

This newsletter is being sent to current and former The Nippon Foundation fellows, and persons who have asked to be added to the mailing list or have been introduced by The Nippon Foundation staff.



[The Nippon Foundation News] From Heisei to Reiwa

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. On Tuesday, Japan returned to work from a 10-day extended vacation. In addition to the annual “Golden Week” holidays of Showa Day (April 29) and Constitution Day, Greenery Day, and Children’s Day (May 3-5), this year April 30 to May 2 were declared special one-time holidays to mark the abdication of Emperor Emeritus Akihito on April 30 and the ascension to the throne of Emperor Naruhito on May 1. Under Japan’s *gengo* system of counting years according to the year of imperial reign, the Heisei era ended on April 30 and the new era of Reiwa, which officially translates as “Beautiful Harmony,” began on May 1. Of the Golden Week holidays, Children’s Day (observed this year on May 6) is the most visible; a popular tradition is to mark the holiday by flying large carp-shaped windsocks called *koinobori*, which appear to be swimming upstream – symbolizing courage and strength – as they fly in the wind.



Koinobori flying from an office rooftop (left) and displayed in a shopping arcade (right) during Golden Week in Tokyo.

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\$1 Million Donation to Promote Japan – China Ties

China-born businessman Channing Bi signs agreement with The Nippon Foundation



The Nippon Foundation has received a \$1 million (approximately ¥1.1 billion) donation from Channing Bi, a businessman and native of China, and on April 15 the Foundation and Mr. Bi signed a memorandum of understanding for the projects to be carried out using this gift. Mr. Bi chose The Nippon Foundation as the recipient of this donation in recognition of its activities inside and outside Japan over many years, and the successes produced by Japan – China exchange programs through The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund. The Foundation plans to use this donation to train young people to introduce a fusion of Eastern culture and Western science to the next generation, and for cultural exchange and other projects between Japan and China.

[Full Article](#)

A Different Approach to Japanese History

Internal seminar for The Nippon Foundation staff



An internal seminar for The Nippon Foundation staff was held at the Foundation's headquarters in Tokyo on April 10. Dr. James L. Huffman, H. Orth Hirt Professor of History Emeritus at Wittenberg University in Ohio was invited to speak, and chose as his topic, "Bad Leaders, Dynamic Nation: Lessons from Japanese History." The seminar was held in English to give Foundation staff an opportunity to use and improve their English skills in an informal setting apart from their ordinary work.

[Full Article](#)

Collecting Donations for Peace Museum to Convey History of War

Call for donations of exhibition items and money on 75th anniversary of Battle of Imphal



This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal, which was one of the fiercest battles of World War II and is also said to have later played a role in India's independence movement. Despite the historic significance of this battle, few people living in the area today are familiar with that history and related documents have been lost. The museum seeks to pass on this history to future generations. The Nippon Foundation is supporting the Manipur Tourism Forum's construction of a museum in Imphal, which is scheduled to open June 22, 2019, with a theme of "Peace and Reconciliation." The museum is asking for donations of documents and other related items so that they can be exhibited and stored there.

[Full Article](#)

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