

We Are Tomodachi

Spring 2016



The Government of Japan

We Are *Tomodachi*
Spring 2016



Prime Minister Abe hosted a dinner banquet for speakers of the Shared Values and Democracy in Asia symposium and other guests (January 2016).

Wagashi : Traditional Japanese Confections



Photo from *Shimanesque Shimane* no. 95. Courtesy Shimane Prefectural Government.







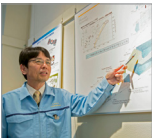






Wagashi are traditional Japanese sweets, which portray the season with their shape, color, and ingredients. They are works of art designed to appeal to all the senses with their appearance, flavor, aroma, feel, and the sounds of their names.

The sweets in the photo are from Matsue, Shimane Prefecture. Along with Kyoto and Kanazawa, Matsue is one of Japan's three most famous producers of *wagashi*. These are high-grade fresh confections made with colorful *nerikiri*, a workable mixture of white bean paste and glutinous rice, and *yokan*, sweet jellied bean paste. From the left, they are *hanakago*, “flower basket,” displaying the cherry blossoms of spring; *kao*, “king of flowers,” representing the peony, Shimane’s prefectural flower; and *fuji*, “wisteria.” The filling, made from beans that are polished to remove the outer skin, melts in the mouth, leaving a delicate sweetness typical of the finest *wagashi*.

Starting with this issue we will introduce *wagashi* from around Japan. We hope that you enjoy seeing and reading about these artistic confections—and that you will have opportunities to enjoy eating them as well.

Contents

We Are *Tomodachi* Spring 2016

<i>Wagashi</i> : Traditional Japanese Confections	— 4		The Charms of the G7 Ministerial Meetings Host Cities	— 18	
A Season for Floral Brilliance	— 6		Japanese People Contributing Worldwide	— 22	
Japanese Support for Safety Frameworks Worldwide			Tokyo Aims to Realize “Hydrogen Society” by 2020	— 24	
Support for Enhancement of Maritime Safety and Security	— 8		A New Laser Technology for Dissolving Blood Clots	— 26	
Sharing the Community- Based Police Model	— 10		Friends of Japan	— 28	
Strengthening Criminal Justice Systems Around the World	— 12		The JET Programme: A Great Way to Experience Japan	— 30	
Moments of Prime Minister Abe	— 14		Websites	— 32	
Speech of the Prime Minister	— 16		Publications	— 33	

© Copyright 2016 Cabinet Office of Japan. No article or any part thereof may be reproduced without the express permission of the Cabinet Office. All inquiries should be made through a form available at: https://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/forms/comment_ssl.html

Note: All U.S. dollar equivalents for Japanese yen amounts in *We Are Tomodachi* are calculated at 115 yen to the dollar, roughly the rate at the time of publication.

A Season for Floral Brilliance



Kintai-kyo Bridge: Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Kintai-kyo Bridge, a beautifully shaped wooden structure, is the symbol of the city of Iwakuni, about an hour and a half by plane from Tokyo. The structure has five spans, something rarely seen in wooden bridges around the world. The arches of the three middle spans are particularly impressive. The bridge has charmed Iwakuni's residents and visitors for 300 years. This famous attraction displays changing aspects according to the season. Especially beautiful is the view in spring, when the wooden structure is complemented by the pink cherry blossoms of the trees on the riverside, a distinctively Japanese scenic collaboration.



The Sea of Japan and Daffodils: Echizen Coast, Fukui Prefecture

The Echizen Coast on the Sea of Japan, located about 150 kilometers (90 miles) northeast of Kyoto, is one of Japan's three main sites where wild daffodils grow in profusion. The flowers cover an area of some 60 hectares (150 acres). As many as five million white daffodils bloom fragrantly on steep seaside slopes against the backdrop of the vast, often wild waters of the sea below. The sight of the flowers standing firmly in the cold wind from the Sea of Japan has struck the hearts of Japanese people, inspiring haiku and other poetic compositions and serving as material for paintings and photographs. The highly aromatic and long-lasting daffodil is the prefectural flower of Fukui and is commercially cultivated by local growers.

Support for Enhancement of Maritime Safety and Security

Building Coast Guard Capacity in Asia

The seas of fast-growing Asia are full of ships loaded with energy resources, food, manufactured products, and other cargoes. Ensuring safe and smooth marine transport in the important sea lanes of these waters, including the Strait of Malacca, the Singapore Strait, and the South China Sea, is crucial not just for the region but for the global economy. Japan, which is surrounded by seas and built up its coast guard system starting many years ago, has been providing various forms of capacity-building support for other countries' coast guard agencies in the region since the 1960s, aiming to ensure the safety and security of Asia's seas. From around 2000, in response to the need for stronger anti-piracy measures in the Strait of Malacca, Japan stepped up its coordination and cooperation with other Asian countries in the field of maritime law enforcement, actively supporting their moves to establish coast guard agencies.

In 2002 Japan launched cooperation with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in four areas: law enforcement, search and rescue, aid to navigation, and protection of the marine environment. Captain Atsushi Tohyama, director of the Education and Training Division at the Japan Coast Guard (JCG), spent about three years in the Philippines from July 2002 dispatched by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a long-term expert in a human resource development program. He explains the nature of the cooperative effort:

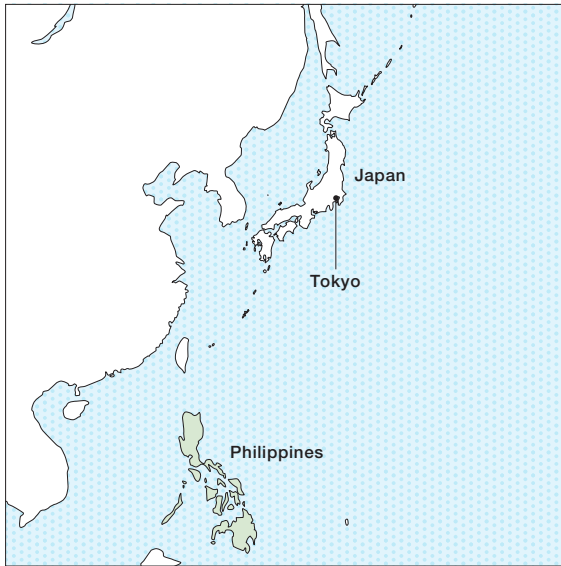
“We started by having the participants get a solid understanding of international law, since it's essential for all coast guard officers to understand the basic principle of limited exercise of authority under law. We also provided practical training in techniques for subduing others without using weapons, along with instruction about initial investigation procedures, such as the collection of scientific evidence and the preservation of crime scenes—the basics of criminal investigation.” Initially, Tohyama had a major debate with the participants about limiting the use of weapons, but he won their understanding by showing them international legal case decisions, carefully explaining that international tribunals had ruled excessive weapon use to be illegal.

Tohyama notes, “Our Japanese style is for instructors to adopt the same perspective as the participants, respecting them as fellow coast guard officers, and working hard alongside them.” Through their collaboration, instructors and participants built up their shared determination to keep the seas safe. And according to Tohyama, people who participated in this and other JCG-supported training programs are now serving in core positions in their respective countries' coast guard agencies.

He explains, “Rather than conducting a training program as previously prepared in Japan, I strove to provide instruction that would give local participants ideas for putting together a curriculum matching local needs. I was happy when I met former program participants several years later and found that they were striving independently to provide training for their juniors.” In other words, the results of Japan's cooperation have steadily taken root.

Building on the JCG's track record in international cooperation, in October 2015 four organizations—the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, the Japan Coast Guard Academy, JICA, and the Nippon Foundation—joined in setting up the Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program (MSP) as a one-year master's degree program. Ten students from Southeast Asia and Japan are now participating in the inaugural course. It is the world's first master's program in the field of maritime safety and security.

Tohyama declares, “We intend to keep working actively, strengthening our ties with other countries' coast guards and developing human resources so as to reinforce the maritime order governed by law and rules.”



Captain Tohyama, director of the JCG's Education and Training Division, has been involved in international cooperation in the Philippines and elsewhere for many years.



1	2
3	4

1. With participants in the Philippines (Tohyama at far left in the front row). The former participants are now playing active roles in various coast guard activities. 2. Delivering a lecture on international law: In addition to teaching the lecture material, Tohyama stressed the importance of discipline. 3. A session on effective ways to subdue others in situations including initial investigations: Tohyama also taught participants to observe the spirit of Japanese martial arts by starting and ending each exercise with a bow. 4. Tohyama receives a medal in recognition of his service from the commandant of the PCG at the end of his assignment.

Sharing the Community-Based Police Model

The Japanese Koban System and Residents' Trust

“Omawari-san, ohayo gozaimasu!” (Good morning, Mr. Policeman!) In Japan, children on their way to school can be seen cheerfully greeting police officers. These interactions take place at Koban, the Japanese police box. For the Japanese police, good ties with neighborhood residents and cooperation with the community are key elements of crime prevention. In that connection, the Koban system plays an important role.

Koban, which can be found in neighborhoods around the country, are effective as contact points between police and local residents. Here everyone can find a friendly officer on duty. Police officials who visit Japan from other countries are impressed with the role of Koban in supporting the high level of public safety. They note that everyday policing in Japan is built on a foundation of public trust through Koban.

Police officers at Koban respond to questions and requests from residents who visit them. When an incident occurs, officers from the nearest Koban rush to the scene and deal with the situation resolutely. They also work to prevent crimes by conducting patrols focusing on high-crime districts, sharing relevant information and offering pointers on crime prevention by distributing fliers and making routine visits to homes and workplaces. In addition, police officers support the crime-prevention efforts of local volunteer groups. Cooperation through these local initiatives helps keep neighborhoods safe.

In cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japanese police are providing training for police officials from developing countries regarding the Koban system, the functions and features of policing based on trust and cooperation with local residents. The training programs include site visits in which participants visit Koban, meet police officers stationed there, and accompany them on their rounds, such as routine visits to residents' homes, where officers provide information on crime prevention and listen to residents' concerns. They see the importance of activities aimed at preventing crimes and observe how officers build residents' trust in the police. The programs also include classroom sessions, where participants are encouraged to consider and elaborate their experience of studying the Japanese Koban system and to modify and develop the system to fit their own countries' customs and culture.

Participants have offered various comments about the training: “I was impressed to see how police officers build and maintain good relations with residents.” “I really felt that the trust of residents serves as a premise for obtaining their cooperation, which promotes smooth policing and thereby supports the high level of public safety.” “I want to actively introduce the feasible elements of the Japanese policing system in my own country.”

Participants from Indonesia, assigned to the “Police-Citizen Partnership Center” (known by its Indonesian acronym BKPM) in Bekasi, have been striving since their return to their homeland to become part of the local community and build ties with residents. They have been responding promptly and considerately to residents' consultations, and they have also conducted educational activities for local children.

The Japanese police hope to work together with police officials of other countries toward the common objectives of enhancing policing systems and improving public safety. Japan will continue to offer international support, making good use of its experience and knowledge of policing based on strong community ties.



1	2
3	4
5	

During their training in Japan, police officials from abroad participate actively in site visits.
 1. Visiting Koban. 2. Observing a police officer's routine visit to a resident's home.

Participants from Indonesia have applied what they learned in Japan, modifying it in line with conditions in their country.
 3. Listening to a resident who has come to the Police-Citizen Partnership Center (BKPM) for consultation. 4. Friendly interaction with local children. 5. A police officer stands at the entrance of the BKPM.

Strengthening Criminal Justice Systems Around the World

Fostering the Rule of Law and Sustainable Development

The Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders affiliated with the United Nations (UNAFEI) is a regional institute established under a 1961 agreement between the United Nations and Japan with the aim of promoting the sound development of criminal justice systems. UNAFEI is located in Tokyo and has been fully funded by the Government of Japan since 1970.

Sound criminal justice systems are essential as safety mechanisms for society and for the realization of the rule of law, equality before the law, and social development. UNAFEI's ultimate objective is to realize sound criminal justice systems in every country of the world. The institute provides training for criminal justice professionals from many countries and conducts surveys and research on crime prevention and the treatment of offenders.

UNAFEI has the longest history among the United Nations' regional institutes around the world. For more than half a century it has been conducting training courses and seminars, and over 5,000 criminal justice professionals from more than 135 countries have taken part. Many of UNAFEI's alumni have assumed leadership roles in their countries' criminal justice institutions or have otherwise contributed to the development of their criminal justice systems.

One such individual is Kittipong Kittayarak, executive director of the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ). In 1995 he participated as a public prosecutor in an international senior seminar at UNAFEI. After returning to Thailand, he took part in revision of the constitution, and he also contributed to the achievement of reform in institutions including Thailand's Ministry of Justice with reference to Japan's systems. As he explains, the practical, integrated approach that he learned at UNAFEI assisted in the process of constitutional revision, and the TIJ, established five years ago, has taken UNAFEI as a reference source for its organization and operation of training programs.

Another UNAFEI alumnus, Clement Okech, who serves as a probation officer in Kenya, has contributed to the development of his country's probation system, making use of what he learned with UNAFEI's assistance. He has made presentations and received awards at international conferences.

One priority issue for UNAFEI is the fight against corruption. Corruption is a threat to the rule of law and equality before the law, and it seriously interferes with social and economic progress in developing countries. Since 2007, in cooperation with Southeast Asian authorities, the institute has been conducting the annual Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries ("GG seminar"), which is held in countries around the region. The GG seminar focuses on the prevention of corruption, the apprehension and punishment of violators, and asset recovery. Participants learn from the anti-corruption practices of Japan and also of Hong Kong and Singapore, which have achieved remarkable improvement in this area. The GG seminar provides participants with the opportunity to share information and best practices, build an international network of anti-corruption practitioners, and learn about anti-corruption successes and challenges in other Southeast Asian countries. "Where there is a will, there is a way," they affirm, and they resolve to tackle the issue starting in their own environs. Hopes are great for the future of the participants and their countries.

Japan will continue to actively undertake various cooperative activities to promote the development of criminal justice systems around the world.

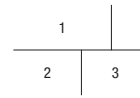
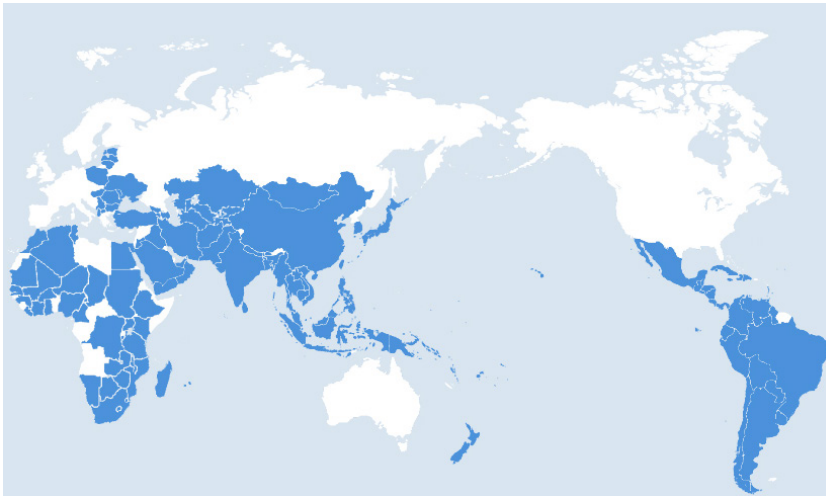
UNAFEI in Fuchu, Tokyo



History

1961 The United Nations and Government of Japan signed an agreement on the establishment of UNAFEI.
 1962 UNAFEI was founded and began operating under the joint administration of the United Nations and the Government of Japan (Ministry of Justice, MOJ); the first international training course was conducted.
 1970 The Government of Japan (MOJ) assumed all administrative and financial responsibilities.
 1974 The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was established; subsequent international training courses have been conducted in cooperation with JICA.

Home countries of UNAFEI alumni



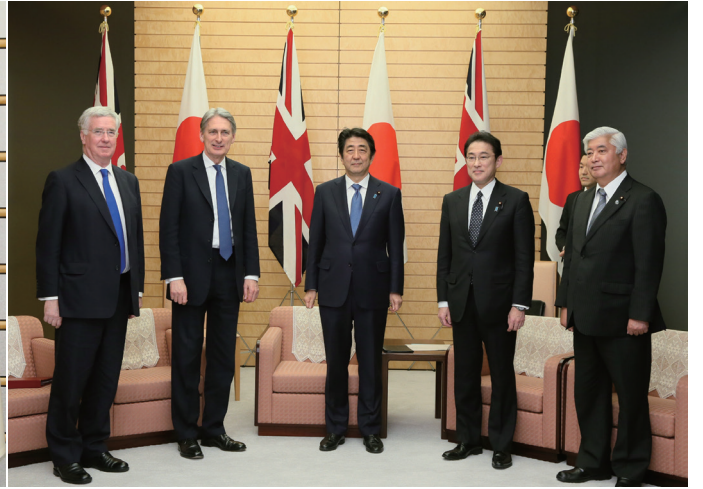
1. UNAFEI alumni number more than 5,000 and come from more than 135 countries and regions. The largest number is from Thailand.
 2. UNAFEI conducts technical assistance of various types, including two international training courses and one international senior seminar annually.
 3. UNAFEI alumnus Kittipong Kittayarak served as Thailand's permanent secretary for justice from May 2008 through July 2014. He is now executive director of the Thailand Institute of Justice.

International conference room



Alumni playing active roles





Moments of Prime Minister Abe





1	2	7	8
3	4	9	10
5	6	11	

1. Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with President Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine (February 2016).

Prime Minister Abe received courtesy calls from world leaders.

2. With Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Philip Hammond and Secretary of State for Defence Michael Fallon of the United Kingdom (January 2016). 3. With a delegation from the Japan-Korea and Korea-Japan Parliamentarians' Unions (January 2016). 4. With legislators participating in the U.S.-Japan Legislative Exchange Program (January 2016). 5. With members of the U.S. Congressional Study Group on Japan (February 2016). 6. With Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (December 2015).

7 & 8. Prime Minister Abe held a ceremony to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the start of the Cabinet system; those in attendance included former prime ministers (December 2015). 9. Prime Minister Abe visited the Ise Jingu shrine in Mie Prefecture (January 2016). (©The Asahi Shimbun) 10. Prime Minister Abe presented an award to Shiho Utsumiya, a high school student who designed the official logo for the G7 Japan 2016 Ise-Shima Summit (December 2015). 11. Prime Minister Abe hosted a number of ambassadors to Japan at the Prime Minister's Office and enjoyed friendly interaction in Japanese (December 2015).

Toward Building Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems

Speech at International Conference on
Universal Health Coverage in the New Development Era
by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Delivered in Tokyo, December 16, 2015

http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201512/1215006_9934.html



Excellencies, Distinguished
Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking you sincerely for coming to today's International Conference entitled "Universal Health Coverage in the New Development Era: Toward Building Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems."

Japan has long contributed to global health challenges by mobilizing expertise, taking actions, and producing tangible

results. The reason why Japan prioritizes health comes from our conviction that it is among the most important elements in the concept of human security, which strives for the protection and empowerment of all individuals and the fulfillment of their potential.

One of the overarching goals of my tenure as prime minister has been to make a "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principles of international cooperation. This means that contributing to world peace and prosperity is a fundamental principle and aim of Japan's foreign policy. To this end, I believe that playing a major role in the effort to meet global challenges, including global health, based on the concept of human security is nothing less than the implementation of our "Proactive Contribution to Peace."

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted at the United Nations this year. The 2030 Agenda includes numerous health-related targets to be achieved, including the achievement of universal health coverage (UHC)—which Japan has long been promoting—as well as a wide range of countermeasures against diseases, including infectious diseases. Next year, Japan will be the first country to assume the G7 presidency after the adoption of the new Agenda and will also serve as one of the co-organizers of the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), which is to be held for the first time in Africa.

I intend to take up health as a priority agenda at the G7 Ise-Shima summit, and I would like to lead the discussion on the health challenges that the world faces in close cooperation with the other G7 countries. With this in mind, I published an article "Japan's vision for a peaceful and healthier world" in *The Lancet* last week outlining Japan's position and efforts on global health.

What are the health challenges that the world is currently facing? As I see it, there are two key areas:

First, we need to strengthen the response to public health emergencies. During the recent Ebola outbreak, we lost many lives due in part to slow detection and reporting of the emergence of the disease in each country and to an inadequate response by the international community. In this globalized world, we need to proactively implement global measures that can respond swiftly and effectively to the emergence of an epidemic of infectious disease or other public health emergency. For example, the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) proposed by the World Bank and the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE) established by the World Health Organization (WHO) are important tools to mobilize necessary financial resources when a public health emergency occurs. Japan also supports the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) to strengthen each country's capacities to fight against infectious diseases.

Second, we need to provide basic health services to all individuals throughout the entirety of their life course in order to cover various challenges ranging from maternal and newborn health to malnutrition, non-communicable diseases, and aging. I believe that universal health coverage, which is the provision of basic health services to every individual at an affordable cost, is necessary to the stable development of society. At the same time, UHC will also strengthen national capacities to prevent, detect, and respond to epidemic and endemic infectious diseases, thereby contributing to better preparedness against public health emergencies.

In order to address these two issues simultaneously, I believe that health systems need to be resilient, sustainable, and inclusive. To develop such health systems in accordance with the unique circumstances of each respective country, strong political will, clear plans, and the mobilization of adequate financial and human resources on a global scale, including among developing countries, are indispensable. It is also important that relevant international organizations and donors share a common vision and strengthen their collaboration.

For its part, Japan will continue the discussion on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) taken up by the current G7 president, Germany. The "one health approach," which addresses both human and animal health together, is necessary to respond to the rise of AMR. Furthermore, it is also important to encourage research and development of drugs, including drugs for the treatment of AMR and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), through public-private partnership.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that this conference has been a concrete step forward on global health issues, including the strengthening of health systems, towards the G7 summit next year. I look forward to frank and fruitful discussions in the coming year.

Thank you for your kind attention.

The Charms of the G7 Ministerial Meetings Host Cities

Tsukuba: Where Nature is Found Alongside Science and Technology

The G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting will be held in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) northeast of central Tokyo. This city, located at the foot of Mount Tsukuba, which has been loved for its beauty since ancient times, is famous as a science city that is home to many businesses specializing in robotics, aerospace, and other industries in the science and technology field. Tsukuba led the country in experimenting with the use of mobility robots on public roads; this is just one example of how it is possible to experience the latest technology in everyday life here.

Tsukuba supports a variety of lifestyles as a “smart garden city” that combines a full set of urban functions with peaceful rural scenery, and its many foreign residents, including researchers and students from abroad, contribute to its cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Tsukuba is one of the world's leading science cities and also a comfortable place to live, retaining rich natural beauty. This combination makes it attractive for both visitors and residents.



©JAXA



1 | 2

1. Tsukuba hosts around 300 public and private research centers and companies, and is also a green and pleasant municipality. Mount Tsukuba is seen towering in the distance. 2. Tsukuba Space Center and its exhibition hall introduce the history and activities of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), a key driver of Japan's aerospace research and development.

Niigata: Japan's Rice-Producing Center and a Gateway to the World

The city of Niigata in Niigata Prefecture, which will host the G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, is around two hours from Tokyo by Shinkansen high-speed rail. It is the largest city on the Sea of Japan side of Honshu, Japan's main island. The city is situated in the center of the Echigo Plain, an area that boasts the largest paddy field acreage in Japan, and it has been designated a National Strategic Special Zone for agriculture. Niigata Prefecture is famous for Koshihikari and other brands of rice, as well as rice products including sake and snacks like rice crackers. In recent years, the prefecture has actively promoted exports, particularly to East Asia.

The city of Niigata was, along with Yokohama and Kobe, one of the first Japanese ports opened to foreign trade in 1858, and it enjoys thriving relations with such neighboring countries as Russia, China, and South Korea. The city offers visitors traditional forms of Japanese hospitality.

With delicious local agricultural products and a rich food culture accompanied by genuine hospitality, Niigata offers great opportunities to enjoy history and cuisine to the fullest extent.



1 | 2

1. A paddy field within the city limits. Niigata Prefecture has the highest acreage for rice cultivation, the largest rice harvests, and the highest total agricultural output in Japan. 2. Niigata Port, built at the mouth of the Shinanogawa river, is the nation's only core international port connecting to the Sea of Japan, and it is plied by many cargo ships. Toki Messe, the convention center where the ministers are to meet, looks out toward the port.

▶ G7 Japan 2016: Messages from Hiroshima and Niigata

https://youtu.be/_nOTKd019TM

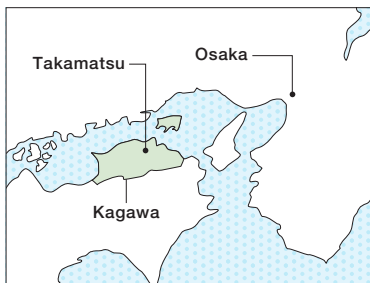
Takamatsu: A Blend of Technology, Nature, and Art

The G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting will take place in Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture, about 80 minutes by plane from Tokyo. The prefecture is known for the pioneering adoption of the telemedicine network Kagawa Medical Internet Exchange (K-MIX), having become the first place in Japan to introduce this kind of ICT-based system. Kagawa Prefecture is a center for activities in the information and communications field.

Takamatsu, which faces the Seto Inland Sea, is also a gateway to Setonaikai National Park, one of the first national parks in Japan, with more than a thousand islands of different sizes. Visitors who journey around the islands can experience picturesque, peaceful scenery, including terraced rice fields and houses built along the coastlines.

Surrounded by natural beauty, Takamatsu is also the hub for the Setouchi Triennale, an international festival for contemporary art that is held on nearby islands. Sunport Takamatsu, located beside the port, features displays of sculptures and other artworks, allowing anyone to easily encounter the latest art trends.

Takamatsu is a city where people preserve traditional lifestyles in quiet coastal scenery and visitors can enjoy Japan's cutting-edge technology and contemporary art.



1 | 2

1. The widespread adoption of K-MIX makes it possible to send medical data electronically, allowing specialists to offer advice for general physicians at clinics. 2. There are more than a thousand islands of varying sizes in Setonaikai National Park, creating stunning island-filled seascapes characterized by their combination of natural features and human influences.

▶ G7 Japan 2016: Messages from Takamatsu and Kitakyushu
<https://youtu.be/hXBnTcewCIY>

Kitakyushu: An Industrial City Now Thriving as an Environmental Leader

Kitakyushu in Fukuoka Prefecture, about an hour and 40 minutes by plane from Tokyo, will be the venue for the G7 Energy Ministerial Meeting. After the foundation of the state-owned Yawata Steel Works in 1901, Kitakyushu developed into one of the cities driving Japan's industrial growth. With rapid industrialization, it experienced a period of significant pollution, but citizens, companies, research institutes, and the municipality worked together to improve the environment. Focusing on an energy supply system targeting the creation of a recycling-oriented society, the city became the first Asian municipality to be selected by the OECD as a "green growth model city."

Thanks to its location on the northern tip of the island of Kyushu, facing Honshu, Japan's main island, across the Kanmon Strait, Kitakyushu has long been a strategic hub for transport. Moji Port flourished as a major Japanese trade port in the early modern era, and the buildings used by banks, trading companies, and other businesses preserve the distinct character of the time at a tourist site known as the Mojiko Retro Area.

Kitakyushu, which propelled Japan's industrial modernization and rapid economic growth, is now thriving as a city that leads the world in energy and environmental policies.



1 | 2

1. Kitakyushu supported Japanese economic growth as hub of one of the country's four major industrial zones. These days, an increasing number of companies are involved in recycling as part of the city's Eco-Town Project. 2. The city is now attracting tourists to sites including the Mojiko Retro Area and Space World.

▶ G7 Japan 2016: Messages from Takamatsu and Kitakyushu
<https://youtu.be/hXBnTcewCIY>

Japanese People Contributing Worldwide

Small Factories Aim High: The Shitamachi Bobsleigh Heads for the Olympics

“We did it!” So whooped Jun’ichi Hosogai as he stood at the Nagano Bobsleigh-Luge Park on January 16, 2016, with a big smile on his face and his arms raised high. Prompting the display of joy was the announcement that the Jamaican National Bobsled Team had chosen the Shitamachi Bobsleigh to use in its qualifying bid for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Shitamachi, literally “low city,” refers to traditional urban districts characterized by a mix of small factories and residences. The Shitamachi Bobsleigh was developed by a group of independent manufacturers in the *shitamachi* district of Ota City, Tokyo, in a project headed by Hosogai, president of an aluminum processing company. He explains, “The Jamaican team said the decisive point was our team’s positive response to even their most demanding requests for adjustments to the sled. That’s what we’re good at.”

Hosogai launched the project in 2011 to help restore Ota’s luster as a center for manufacturing craftsmanship. In the 1980s the city was home to 9,000 workshops specializing mainly in metalworking. By working in cooperation and complementing each other’s strengths, these small factories were able to accept orders of all sorts and turn out excellent products.

Sluggish economic conditions took their toll on the city’s workshops, however, and many operators who were getting on in years closed their shops for lack of successors. In the face of this decline, Hosogai conceived the idea of advertising Ota’s manufacturing prowess by building an Olympic bobsleigh. This meant learning how to work with carbon fiber, a technology that Ota manufacturers did not have. But Hosogai was convinced that building a bobsleigh was something that would allow them to display their skills. For one thing, it does not require an engine. And bobsleigh builders include companies like Ferrari and BMW. It was exciting to think of winning on the world stage against that sort of competition.

To start, Hosogai borrowed a bobsleigh, disassembled it, and made diagrams of each part—150 in all. He laid them out in a conference room and invited people from some 40 local workshops to examine them and select ones they had the know-how to reproduce. The invitees scrutinized the parts and diagrams with a mixture of puzzlement and curiosity. Then the spirit of complementary cooperation emerged, as they discussed which of them should take which part. “I can do this one.” “Here’s something for your place.” In the end, there were takers for just about all of the items. Hosogai gave the manufacturers 12 days to make the parts, and to his pleasant surprise, the full set was completed a day before the deadline. “That’s the power of Ota for you,” he boasts.

Once completed, the Shitamachi Bobsleigh promptly delivered results. In 2012 it carried a team to victory in the women’s division of the All Japan Bobsleigh Championships, and the following year it crossed the finish line seventh at two men’s events overseas. There were high hopes the Japanese national team would select it for the Winter Olympics in Sochi, but in the end it was passed over, partly because it had not been possible to test its reliability sufficiently at venues in Japan.

Undaunted, Hosogai quickly shifted gears. He approached the Jamaican team, impressed by their vast potential. And to back him up, he called on the Jamaica-savvy reggae musicians in a local band he plays with as a hobby. “When you run a small workshop, you learn to tap every available resource,” he chuckles.

The road to the Winter Olympics will be long and winding. But for the Jamaican National Team and the Shitamachi Bobsleigh, it is the beginning of a dream.



Jun'ichi Hosogai

Born in Ota City, Tokyo, in 1966. In 1992 he established Material Co., Ltd., an aluminum processing and production firm (below) that currently does business with 500 companies. Head of the Shitamachi Bobsleigh project, which he started in 2011 with the goal of reviving local industry in Ota.



1. Members of the project and their Shitamachi Bobsleighs: The project has given manufacturers in Ota the opportunity to learn carbon-fiber technology, which complements their metalworking expertise. 2. Posing with members of the Jamaican bobsleigh team. 3. Working on the bobsleigh to further improve its performance in preparation for the Winter Olympics.

Excerpts from the Policy Speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the 183rd Session of the Diet, February 28, 2013
 (The mettle to aim at being the No.1 in the world)

There are people from small-scale factories resolutely attempting to take on the Ferrari and BMW corporations. But this is not in the area of automobiles. Mr. Hosogai, who operates a small business in Tokyo's Ota City, has launched a project together with his colleagues to produce sleds for bobsled competitions domestically.

Full text: http://japan.kantei.go.jp/96_abe/statement/201302/28siseuhousin_e.html

Tokyo Aims to Realize “Hydrogen Society” by 2020

Metro Government Undertakes Pioneering Initiative

With four years to go until the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, the appearance of the host city is already changing bit by bit. But the change with the potentially biggest lasting impact is progressing quietly behind the scenes, as Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) pursues plans to establish a “hydrogen society.”

Tokyo Governor Yoichi Masuzoe declares, “The 1964 Tokyo Olympics left the Shinkansen high-speed train system as its legacy. The upcoming Olympics will leave a hydrogen society as its legacy.” And TMG is already working to make this come true.

Japan took an early lead on the path toward a society that uses hydrogen as a major source of power. For example, hydrogen-powered fuel cell cars were first put on the market by a Japanese automaker. And TMG is actively promoting the use of hydrogen as an energy source with moves including creation of a JPY 40 billion (USD 348 million) fund for setting up hydrogen refueling stations and other infrastructure.

The creation of a hydrogen society aims at achieving four major objectives. First is the reduction of the burden on the environment. Unlike fossil fuels, hydrogen emits only water when burned. So it promises to greatly cut emissions of carbon dioxide. Second is the diversification of energy sources. Hydrogen can be produced with renewable energy sources, and its use will also promote stability in the supply of energy. Third, it will generate beneficial economic ripple effects. The shift to a new energy source will naturally mean new demand and new jobs. And fourth, it can help in coping with natural disasters. Fuel cell cars generate electricity to power their motors using hydrogen from their tanks, and when disasters cause power outages, these vehicles can serve as large-scale movable generators. This adds to the appeal of hydrogen for Tokyo, which is highly conscious of the importance of disaster readiness.

Hydrogen is lighter than air and disperses quickly, so it will not ignite except under a limited set of conditions, such as when kept at a certain concentration in a closed space. Given these characteristics, it can be handled in the same way as gasoline and city gas (natural gas).

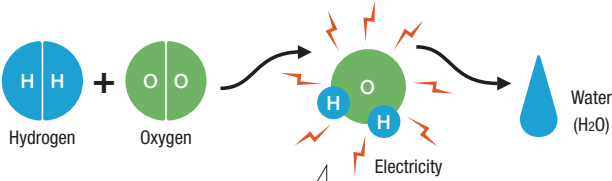
One issue is the high cost of the initial investments required. For example, setting up a standard hydrogen fueling station costs some JPY 500 million (USD 4.3 million), five times the cost of an ordinary gas station. TMG is thus focusing on financial assistance in this area. By taking advantage of support from both the national and metropolitan governments, it has become possible to install one of these fueling stations for a net cost of JPY 100 million (USD 870,000). The metropolitan authorities aim to increase the number of such stations, currently 8, to 35 by 2020. This will make it possible to reach a station within 15 minutes from most places in the metropolis. TMG is also aiming to have 6,000 fuel cell cars on the roads and increase the number of fuel cell buses operating in Tokyo to over 100 in advance of the Olympics and Paralympics.

Shifting to hydrogen leads to a significant cut in airborne pollutants and allows cars to run much more quietly. Fuel cell vehicles do not look radically different from ordinary ones, and in that sense hydrogen may be considered a realistic next-generation energy source that can be readily accepted. Let us look forward to 2020, when Olympic and Paralympic athletes will compete in a Tokyo that will be cleaner and quieter thanks to hydrogen.

Four benefits of a hydrogen society

1. Reduction of the burden on the environment

When hydrogen is used as a power source, the only byproduct is water; no carbon dioxide is emitted.



Water is the only byproduct of power generation with hydrogen.



2. Diversification of energy supply sources

Hydrogen can be produced from various resources, such as wood biomass.

Fossil fuels

Reforming of LPG and city gas



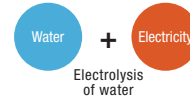
Byproducts of industrial processes

Refining of byproducts such as coke oven gas



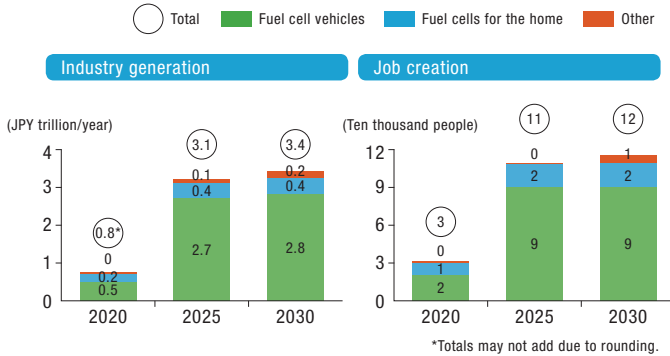
Renewable energy

Electrolysis of water using electricity from wind power, etc.



3. Major economic ripple effects

Hydrogen-related industries are pools of technological strength, producing economic ripple effects.



Sources: Materials submitted by Toyota Motor to the 30th meeting of the Fundamental Issues Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy; Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, *Jidosha sangyo no genjo* (Current State of the Automobile Industry), March 2013.

4. Contribution to disaster readiness

Hydrogen can be used as a source of energy for emergency power generation when regular power supplies are cut off by disasters.

Numbers of fuel cell buses or cars required to provide one day's emergency power

	Hospital	Convenience store	Shelter (school)
Ordinary power consumption	9,628 kWh/day	500 kWh/day	—
Emergency power consumption	963 kWh/day (10% capacity; emergency equipment only)	235 kWh/day (47% capacity; refrigeration only)	100 kWh/day (Lighting, hot water for 200 people)
Fuel cell buses (455 kWh/day)	2	0.5	0.22
Fuel cell cars (120 kWh/day)	8	2	0.83

Source: Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, "Nenryou denchi jidosha ni tsuite" (About Fuel Cell Vehicles), March 2014.



A hydrogen fueling station already built in Tokyo's Shiba Park. The metropolitan government plans to have 35 such stations in operation by 2020. And by 2025 it aims to have 80 hydrogen stations in operation and 100,000 fuel cell cars on the roads.

A New Laser Technology for Dissolving Blood Clots

Contributing to Humanity with Photonics

Hamamatsu Photonics is headquartered in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture, about 90 minutes from Tokyo by Shinkansen high-speed rail. It was founded in 1953 with the aim of developing industrial applications of television technology. Since then it has conducted research and development in the field of light-related technologies and has worked at commercialization of these technologies. The company holds a 90% share of the global market for photomultiplier tubes (PMTs), which can detect even very faint light. It has also developed optical sensors and light sources for use in a broad range of academic, industrial, medical, and other fields. The company's highly sensitive PMTs have supported observations and experiments by many researchers, including Nobel laureates Masatoshi Koshihara and Takaaki Kajita.

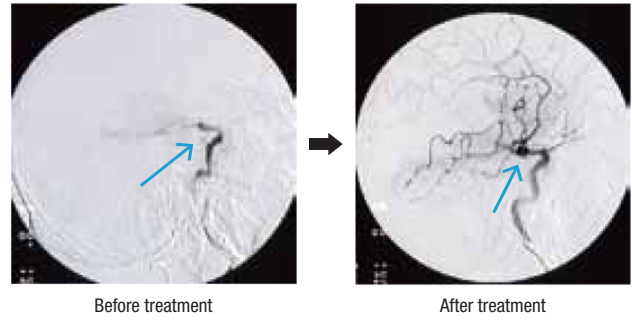
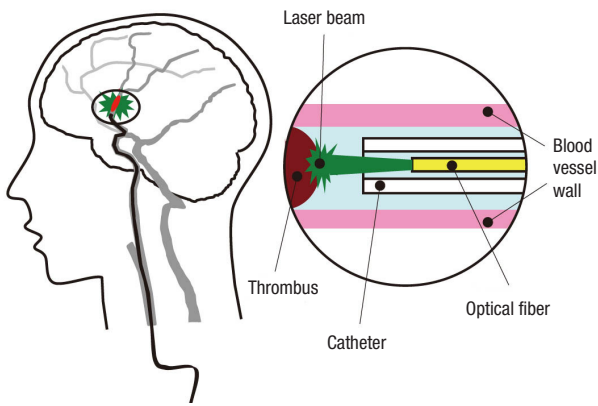
Hamamatsu Photonics has also developed many world-class products in the field of lasers, in which it started R&D activities in the 1990s. Recently it became the first in the world to develop a laser thrombolysis technology for treatment of cerebral thrombi—blood clots in the brain that cause strokes—which works as follows: A catheter encasing an optical fiber is inserted via a femoral artery and extended to the location of the thrombus, and a green laser beam at a wavelength of 532 nanometers is directed at the site. At this wavelength, the beam is not absorbed by the blood vessel wall but affects only the thrombus, which it dissolves with almost no risk of damage to the blood vessel walls. Since the tip of the catheter is thin, with a diameter of only 0.8 millimeters, and flexible, it can be used for treatment in blood vessels of around 1 mm in diameter, which are hard to treat with existing devices for suction-purpose catheterization. In this way it offers hopes for expanding the scope of cases that can be treated.

Hamamatsu Photonics has been conducting its research in collaboration with a local hospital and Hamamatsu University School of Medicine. Dr. Hiroyuki Okada, who is responsible for laser thrombolysis R&D at the company's Central Research Laboratory, explains, "We had a hard time reconciling the different mind-sets of the medical treatment staff and the engineers." The engineers wanted to create a device allowing fine-tuning of irradiation times, power, and other settings, while the medical staff wanted a simple-to-operate device that would let them concentrate on treatment. He says, "We put the wishes of the medical staff first and made adjustments, such as minimizing the number of operating buttons, while aiming for high reliability." The effectiveness and safety of laser thrombolysis technology has been confirmed in experiments on animals, and it is planned to start clinical tests on humans this spring; the aim is to create a product for practical use in five years.

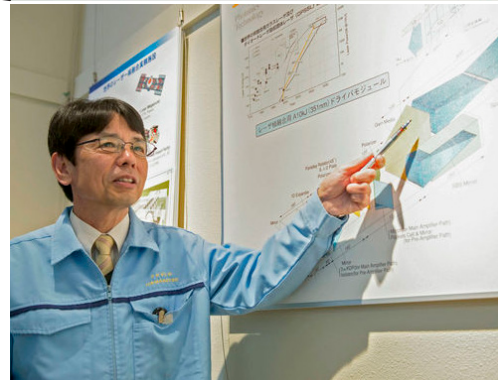
As a long-range product, the company is also working to develop high-power laser beams to achieve laser nuclear fusion, a promising energy technology for the future. This fantastic technology would irradiate deuterium and tritium with high-powered lasers, causing it to ignite and burn, and would convert the resulting fusion energy into electricity. Achieving laser nuclear fusion was actually the initial motivation for the company's start of R&D in the field of laser technology. Dr. Minoru Niigaki, who has been involved in research on light at Hamamatsu Photonics for about 40 years, declares, "We aren't yet tapping even one percent of the potential of light. We will continue our laser technology R&D efforts in line with our corporate mission, to seek 'fields unknown and untrodden by humankind.'"

Hamamatsu Photonics official website
<http://www.hamamatsu.com/jp/en/index.html>

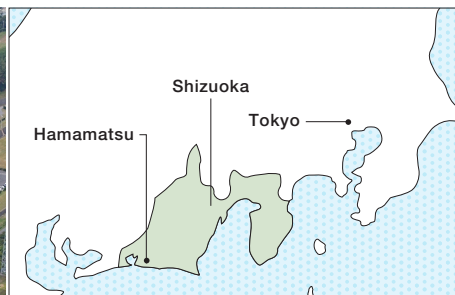
Laser thrombolysis



Before treatment, the thrombus at the location indicated by the arrow (left) was blocking the flow of blood, but after treatment to dissolve it, the flow resumed.



1. Dr. Hiroyuki Okada of Hamamatsu Photonics' Central Research Laboratory with an experimental laser irradiation device for use in thrombolysis. 2. The tip of the catheter is a mere 0.8 mm in diameter. 3. Dr. Minoru Niigaki, general manager of the company's Central Research Laboratory, explains the mechanics of laser nuclear fusion.



4. Hamamatsu Photonics' Central Research Laboratory was established in 1990 and has since focused on basic and applied research into light, including laser technologies. 5. In 2013 representatives of Hamamatsu Photonics and three local universities signed the "Photonics Declaration 2013 in Hamamatsu," affirming their ambition to make the city a major center of photonics science and industry.

Friends of Japan



Maud Archambault

Raised in Quebec, Canada. She first became interested in Japanese culture as a student at the University of Montreal. After arriving in Japan in 2001, she studied *min'yo* while working as an English teacher and translator. In 2014 she became the first non-Japanese professional *min'yo* performer. She is an aficionado of Japan's kimono culture and has learned to put on the complex garments by herself. In the above photo, she poses while holding a shamisen.



Archambault holds a *kasa* and *sensu* while performing the "Tsugaru Oharabushi."

Sharing *Min'yo*, Japan's Folk Music Tradition

When Canadian Maud Archambault took up the shamisen in 2001, a year after landing in Japan, out of a desire to learn something culturally distinct, little did she imagine it would lead her to center stage of Japan's highly traditional folk music world. Over the last 13 years the Quebec native has won numerous *min'yo* (folk music) competitions, becoming the focus of media attention in Japan and abroad. She even cohosted a nationally broadcast folk music program. In 2014 she became the first non-Japanese member of Japan's professional folk singers and dancers association.

Japan abounds in *min'yo*, with each region boasting its own rich heritage of songs and dances. "*Min'yo* and I found each other," Archambault explains, noting that her introduction to the multifarious musical genre came in steps. The instructors at the school in Saitama Prefecture where Archambault studies recognized her talents early on and gradually introduced her to different aspects of folk music. These included instruments like the *taiko* drum, along with *min'yo*'s distinct styles of singing and dancing.

Folk music has come down over the generations as melodic incarnations of regional culture and history. "The music tells about different places and events around Japan," says Archambault, observing that many songs emerged to mark significant seasonal events in community life. "There are songs about picking tea leaves or planting rice fields," she explains, adding, "Many are celebratory songs that were performed at festivals and other important occasions."

Archambault is a proficient *min'yo* musician and singer, with her talents extending to multiple instruments as well as folk music's demanding vocal techniques. She must also meet the challenge of singing in various local dialects. But her greatest talent—the one for which she holds a professional license—is *minbu*, or folk dancing. She began studying the art in 2008 and has since rapidly built her repertoire of regional dances.

Minbu includes a wide range of graceful, flowing moves as well as distinct costumes. Archambault fell in love with these aspects, but what she says she relishes most is the opportunity for personal expression. "Each song has set poses, but how you transition as you express them is up to your own interpretation."

One of her favorite dances is "Tsugaru Oharabushi," a flamboyant piece from northern Honshu performed with a traditional umbrella (*kasa*) and folding fan (*sensu*). Props are common features in *minbu*, serving to enhance performers' storytelling.

More than just a visual spectacle, folk dancing is also a traditional way to connect with others, such as at the local *bon odori* festivals held in communities around Japan every summer. "When everyone dances together, each person's energy flows and is shared," she says.

Archambault looks to use this communal aspect to spread understanding of *min'yo*, which she laments has waned over the years. Along with performances, which serve to introduce newcomers to the art, she hosts small gatherings to teach foreigners and Japanese about *min'yo* and runs workshops prior to festivals.

Archambault is indefatigable in her ambition to hold more performances in Japan. She hopes to eventually take Japanese folk music abroad, but says, "I would like to start by showing *min'yo* to foreigners living here."

The JET Programme: A Great Way to Experience Japan

Providing Support While Building Relationships

My decision to participate in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme was strongly influenced by an interest in teaching English, which I first experienced as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mozambique. I had been to Japan several times—once to visit my sister Taylor, who was a JET participant in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, and twice as part of support efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011—and each time I was impressed by the politeness of the Japanese people and the country’s extraordinary hospitality.

These were busy trips, however, and I was unable to experience many aspects of day-to-day life in Japan. I already knew I liked the country, and the JET Programme provided a spectacular opportunity to deeply explore the rich culture and history of Japan while having a rewarding experience teaching.

Working as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) at Takada High School in Yamato Takada City, Nara Prefecture, is an extremely enriching experience. I relish the opportunity to teach alongside so many talented and hardworking Japanese colleagues and serve as a positive influence in the English learning experience of students.

The diligent approach students have toward their studies impresses me, and I strive to provide fun and engaging activities to strengthen speaking fundamentals, including in-class exercises that broaden active vocabulary and improve pronunciation. Outside the classroom, I help students build confidence to converse in English and create personal connections by talking with them during breaks and at lunchtime about different aspects of their lives. My involvement in the school’s English club also allows me to take an active role in assisting students to reach their individual English-speaking goals as well as introduce seasonal customs in a fun and interactive way.

As an avid adventurer, I take every opportunity to explore the charms of Nara, a region with a history stretching back to ancient times. There is always something new to discover, and I enjoy roving the countless pathways and trails that wind through the surrounding neighborhoods and countryside. I also have an interest in indoor rock climbing, which has allowed me to bridge the barrier of language and make personal connections with other climbers.

The local association of JET participants, Nara AJET, regularly hosts gatherings for people to experience traditional events such as festivals as well as interact with local residents. Volunteering is an important component of AJET, and I am anxious to lend a greater hand in various support activities, including those at local orphanages. This is something I was involved with when visiting the Tohoku region following the 3/11 disaster.

Going forward, I look to deepen the relationships I enjoy with my students, local community, and fellow JET participants. After the program, I hope to combine my strong connection with Japan together with my experience from JET, teaching in Mozambique, and volunteering in Tohoku to be involved with my family’s efforts, the Taylor Anderson Memorial Fund, to help those affected by the earthquake to continue to recover.



Jeffrey Anderson

Born in the United States. Arrived in Japan as a JET participant in 2015. Currently teaching at Takada High School. Is the second member of his family to participate in JET—sister Taylor Anderson was a victim of the Great East Japan Earthquake while an ALT in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture.

Anderson walks around providing assistance to a class of first-year students.



1. Anderson plays a game with members of the after-school English club as a way to have fun while building communication skills. 2. Anderson, the Japanese English teacher, and the vice-principal pose for a group photo with students during an English class. 3. Anderson poses with his bicycle outside Kashihara Jingu. The shrine, which is near his home, is one of his favorite places to visit.



The JET Programme official website
<http://jetprogramme.org/en/>

Websites

Official Websites of the Government and Related Organizations

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

Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet



Cabinet Public Relations Office, Cabinet Secretariat

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

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

f <https://www.facebook.com/Japan.PMO>

t https://twitter.com/JPN_PMO

Japanese Government Internet TV



Public Relations Office, Cabinet Office

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

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

WEB <http://www.mofa.go.jp>

f <https://www.facebook.com/Mofa.Japan.en>

t https://twitter.com/MofaJapan_en

JNTO (Japan National Tourism Organization)



pp. 6-7

Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)

Information about tourism in Japan, including videos and photos. In English and many other languages, including Chinese, Korean, French, and German.

WEB <http://www.jnto.go.jp/>

f <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/fb/index.html>

t (US) https://twitter.com/Visit_Japan

JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization)



Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

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

WEB <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/>

JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Programme



pp. 30-31

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)

Information about the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme.

WEB <http://jetprogramme.org/en/>

f <https://www.facebook.com/pages/JET-Programme/219440938121634>

t (US) <https://twitter.com/JETProgram>

Publications

Official Publications from the Government and Related Organizations

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

Cabinet Office



“Highlighting JAPAN”

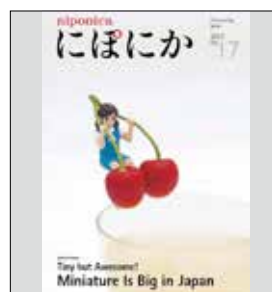
Aimed at people in other countries, this regular publication introduces the latest major government policies.

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



Monthly

Ministry of Foreign Affairs



“niponica”

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

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



Three times a year

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry



“METI Journal”

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

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



Bimonthly

Japan National Tourism Organization



“Monthly Web Magazine”

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

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



Monthly

Nuclear Regulation Authority



“F1 Issues Fukushima Daiichi NPS's Issues”

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

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



About once a week

Ministry of Defense



“Japan Defense Focus”

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

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



Monthly

We Are Tomodachi
Spring 2016

Published by



The Government of Japan

Edited by

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

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

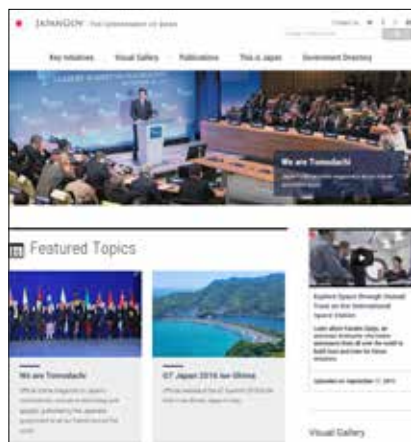
We would be delighted to have your feedback.
Please send us your comments.

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

Links to the websites of ministries

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

The Government of Japan




JapanGov website




JapanGov app

-  <http://www.japan.go.jp>
-  www.facebook.com/JapanGov
-  <https://twitter.com/JapanGov>
<https://twitter.com/Japan>
-  [JapanGov](#)

You can download the JapanGov app from the following stores.

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

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

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



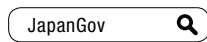
Japan. Sharing tomorrow.

We Are Tomodachi
Spring 2016

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



The Government of Japan



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



You can subscribe to the *Tomodachi* newsletter at the following URL.

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