



[The Nippon Foundation News] Sports Old and New

Sumo, often referred to as Japan's national sport, has a history that traces back to Japan's early history as a ritual associated with Japan's native Shinto religion. Professional sumo today has six 15-day tournaments annually – three in Tokyo and one each in Osaka, Nagoya, and Fukuoka – and the September tournament is currently taking place at the Ryogoku Kokugikan stadium in Tokyo. Two wrestlers, known as *rikishi*, face off in a ring called the *dohyo*, and a *rikishi* wins by forcing his opponent outside the dohyo or by making him fall with any part of his body other than the bottom of his feet touching the ground. Although not an Olympic sport, many professional *rikishi* practiced the Olympic sport of judo before entering the world of sumo. Sumo is also likely to be featured in some form during next year's Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The Paralympic Games, in contrast, are a relatively new sporting event. Although having little if any similarity to sumo on the surface, at the recent HEROs PARA-SPORTS DAY 2019 (see article below), professional soccer player Yukari Kinga noted that para sports are no different from other sports in that each has its special features, and a player improves by mastering the required skills. In addition, just as a background in judo proves useful for many sumo *rikishi*, she also commented that if she had had an opportunity to play the Paralympic sport of goalball earlier in her career, she could have used that experience when playing soccer.



The gyoji (referee) signaling the start of a sumo bout at the September tournament (left); The first rikishi to touch the ground loses (right)

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Young People Driving Africa's Agriculture

Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development held on August 28-30



The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), an international conference led by the Japanese government to support economic development in Africa, was held on August 28-30 at Pacifico Yokohama in Yokohama. As an official side event, the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA), which is supported by The Nippon Foundation, held a symposium that focused on the serious problem of growing youth unemployment in Africa, and the possibilities now offered by agriculture.

[Full Article](#)

HEROs Ambassadors Experience the Power of Para Sports

Only rules, with no divisions by type of person or disability



With roughly one year to go until the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, HEROs PARA-SPORTS DAY 2019 was held on July 8 at The Nippon Foundation Para Arena in Tokyo. The event was part of The Nippon Foundation's "HEROs Sportsmanship for the future" project, which seeks to bring together currently active and retired athletes to build a framework for creating social bonds across Japan. Several HEROs ambassadors who have competed at the Olympics or Paralympics participated in the event.

[Full Article](#)

Implementing social welfare through full-fledged restaurant, agricultural, and forestry businesses

From a beginner in social welfare to a manager of facilities that provide social welfare and provide employment



Established in 2001, Fukushi Gakudan (Social Welfare Orchestra) operates nursing homes and centers providing daytime services in Chiba and Saitama prefectures. Managing director Daisuke Iida originally had no interest in social welfare, but under his leadership, Fukushi Gakudan's activities have expanded to provide employment for persons with disabilities in a popular restaurant and also in the fields of forestry and agriculture.

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Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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