



## [The Nippon Foundation News] Summer Greetings

After a record-long rainy season that ran through most of the month of July, summer heat and humidity have now descended on Tokyo. One highlight of the summer in many neighborhoods is the local festival, where a commercial street is closed off for performances and entertainment and vendors set up stalls selling various kinds of food, drinks, and toys and games for children. The *Obon* holiday, which originated from the Buddhist custom of honoring the spirits of one's ancestors, is also generally observed in mid-August. Although not an official public holiday, many businesses close and people visit their family homes and clean and pray at their ancestral graves. *Bon-odori* (bon dance) festivals are another popular summertime event where groups of people, often wearing *yukata* (a light, casual, summer kimono) perform traditional dances to welcome the visiting ancestral spirits.

At The Nippon Foundation, summer is a busy time with ocean-themed events, including cleanup activities to remove trash from beaches and in cities, recognizing that 80% of ocean debris is washed into the ocean from cities and towns on land. This summer also marks the beginning of the one-year countdown to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Among the events we are planning is the LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE Exhibition featuring works of art that highlight diversity, to coincide with the Paralympics being held in Tokyo.



*Scenes from neighborhood summer festivals in Tokyo: a stand selling 'yakitori' skewers of grilled chicken (left) and children dressed in yukata at a bon-odori festival (right)*

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## Chairman Sasakawa Joins Cosplayers from Around the World to Promote Awareness of Ocean Debris

Cleanup event held at Tokyo Tower

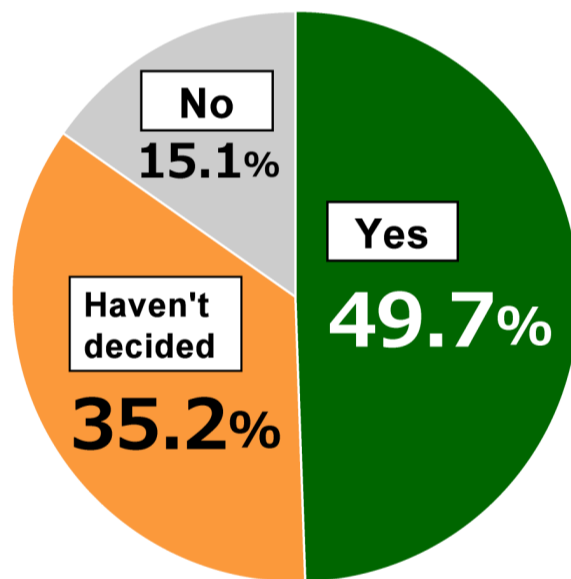


On June 8, cosplayers from Japan and other countries gathered at Tokyo Tower in central Tokyo to participate in the “Nationwide Cleanup Campaign by domestic and foreign cosplayers at Tokyo Tower,” as part of The Nippon Foundation’s Change for the Blue program. A total of 430 cosplayers, including representatives of countries including Italy, Mexico, and Taiwan, collected roughly 90 bags (2,700 liters) of trash in the area around Tokyo Tower.

[Full Article](#)

## Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds

Results of 15th and 16th installments announced



The results of the 15th installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds, with a theme of “National Elections,” showed that roughly half of respondents of voting age planned to vote in the July 21 House of Councillors election, and of those who planned to vote, roughly 60% said they would cast their vote based on the candidates’ policies, while roughly 20% would vote based on political party. The results of the 16th installment, on the theme of the “Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games,” showed that close to 70% of respondents are looking forward to the Olympics, Paralympics, or both. The events in which respondents were most interested were aquatics, followed by the opening ceremony and athletics for the Olympics, and wheelchair basketball, followed by the opening ceremony and wheelchair tennis for the Paralympics.

[Full Article](#)

**Let’s LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE!**  
Introducing art that highlights diversity



The LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE exhibition, with a theme of “To Love is To Create,” was held at the Tokyo Midtown complex in central Tokyo from July 14 to 16. This was a preliminary event to promote the LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE Exhibition being planned for the summer of 2020, to coincide with the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The exhibition featured works of art by 16 artists including persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities, as well as panel discussions, a workshop for children, and demonstrations by participating artists.

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## Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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