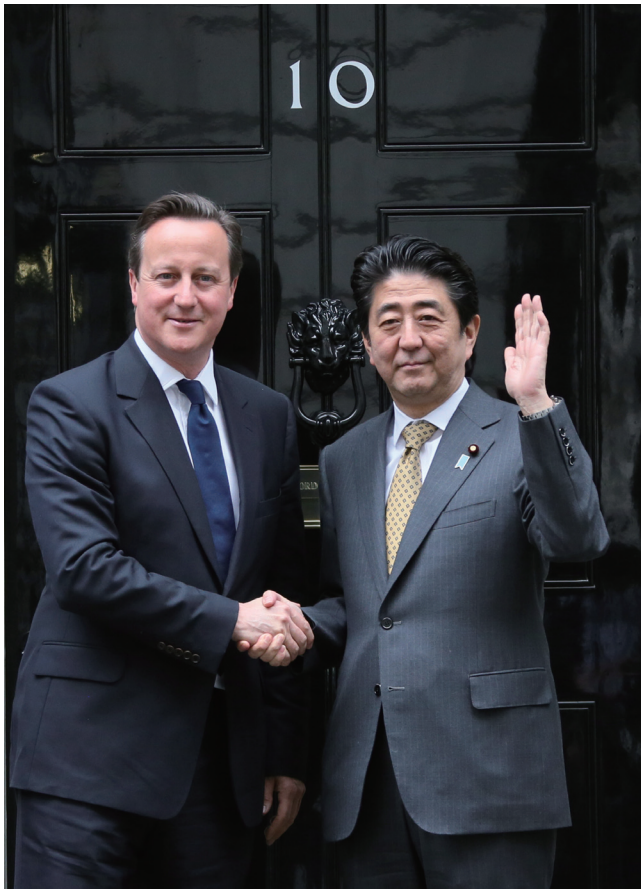
Akiko Amano was born in 1970, the second daughter of the fourteenth generation head of Soke Hanabi Kagiya. In 2000 she succeeded to the position of fifteenth generation head. She has a black belt in judo and is an International Judo Federation referee. She also holds a doctorate in art from the College of Art, Nihon University. Her website is: www.souke-kagiya.co.jp



At the Beijing Olympics, Amano was the first Japanese woman to serve as an Olympic judo referee. A competition judo player as a student, she won a bronze medal at the women's world judo championships in Fukuoka.



"Wild Cherry Blossoms" (*Yamazakura*), a fireworks display staged by Amano at the Edogawa-ku Fireworks Festival. Cherry blossoms on a mountainside bloom and fall, an effect achieved by setting off a peony behind a mountain formed by a waterfall fireworks.



Moments of
the Prime Minister
Summer 2014





These photographs are a record of the various diplomatic and domestic activities of Prime Minister Abe in summer 2014. The prime minister was able to meet with the leaders of many countries to deepen understanding and strengthen ties, making possible joint international contributions. He also visited areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and other places in Japan closely connected to government policy, as well as introduced Japanese technology to foreign guests. We hope that these photographs can demonstrate Japan's friendship with many countries as well as the prime minister's character.

1. Shaking hands with British Prime Minister David Cameron outside 10 Downing Street, May 2014.
2. German Chancellor Angela Merkel receives a Japan women's national soccer team uniform during the Japan-Germany Summit Meeting, April 2014.
3. The prime minister pays an informal visit to President Anibal Cavaco Silva during a trip to Portugal, May 2014.
4. Joint press conference held during U.S. President Barack Obama's state visit to Japan, April 2014.
5. Listening to a technical explanation during maglev train test ride with U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, April 2014.
6. Visiting the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral with Spanish President Mariano Rajoy during a tour of sites in the city, May 2014.
7. Attending a reception featuring Japanese cuisine with French President François Hollande during a visit to France, May 2014.
8. Joining hands with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President José Manuel Barroso during the G7 Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, June 2014.
9. Tasting freshly picked cherries in Fukushima Prefecture, May 2014.
10. The prime minister plays with children on a visit to an elementary school in Yokohama, May 2014.



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The Shangri-La Dialogue

Excerpts from the Keynote Address by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe
in Singapore, May 30, 2014

Peace and Prosperity in Asia, Forevermore

Japan for the Rule of Law, Asia for the Rule of Law, and the Rule of Law for All of Us

Full text http://japan.kantei.go.jp/96_abe/statement/201405/0530kichokoen.html



I think all of us in the room here share a common mission. That mission is one of pursuing better living standards and economic prosperity.

It is absolutely imperative that we make peace and stability something absolutely rock solid. To achieve this, all countries must observe international law.

Japan will offer its utmost support for the efforts of the countries of ASEAN as they work to ensure the security of the seas and the skies and thoroughly maintain freedom of navigation and freedom of overflight. Japan intends to

play an even greater and more proactive role than it has until now in securing peace in Asia and the world. With its new banner of “Proactive Contribution to Peace,” Japan already enjoys the explicit and enthusiastic support of the leaders of our allies and other friendly nations, including every leader of ASEAN member countries as well as the leaders of the United States, Australia, India, the United Kingdom, France and others.

This region has achieved tremendous growth in the span of a single generation. Indeed, in most countries of the region economic growth has steadily brought freedom of thought and religion and checks and balances to the political systems. And the rule of law, one of the essential pre-conditions for the establishment and preservation of human rights, has taken deeper root.

Today, the benefits for each of us lie in making the seas from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean completely open, as a place of freedom and peace. All of us should find one common value in keeping our oceans and skies global commons, where the rule of law is respected throughout, to the benefit of the world and humankind.

Now, when we say “the rule of law at sea,” — what exactly do we mean in concrete terms? If we take the fundamental spirit with which we have imbued international law over the ages and reformulate it into three principles, we find that the rule of law at sea is actually a matter of common sense. The first principle is that states shall make and clarify their claims based on international law. The second is that states shall not use force or coercion in pursuing their claims. The third principle is that states shall seek to settle disputes by peaceful means.

The government of Japan strongly supports the efforts by the Philippines calling for a resolution to the dispute in the South China Sea that is truly consistent with these three principles. We likewise support Viet Nam in its efforts to resolve issues through dialogue. Movement to consolidate changes to the status quo by forceful acquisitions of territory as a *fait accompli* can only be strongly condemned as something that contravenes the spirit of these three principles. Now is the time to make a firm pledge to return

to the spirit and provisions of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that all concerned countries agreed to, and not to undertake unilateral actions with drastic changes that contravene these agreements.

The world eagerly waits for our seas and our skies to be places governed solely by rules, laws, and established dispute resolution procedures. I strongly hope that a truly effective Code of Conduct can be established in the South China Sea between ASEAN and China and that it can be achieved swiftly.

Japan and China have an agreement concluded in 2007 between then-Premier Wen Jiabao and me, when I was serving previously as prime minister. That was a commitment we made to create a maritime and air communication mechanism in order to prevent unexpected conflict between Japan and China. Unfortunately, this has not led to the actual implementation of such a mechanism. We do not welcome dangerous encounters by fighter aircrafts and vessels at sea. What we must exchange is words. At first we must sit down together and discuss the relevant issues.

In my view, the time has come to place emphasis on the East Asia Summit (EAS)*. I urge further enhancement of the EAS as the premier forum for regional politics and security. Next year marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the EAS. I propose that we first create a permanent committee consisting of permanent representatives to ASEAN from the member countries and then prepare a roadmap to bring renewed vitality to the summit while also making the summit, together with the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting Plus, function in a multilayered fashion.

* Participants are Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, and Viet Nam.

The fruits of prosperity should be reinvested to create even greater prosperity and improve people's lives. I believe that a framework in which we publicly disclose our military budgets step-by-step with mutual verifications is a system that we should seek to establish as we extend the scope of the EAS.

Japan will offer its utmost support for efforts by ASEAN member countries to ensure the security of the seas and skies and rigorously maintain freedom of navigation and overflight. ... Japan will combine various options within its assistance menu, including Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), capacity building by the Self-Defense Forces, and defense equipment and technology cooperation, to seamlessly support the capacity of ASEAN countries in safeguarding the seas.

We are in an era in which it is no longer possible for any one nation to secure its own peace alone. That is exactly why it is incumbent upon us in Japan to reconstruct the legal basis pertinent to the right of collective self-defense and to international cooperation, including United Nations peacekeeping operations. Discussion is underway in Japan. It is because Japan is a country that depends a great deal on the peace and stability of the international community that it wishes to contribute even more proactively to world peace, and wishes to raise the banner of "Proactive Contributor to Peace."

Japan has for multiple generations walked a single path, devoted solely to the pursuit of freedom and human rights, valuing law and order, abhorring war, and earnestly and determinedly pursuing peace, never wavering in the least. We will continue to walk this same path, unchanged, for generations upon generations to come.

"Proactive Contribution to Peace" is nothing other than an expression of Japan's determination to spare no effort for the sake of the peace, security, and prosperity of Asia and the Pacific at even greater levels than before. We will do this together with our regional colleagues — our partners with whom we share our ambitions and our values. Taking our alliance with the United States as the foundation and respecting our partnership with ASEAN, Japan will spare no effort to make regional stability, peace, and prosperity something rock solid.

Womenomics Is Pushing Abenomics Forward

Woman Play an Increasingly Active Role in Japan

“Japan is back!” These were the words of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, at the New York Stock Exchange on September 25, 2013, displaying his strong determination to return Japan to a central role in the world economy.

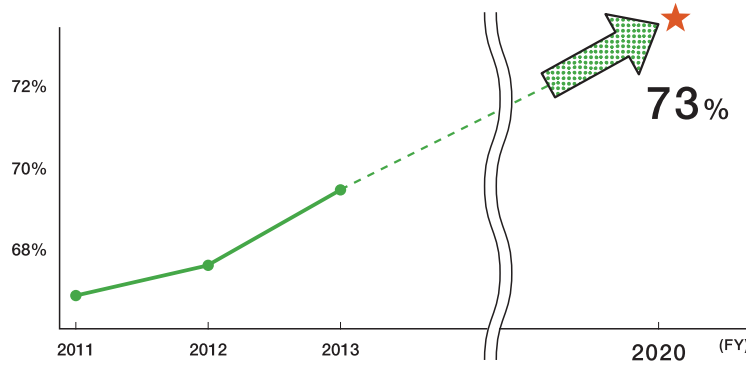
Returning to such a core position in the global economy meant lifting the Japanese economy out of deflation through a set of policies known as Abenomics. Prime Minister Abe’s positive strategies for reviving the economy are called the “three arrows” of Abenomics.

The first arrow was aggressive monetary relaxation and the second was flexible application of fiscal stimulus. As a result of these policies, the Japanese economy has been overcoming deflation, recording positive real GDP growth for six successive quarters after the Abe administration came into office. Robust corporate performance was accompanied by the highest level of wage increases and annual bonuses in 10 years, demonstrating Japan’s emphatic reemergence onto the world economic stage.

To build a new Japan, the government is now implementing its third arrow, a growth strategy to stimulate private investment. One factor creating some uncertainty as to whether the new Japan can remain strong, however, is the declining birthrate, which is leading to an aging society. As the working population gets smaller, even if the economy temporarily recovers its former strength, it may be difficult to maintain momentum over the longer term. One solution to this problem is “womenomics,” which we introduce in this section.

Compared with other developed countries, Japan has some way to go in promoting active female involvement in the workplace. Through measures to address this, it can increase its growth rate. Data also shows that in some developed countries, high female employment rates are accompanied by high birthrates. Steadily promoting policies that help women to participate more actively in society can bring about economic growth at a time when Japan is struggling with a low birthrate and aging population.

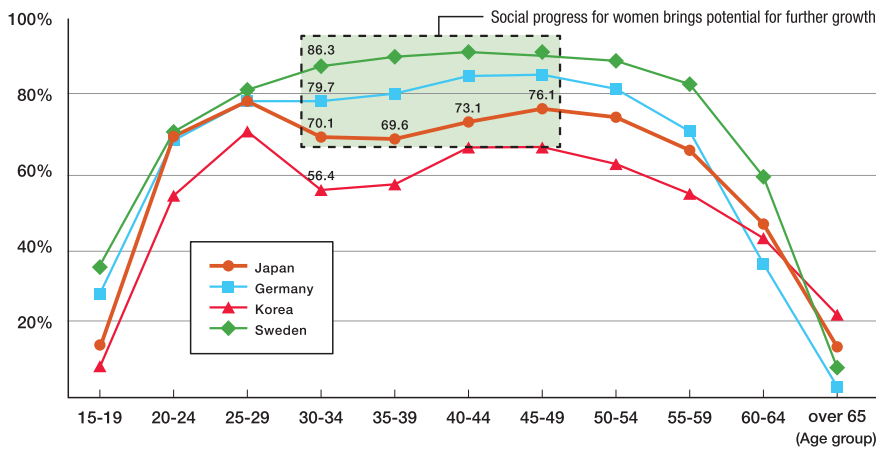
Proportion of Women (Age 25–44) in Work: Trends & Targets



Figures from 2013 show that the proportion of women in work in Japan increased by 1.8% to 69.6% in the period since the government of Shinzo Abe came to power in December 2012, a major improvement on the previous year's 0.9% increase. The growth strategies laid out in the government's Abenomics economic policies are aimed at accelerating this existing positive trend, and the target is to lift the overall figure to 73% by 2020.

*Compiled using figures from Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Labor Force Survey 2013. Proportion of women in employment calculated relative to overall population.

Female Labor Participation Rate: Age Breakdown & Comparison in International Trends

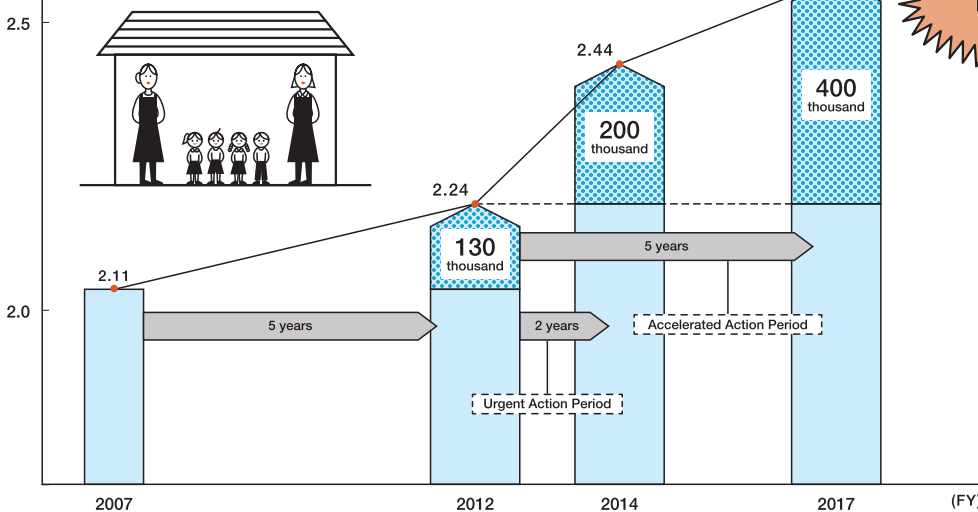


In comparison to a number of European countries, the high proportion of women in the 30-34 age group who leave work after the birth of their first child produces a distinctive M-shaped curve in Japan. There is significant potential for economic growth in Japan if this trend can be addressed and the proportion of women in their 30's and 40's who are employed or seeking work is brought in line with the figures seen in several Western countries.

*Compiled using figures from Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Labor Force Survey 2013. International figures taken from International Labour Organization ILOSTAT Database data from 2012. Female labor participation rate calculated relative to overall population, combining number of women in employment with those seeking employment.

Expansion of Preschool Facilities to Eliminate Nursery School Waiting Lists

Total Required Number of Nursery School Places Nationwide (million)



Eliminating Nursery School Waiting Lists

In Japan, 2017 is expected to see a peak in the number of children hoping to enter nursery schools. Plans are already underway to ensure that these needs can be met, thereby eliminating instances of children being placed on waiting lists due to a lack of available nursery school places. In the period from 2007 to 2012, the government provided 130,000 extra nursery school places to address the shortfall in availability. Urgent action was taken in the two years to the end of fiscal 2014 to increase this figure to 200,000 places. The government aims to boost such action further to ensure that 400,000 additional nursery school places are available by the end of fiscal 2017.

Policy Measures

The policies detailed below were announced to promote the active participation of women as part of the growth strategy. One element is to provide more opportunities for integral involvement, while another is to provide strong support to women.

The Abe administration is working to expand female participation in the workforce. It aims to increase the employment rate for women age 25–44 from 68% in 2012 to 73% by 2020, and to increase the percentage of women in leadership positions to 30%.

To ensure that this is more than just a target, Prime Minister Abe is taking every opportunity to push for the selection of women in corporate management positions. At the same time, the Abe administration has consistently been taking the initiative in government, speeding up the appointment of women to positions as high-ranking national public officials. In July 2013, Ms. Atsuko Muraki was appointed to the top bureaucratic position of administrative vice-minister of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. And several women have been appointed at the director-general level. The administration is also working to ensure corporate disclosure of figures regarding numbers of female executives and managers, and has launched a website to make that information public. This will help investors understand the level of female participation at different companies.

The Abe administration is supporting women's careers in other ways, too. At present, the employment rate drops dramatically for women in their 30's with children, as around 60% of women quit their jobs when their first child is born. To reduce that drop in Japan as in other developed nations, the administration will provide strong support for women raising children.

Specifically, it will provide tax and other incentives to companies that support active female participation and a balance between work and family. It will also implement the Plan to Accelerate the Elimination of Childcare Waiting Lists, which will establish 200,000 new nursery school places by 2015 and 400,000 by 2018, thus addressing the waiting lists that now face parents who cannot find facilities to look after their children.

Additionally, to address the issue of after-school care for elementary school students, particularly those in the first grade, the administration will create 300,000 more places for them over the next five years.

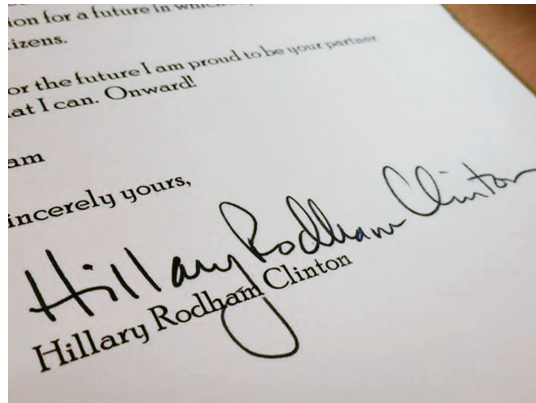
Furthermore, the government will expand the range of services offered by job centers to mothers who wish to return to work while raising their children. These centers introduce jobs allowing a balance between work and family and provide other services aimed specifically at meeting the needs of mothers. The administration is also advancing subsidy programs for working mothers, such as by revising the system of incentives to boost trial employment of new non-regular employees to include mothers who quit full-time positions to look after their children.

Ms. Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has said that if Japan were to raise its female labor participation rate to that of most G7 countries (excluding

Italy), GDP per capita would rise by 4%. She has also stated that raising the rate further to equal that of Northern Europe would increase GDP per capita by 8%. In a letter to Prime Minister Abe, Ms. Hillary Clinton wrote that if women had the same labor participation rate as men in Japan, GDP would grow by 16%.

Our country is now making rapid progress toward turning those words into reality by creating a Japan where women can shine.

“Thank you for recognizing the important link between women’s economic opportunity and broad economic growth, and for making the case for policies that better support working women. ... Onward!”



A letter from Ms. Clinton to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe dated October 1, 2013.



1. Prime Minister Abe at the Women in Business Summit 2. Abe stands with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy and other participants at the summit

Japanese Women Making a Big Impact in the Business World

Women Begin to Shine

In April 2013, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with representatives of the business community to exchange ideas on growth strategy. In order to realize his goal of having no less than 30 percent of leadership positions filled by women by 2020, Prime Minister Abe told those in attendance that he “would like all listed companies to proactively appoint women to executive and managerial positions.” The prime minister added that, as a start, he would like each of these companies to appoint one female executive officer.

In response to Prime Minister Abe’s leadership in striving to create a new future for Japan, female executives who embody the ideals behind womenomics are beginning to emerge at major companies.

One woman attracting attention as one of the first female executives at a large trading company is Ms. Mitsuru Chino, an executive officer at Itochu Corporation. Ms. Chino joined Itochu as a corporate lawyer at the age of 33. There were those who questioned her decision to give up a career as partner at an international law firm to move to a private corporation in Japan, but Ms. Chino had no doubts: “The chance to enter such a dynamic world, work globally in a wide range of fields, and find new challenges together with my division really spoke to my heart,” she says.

The year 2003 became a major turning point for Ms. Chino, as the World Economic Forum placed her on its list of 100 Global Leaders of Tomorrow. “The chairman asked me why I thought I had been selected,” she recalls. “It gave me the chance to take a good look at the way I wanted to live my life.” Ms. Chino says that, until that point, her guiding principle had been “doing what I wanted to do,” but she realized that she needed to consider how she could contribute and examine “what is required of me by my organization and by those around me.”

In April 2013, Ms. Chino was appointed as an executive officer at the age of 46. Having decided in her heart to take any opportunity that came her way, she says that she had no hesitation in accepting the offer.

Nearly 30 years have passed since Ms. Chino began her career in 1986, the same year that Japan’s Equal Opportunity Employment Law came into effect. She is part of a generation of women who have carved out their careers at a time of growing female participation in society. “In many places and in many fields, the women of Japan have been gathering their strength, and now they are preparing to fly,” she says. “I have great belief in the government’s advocacy of a society in which women can truly shine.”



Mitsuru Chino

Executive Officer, General Counsel, Itochu Corporation
Joined Itochu as a corporate lawyer in 2000. At the age of 46, was appointed the company’s youngest-ever executive officer in April 2013.

A Proud Procession of Female Executives

In April 2014, Japan Airlines (JAL) appointed Ms. Hoshiko Nakano to the dual roles of executive officer and senior vice president in charge of the company's Western Japan Headquarters.

Ms. Nakano joined JAL's international sales division in her 20's, and what she achieved from her dedication to accommodating business partners' needs gained her recognition as one of the company's top female employees, and she became an inspiration to her female colleagues. In her forties, she oversaw a number of large-scale projects, including the introduction of Japan's first standardized system of air-fare pricing. "The company has given me a position of great responsibility, so I give my all to see every task through to a satisfactory conclusion," Ms. Nakano explains. "This company is working toward greater equality and has set targets for increasing the number of women in management positions. Having more female leaders will create new company values and a new corporate culture, revitalizing the whole organization and ultimately making it more competitive in the marketplace."

April 2014 also saw the first appointment of a female head by a Japanese bank, when Ms. Chie Shinpo became president of Nomura Trust and Banking. Ms. Shinpo joined Nomura Securities in 1989 and spent time in the firm's Capital Markets Department and Secretarial Office before she was appointed an executive officer at Nomura Holdings at the age of 46. Two years later, she became president of Nomura Trust and Banking.

Tokyo Electric Power Company also recently appointed its first female executive officer, Ms. Rieko Sato. In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Ms. Sato worked to provide guidance on financial support and compensation to victims of the disaster.

At Daiwa Securities, Ms. Keiko Tashiro is also drawing attention for the way she built up overseas experience before being appointed corporate executive officer and executive managing director in charge of the firm's operations in the United States.

In May 2014, Ms. Chino and Ms. Shinpo were joined by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the Women in Business Summit in Tokyo, where many female professionals from Japan and the United States came together to exchange ideas.

With a highly motivated female workforce that also boasts increased experience in senior management roles, it would not be an overstatement to say that these women are helping Japan to realize its as-yet untapped potential for growth.



1. Hoshiko Nakano: Japan Airlines, Executive Officer and Senior Vice President, Western Japan Headquarters
2. Chie Shinpo: Nomura Trust and Banking, President, Nomura Holdings, Executive Officer
3. Rieko Sato: Tokyo Electric Power Company, Executive Officer, TEPCO Customer Service Company, Vice President
4. Keiko Tashiro: Daiwa Securities, Corporate Executive Officer, Executive Managing Director, Deputy Head of Overseas (Head of Americas Region)
Daiwa Capital: Markets America, Chairperson

Japanese Women Contributing Worldwide

The Power of Japanese Women Is Changing the World

“I want to help people not only in Japan but all over the world!”

There are many women who think this way and are making contributions overseas. Below we introduce some Japanese women who are active on the international stage.

Dr. Ritsuko Komaki pioneers new cancer treatments and helps children as a professor of radiation oncology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. The center is one of the world’s largest treatment facilities, known for its cutting-edge medical care. In 2006, Dr. Komaki introduced proton therapy, which was at the time attracting attention as a new form of treatment, to the center.

Dr. Komaki’s career has its origin in painful childhood experiences. She was born in Amagasaki and raised in Hiroshima. When she was 10, a friend died of leukemia as a result of exposure to the radiation of the atomic bomb dropped on the city. As she puts it, “I knew that I couldn’t let this death be for nothing.”

The years passed and she qualified as a doctor, choosing to work in a facility that made use of the world’s latest treatments. She faced the reality, however, that existing treatments damaged healthy tissues, and many people continued to die from aftereffects. It is particularly important to prevent such aftereffects in children, as they can significantly affect the quality of life of children, who have long lives still ahead of them.

While searching for a treatment that would effectively target only diseased tissue, Dr. Komaki learned about proton therapy. The Houston center has achieved excellent results since introducing the technique in 2008, with patient numbers more than doubling by 2013. Today the facility treats cancer patients from all over the world.

“There’s nothing that makes me happier than the moment when smiling children thank me after they’re better.” Dr. Komaki dreams of making even more children smile in the future.



- 1. “I want to give children a future,” says Dr. Komaki
- 2. No happier sight than patients’ and their parents’ smiles
- 3. Crane artwork in hospital lobby is a symbol of wish to save children’s lives

Ritsuko Komaki

Professor in the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Department of Radiation Oncology.
Graduated from Hiroshima University, where she studied medicine. Went to the United States to study radiation oncology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Has since spent around 40 years working as a doctor in the United States.

Some of Japan's globally active women are contributing in emerging countries. Ms. Marumi Osaka has been working together with local residents in Panama to improve their living conditions. She first moved to Panama as an environmental education volunteer with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and started a project with local women making soap from waste oil.

While Panama is enjoying high economic growth, problems remain, including income disparity, poverty, and a gender gap. "I thought my initial goal would be environmental protection, but when I actually arrived I felt the need to boost incomes as a part of improving people's living conditions," Ms. Osaka says.

She tried a number of initiatives in the search for a breakthrough, but nothing paid off at first. Then a meeting with women from the village of El Cacao led to the plan that has become so successful. "Panamanian people fry food every day, producing large amounts of waste oil. I worked with the women of the village to turn that oil into soap and sell it for profit."

It took two entire years before the local women could make soap by themselves. As these women had never worked outside their homes, it took even longer before they could talk about the product to customers and sell it. But their efforts paid off. "I was so happy when the local women told me of their pride in learning and being able to earn money for themselves," says Ms. Osaka. "I knew that they would keep it up after I left."

After three years in Panama, Ms. Osaka returned to Japan, where she is studying the lives of Panamanian farming village residents at graduate school. She wants to learn more and contribute to emerging countries around the world. Based on what she has gained from her Panamanian experience, she is starting to set her sights on her next target.



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| 1 | <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 5px;">2</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">3</td> </tr> </table> | 2 | 3 | <p>1. "I want to contribute more to other countries," says Ms. Osaka. 2. Ms. Osaka teaching the soap-making process 3. Soap made from waste oil contributes to improving incomes and decreasing the gender gap.</p> |
| 2 | 3 | | | |

Marumi Osaka

Panama Recycling Project

After working at a major transportation company, spent three years in Panama as an environmental education volunteer with JICA. Now studying at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

The Road to Revival

It's Not Just Mud – A British Man Supporting Recovery in Tsunami-Affected Areas

“It was terrible, like a scene from *The Terminator*, but after judgment day! I can still clearly remember how it looked. It’s difficult to explain, but it was as if the whole town was a snow globe that had been shaken, and all the houses and cars were snowflakes.” So says Jamie El-Banna, a British man who was teaching English in Osaka at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Immediately after the earthquake he decided to volunteer in Tohoku and in late May 2011, just over two months after the disaster took place, he got the chance to go to the affected areas.

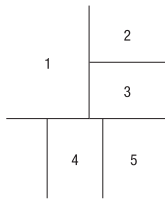
He worked to clear out mud and clean up buildings with a group made up of English teachers and U.S. Marine volunteers, who had assembled via social media. During this period, Jamie posted updates and photos on his blog as well as on Facebook and Twitter. This material was mainly written for his own sake, as a way to process what he was experiencing, but it inspired a huge response.

After a week of volunteer work, Mr. El-Banna returned to Osaka, but he soon realized that he wanted to go back to Tohoku, and headed two weeks later to Ishinomaki, a city that had been devastated by the tsunami in Miyagi Prefecture. While taking on any work that needed doing — which usually resulted in his being covered in mud — he also continued to report what was happening on social media, following the advice of fellow volunteers who said it was important to keep letting the world know what life was like in Ishinomaki. One day he was contacted by some of his readers in Japan and abroad who were interested in volunteering, and he urged them to come and join him. And from that point on, people kept on coming. After a while, a small village of 20 tents stood around his own.

El-Banna also became friends with many local people, in particular Nobuko Hashimoto, or Hashimoto Mama, as she came to be known. A mother figure, Hashimoto Mama would prepare delicious home-cooked food for volunteers every day. “After eating such delicious food, you would feel that you really needed to work hard to earn it!”

Throughout his time in Tohoku, El-Banna was often asked a question that sounded odd to him, “Why are you working so hard for Japan even though you are not from the country?” He replied: “Who cares about that? Japanese or foreign, we’re all human. I live in Japan; it’s only natural to help.”

Finally, when asked what gives him the motivation to continue his work, he says, as if it’s self-evident, “I don’t have any special motivation. I just do it because I want to. If you do something you love, it doesn’t feel like work.”



1. Clearing mud from a roadside ditch
 2. Jamie's tent on a university sports field in Ishinomaki
 3. Mud-covered volunteers (Jamie is second from left)
 4. Enjoying lunch prepared by Hashimoto Mama
 5. Smiling while answering an interview question

Jamie El-Banna

Chairman of It's Not Just Mud (INJM), supporting reconstruction activity.



The Takeshima Issue:

A Challenge to the Postwar International Order?

Japan's claim over Takeshima is often portrayed by the Republic of Korea (ROK) as tantamount to the repetition of the "same course of aggression" as in the prewar history "culminating in the annexation of the whole of Korea into Japan" challenging the fact that the islands "were restored as Korean territory after World War II."(*1) Is it true? Is Japan challenging the postwar international order? Let us examine this question.

(*1) "Dokdo – Korea's Beautiful Island", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea.

1. Japan is pursuing its claim in a manner complying with the rules of Postwar International Order

First, it is important to note that Japan's pursuit of a solution to the Takeshima issue has consistently been undertaken complying with the rules of the postwar international order including the Charter of the United Nations. In other words, Japan has consistently advanced its claim peacefully and on the basis of international law, not by unilateral use of force. To this end, Japan proposed to refer this case to the International Court of Justice on no less than three occasions since 1954; on each occasion, Japan's proposal was rejected by the ROK. Japan has never resorted to, and will never use force or threats in seeking the resolution of any issue, including the Takeshima issue.

Continuing to claim Takeshima for the past 60 years, however, has not prevented Japan from establishing close ties and friendship with the ROK. Japan normalized its relations with ROK in 1965. The two countries have worked together since to overcome a number of common challenges, including the Asian financial crisis that hit the region, including the ROK, in the late 1990s. The two neighbors successfully co-hosted the 2002 FIFA World Cup, which was a symbolic event showcasing to the world the national strength (and soccer skill!) of both countries, as well as the friendship between the Japanese and Korean peoples. Japan strongly believes that individual issues including Takeshima must not detract from the broader picture of Japan's relationship with its most important neighbor.

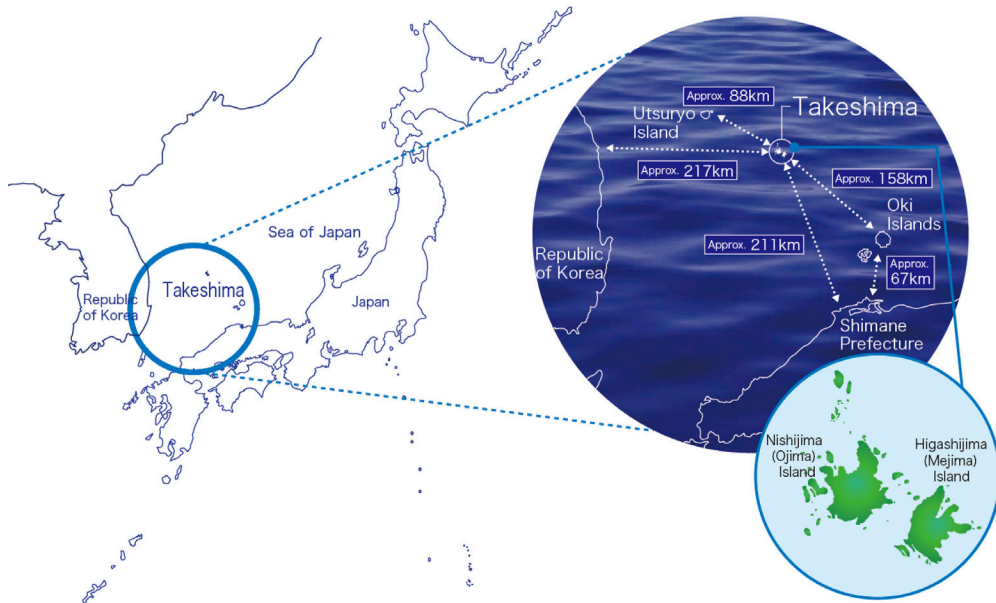
2. Japan is seeking a Realization of the Postwar International Order

Second, it may be useful to go over the sequence of events, whereby Takeshima had been confirmed as Japanese territory in the San Francisco Peace Treaty and then, had illegally been occupied by the ROK. Therefore, it is a realization of the legitimate title based on the postwar international order that Japan is pursuing.

The San Francisco Peace Treaty, which is the very basis of Postwar Order in East Asia, did not include Takeshima in the territory to be renounced by Japan, confirming that it remains part of Japanese territory. This point is clearly confirmed in such public documents as the letter from then U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk to the ROK government, dated August 10 1951. At a time when the text of the treaty was being finalized, he explicitly stated that Takeshima had been under Japanese jurisdiction and that the territory was "never treated as part of Korea," and that "[t]he island does not appear ever before to have been claimed by Korea."

It was therefore only natural that, after the entry into force of the San Francisco Peace Treaty in April 1952, the United States treated unequivocally Takeshima as part of Japan. In July 1952, the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee (a consultative body joining the Japanese and U.S. governments) agreed to designate Takeshima as a bombing range for the U.S. forces in Japan. The Joint Committee subsequently decided to remove the designation in March 1953 to allow Shimane Prefecture fishermen to continue fishing in the area. It goes without saying that these joint actions on the part of the U.S. and Japanese governments, by definition, could only be based on a shared assumption that Takeshima was part of Japan. Indeed, according to the material from the National

Takeshima at a glance



Referral to the ICJ



Japan proposed to the Republic of Korea that the issue of Takeshima be referred to the International Court of Justice in 1954, immediately after Takeshima was illegally occupied by the latter. The proposal has been communicated to the Republic of Korea in 1962 and most recently in 2012. On each of these occasions, the Republic of Korea rejected Japan's proposal.

Evidence

or final renunciation of sovereignty by Japan over the areas dealt with in the Declaration. As regards the island of Dokdo, otherwise known as Takeshima or Liancourt Rocks, this normally uninhabited rock formation was according to our information never treated as part of Korea and, since about 1905, has been under the jurisdiction of the Oki Islands Branch Office of Shimane Prefecture of Japan. The island does not appear ever before to have been claimed by Korea. It is understood that

Rejection of the Republic of Korea's claims: In the Letter from the then United States Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, Dean Rusk, of August 1951. (copy)

Takeshima or Liancourt Rocks, this normally uninhabited rock formation was according to our information never treated as part of Korea and, since about 1905, has been under the jurisdiction of the Oki Islands Branch Office of Shimane Prefecture of Japan. The island does not appear ever before to have been claimed by Korea.

The Embassy has taken note of the statement contained in the Ministry's Note that "Dokdo Island (Liancourt Rocks) ... is a part of the territory of the Republic of Korea". The United States Government's understanding of the territorial status of this island was stated in Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk's note to the Korean Ambassador in Washington dated August 10, 1951.

American Embassy,
Pusan, December 4, 1952.
RHBashner/ic

Note Verbale No.187, American Embassy in Korea (Busan), December 4 1952 (from "Dokdo Jaryo II - Miguk Pyeon", National Institute of Korean History, December 23, 2008)

The United States Government's understanding of the territorial status of this island was stated in Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk's note to the Korean Ambassador in Washington dated August 10, 1951.

Library of Korea and the National Institute of Korean History, in December 1952, the U.S. government issued a note verbale to the ROK government, reiterating unequivocally that its position regarding sovereignty of Takeshima remains as “stated in Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk’s note to the Korean Ambassador in Washington dated August 10, 1951.”(*2)

Despite these, the ROK illegally occupied Takeshima, by taking such steps as establishing the so-called “Syngman Rhee Line” in 1952, incorporating Takeshima into the ROK side of the line, and dispatching a coast guard battalion in 1954 on the land. In this process, patrol vessels of Japan’s Coast Guard were fired on by the Korean side on no fewer than two occasions. The rules of the postwar international order were thus violated. Hence, Japan’s claim over Takeshima is a demand to undo this violation.

(*2) Note Verbale No. 187, American Embassy in Korea (Busan), December 4 1952 (NARA, Box 322 Liancourt Rocks, 1952-54, Korea, Seoul Embassy, Classified General Records, 1952-63, RG 84 Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, 1788-1964). This note verbale has been featured in the web page of the National Library of Korea as well as in a document compiled by the National Institute of Korean History of the Korean Government “Dokdo Jaryo II – Miguk Pyeon” (Dokdo Document Volume 2 – U.S. documents” December 23, 2008), as earlier indicated in a report by the Shimane Prefecture of March 2012.

3. Confirmation of the status of Takeshima as Japanese territory under the Postwar International Order was conducted based on objective facts

Third, the recognition by the United States and its allies that Takeshima remain a part of Japanese territory was utterly noncontroversial, which can be clearly seen by an examination of objective facts and documents. It only suffices to go back to the letter by then Assistant Secretary of State Rusk of August 1951, mentioned earlier. As he wrote, there were absolutely no records whatsoever showing that Korea had ever effectively controlled Takeshima. This means that any narrative to the effect that Takeshima’s incorporation into Shimane Prefecture in 1905 “infringed upon Korea’s sovereignty”(*3) cannot have any basis whatsoever.

The ROK cites a Korean Imperial Ordinance No. 41(1900) that established the Utsu Island County as evidence that Korea exercised “effective control” over Takeshima, despite the fact that the document does not even refer to “Dokdo,” the name used by the ROK to refer to Takeshima. The ROK maintains that the ordinance stipulated that the entire island of Utsuryo and the islands of Jukdo and Sokdo would fall under the jurisdiction of the county, and that “Sokdo” is actually “Dokdo.” The problem is that the only ground given for asserting that “Sokdo” refers to “Dokdo” (Takeshima) is the mere similarity in pronunciation of both names in one of the several dialects in Korea.

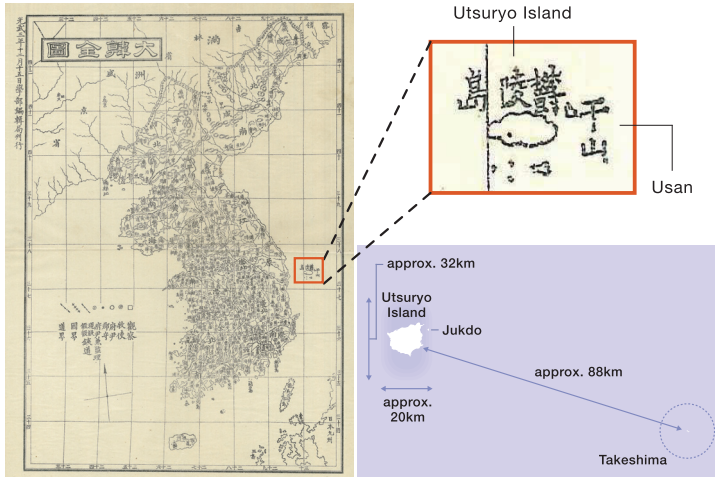
If one chooses instead to inspect solid facts, it is not possible to overlook the fact that Korean documents and maps of the time consistently excluded Takeshima from the scope of Utsu Island County. For example, immediately before the establishment of Utsu Island County in 1900, its official proposal submitted by then Korean Minister of the Interior Yi kon-ha, described Utsu Island County as extending 80 *ri* (around 32 kilometers) north to south and 50 *ri* (around 20 kilometers) east to west. This plainly demonstrates that whatever presently known island “Sokdo” may refer to, it must be within the range of 32 kilometers north to south and 20 kilometers east to west, which includes the island of Ulleungdo (Utsuryo Island). In other words, “Sokdo” cannot possibly be Takeshima, which is about 90 kilometers away from Ulleungdo (Utsuryo Island).

(*3) “Dokdo – Korea’s Beautiful Island”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea.

4. Conclusion: Longing and Memories

One can still meet the grandchildren of the villagers of the Oki Islands of Shimane Prefecture who caught abalone on Takeshima at the turn of the twentieth century. Traditional techniques for abalone fishing have been passed on from generation to generation. Abalone fishing continues around Oki Islands, but longing to return to Takeshima, where their ancestors fished, still persists. Some share their memories of playing as children with baby Japanese sea lions from Takeshima. They feel sadness that the species became extinct in the 1970s. Takeshima is still a living, breathing part of the lives and memories of these people. Thinking of Takeshima is also thinking of the landscape of their quiet local community.

Challenge by the ROK



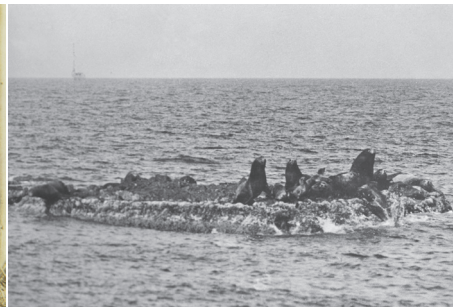
"Daehan Jeondo (Complete Map of Korea)" (1899), produced by the government of the Korean Empire, does not include Takeshima. This map shows that the island of "Usan" was located about 2 km away from Utsuryo Island. The ROK asserts that "Usan" is the old name of Takeshima, but it is apparently current Jukdo Island. Takeshima is about 88km far away from Utsuryo Island.

Japan Coast Guard patrol vessel fired at near Takeshima by the Republic of Korea in July 1953.

(Photo: The Yomiuri Shimbun)

(Photo: provided by Toyo Bunko [edited])

Memories are alive



1 | 2

1. Fishing boat from Okinoshima, Shimane prefecture, traveling to Takeshima in 1954, before Takeshima became inaccessible to Japanese nationals as a result of the illegal occupation by the ROK. 2. Sea lions in Takeshima area (1934).

(Photo: Private Collection, provided by the "Takeshima Archives Room" of the Shimane Prefecture)

Friendship and Partnership



1 | 2

1. Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi met ROK President Kim Dae Jung on October 7, 1998 and the Joint Declaration (A New Japan-Republic of Korea Partnership towards the Twenty-first Century) was adopted. Both leaders expressed their determination that Japan and the Republic of Korea further develop their cooperative relationship founded on such universal principles as freedom, democracy and the market economy.

(Photo: Two leaders at review meeting in 1999.)

2. Japan and the Republic of Korea jointly hosted the 2002 FIFA World Cup

“Sea of Japan,” A Name Created by Countries Around the World

The name “Sea of Japan” is the only internationally established name for the sea area concerned. Japan strongly opposes unfounded arguments concerning the name “Sea of Japan” and is calling for a better understanding of the issue and support for Japan's position from the international community in order to maintain the sole use of the name, “Sea of Japan.”

The Origins of the Name “Sea of Japan”

Japan did not give the name “Sea of Japan” to the sea between the Eurasian continent and the Japanese archipelago. It is likely that the name derives from the geographical factor that this sea area is mainly separated from the Pacific Ocean by the Japanese archipelago, and the name later became generally accepted worldwide. There are many sea areas that have been named in a similar way, such as the Andaman Sea, separated from the Indian Ocean by the Andaman Islands, and the Gulf of California, separated from the Pacific Ocean by the California Peninsula.

Objections From the Republic of Korea

Despite these origins, at the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1992, the Republic of Korea (ROK) began to demand that the name of the sea be changed to “East Sea,” a name used only within the ROK. The ROK claimed that “the name ‘Sea of Japan’ became widespread as a result of Japanese colonial rule in the early twentieth century.” Before this, the ROK had never made any objections to the term, either during bilateral talks or at international fora.

Japan has studied maps possessed by the U.S. Library of Congress, the British Library, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, and other bodies and found that the name “Sea of Japan” was already used with overwhelming frequency in early 19th century maps. Japan during the Edo Period (1603–1867) had an isolationist policy, and was unable to exercise any influence to establish the name “Sea of Japan.” It is clear that the name is not connected with Japanese colonial rule in the early twentieth century. We must teach correct facts to the children of the world. This is the responsibility of all the parents.

General Worldwide Acceptance of the Name “Sea of Japan”

Countries around the world including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany use the name “Sea of Japan.” For example, the United States government has repeatedly stated that it uses the name, both on its website and through press conferences given by senior officials. The United Nations recognized “Sea of Japan” as the standard geographical term in 2004, and UN policy states that the standard geographical term be used in official UN publications. Furthermore, the International Hydrographic Organization's *Limits of Oceans and Seas*, which includes names for the world's seas, uses the name “Japan Sea.”

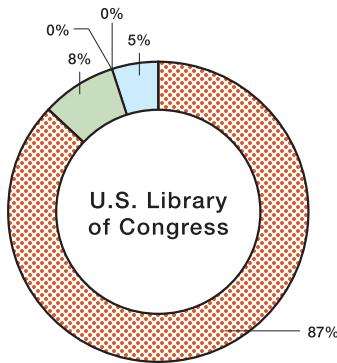
Protecting the Name “Sea of Japan”

If all countries followed the ROK and started naming the seas to their east or west as “East Sea” or “West Sea,” countless similar names would spread around the world causing unnecessary confusion. Furthermore, although the ROK also calls the Yellow Sea “West Sea,” it does not claim that the name should be used internationally, suggesting its position is inconsistent. Japan will continue to oppose any attempts to change the only historically and internationally established name for the “Sea of Japan” to “East Sea,” a name that is used only within the ROK.

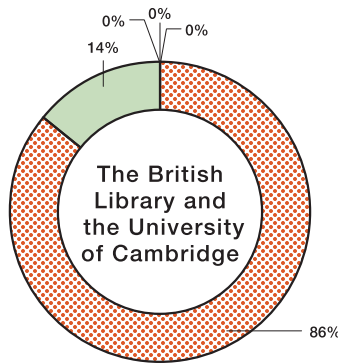
For more information see the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan website: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/maritime/japan/index.html>

Results of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Survey of Historical Maps

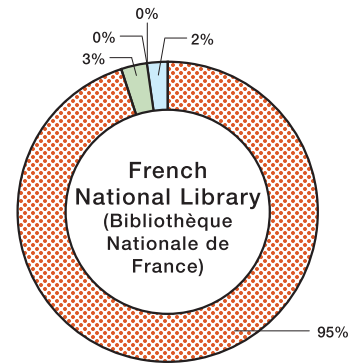
(Percentages indicate the ratio of use of the various names for the sea area concerned)



Survey Period : December 2004–March 2005
Maps Surveyed: 1,213 maps



Survey Period : December 2002–June 2003
Maps Surveyed: 58 maps



Survey Period : October 2003–January 2004
Maps Surveyed: 215 maps



Note: A survey of maps containing names of the sea area concerned.

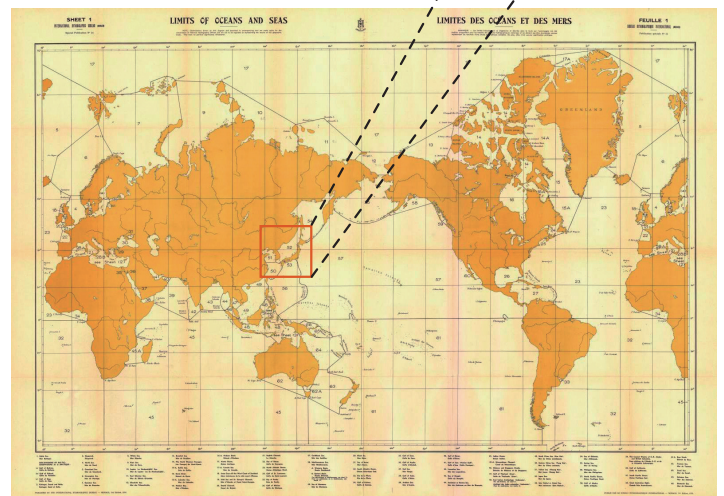
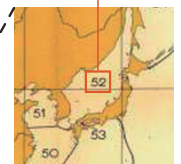


Map from the UN Secretariat



The United Nations and the governments of major nations such as the United States recognize "Sea of Japan" as the official name.

52. Japan Sea



The IHO publication "Limits of Oceans and Seas" uses the name "Japan Sea" for the sea area concerned.



The Issue of the Name "Sea of Japan"

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

Hotels in Japan: From the Luxurious to the Affordable

Visitors to Japan are pleasantly surprised by its wonderful hotels with a wide selection, from luxurious to economy lodgings. Whichever you choose, you can take great delight in the attentive service of highly professional staff and the attention to detail that embodies a uniquely Japanese spirit of hospitality (*omotenashi*).

Of course, you can find most of the globally known brands as well as a number of historic Japanese luxury hotels. However, when you are trying to keep costs down, Japan's numerous mid-level "business hotels," ranging from US\$80 to US\$100 per night, are an ideal solution. These hotels are often to be found near conveniently located stations or in city centers, and the rooms are compact but well appointed, with everything you might need to enjoy a relaxing stay. Hotels provide all basic facilities including Internet access. Some even have aromatherapy air purifiers and massage chairs to help you relax after a busy day of sightseeing!

Even if you are operating on a really tight budget, there is a wide range of affordable accommodation for backpackers and other budget travellers priced from US\$20-40. Hostels often feature simple rooms and shared amenities such as kitchens, bathrooms, and toilets. At lodgings that often play host to medium-term visitors from overseas service may be available in English, and a stay at such a location provides a great opportunity to meet other guests from all over the world.

Alternatively, one can enjoy the unique charms of "capsule hotels" for US\$30-40 per night. Sleeping in one of these narrow fiberglass rooms may make you feel like an astronaut. Various videos are available online that provide more detail about these capsule hotels, so why not take a look for yourself?

Another way to keep costs down is to stray a just a little off the beaten track and away from the main urban centers. The major cities in Japan all have highly developed transport networks including trains and subways, so without any inconvenience you can stay slightly further out and reduce expenses. For the same price as a business hotel room in the city, you will be able to stay in a higher caliber of hotel.

Finding exactly the right hotel to meet your budget and needs will help to guarantee that you enjoy the best possible stay in Japan. We are waiting to welcome you!



1	2
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1. You can feel *wa* (spirit of Japan) in this hotel room (©Jiji) 2. A historic luxury hotel's lobby (©Imperial Hotel) 3. Business hotel room 4. Owner talking with foreign guests at hostel (©Jiji) 5. Capsule hotel (©Aflo) 6. Inside capsule (©Aflo)

Japan's Regional Power

As part of “Abenomics,” the economic policy of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s administration, the Japanese government is taking steps to promote direct investment in Japan by non-Japanese enterprises. In May 2014, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) held an “Invest in Japan” seminar in London, where Prime Minister Abe was joined by the governors of Hiroshima and Mie Prefectures and the mayors of Kobe and Fukuoka in making top-level appeals to potential investors. In this issue of *We Are Tomodachi*, we focus on the attractions of Mie Prefecture and of the city of Kobe.

Mie Prefecture: A Hub of Internationally Competitive Manufacturing

One of Mie Prefecture’s advantages is its location. It is situated near Japan’s geographical center, between Nagoya and Osaka, and it enjoys an ample, well-developed set of transportation links to Tokyo. The bullet train (shinkansen) currently connects Nagoya with the capital in 1 hour, 40 minutes; a new maglev train planned to begin running in 2027 will shorten this to around 40 minutes. In addition to motorways and railroads, it has an international trading port, Yokkaichi, and is close to Central Japan International Airport (Centrair), providing convenient international access.

Thanks in part to this good accessibility, Mie Prefecture has become a hub of industry with numerous manufacturing businesses. Over 40% of the prefecture’s manufacturing is in high-value-added fields like transportation equipment, semiconductors, electronic and electric devices, and pharmaceuticals. This industrial base makes it an attractive site for investment. Mie already boasts the highest rate of production per person in Japan, but according to a forecast by the Japan Center for Economic Research, Mie is also expected to have the highest rate of growth among Japan’s prefectures in terms of real production value over the 2011–2025 period.

As Mie’s particular strengths, Governor Eikei Suzuki, at age 39 the youngest governor in Japan, cites the prefecture’s concentration of internationally competitive industries and its clusters of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with advanced capabilities supporting the operations of major corporations. For example, the prefecture is home to part of Japan’s biggest cluster of aerospace industry firms; half of the airplanes and aircraft parts made in Japan are from the urban region of Mie near Nagoya, and the prefecture intends to further strengthen its presence in the aerospace sector.

Mie has also been progressing in the area of partnerships linking industry, academia, and the public sector. Mie University is promoting research activities conducted jointly with businesses, and its partners are not limited to Japanese firms but include companies from France and Taiwan. The prefecture also has a high level of expertise in the environmental sector based on its record of dealing with the air pollution from which it suffered in the past. Mie’s International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer has undertaken the transfer of technologies to 89 developing countries.

The prefectural government’s commitment to promoting direct investment from overseas is seen in the one-stop services that it provides across a wide range of areas, including assistance in selecting sites and handling the paperwork related to plant construction.

Mie Prefecture also offers generous grants to companies from overseas that make investments above a certain scale — a level of support greater than what is provided to domestic enterprises. It also has a “mileage system” — the first such program in Japan — that helps companies clear the scale requirement for grants even if their initial investment is not large by allowing them to add up investments made over a number of years. The prefecture is currently home to 52 foreign companies, and with these attractive conditions it hopes to substantially increase this number.

International Competitiveness Owing To a High Concentration of Firms



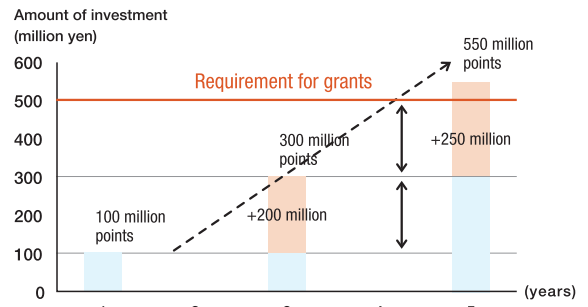
2027 Linear Maglev Train (Service between Nagoya and Tokyo)



Tokyo ↔ Nagoya **40 min**
 Tokyo ↔ Mie **50 min**

Utilizing superconducting magnetic levitation, the next-generation high-speed train will travel at a maximum of 505 kilometers per hour.

“Mileage System”



Companies can use the system to clear scale requirements for grants by adding up investments made over several years.

Basic Facts about Mie

Mie Prefecture has a population of about 1.86 million. It is located between the Chukyo (Nagoya) and Kansai (Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe) regions and has good access to both. It is a multifaceted prefecture, with such historical and traditional attractions as the Ise Shrine and pearl cultivation existing alongside some of the most cutting-edge technical industries in Japan.



“Mie Prefecture is still relatively unknown overseas, but I hope to convince companies to invest in the prefecture by advocating Mie’s long-term growth potential, the highest in the country, and its role as the spiritual center of Japan.”—Mie Governor Eikei Suzuki

Kobe: A City at the Leading Edge of Business and Medicine

The city of Kobe has overcome the destruction and hardship suffered during the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, which devastated this area in 1995 and more than 6,400 people died. Since then, Kobe has emerged as a center for research and development of the latest medical technologies. Kobe has a long history as one of Japan's most renowned international port cities and a background in high-level manufacturing such as shipbuilding, steel, and machinery; more recently the city has also become a production center for train carriages and equipment for power generation. For residents and visitors alike, Kobe offers a wealth of dining choices, as represented by Kobe beef, abundant greenery, such as on Mount Rokkō, a living environment near water, and one of the most convenient transportation systems in Japan. Under the guidance of Mayor Kizo Hisamoto, the city offers an excellent business environment, and a large number of foreign companies choose Kobe as their base of operations.

The Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster (KBIC), a medical research park that was founded in 1998 as part of a national project to improve the health and welfare of Japanese citizens, was designated by the Japanese government as a National Strategic Special Zone in April 2014. The KBIC currently hosts more than 270 research facilities, some of which are led by Nobel laureates, and related companies. Within the KBIC, the Institute of Biomedical Research and Innovation (IBRI), the Riken research institute, and other top-class research organizations have carried out projects in close cooperation with companies in and around Kobe. This collaboration has resulted in advances in such cutting-edge arenas as regenerative medicine and video-assisted procedures, as well as the development of more effective medicines. Also located in the KBIC is Riken's K computer. Boasting one of the fastest processing speeds in the world, this supercomputer can be used to advance research in the life sciences.

Kobe has made focused efforts to attract foreign and foreign-affiliated companies—particularly those in the medical industry. To lure companies to the area, Kobe is using public funds to cover 50% of office rent for three years for companies that have set up operations in the city. Building on an existing bilateral program with Hyogo Prefecture that subsidizes companies up to ¥2 million (approx. US\$20,000) for one year, Kobe has decided to provide an additional subsidy of up to ¥9 million (approx. US\$90,000).

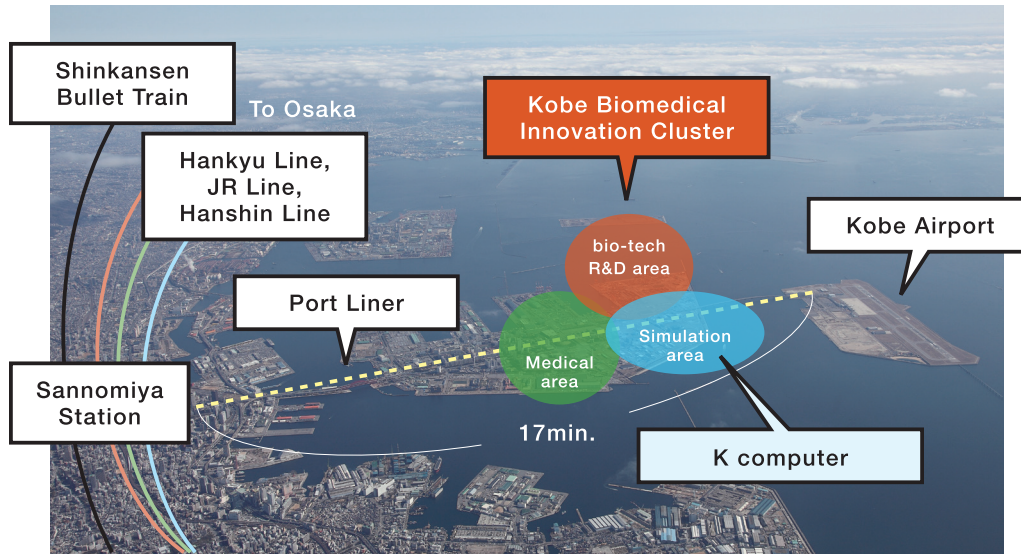
Kobe has also applied broad tax incentives to lower the property tax burden of companies by as much as 90%, with companies establishing offices in the city during the three-year period from 2014 to 2016 able to have their tax burden lowered for a maximum of ten years. According to the municipal office overlooking the city's industrial parks, this program provides one of the largest tax deductions for companies in Japan.

Over the past few years, more than 240 foreign and foreign-affiliated firms have established operations in Kobe. These include Airbus Helicopters, which established a base for construction and training in Kobe in 2010, and the major Belgian materials technology firm Umicore, which set up a plant and a research facility in 2011.

In addition to its excellent business environment, Kobe is also well known for its cosmopolitan atmosphere that allows visitors from overseas to comfortably and easily integrate into the local community. The city features eight international schools that provide Western-style and other types of education to both local children and those of foreign residents. Kobe is also noted for its livability and pleasant environment.

“Ten years from now,” says Mayor Hisamoto, “Kobe will have the Exascale supercomputer, which will be capable of processing 100 times more information than K. This will result in a considerable boost in the level of research being conducted as well as work to advance medical care services. The number of medical-related facilities and firms establishing bases here is increasing nearly each month and is drawing other companies and organizations to Kobe. As a city, we want to attract investments in all fields of industry—not just the medical-related sphere. I would like to take every opportunity to show the support system our city has developed for both foreign and domestic firms.”

Kobe: Western Japan's Global Business Hub



More than 200 foreign-affiliated companies have headquarters or business establishments located in Kobe. Among these are leading global enterprises such as Airbus, Eli Lilly, Nestlé, Procter and Gamble, and Umicore.



KBIC hosts many advanced medical institutes.



Japanese-made K computer is one of the fastest supercomputers in the world. (Courtesy of RIKEN)

Basic Facts about Kobe

Kobe has a population of 1.54 million. Together with Osaka and Kyoto, it is one of the three major cities in the Kansai region. Like Yokohama,

Kobe originally developed as a city supported by its port and trade. The city suffered massive damage during the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in January 1995, but managed to rebuild quickly. In 2008, Kobe became the first city in Asia to be designated a UNESCO City of Design.



"Kobe is already widely recognized as a sophisticated international city with a high quality of life including fine dining, fashion, and art. I intend to continue telling the world in many languages about the city's countless charms." –Kobe Mayor Kizo Hisamoto

Friends of Japan

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



Nhat Minh Be

Nhat Minh Be is a student of the Graduate School of Public Policy
at The University of Tokyo.

Japan: The Perfect Meeting Place for Students From All Over the World

I came to study in Japan in 2012 at The University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Public Policy. Before that I used to work for a Japanese logistics company in Hanoi and had to interface with custom officers and government officers, and I realized there was a lot of corruption everywhere. Bribing is just part of the system and even I myself had to bribe tax officers in order to get anything done. I decided I would like to make a change in the system and make my country a better place; Japan seemed like the ideal place for me to come to study as it has made great advances in developing its country, and that is the reason I chose to come here.

I have been studying here now for two years and it has been a marvelous experience. The University of Tokyo is the best place to study. The faculty and staff are really professional and kind and the university has excellent facilities. The academic standards are very high and we get an excellent training.

I think that Japan and Viet Nam have a lot of things in common and we can learn a lot of lessons from Japan. Japanese public policy is based on the Japanese spirit of everyone working together in harmony, which is an excellent model for my country.

For an introvert Asian like me, Japan is an ideal place to study. I always feel safe in Japan, and it is easy for me to communicate with the Japanese. I think Japan shares with my country a knowledge of the importance of not having to talk all the time, and also I love the fact that Japanese are comfortable with silence. People in other Asian countries are also very comfortable with silence, and I think that makes for deeper communication in the long run.

I really enjoy living in Japan. The Japanese are so well-mannered, and one can see this especially in public spaces. People queue properly and do not eat on trains, and respect the others in public spaces. In Viet Nam people sometimes have less respect for public space. In Japan people show great respect for the space of others.

I hope many students and westerners come to Japan and accept this society as it is. I have some American friends who are studying with me. When they first came to Japan they were confused for the first month but they could find themselves here. They learned about the beauty of silence and came to enjoy a really precious time in Japan.

After getting some work experience I really want to come back to Japan to do my doctorate, and it would be great if there were an opportunity to work here. I would like to be a professor and teach public policy.

Japan is a bridge between the East and West; it is a perfect meeting place for students from all over the world. Studying here is such a precious time in my life. I really hope that students from all over the world will come to this great country to study.



Shen Minghua

Shen Minghua, a fluent speaker of Japanese, Korean and Chinese, supports Japanese manufacturing businesses expanding into Asia.

Supporting Japan's Deepening Ties with Asia

“Convenience stores and ATMs are available 24 hours a day and the trains always arrive on time. Everything runs so smoothly and convenience is taken so seriously in Japan that I think it's really a great place to live.” These are the words of Shen Minghua, a Korean Chinese who has lived in Japan for eight years and works for an IT company in Tokyo. She uses her fluent Japanese, Chinese, and Korean to support small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses from Japan as they expand into continental Asia.

“When you visit a traditional Japanese inn (*ryokan*) you are taken aback by the courteous and meticulous customer-centered service. The meals have a planned order so dishes arrive at the perfect moment. I'd only read about the spirit of Japanese hospitality (*omotenashi*) in books so I couldn't quite imagine it before. It's something that I think foreigners can only understand for the first time if they actually come to Japan and experience it for themselves.”

Shen first became really aware of Japan when she was in high school. She was spellbound by the glamorous city lives depicted in the Japanese TV drama, *Tokyo Love Story*, when it was broadcast in her hometown in Jilin Province, China.

“I wanted to go and see the streets from the drama for myself. I longed for a lifestyle where people got together and had fun with their friends after work.” She immediately began to study Japanese on her own and later majored in Japanese at university. Later she could fulfill her dream to study in Japan.

After studying in Japan, Shen thought she would return to China and become a Japanese teacher, but she got used to her life in Japan; she came to understand the way Japanese people felt, and decided to stay in Tokyo.

“In Japan, it's considered very important not to cause any inconvenience to the people around you.” At first, she thought this tendency was excessive, leading to a society where people rarely show their individuality. However, as she adapted to her environment, she changed her mind. “If you follow this rule, ultimately it's a quick route toward feeling good and living an easy life.”

At the same time, she came to sense the rich individuality of Japanese people through working with business managers in her job. “I've been responsible for dealing with around 30 companies, and the majority of the presidents have displayed strong personalities and clear preferences. But when we talk, they will also quietly discuss their problems and listen to advice. I don't find it difficult to talk directly person-to-person, so it's very motivating,” Shen stresses.

“I like China as well, but my life in Japan is also full and satisfying, and my mother lives in South Korea now, so that's where I go to visit her.” A new generation who can easily operate across international borders, like Shen Minghua, is supporting Japan's deepening economic ties with other Asian countries.

Koichi Wakata—the Master of Harmony

On May 14, 2014, Astronaut Koichi Wakata of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) returned to Earth from the International Space Station (ISS). He was the first Japanese commander of this huge international program involving 15 countries, applying Japan's traditional spirit of harmony (*wa*), which places an emphasis on consideration of others in performing his duties. This demonstrated the validity of Japanese-style leadership on the front line of science, technology, and international cooperation and gave much encouragement to the Japanese. As the position of commander had previously mainly been held by Americans or Russians, Astronaut Wakata's time in this role represents a new stage in Japanese manned spaceflight. What is the significance of Astronaut Wakata becoming Japan's first ISS commander and what lies ahead? To find out, we asked him.

Q. First of all, how do you feel about successfully completing your term as ISS commander?

As commander, I directed most of my attention to managing safety throughout the ISS and ensuring the health of the other astronauts. I'm glad that I completed my term without any serious problems arising. We circled the Earth around 3,000 times during that time, and as I carried out my duties in my spacesuit with a Japanese flag, I had a continual sense of the expectations of everyone in Japan. I'm extremely happy that I could do the job, thanks to the technology and the team that supports the ISS.

Q. What was most difficult for you as commander?

I tried to keep the team together through the spirit of harmony (*wa*). If everyone works together toward a goal and there's a sense of unity, it leads to excellent performance. For that reason, I worked hard to maintain communication with not only the astronauts, but also each of the mission control centers on the ground. This paid off, because there were some problems, such as equipment failures, but through teamwork we were able to deal with them before they became more serious.

Q. Were the other astronauts and teams impressed by Japanese technology or other aspects of the Japanese mission?

Since the retirement of the Space Shuttle, the H-II Transfer Vehicle (HTV) Kounotori, Japan's cargo ship to the ISS, has become indispensable in transporting large equipment. The Japanese Experiment Module (JEM) Kibo has operated smoothly, without major problems, and I've felt the high level of trust people that have in Japanese technology. There has also been a great deal of interest from other countries in the capabilities for high-quality protein crystal growth and deployment into space of nano-satellites that Kibo alone has demonstrated.

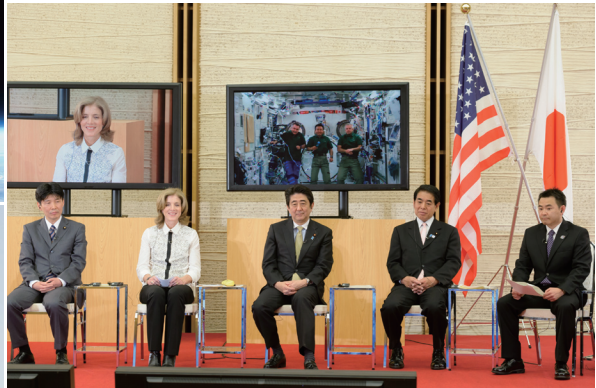
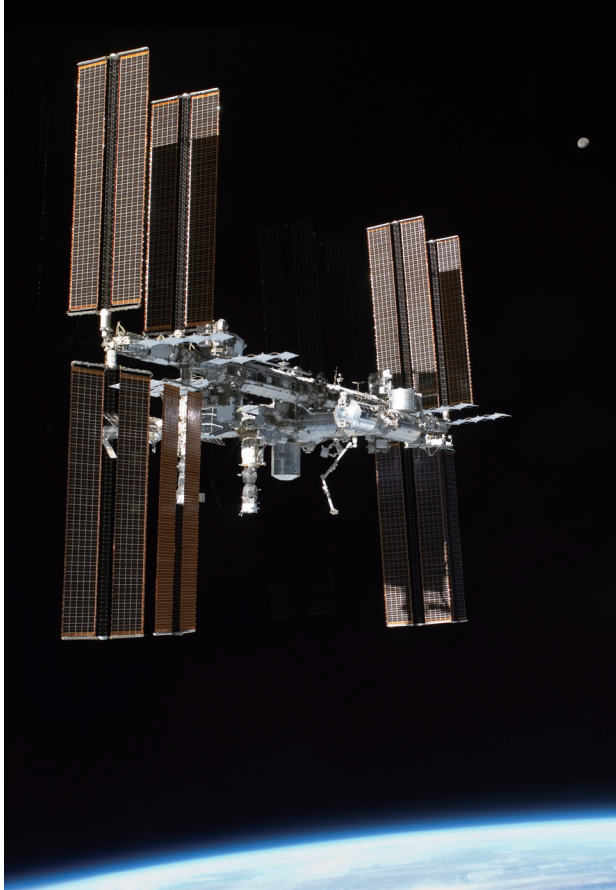
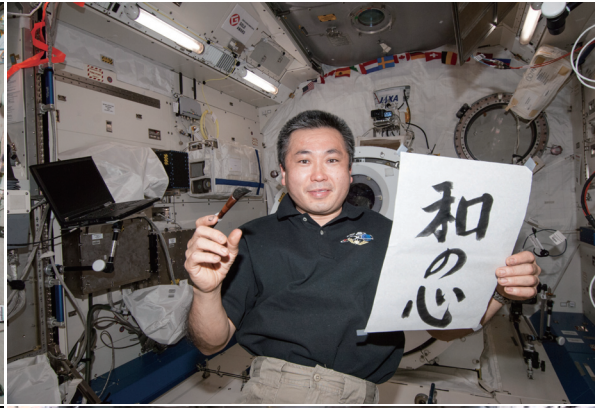
Q. What will your experience as commander bring to Japan's future manned space program?

In addition to the successful development and operation of Kounotori and Kibo, a Japanese astronaut has now taken on the central role of commander of the ISS. It was an extremely valuable experience in that it shows that Japan will play a more important part in future international space missions. In mission control, too, there are many Japanese technicians with international leadership roles, and I think that Japan can lead future space activities using various talents that Japan has developed through working on the ISS program.

While maintaining its high technological capabilities and continuing to place importance on the spirit of harmony, I would like Japan to continue contributing in every way to the ISS and future space exploration missions. I will also work as part of the team to foster a second and third Japanese ISS commander and to further develop Japan's manned space program.

Astronaut Koichi Wakata's space records

- Number of space flights: 4 (most for a Japanese astronaut; in second place, five astronauts have completed 2 flights)
- Consecutive days in space: 188 (longest for a Japanese astronaut; second longest is 168 days)
- Total days in space: 348 (longest for a Japanese astronaut; second longest is 178 days)



1. Commander Wakata with U.S. and Russian ISS crew members 2. New Year's calligraphy: "the spirit of wa." 3. The moon and the ISS 4. Sharing a meal with the crew 5. Operating robotic arm to support extra-vehicular activity 6. Talking to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Hakubun Shimomura, Minister of State for Space Policy, Ichita Yamamoto, and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy 7. Smiling after returning safely to earth

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photos: JAXA/NASA

The JET Programme: A Great Way to Experience Japan

JET Programme Changed My Perspective on Life



Penelope Fox

Born in Sydney, Australia. Arrived in Japan as a JET participant in July 2009. Now in her fifth year as an elementary and middle school ALT in Shiraiishi, Saga Prefecture.

Like many people participating in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, I was super-excited to come to Japan and embrace its culture and language head on. In fact, for me personally, the JET Programme represented the realization of a long-term dream: to live in Japan for an extended period and combine my love of teaching, children, and Japanese language, and experience “real” Japanese life in the countryside.

The JET Programme has been everything I hoped it would be and more. My schools have all been fantastic, my Japanese co-workers have been very welcoming and accepting of me, my supervisors have been kind, and my communities have embraced having a foreigner in their midst.

For my first placement, I worked in a small city of 20,000 people surrounded by mountains in Saga Prefecture. Coming from a dry, mostly flat continent like Australia, I never ceased to be amazed by the beauty and vividness of the greenery. At first, my focus was on my work and understanding what it meant to be an assistant language teacher (ALT). As time went by, I cemented personal and professional relationships, and came to love my quiet country life in Japan.

At the end of my third year, I was lucky enough to be granted a transfer to a neighboring city in the same prefecture. My neighbors and co-workers epitomize what I believe to be one of Japan’s core strengths—the friendliness of the people.

But what I did not really expect participating in JET was that my whole perspective on life would be changed.

Looking back, I think it all started when a JET friend of mine decided to start a volunteer activity called Circle Time—an initiative based on the concept of reading circles, in which a group of us would read English picture books to toddlers (and their families) in Saga, initially at the city library. I enthusiastically volunteered for this activity when I could.

Later, I read about other JET groups in Japan who initiated visits to orphanages in their local communities. I had already been part of a Charity Christmas Party Project that donated money to an orphanage in Saga, and I wanted to “spread the love” to other disadvantaged children. I canvassed for local support from people in Saga and approached two orphanages with the idea of undertaking regular visits to play with the children. Now in their second year, the orphanage visits have been a huge success with my team of volunteers, the orphanage staff, and, of course, the kids themselves.

Aside from the wonderful opportunity to live and teach in a country I love, I thank the JET Programme and all its participants with whom I have had contact for making me think more about the world in which I live and how I can make a difference. Whether traveling the world or at home in my local community, I will find or make opportunities to contribute in a volunteer capacity—something that I would never have done before.

That’s what JET has really meant to me: a change of perspective.



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, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

JET participants are placed in every region of Japan and work as one of three job types: assistant language teachers (ALTs), coordinators for international relations (CIRs), or sports exchange advisors (SEAs).

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

Official Website <http://www.jetprogramme.org/>



1. An ALT team-teaching in the classroom.
 2. Saga Prefecture Charity Christmas Party 2012. 3. A CIR interpreting for a local authority representative and visitors from overseas. 4. Dressing up as models using newspaper at an orphanage. 5. A SEA teaching soccer during club activities.

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Websites

Official Websites of the Government and Organizations

The following websites offer information from various ministries, tourist information, 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



p.32-33

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

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

JETRO Japan External Trade Organization



p.34-37

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



p.44-45

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

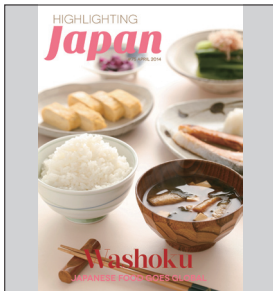
- WEB** <http://www.jetprogramme.org>
- f** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/JET-Programme/219440938121634>
- (US)** <https://twitter.com/JETProgram>

Publications

Official Publications from the Government and Organizations

The government of Japan and 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”

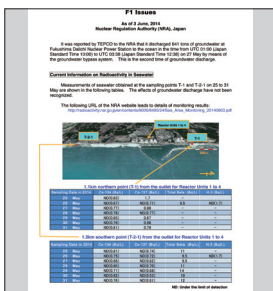
Transmits seasonal and updated information on the Internet every month on three features.

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/indepth/exotic/JapanesQue/>



Monthly

Nuclear Regulation Authority



“F1 Issues Fukushima Daiichi NPS's Issues”

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

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



About once a week

Ministry of Defense



“Japan Defense Focus”

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

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



Monthly

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

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

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<http://japan.kantei.go.jp/letters/>

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Please send us your comments.

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

Links to the websites of ministries

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

We Are *Tomodachi*
Summer 2014

<http://japan.kantei.go.jp/letters/>



The Government of Japan

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