We Are *Tomodachi*

Spring 2017

The Government of Japan

JAPANGOV - THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

Website

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The website also carries digital editions of "We Are *Tomodachi*" going back to the Winter 2013 edition.

Abenomics

Abenomics, Japan's comprehensive economic policy package, is now gaining speed. This page offers the latest on the aggressive reforms being implemented to reach a GDP of JPY 600 trillion and the three policy engines installed to keep the positive economic cycle spinning.

Unleashing the Power of Women

The power of women has the greatest potential in Japanese society, as well as in other parts of the world. This page introduces Japan's efforts to create an environment where all women shine, including a report from WAW (The World Assembly for Women) 2016 held in Tokyo.

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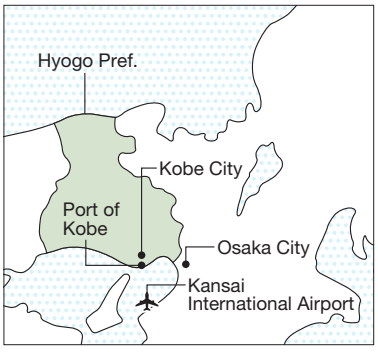
Cover

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia, and Viet Nam for meetings with their leaders. At Davao in the Philippines he was welcomed by local schoolchildren (January 2017).

Inspirational Views: Present and Past

Port of Kobe: Hyogo Prefecture



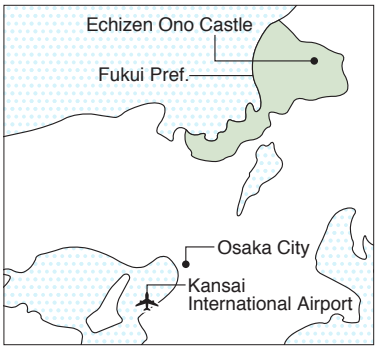
January 2017 marked the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Port of Kobe to international trade. Thanks to the calm waters of its naturally protected harbor, Kobe had long developed as a maritime trading hub, and since the opening of the port it has come to play a major part in Japan's international commerce. Also, the many tourist attractions in and around Kobe, along with the beauty of the port itself, have in recent years been drawing a growing number of cruise ships to make stops here.

In the Rokko Mountains, which rise up behind the port, are springs of water with a high mineral content, thanks to which the Kobe area has become famous as one of Japan's leading sake-brewing regions.

The Port of Kobe is just 30 minutes by train from Osaka, and the nearby Kobe Airport offers frequent flights on various routes.

150th Anniversary
PORT OF KOBE

Echizen Ono Castle: Fukui Prefecture



Echizen Ono Castle is in Fukui Prefecture, which faces the Sea of Japan; it is located in the city of Ono, approximately three hours from Osaka by train.

The castle, designed to be both a residence and a fortress for the lord who ruled the area, features a four-story keep and an adjoining small two-story tower, and is reinforced with moats, stone walls, and thick gates. Originally constructed in the late sixteenth century, it stands on a hilltop with an elevation of 249 meters (817 feet).

During the period from October through April, when temperature and humidity conditions are right, a sea of clouds covers the surrounding area, completely hiding the modern city below and presenting an ethereal scene of a castle out of time. This fantastic scene of what is called the “castle in the sky” transports viewers several centuries into the past.

SCMAGLEV: The Japanese Technology That Will Revolutionize Intercity Transport

In 2027, Japan plans to open the world's first superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) passenger train line, the Chuo Shinkansen, connecting Tokyo and Nagoya. SCMAGLEV is a unique transportation technology developed in Japan. When materials are cooled to temperatures below a certain level, their electrical resistance approaches zero; this is the phenomenon of superconductivity. Small but powerful superconducting magnets allow trains to levitate 10 cm (4 inches) above the tracks and reach top speeds of 500 km/h (310 mph). "The maglev technology developed outside Japan uses larger, non-superconducting coils, so it can only levitate the train 1 cm [0.4 inch] and reach speeds of 430 km/h [267 mph]. Japan's technology is fundamentally different." explains Noriyuki Shirakuni, a senior corporate executive officer at Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central), the developer of SCMAGLEV. An SCMAGLEV train can travel at super-high speeds, and because it uses only half the energy that air travel requires and emits just a third of the CO_2 per passenger seat, this form of transport is also superior from an environmental perspective.

Noriyuki Shirakuni

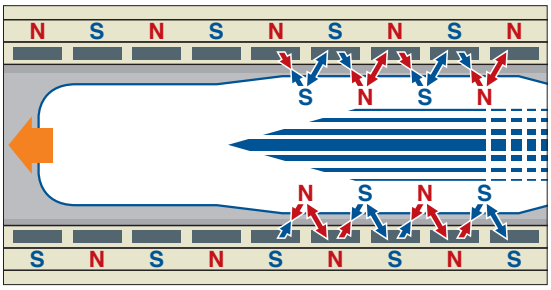
Senior Corporate Executive Officer
Director General, Maglev Systems Development Division
Central Japan Railway Company

Japan began researching maglev technology in 1962. One particular focus of the research program was improving the durability of the superconducting magnets. The technology has been developed into its current shape on the Yamanashi Maglev Line, which was completed in 1997 north of Mount Fuji. Trains have been run past each other at a relative speed of 1,026 km/h (637 mph) and operated for up to 4,064 km (2,525 miles) per day, well over the anticipated workload for passenger service. And in April 2015 the current world speed record of 603 km/h (375 mph) was attained.

Foreign dignitaries have been invited to view the running operations, and applicants from the general public have been taken on rides to promote wider understanding of the technology. Construction work on the Chuo Shinkansen section between Tokyo and Nagoya is already underway based on authorization received in October 2014 from the national government. "The safety and comfort of SCMAGLEV are based on the philosophy behind the Shinkansen bullet train, one of Japan's proudest achievements," says Shirakuni. "This major transportation system, including implementation of SCMAGLEV, could not be realized without Japan's advanced industrial capabilities."

JR Central is also working closely with The Northeast Maglev (TNEM), a U.S. marketing firm, to promote the adoption of an SCMAGLEV system for a line from Washington DC to Baltimore to be built as a joint project of the Japanese and U.S. governments. This is part of a larger plan for the construction of an SCMAGLEV passenger line in the section of the Northeast Corridor from Washington DC to New York. The first steps toward implementation of the project have already been taken, with the U.S. government agreeing to grant the state of Maryland USD 27.8 million to fund its research on the proposed Washington-Baltimore link. Shirakuni's outlook on the project is hopeful. "As we can see from the U.S. government's decision to provide a grant, understanding of SCMAGLEV is progressing within the United States, and momentum towards implementation of the project appears to be building," he says. "We look forward to contributing our technology to America as a symbol of U.S.-Japan friendship. I have high hopes that both the U.S. and Japanese governments will continue exploring ways to bring this plan to fruition."

Photo: Central Japan Railway Company



SCMAGLEV uses liquid helium to cool the coils to minus 269°C (minus 516°F), making them superconductive. When electricity is passed through the propulsion coils on the guideways, the forces of magnetic attraction between them and the superconducting magnets on the train itself propel the train forward. The train runs on rubber tires at first, beginning to levitate at approximately 160 km/h (100 mph).

An L0 Series train running on the Yamanashi SCMAGLEV Line. Rides are offered regularly, with passengers drawn by lot.

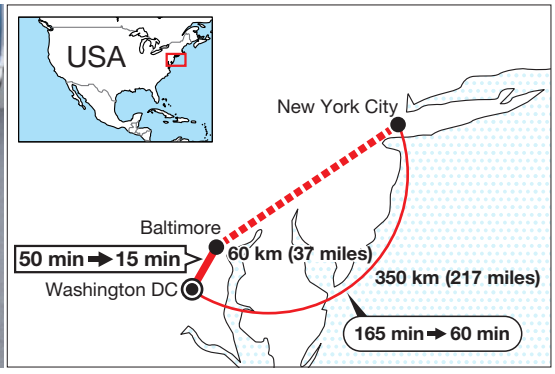
Bringing the World's Fastest Train to America's Northeast Corridor

The Northeast Corridor is home to nearly 50 million people and growing. While only occupying 2% of the United States' landmass, it produces 20% of America's GDP. Unfortunately, its infrastructure is in a terrible state. In the past two decades, traffic delays have increased over 60%, and 70% of national air traffic delays emanate from our airports. The current railways need over USD 40 billion just to keep them in a state of good repair. We have to do something. And 86% of people polled support building a new ultra-high speed SCMAGLEV train system.

Construction of the first leg of the project, Washington to Baltimore, will create 205,000 jobs and increase GDP by USD 22.5 billion. Once it is operating, we will see about USD 600 million a year in increased GDP, and a 2 million ton reduction in greenhouse gases—and that is only the first leg!

Through cooperation between Japan and the United States, the fastest train in the world can be brought to the Northeast Corridor. I don't think there is anything that we could do that would be a bigger symbol of Japan-U.S. friendship than completing this transformational project.

Wayne Rogers
Chairman and CEO
The Northeast Maglev, LLC (TNEM)



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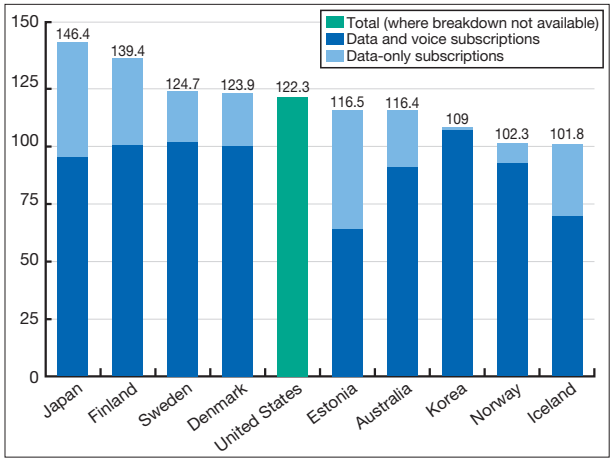
1. Former U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy took a ride on the SCMAGLEV train with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. She highly praised the comfortable ride and the technology, and said she hoped that the United States will benefit from SCMAGLEV.
2. The Northeast Corridor SCMAGLEV project aims to connect Washington DC and New York in about an hour—a trip that currently takes two hours and 45 minutes on an Amtrak Acela train. In addition to slashing travel times, the proposed service will help improve the quality of life in the region by reducing traffic congestion.

Leading Innovation with Japan's Information Technology

Japan has one of the highest levels of mobile broadband in the world, with 4G wireless mobile telecommunications networks covering 99% of the population. There are more than 140 mobile broadband subscriptions in place for each 100 people in Japan, demonstrating the Japanese people's avid participation in this market. Japan has been trying to exploit this advantage so as to lead the world in innovation based on information technology (IT). Professor Jun Murai of the Faculty of Environment and Information Studies at Keio University explains, "Japan is a unique market with high quality and safety demands from consumers, which have led to rapid advances in the quality of products and services. One of Japan's strengths is high-precision manufacturing, as typified by the automobile industry. In IT, Japan's advantage is in its network infrastructure, one of the most advanced in the world. Having this environment in place provides a huge tailwind propelling innovation in the Internet of Things [IoT], which combines physical objects and IT."

Mobile Broadband Subscriptions per 100 Inhabitants, June 2016



Note: Data for United States is an estimate.
Source: OECD Broadband Portal.

A current area of particular focus for Professor Murai is the application of IoT to agriculture. In agricultural IoT, factors in the crop-growing environment—including plant growth, soil moisture, air temperatures and humidity, and sunlight—are graphically displayed and analyzed. This enables efficiencies in the application of fertilizer and pesticides and the harvesting of crops. Full-scale adoption of agricultural IoT may lead to increased income for producers and encourage new people to enter the field, alleviating the shortage of young farmers, which is severe issue in Japan. IoT will extend to agricultural equipment, expanding future export markets for Japan's advanced agricultural technology through IoT equipment exports. The use of IoT also holds promise in helping to solve the world's food problems.

Professor Murai is also interested in the potential for change in the manufacturing sector with the shift from mass production to individual production based on the rise of digital fabrication, typified by 3D printers. As he notes, "With the accumulation and sharing of knowledge powered by IT, it is becoming possible for anyone to turn out products that could previously be made only by companies." Instances of the use of 3D printers are increasing in Japan as elsewhere. One example is a Japanese start-up that is developing electrical prosthetic arms and has begun to open-source its design data for 3D printers. Not only will this lead to electrical prosthetic arms that are much less expensive than before, but it will also allow people to modify designs and improve functionality themselves. This approach will raise the overall level of these products by drawing on collective intelligence rather than keeping the technology within a single company, and it may bring about a revolution in the field of electric prosthetic arms.

Professor Murai has high hopes for innovation using IT born in Japan. "To play a leading role in the expected fourth industrial revolution, we need to show the world new technological achievements in various fields. Japan has built an environment that supports the quest for innovation through collaboration among industry, academia, and the government, and we in the academic world want to play a leading role in this quest," he says.

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1. Sensors set in fields collect data on temperature, humidity, sunlight, soil moisture, CO_2 levels, and other environmental factors. This data is stored in the cloud and can be checked from personal computers, tablets, and smartphones. The system also includes a feature allowing users to navigate through the measures to be taken when conditions change suddenly while crops are growing. It is a step toward the realization of IoT agriculture based on scientific findings.
2. An IoT agricultural machine: A combine harvester is equipped with a "yield sensor" that measures weight and a "taste sensor" that measures the water content rate and protein content rate, which greatly influence how rice tastes, during harvesting with rice still in its husk. By analyzing this data, growers can adjust the amounts of fertilizer and other inputs in the following years.

A man fitted with an electric prosthetic arm shakes hands with a visitor at an exhibit in the United States. An open website for developers has become a forum for lively exchanges of ideas on how to improve the prosthetic device.
Photo: exiii Inc.

Jun Murai

Professor and Dean, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University. Born in 1955 in Tokyo. Has contributed greatly to the development of the Internet in Japan, founding the JUNET computer network linking universities in Japan via telephone lines in 1984 and launching the WIDE Project for research on the Internet in 1988, among other activities. Known as the "the father of the Internet in Japan" and "Internet Samurai" for his achievements in the field. Appointed Chairman of the IoT Acceleration Consortium in 2015. Has served as a member of the Japanese government's IT Strategy Headquarters since 2000.

Turning Cutting-Edge University Research into New Businesses

Recent years have seen a striking rise in Japan of moves to set up new enterprises to tap the intellectual property and human resources of universities. Particularly prominent in this regard is the University of Tokyo. According to a survey released by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in April 2016, the total number of start-ups launched at universities was 1,773, of which the University of Tokyo accounted for 198, the highest figure for any one university.

To create businesses from research findings and give back to society, the University of Tokyo is actively working to build a support system that includes collaboration with industry, protection and utilization of intellectual property, and nurturing of entrepreneurs. The role of raising funds for these enterprises has been handled by the University of Tokyo Edge Capital Co., Ltd. (UTEC), a company that has been approved by the university for technology transfer and has its offices on the university campus.

UTEC Managing Partner Tomotaka Goji previously drafted legislation for venture capital funds and then studied at Stanford University in Silicon Valley, where he saw for himself the support mechanisms that operate from the stage of basic research and the scale of the financing power to support start-ups. He wanted to create a venture-capital system that would provide properly functioning support mechanisms for basic research in Japan as well, and for this purpose he involved himself in the founding of UTEC in 2004. Since that time UTEC has created funds with a total value of JPY 30 billion (USD 261 million) and invested in 75 companies, nine of which have achieved listing on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

"I sense a change in universities' attitude to entrepreneurship," says Goji. "There is a positive cycle in which researchers and students see successful ventures around them and become motivated to start their own businesses. This is encouraged by promotion of start-ups that the Abe administration is conducting as part of its economic strategy, such as through the Nippon Venture Awards for highly innovative new enterprises."

One company that UTEC helped to start up is PeptiDream Inc., which won the second Nippon Venture Award in 2016. The company possesses advanced technology to sequence amino acids artificially and synthesize candidate peptides for new drugs. Other businesses UTEC has helped launch from the university include Mujin Inc., which has developed a next-generation intelligent robot controller for the autonomous operation of industrial robots, and Digital Grid Inc., a business in Tanzania that generates power from solar panels and operates a power interchange system to provide affordable and accessible electricity to the people in off-grid areas.

"The strength of Japanese universities is their deep accumulation of basic scientific research," says Goji. "Our role is to contribute to economic growth by linking that leading-edge science with industry so that it doesn't languish within the university."

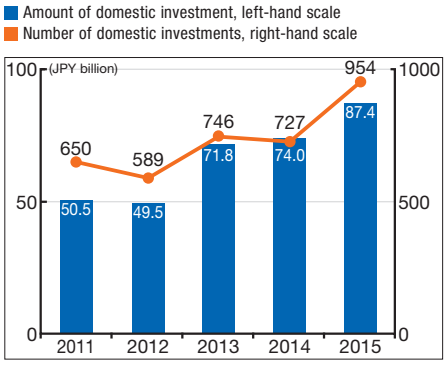
UTEC's support is not limited to the University of Tokyo. It is also helping to bring together enterprises launched at universities all over Japan and companies from overseas, and Goji is passionate about its mission.

"While the University of Tokyo is the axis of our activities, we want to help bring innovative change to the world with unique technology developed in Japan, making connections between universities, organizations, and countries around the world," he says.

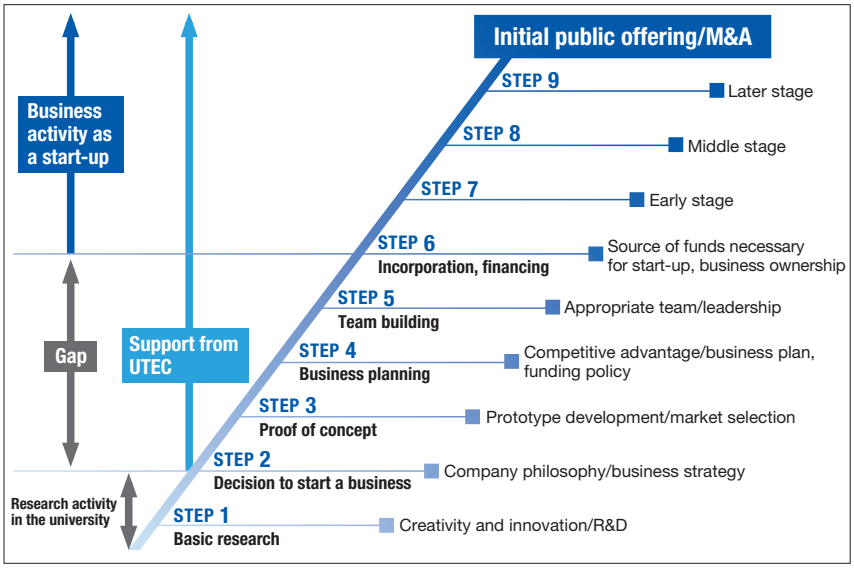
Note: U.S. dollar equivalents for Japanese yen amounts in this article are calculated at 115 yen to the dollar, roughly the rate at the time of publication.

The University of Tokyo Edge Capital (UTEC)
https://www.ut-ec.co.jp/

Number and amount of venture-capital investments in start-ups



Source: VEC Year Book 2016 (Venture Enterprise Center, Japan).



To create businesses based on scientific research, UTEC involves itself from even before the company foundation stage. In addition to providing capital, it supports companies over the medium and long term, helping to build executive teams and providing management consultation suited to each stage.

©Mujin

©Digital Grid

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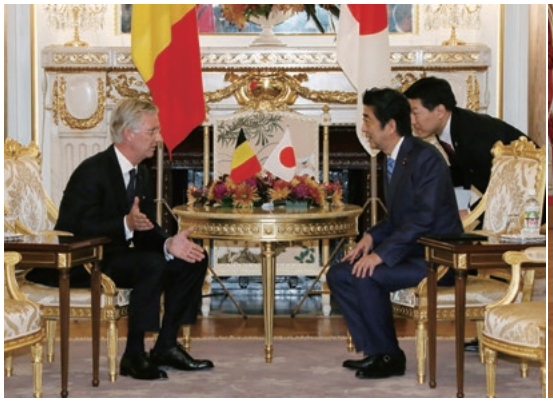
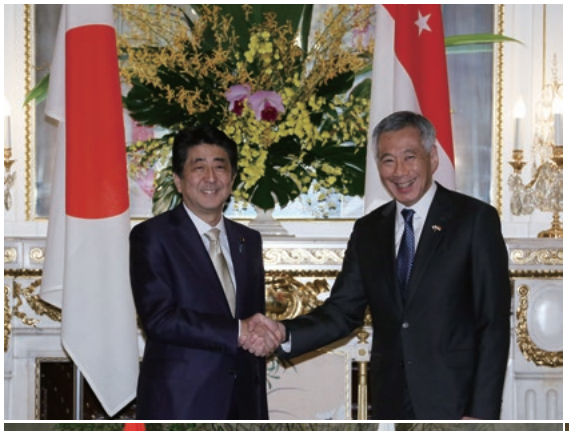
1. Mujin Inc. has developed a next-generation intelligent robot controller with a team of software and robotics engineers from around the world. Its Mujin Controller PickWorker won the Seventh Japan Robot Award in 2016.
2. Digital Grid Inc. is conducting a business that generates power from solar panels and operates a power interchange system in areas of Tanzania lacking electric power. About 1 million people are already using the company's service through this system.

Tomotaka Goji

Managing Partner and President of the University of Tokyo Edge Capital Co., Ltd. (UTEC). Graduated from the University of Tokyo's Faculty of Law in 1996. Joined the then Ministry of International Trade and Industry, where he worked on drafting legislation for venture capital funds. Earned his MBA from the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University in 2003. Co-founded UTEC in 2004.




Moments of Prime Minister Abe



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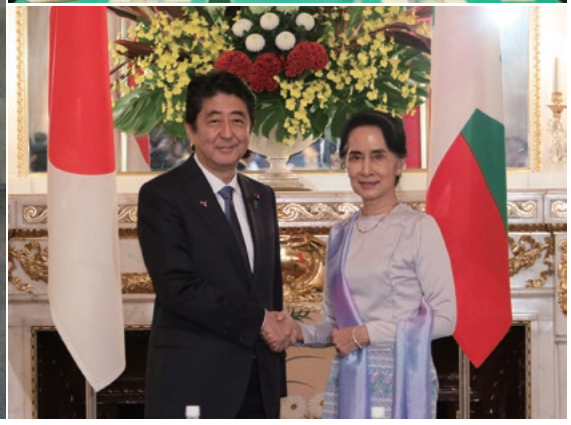
Prime Minister Abe welcomed visiting heads of state and other world leaders at the Prime Minister's Office and the State Guest House.
1. With King Philippe of Belgium (October 2016). 2. With King Abdullah II of Jordan (October 2016). 3. With Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore (September 2016). 4. With Prime Minister Jargaltulga Erdenebat of Mongolia (October 2016). 5. With President Michel Temer of Brazil (October 2016). 6. With State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar (November 2016).





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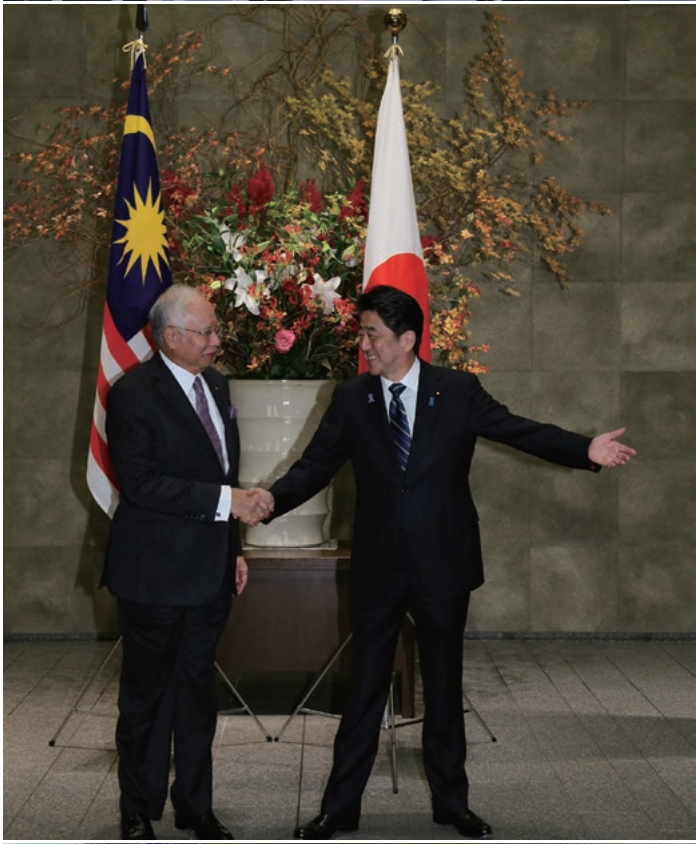
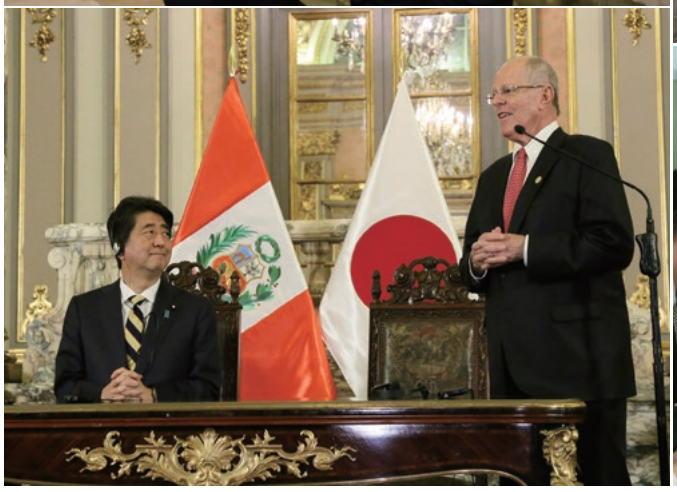
7. Meeting with President Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan at the Prime Minister's Office (November 2016). 8. In Kobe with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India on an inspection tour of Japan's Shinkansen high-speed rail system (November 2016). 9. With Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia at the Prime Minister's Office (November 2016). 10. In New York with President-elect Donald Trump of the United States (November 2016).

At the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, Peru, Prime Minister Abe met with various countries' leaders (November 2016). 11. With President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru. 12. With President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia.





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At the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, Peru, Prime Minister Abe met with various countries' leaders (November 2016).
1. Commemorative photo session (pool photo). 2. With President Tran Dai Quang of Viet Nam. 3. In Buenos Aires with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina (November 2016). 4. At the Prime Minister's Office with President Tony Tan Keng Yam of Singapore (December 2016). 5. At the Kodokan judo institute in Tokyo with President Vladimir Putin of Russia (December 2016). 6. Being welcomed by students at Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku (Mindanao International College) during a visit to the Philippines (January 2017). 7. Visiting President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines at his home in Davao (January 2017).






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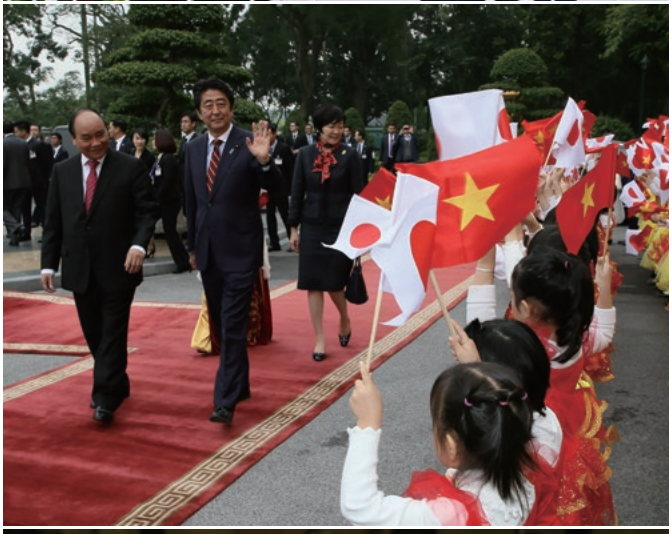


8. Taking a walk in Sydney with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia (January 2017). 9. In Jakarta with President Joko Widodo of Indonesia (January 2017). 10. In Hanoi with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Viet Nam (January 2017). 11. Receiving a courtesy call at the Prime Minister's Office from astronaut Takuya Onishi after he returned from an extended stay on the International Space Station (December 2016). 12. Receiving a courtesy call at the Prime Minister's Office from people participating in the Ship for World Youth Leaders (January 2017).

The Power of Reconciliation

Excerpts from the Address by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Delivered at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 27, 2016

Full text: http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201612/1220678_11021.html

President Obama, Commander Harris, ladies and gentlemen, and all American citizens, I stand here at Pearl Harbor as the prime minister of Japan.

Behind me, a striking white form atop the azure, is the USS *Arizona* Memorial. Together with President Obama, I paid a visit to that memorial, the resting place for many souls.

It was a place which brought utter silence to me. Inscribed there are the names of the servicemen who lost their lives. Sailors and marines hailing from California and New York, Michigan and Texas, and various other places, serving to uphold their noble duty of protecting the homeland they loved, lost their lives amidst searing flames that day, when aerial bombing tore the USS *Arizona* in two.

Even 75 years later, the USS *Arizona*, now at rest atop the seabed, is the final resting place for a tremendous number of sailors and marines. Listening again as I focus my senses, alongside the song of the breeze and the rumble of the rolling waves, I can almost discern the voices of those crewmen.

Each and every one of those servicemen had a mother and a father anxious about his safety. Many had wives and girlfriends they loved. And many must have had children they would have loved to watch grow up. All of that was brought to an end. When I contemplate that solemn reality, I am rendered entirely speechless.

"Rest in peace, precious souls of the fallen." With that overwhelming sentiment, I cast flowers on behalf of Japanese people, upon the waters where those sailors and marines sleep.

* * *

President Obama, the people of the United States of America, and the people around the world: As the prime minister of Japan, I offer my sincere and everlasting condolences to the souls of those who lost their lives here, as well as to the spirits of all the brave men and women whose lives were taken by a war that commenced in this very place, and also to the souls of the countless innocent people who became victims of the war.

We must never repeat the horrors of war again. This is the solemn vow we, the people of Japan, have taken. And since the war, we have created a free and democratic country that values the rule of law and has resolutely upheld our vow never again to wage war. We, the people of Japan, will continue to uphold this unwavering principle, while harboring quiet pride in the path we have walked as a peace-loving nation over these 70 years since the war ended.

To the souls of the servicemen who lie in eternal rest aboard the USS *Arizona*, to the American people, and to all peoples around the world, I pledge that unwavering vow here as the prime minister of Japan.

* * *

Yesterday, at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay, I visited the memorial marker for an Imperial Japanese Navy officer. He was a fighter pilot by the name of Commander Fusata Iida who was hit during the attack on Pearl Harbor and gave up on returning to his aircraft carrier. He went back instead and died.

It was not Japanese who erected a marker at the site that Iida's fighter plane crashed. It was U.S. servicemen who had been on the receiving end of his attack. Applauding the bravery of the dead pilot, they erected this stone marker. On

the marker, his rank at that time is inscribed, "Lieutenant, Imperial Japanese Navy," showing their respect toward a serviceman who gave his life for his country.

"The brave respect the brave." So wrote Ambrose Bierce in a famous poem. Showing respect even to an enemy they fought against; trying to understand even an enemy that they hated—therein lies the spirit of tolerance embraced by the American people.

When the war ended and Japan was a nation in burnt-out ruins as far as the eye could see, suffering under abject poverty, it was the United States, and its good people, that unstintingly sent us food to eat and clothes to wear. The Japanese people managed to survive and make their way toward the future thanks to the sweaters and milk sent by the American people. And it was the United States that opened up the path for Japan to return to the international community once more after the war.

Under the leadership of the United States, Japan, as a member of the free world, was able to enjoy peace and prosperity. The goodwill and assistance you extended to us Japanese, the enemy you had fought so fiercely, together with the tremendous spirit of tolerance, were etched deeply into the hearts and minds of our grandfathers and mothers. We also remember them. Our children and grandchildren will also continue to pass these memories down and never forget what you did for us.

The words pass through my mind, those words inscribed on the wall at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC, where I visited with President Obama. "With malice toward none, with charity for all . . . let us strive on . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a . . . lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." These are the words of President Abraham Lincoln.

On behalf of the Japanese people, I hereby wish to express once again my heartfelt gratitude to the United States and to the world for the tolerance extended to Japan.

* * *

It has now been 75 years since that "Pearl Harbor." Japan and the United States, which fought a fierce war that will go down in the annals of human history, have become allies with deep and strong ties rarely found anywhere in history. We are allies that will tackle together, to an even greater degree than ever before, the many challenges covering the globe. Ours is an "alliance of hope" that will lead us to the future.

What has bonded us together is the power of reconciliation, made possible through the spirit of tolerance. What I want to appeal to the people of the world, here at Pearl Harbor, together with President Obama, is this power of reconciliation. Even today, the horrors of war have not been eradicated from the surface of the world. There is no end to the spiral where hatred creates hatred. The world needs the spirit of tolerance and the power of reconciliation now—and especially now.

Japan and the United States, which have eradicated hatred and cultivated friendship and trust on the basis of common values, are now, and especially now, taking responsibility for appealing to the world about the importance of tolerance and the power of reconciliation. That is precisely why the Japan-U.S. alliance is "an alliance of hope."

* * *

Pearl Harbor: It is precisely this beautiful inlet, shimmering like pearls, that is a symbol of tolerance and reconciliation. It is my wish that our Japanese children, and President Obama, your American children, and indeed their children and grandchildren, and people all around the world, will continue to remember Pearl Harbor as the symbol of reconciliation.

We will spare no efforts to continue our endeavors to make that wish a reality. Together with President Obama, I hereby make my steadfast pledge.

Fukushima Today

Related video
https://youtu.be/Hi_afnXdNHs

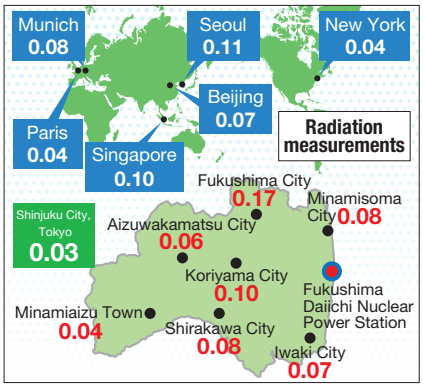
Steady Progress on Decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

Overwhelmed by the tsunami caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station lost its ability to cool the reactors, and overheating of the fuel caused a hydrogen explosion. Now the reactors are under continuous water-injection cooling, and stable conditions are being maintained.

The cooling water is purified and recycled, and multilevel protective measures are being taken to prevent water contamination and outflows of contaminated water, such as by pumping up groundwater, building an impermeable wall, and treating contaminated water with radioactive material removal equipment. Information about the status of these measures is constantly disclosed in Japan and internationally; for example, reports are regularly submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Currently, about 6,000 workers are proceeding safely and steadily with decommissioning work at the site of the power station. Initially they needed to wear protective clothing, but their workplace environment has improved, and now they can wear ordinary uniforms in about 90% of their work area.

Thanks to decontamination efforts at the site of the power station, full-body suits and face masks are no longer mandatory in 90% of the site.
Photo: Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, Inc.



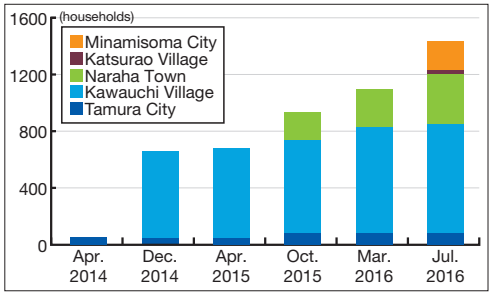
Unit: microsieverts/hour (μSv/h)

Values for locations outside of Japan are as measured from July 13–15, 2016. Values for locations in Japan are as measured on December 1, 2016.

Source: Fukushima Prefecture, "Fukushima fukko no ayumi" (English version: "Steps for Revitalization in Fukushima"), 18th ed., based on Reconstruction Agency (Japan), "Basic Information on Radiation Risk," and materials from the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and France's Institut de radioprotection et de sûreté nucléaire (IRSN).

Stepping Up Measures to Allow Residents to Return

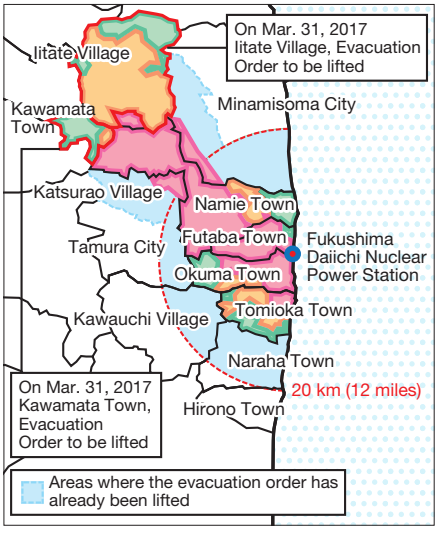
After the earthquake, the Japanese government issued evacuation orders for severely affected areas of Fukushima Prefecture for the sake of residents' safety. Since then work has been progressing to restore electricity, gas, water, and other services and to decontaminate the areas. Now the evacuation orders are being lifted in one area after another as the necessary conditions are met, and people are moving back to their hometowns.



Number of households returning to hometowns after evacuation orders lifted

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Indutry, compiled from data collected by local governments.

Areas subject to evacuation orders



The Japanese government is aiming to lift evacuation orders in some areas in Tomioka and Namie Town in spring 2017.
Source: Fukushima Prefecture, "Fukushima fukko no ayumi" (English version: "Steps for Revitalization in Fukushima"), 18th ed.

Rigorous Efforts to Ensure Food Safety

Fukushima Prefecture is one of Japan's leading farming regions and produces delicious food, including the country's second-largest crop of peaches and fourth-largest rice harvest. All of Fukushima's agricultural produce is subject to thorough monitoring for radioactive substances and is only shipped after clearing strict standards. In other words, it is completely safe to eat. The *Codex Alimentarius* Commission of the WHO and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have set a guideline level of 1,000 becquerels per kilogram (Bq/kg) for food safety, but Fukushima's standards are much stricter—100 Bq/kg for general foods and 10 Bq/kg for drinking water—and have won high appraisals from the WHO and FAO.

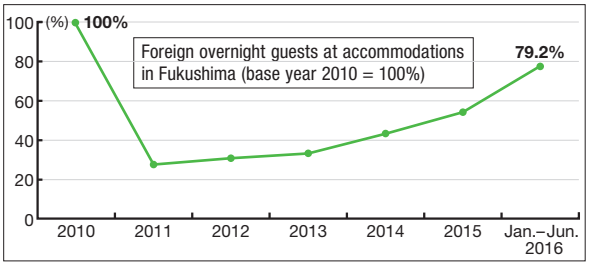
Food group	Limit (Bq/kg)	
	Japan	Codex*
General foods	100	1000
Infant foods	100	1000
Milk	50	1000
Drinking water	10	1000

The guidelines for the levels of radioactive substances in food set by Japan's Food Sanitation Act are extremely strict even by international standards.
* International Food Standards

Rapid Restoration of Transportation Infrastructure

Transportation infrastructure in the disaster-affected areas is being restored at a rapid pace. North-south arteries such as National Route No. 6 and the Joban Expressway have completely reopened, and train services have been restored on most of the JR Joban Line, with restoration of the entire line to be completed no later than March 2020. The flow of people has been restored, and many foreign tourists are visiting Fukushima, which is endowed with many sightseeing attractions.

On December 10, 2016, Prime Minister Abe attended a ceremony to celebrate the reopening of a section of the JR Joban Line.



Source: Japan Tourism Agency, "Statistical Survey on Overnight Travel."
Note: Figures are based on the number of guests staying at accommodations with 10 employees or more.

Innovating and Creating New Industries for the Future

In addition to conducting recovery efforts, the Japanese government is implementing the Innovation Coast Scheme, which aims to develop Fukushima as a base for creating new industries. This scheme has already started to produce results, as seen in the opening in rapid succession of hubs for development of cutting-edge technologies. These include the Fukushima Hama-Dori Robot Test Zone and Remote Technology Development Center to promote development of drones and other robotic devices. In January this year, a demonstration test was conducted in a section of the robot test zone along the seashore, and it achieved the world's first successful long-distance air freight shipment by a fully autonomous drone. Meanwhile, a floating wind turbine for generating electricity, the largest of its kind in the world, is being installed off the coast.

Rebounding from the disaster, the people of Fukushima are now striding vigorously toward the future.

A 7-megawatt floating wind turbine has been constructed off the coast of Fukushima under a project commissioned by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The blades reach a height of 200 meters (about 660 feet) above the ocean.
Photo: Fukushima Offshore Wind Consortium.

The Senkaku Islands: 3 Commonly Held Misconceptions

Many of the recent media stories about the Senkaku Islands seem to be based on mistaken notions. Here we examine some of the most commonly held misconceptions.

Misconception 1: "Japan 'seized' the Senkakus from China."

Stories about the Senkaku Islands often state casually that Japan "seized them" from China as a result of the Sino-Japanese War. Is this true? Japanese fishermen and merchants had already grown active in and around the Senkakus for some years by 1893 when some of them drifted ashore in China (then under the rule of the Qing Dynasty) and were questioned by the authorities there. Despite such an increase in activities by Japanese citizens on the Senkaku Islands, there is no record whatsoever of China having asserted sovereignty over these islands during that time, including in the aforementioned case. Against this backdrop, Japan incorporated the Senkakus into Okinawa Prefecture with a Cabinet decision in January 1895. In no sense did Japan "seize" them, much less "steal" the islands from China. In this light, it is only natural that these islands did not come up for discussion in the April 1895 peace treaty negotiations at the end of the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95. In the first place, a report on Japan submitted to the Qing government by one of its experts in 1889, titled *You li Riben tu jing* (Maps, Figures and Depiction of Japan based on field research), explicitly listed the Senkakus as Japanese territory. The preface to the report was written by none other than Premier Li Hongzhang, a powerful statesman who soon after represented China in the April 1895 peace talks. It is thus simply inconceivable that the Qing government considered the Senkakus to have been "seized" from it.

Misconception 2: "Japan is overturning the post-World War II order."

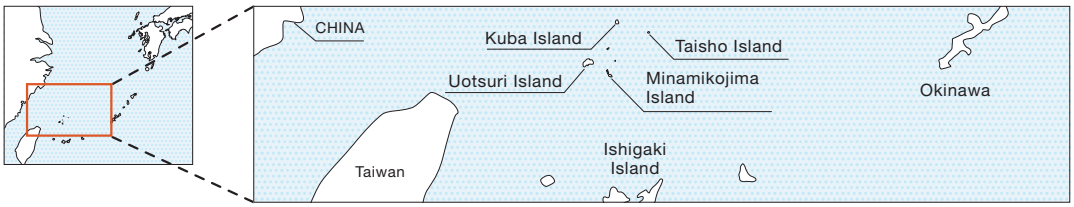
Stories about the Senkakus sometimes contain the assertion that Japan is seeking to overturn the post-World War II international order. This is also mistaken. One only needs to examine the way Japan's territory was determined under the San Francisco Peace Treaty, which is the very basis for the "postwar order" in East Asia. Under this treaty, Japan relinquished part of its prewar territories including Taiwan and the Korean Peninsula. The areas that Japan did not relinquish were thus determined to be Japanese territory under this treaty. The Senkakus were in the latter category. The treaty also provided that Okinawa, a portion of Japan's remaining territory under this treaty, was to be administered by the United States, and the scope of Okinawa, given in geographical coordinates of longitude and latitude, explicitly included the Senkakus. It is therefore only natural that, when the United States returned Okinawa to Japanese administration in 1972, the Senkakus were included in the reversion. Likewise, it is not surprising that two of the islands in the Senkakus continue to be designated as firing/bombing ranges for the U.S. forces in Japan by the United States and the Japanese governments.

It was in 1971 that China started to challenge this "postwar order" with assertions of sovereignty over the Senkakus, after the possible existence of oil deposits in the area was pointed out. Japan, meanwhile, has observed the United Nations Charter and supported the "postwar order" as a peace-loving nation that has not fired even a single shot against another nation during the entire postwar period and as a democracy that embodies universal values like the rule of law and respect for human rights.

It is often asserted that the Senkakus were "returned" to China under the Cairo Declaration of 1943, but this is another error. Needless to say, by definition, mere political documents like the Cairo Declaration cannot determine countries' territory. This can be done only by means of legal instruments on the basis of international agreements, such as the San Francisco Peace Treaty. To begin with, the

Published in *We Are Tomodachi*, Spring 2014.

The Senkaku Islands at a Glance



(Photo: ©Ministry of Defense)

Kuba Island

Uotsuri Island

Minamikojima Island

Taisho Island

Life and Industry on the Senkaku Islands at a Glance

1

2 3

1.Drying bonito on Uotsuri Island.
(Photo: Hanako Koga/©Asahi Shimbun)

2.Residents of Uotsuri Island on the island during the Meiji era (1868-1912).
(Photo: Hanako Koga/©Asahi Shimbun)

3.Dried bonito factory and residents' homes on Uotsuri Island. A trade vessel lies just offshore, and the Japanese flag flies over the island.
(Photo: Hanako Koga/©Asahi Shimbun)

The Senkaku Islands

Seeking Maritime Peace Based on the Rule of Law, not Force or Coercion
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aC9gyVeCAp0

Cairo Declaration naturally contains no language whatsoever indicating that the Senkakus, which were not "seized" from China in the first place, have to be somehow "returned." If the islands had been "returned" under this declaration, why did no country assert sovereignty over them from 1945 to 1971? The absence of such claims clearly demonstrates that the Senkakus are Japanese territory and that the "postwar order" recognized them as such.

Misconception 3: "Japan unilaterally heightened tensions by changing the status quo."

In 2012 the government of Japan acquired ownership of part of the Senkakus that had been privately owned, including Uotsuri Island, the largest of the islands. It has sometimes been asserted that, in doing so, Japan unilaterally changed the status quo regarding ownership of the Senkakus, thereby heightening tensions. This, too, is erroneous.

First, title to portions of the Senkakus has changed hands in the past, both between the government and private owners and from one private owner to another. The islands that the government acquired in 2012 were ones that the government had previously owned. The fact is that whether the land is owned by the government or a private party in no way changes the fact that the Senkakus are Japanese territory under Japan's valid control.

Second, it is China that unilaterally heightened tensions over the Senkakus prior to 2012. For example, in 1992, China suddenly listed the Senkakus as its own territory under its territorial sea law; beginning in 2008, it repeatedly sent official vessels to the area around the Senkakus and made incursions into Japan's territorial waters. This behavior contradicts China's claim that possession of the Senkakus was "shelved" by agreement between Japan and China in the 1970s. Of course, there was in fact no such agreement. China is continuing to heighten tensions in the area with attempts like these to change the status quo by force or coercion. In 2013, China took dangerous actions that escalated the situation in the area and that could have serious consequences, such as locking fire-control radar on a Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel and suddenly declaring an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the East China Sea and unilaterally imposing mandatory rules on this airspace. In the face of such actions, Japan has consistently refrained from heightening tensions and responded in a way that aims to protect the international order based on the rule of law. At the same time, Japan continues to call for dialogue with China, which is its biggest trading partner, a long-time friend, and the counterpart in one of its most important bilateral relationships.

The Senkakus have a history of people full of vitality and good will.

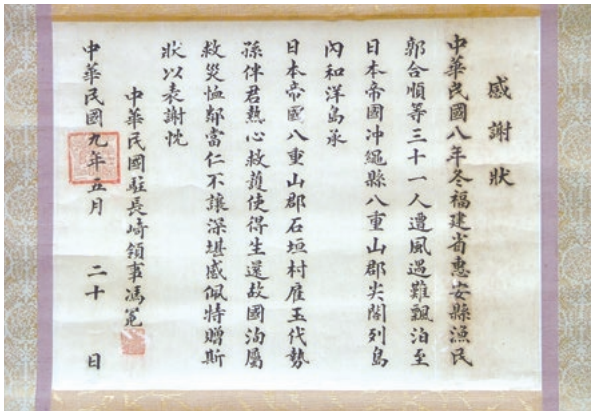
In recent years, many people around the world have become familiar with the name "Senkaku Islands." But what is still not widely known is the fact that these islands have an interesting history as the home of Japanese people full of vitality and kindness. After the islands were incorporated into Okinawa Prefecture in 1895, they became inhabited with a population that at its peak topped 200 residents, and a variety of economic activities were conducted there with the government's approval. The principal industry was processing bonito caught in the islands' waters, turning it into *katsuo-bushi*, the dried bonito used in making *dashi* fish stock. This *dashi* is the key to the delicious taste of many Japanese foods, and the *katsuo-bushi* from the Senkakus was good enough to win a silver medal in a nationwide competition in Japan. Also, small stuffed birds from the islands were used to decorate ladies' hats in the Western world of the day. And albatross feathers from the island were valued as a material for down quilts in Western countries.

In 1920, after a group of Chinese fishers washed ashore and were rescued in the Senkakus, the consul of the Republic of China in Nagasaki Prefecture sent letters of appreciation to each of the Senkaku residents and other Japanese in Okinawa who were involved in the rescue; the letters explicitly indicate the Senkakus Islands as being part of Okinawa. The Japanese residents of the Senkakus thus played a part in building friendship between Japan and China.

Eventually the day will come when the Senkaku Islands are known to the people of the world for their true charm.

The Senkaku Islands at a Glance

Life and Industry on the Senkaku Islands at a Glance



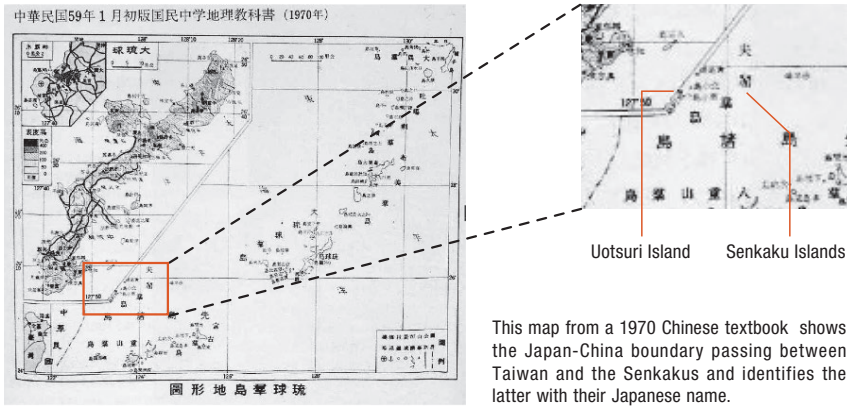
感謝狀

中華民國八年冬福建省惠安縣漁民
郭合順等三十一人遭風過難飄泊至
日本帝國沖繩縣八重山郡尖閣列島
內和洋島永
日本帝國八重山郡石垣村雇玉代勢
孫伴君熱心救護使得生還故國洵屬
救災恤鄰當仁不讓深堪感佩特贈斯
狀以表謝忱

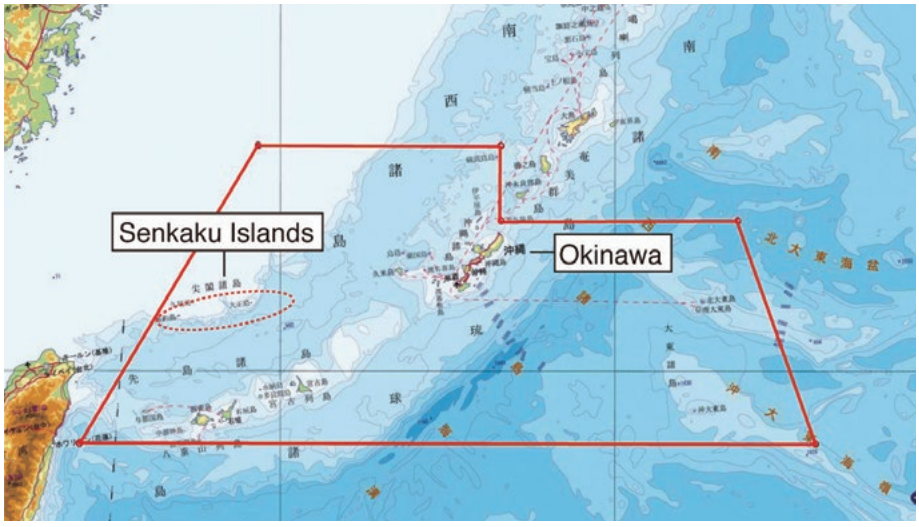
中華民國駐長崎領事馮冕
中華民國九年五月二十日

Chinese consul's 1920 letter of appreciation for the rescue of 31 fishermen washed ashore in the "Senkaku Islands, Yaeyama District, Okinawa Prefecture, Empire of Japan."
(Photo: Yaeyama Museum)

The "Post-WW2 Order" at a Glance



This map from a 1970 Chinese textbook shows the Japan-China boundary passing between Taiwan and the Senkakus and identifies the latter with their Japanese name.



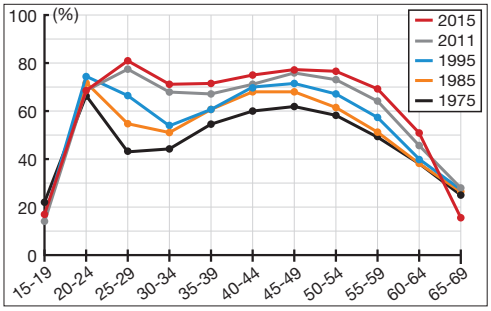
The administrative rights of all of the islands within the area inside the straight lines on the map were returned to Japan in 1972 in accordance with the Okinawa Reversion Agreement. The Senkaku Islands are included in this area.

Toward a Society Where All Women Shine

An Intensive Program to Help Women Break Through the Glass Ceiling

The Japanese government has promoted various initiatives to increase the number of women in the workforce in line with its aim of realizing innovation and enhancing productivity through diversity. As a result, women's advancement in Japanese society—traditionally thought to be male-dominated—has progressed. According to statistics from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the labor force participation rate for Japanese women aged 25–64 has reached 71.1%, surpassing the figure of 69.9% for the United States. But the glass ceiling that hinders women from rising to executive positions continues to be an issue in Japan, just as in many other countries.

Women's labor force participation rate by age group



Changes in the labor force participation rate for Japanese women: Until 1995, the rate for women aged 25–39 showed a pronounced dip, forming an M-shaped curve. Since 2011, the dip in the curve has become much less pronounced.
Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Measures are now being taken to address this issue, with a focus on increasing the numbers of women in executive posts. As one step to foster the next generation of women leaders, the Japanese government collaborated with the private sector to hold the Executive Program for Women Leaders, which was conducted this January by professors from Harvard Business School (HBS). The participants were women in key managerial posts at companies actively seeking to promote women's advancement. They underwent training in the strategic-thinking and decision-making skills required of executives and forged personal networks with each other through group discussions.

Miki Kotani, who holds a managerial position at Sekisui House, one of Japan's major homebuilders, was a participant in the program. The majority of employees in the housing industry are male, and Kotani recalls, "When I joined the company 29 years ago, the managerial posts were largely held by men." She has worked to remove the glass ceiling by fostering women managers with initiatives including the creation of in-house training programs and support systems to promote women's active participation, along with steps to enhance awards systems. "The interaction and collaboration among the women in high-level managerial posts who participated in the HBS program will lead to changes in women's social roles," she expectantly declares.

Kotani speaks enthusiastically of her hope for a society in which women's participation will expand even further: "I've been working for many years in construction technology development operations, and company reform is similar in some ways to the work of development. I'd like to make use of what I learned from the HBS program for the development of new measures that will lead to greater involvement of women." Her bright gaze is focused on a future in which the women leaders who emerge from the HBS program will serve as role models for the empowerment of women throughout society.

Miki Kotani

Studied architecture at a public university in Japan and earned qualification as a first-class registered architect, along with various other qualifications in the fields of construction and real estate. Joined Sekisui House in 1988. After working in a technical capacity in residential design operations and on the development of energy-efficient homes, was appointed manager of the company's Diversity and Inclusion Promoting Office in April 2014.

Providing facilitation for students enrolled in Sekisui House Women's College, which trains candidates for managerial positions. Kotani developed and manages this course herself.

Executive Program for Women Leaders

In mid-January this year, 66 high-ranking women managers from leading companies in Japan participated in the Executive Program for Women Leaders, an intensive five-day program held in Tokyo. The idea for this program originated when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Professor Michael Porter and Dean Nitin Nohria at Harvard Business School (HBS) in late April 2015, when they discussed how HBS could collaborate with the Prime Minister's Office to increase the participation of women in executive offices in Japan.

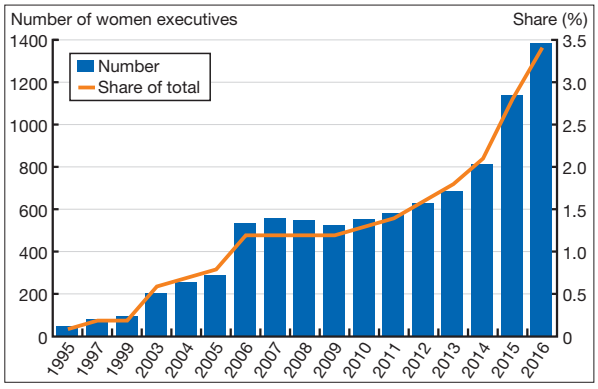
All the women stayed at a hotel near the program site and spent the full five days learning from Professors Joseph Badaracco, David Moss, and Hirotaka Takeuchi and from each other through the case study method. The case studies showed in detail how executives have led their firms through very challenging times, dealing with important strategic issues in which uncertainty, restructuring, inequality, and innovation were crucial factors.

Hirotaka Takeuchi

Professor in the HBS Strategy Unit, where he specializes in competitive strategy, knowledge management, and marketing.

The Executive Program for Women Leaders was well received for three reasons: First, it prepared the participants for executive roles by training them to think strategically, behave as leaders, and grasp the global macroeconomic environment. Second, they forged a lasting personal network through the intensive discussions. And third, they were motivated by Prime Minister Abe's address at the closing reception, a sign of government support for their career goals. Since 60 companies sent managers to this program, we should soon see women sitting on 60 corporate boards.

Women executives at listed Japanese companies



Source: *Yakuin shikiho* survey of listed companies conducted every July by Toyo Keizai Inc.

Three Main Themes of the Program

Competitive Strategies (Professor Hirotaka Takeuchi)

Learning about drafting and implementing a competitive strategy by debating a strategy that focuses on people, as in human resource management.

Leadership (Professor Joseph Badaracco)

Learning how top management should lead a company by debating a case study from an existing company.

Macroeconomics Environment (Professor David Moss)

Learning by debating methods to analyze various countries' economies, mechanisms that trigger financial crises, and the impact of government policies on economies.

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1. Professor Badaracco's class. The 66 participants from all over Japan debated in a lively fashion. 2. Hopefully new leaders will emerge from among these women to be role models for the younger generation of women. 3. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivered an address at the closing ceremony and spoke of his wish to realize a society in which women actively participate, a goal he has been aiming for since the inauguration of his administration.

iPS Cells Accelerate Medical Progress

Regenerative medicine uses transplants of cells or tissues to improve the working of organs or tissues that have been lost or become dysfunctional. One of the keys in this endeavor has been induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, which have the capacity to change, or differentiate, into various cells in the body. Professor Shinya Yamanaka was the first to announce the generation of such cells in 2006, and in 2012 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for this accomplishment. Since that time he has continued efforts to develop and spread research in regenerative medicine and drug discovery using iPS cells, working to lower the risks, production time, and costs associated with these cells.

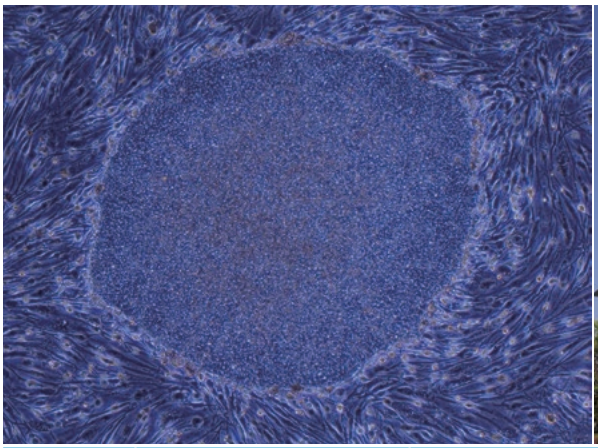
Professor Yamanaka was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2012, just six years after he had announced generation of iPS cells. This unusually quick recognition bespeaks the impact and sense of expectation produced by iPS cells.

The Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA) at Kyoto University, where Professor Yamanaka serves as director, was established in 2010 as the world's first research institute specializing in iPS cells. It is characterized by an open lab style and active fundraising activities, and has more than 200 researchers, graduate students, and technicians. As Professor Yamanaka explains: "Research on medical applications of iPS cells in regenerative medicine and drug development requires time in units of decades. One of my jobs here is to establish a system that will allow CiRA to operate stably over the long term and to create an environment that enables researchers to concentrate fully on their research."

CiRA is currently conducting a project to build a stock of iPS cells for regenerative medicine. They are generated from blood cells provided by volunteer donors whose cells are of a type relatively unlikely to cause transplant rejection. The iPS cells are stored and distributed to research institutes and companies that want to use them in regenerative medicine and for research in this field. Professor Yamanaka explains the significance of the project: "The time and cost required for regenerative medicine using iPS cells derived from a patient's own cells are huge, but with this system we can achieve substantial reductions in both. If other institutes use iPS cells whose quality is ensured by CiRA, the possibility of faster and less expensive clinical application also increases. This type of system is crucial for the industrialization of regenerative medicine using iPS cells."

Today, research on regenerative medicine using iPS cells is progressing worldwide. Japan has been at the forefront in this field. One landmark, reached in 2014, was the surgical transplant of retinal pigment epithelial cells made from iPS cells into a patient with age-related macular degeneration, a currently incurable disease of the eyes. Japan is also approaching the stage of clinical application in Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury, and some other diseases.

Japan has a record of outstanding achievements in basic research, and in recent years the pace of accomplishments in applied research is also on the rise. This combination of basic and applied research is an increasingly strong driver in the move toward industrialization of regenerative medicine. Professor Yamanaka declares, "The world is looking with expectation for the development of inexpensive treatments and new drugs using iPS cells, and Japan can surely make a contribution. We want to make steady progress toward achieving regenerative medicine and drug development that will give hope to people with intractable diseases." iPS cell technology from Japan is accelerating the speed of such medical development.



	Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells	Embryonic stem (ES) cells
Method of generation	Generated from somatic cells such as skin and blood cells	Generated from embryos shortly after fertilization
Advantages	• Can change into various cells in the body • Can proliferate indefinitely • No immune rejection (in cases of autologous transplantation of iPS cell–derived somatic cells)	• Can change into various cells in the body • Can proliferate indefinitely
Disadvantages	• Quality is still variable	• Use of human embryos raises an ethical issue

1 2
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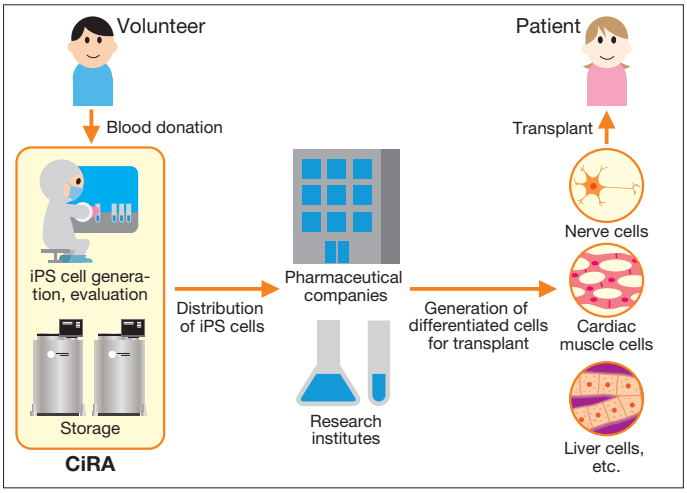
1. iPS cells are stem cells generated by reprogramming somatic cells such as skin and blood cells with the introduction of a few factors. The stem cells have the capacity to change, or differentiate, into various cells in the body and to proliferate indefinitely. (Photo by Kyoto University Professor Shinya Yamanaka.) 2. Kyoto University's CiRA facility. 3. Both iPS cells and embryonic stem (ES) cells have the capacity to change, or differentiate, into various cells in the body and to proliferate indefinitely. Research is progressing steadily toward overcoming challenges that iPS cells face, such as variations in quality.



In the iPS Cell Stock for Regenerative Medicine project, blood is collected from healthy donors with human leukocyte antigen (HLA) types that are thought to be relatively unlikely to cause immune rejection. After clinical-grade iPS cells are generated and evaluated in the Facility for iPS Cell Therapy (FiT) at CiRA, they are cryopreserved. Distribution to other research institutes and companies has already begun, and FiT aims to have a stock of iPS cells that can be used for most of the Japanese population by the end of fiscal year 2022.

Shinya Yamanaka

Born in 1962 in Osaka Prefecture. Graduated from Kobe University School of Medicine in 1987, and earned a PhD from Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine in 1993. After working in a postdoctoral position at the Gladstone Institutes and as a professor at the Nara Institute of Science and Technology, he became a professor at Kyoto University in 2004. Appointed director of the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA) in 2010, and awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2012.

A Woman's School-Creation Efforts Bear Fruit in Africa

Sayaka Kuriyama, a Japanese woman who has been active in Africa for 10 years, has set up schools in Mozambique and Malawi for orphans and other children who could not otherwise receive an education because of family circumstances, such as sick parents or poverty.

In her early twenties, Kuriyama worked at a popular clothing shop catering to young people in Shibuya, the district of Tokyo that leads Japan's fashion world. At the time, she says, she spent her nights partying and never gave a thought to the future. But then, when she was 25, a woman who had been her close friend for 14 years died of breast cancer. This loss made her ponder the meaning of her own life, and she began searching for something she could do for other people.

Kuriyama served as a volunteer in hospitals in India and Africa, trying to bring cheer to patients. And as she did so, her aspiration to conduct support activities overseas grew stronger. She visited a town in Mozambique where many people suffer from illness and poverty; in 2009 she established Achante Mama as a charity organization to operate there. She started by setting up a school to provide information about medical care to women from poor households. However, as she provided this education, Kuriyama realized that although knowing about medical care was important, it was even more important to give young children the opportunity to learn reading and writing. So she set up a classroom for this purpose. As she explains, "The school thus came to have two objectives. One was to teach local people the causes of illnesses and what can be done to combat them, as they were not accustomed to going to a hospital when they became ill. The other was to provide a basic education for those children not able to attend a regular school due to reasons such as not having official registration papers."

Kuriyama encountered many difficulties in managing a school all by herself in a foreign country whose language she did not know well. She talked to local people, going from door to door visiting poor households, and she invited women who were sick and children unable to receive regular education to attend the Achante Mama school. This school, which was first opened for women and has become a valuable place for children to learn, is now also serving as a workplace for local women. Meanwhile, Kuriyama has set up two additional schools, a second one in Mozambique and another in Malawi. The three schools have a total of 510 children in attendance.

The word about Kuriyama's activities has been spread in Japan via the Internet and through books she has written. Her sincere efforts to help women and children in Africa have gained considerable support, and now nearly all of the money required for Achante Mama's operations comes from donations from Japanese companies and individuals. Kuriyama notes that her schools also receive donations of pencils and notebooks from Japan, which are a great help. "The past eight years were a time of constant trial and error," she reflects, "but now people have become more aware that they need to go to a hospital and take medicine when they become ill, and the number of fatalities due to illnesses has been reduced."

Some of the children who learned how to read and write at Achante Mama schools have gone on to public schools and earned top grades in their classes. Meanwhile, Kuriyama continues to be devoted to her mission: "To whatever extent possible, I want to help reduce the number of children who are born into poverty and end their short lives in poverty too."

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3	4

1. The original school established in Mozambique now has 300 students. 2. Children are excited about studying as they receive notebooks and pencils for the first time. 3. Women working for Achante Mama were first students at the school, troubled by illness and poverty. The organization now employs 30 local staff members. 4. The school in Malawi has fields and a pig farm nearby that provide ingredients for the school's lunches.

Sayaka Kuriyama

After graduating from a junior college, she worked at a fashion shop in Tokyo. At age 25 she embarked on travels that took her to 60 countries. After volunteer work in Ethiopia, she established Achante Mama to assist women and children from poor families in Africa. She became the first Japanese to acquire qualification in Mozambique as a medical technician able to examine and diagnose patients and administer medication in place of a physician. In 2016, she received the Nippon Foundation Prize from the Foundation for Social Contribution.

A Life Enriched by Karate

A smile spreads across Jaco Minnaar's face when he talks about karate. After 38 years in the sport, the soft-spoken Johannesburg native sees it as more than a martial art, recognizing its limitless potential for personal betterment and linking people together.

Minnaar took up karate as a boy after being awed by the skills of actors in a martial arts film. His parents supported his interest and enrolled him in a nearby karate dojo, where he trained in Gojukai karate, a form of the martial art that developed in Okinawa. "The image of karate in South Africa is very positive," explains Minnaar. "The martial art emphasizes the importance of discipline and pure effort." These aspects fueled his motivation over the decades: "Once you reach one point, there is always something beyond. You can never stop learning."

Gojukai karate is now based out of Tokyo and promoted globally by the International Karatedo Gojukai Association (IKGA); it is a branch of "Gojuryu," which originated in Okinawa early in the twentieth century based on a mixture of traditional Okinawan martial arts and the southern school of Chinese martial arts practiced in Fujian Province. Minnaar traveled to Tokyo for the first time in 1993 for the IKGA World Championships. He subsequently spent several years in the South African financial industry, but, as he explains, "When I first came to Japan in 1993, the taste of culture, the taste of Japan as a whole I experienced had a great impact on me. So I really wanted to come here and experience this country more deeply." In 2004, he took a job teaching English in Okayama Prefecture under the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme (see page 33). He then developed his recruiting skills through work at several financial institutions, and he is now vice president of recruiting for J.P. Morgan's Japanese operations.

Working with the IKGA global headquarters in Japan, Minnaar's activities include training and instructing at the headquarter dojo as well as at seminars and assisting groups from South Africa to visit and train in Japan. He will also be involved in promoting the association's Global Championships to be held in Tokyo 2021.

Minnaar also hopes to boost South Africans' interest in Japan by drawing their attention to the 2019 Japan Rugby World Cup and 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games through initiatives of the South African Embassy in collaboration with the South African Chamber of Commerce in Japan (SACCJ). Meanwhile, as chairperson of SACCJ, he is closely involved with the embassy in hosting events that raise Japanese awareness of South Africa's abundant investment opportunities, including such areas as tourism, mining, and wineries. He also highlights investment opportunities in Japan. "As an economic superpower," he enthuses, "Japan has much to offer the rest of the world."

Minnaar professes contentment with where his life is going, saying that his goals are to keep improving in the dojo and on the job, and to pass those values on to his two children. "Karate has given me so much. It is my life," he declares. "It brought me to Japan, and also has given me a family, a career and a new country to call home. I wish through karate and in other ways to give back where I can and encourage others to take a chance and follow their dreams."

Jaco Minnaar

Has trained in Gojukai karate for nearly four decades. His sustained efforts have earned him three all-Japan titles in the *jiyu-kumite* (free sparring) division, most recently in 2016. Now focuses on karate not for achieving higher rank but for training and introspection. Lives in western Tokyo and divides his time among family, work, training, and volunteer activities as chairperson of SACCJ.

1 2 3

1. Minnaar poses after winning the *jiyu-kumite* division title at the 2012 Gojukai All-Japan Championships. 2. With his wife following their Shinto-style wedding ceremony. 3. With colleagues at J.P. Morgan.

Serving as a Vessel for Malaysia-Japan Exchange

Muhamad Syukri Bin Ghazali

Born in Malaysia. Has been working as a Coordinator for International Relations in Hioki, Kagoshima Prefecture, since August 2013. When he was an elementary school pupil, the Japanese television drama *Oshin* was hugely popular in Malaysia. Deeply impressed by the tenacity of the Japanese, he decided to visit Japan.

Malaysia has adopted a "Look East" policy, which means learning from the developed countries of East Asia, and every year around 200 Malaysians come to study in Japan. I myself had a chance to study at Ritsumeikan University in Shiga Prefecture in 1999. After returning to Malaysia I worked for a Japanese company and also served as an officer of the Alumni Look East Policy Society (ALEPS). Through this society I learned about the JET Programme, and I applied to have the experience of working in Japan. It was thus that I came to Japan again, serving as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) in the city of Hioki in Kagoshima Prefecture.

Hioki is a city richly endowed with natural attractions—the ocean, mountains, rivers, and lakes. It has a tranquillity reminiscent of my hometown in the state of Pahang in Malaysia, and I have found it to be a very pleasant place to live. As a CIR here, I visit schools and community centers to speak about topics such as Malaysia's culture and customs. Perhaps because they are influenced by stories in the media, people sometimes ask questions about Islam that reveal misunderstanding. But I consider such occasions to be a good chance to tell them about the real Islamic religion, so I talk about Islam's spirit of peace, its strict precepts, and other aspects of the religion. Everyone listens very intently to what I say and tries to understand my explanations, so these sessions are extremely rewarding. Cooking classes in which we prepare Malaysian dishes are very popular as well.

At the same time, I am striving to better understand Japanese culture. I have noted that Japan and Malaysia have many customs in common. Families and relatives spend the New Year together, and guests are treated with great hospitality in both countries. However, Japan's samurai culture is unique. Hioki has many traditional events. I participated in one of them, the Myoenji Mairi Festival, in which people parade through the city wearing traditional armor. The armor worn by samurai in the past was very sturdy and heavy, and I almost stumbled under the weight. But encouraged by the cheers of the spectators, I managed to complete the walk. By participating in this event together with local people, I was able to get a real sense of Japan's samurai culture at first hand.

My term as a CIR will soon end, but I would like to continue living in Japan a little longer. Then, when I return to Malaysia, I want to write a book to share my experiences in Japan with my compatriots. Malaysia still has much to learn from Japan—the diligence of the Japanese people, of course, but also the seriousness, all-out commitment, and attention to detail that they display in their lives and in their spirit of service. By conveying those characteristics, I hope to repay my country for giving me the opportunity to come to Japan.

In 2016 Syukri (seated fifth from left in front) took part in a Japanese speech contest and received the grand prize.

1 2 3

1. In traditional armor for the samurai parade at the Myoenji Mairi Festival in Hioki. 2. At work in the municipal office. 3. Enjoying the experience of picking and roasting green-tea leaves with local elementary school students.

About the Japan Exchange and Teaching (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, and is now one of the world's largest international exchange programs. JET participants are placed in every region of Japan and work in one of three positions: assistant language teachers (ALTs), coordinators for international relations (CIRs), or sports exchange advisors (SEAs). In 2016, the JET Programme welcomed 4,952 participants, and currently there are approximately 62,000 alumni from 65 countries living in all parts of the world.

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

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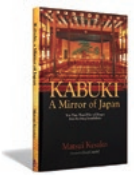

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