



## [The Nippon Foundation News] A New Phase of Ocean Exploration

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. William Adams (1564 – 1620) was a navigator whose ship became stranded off the coast of Kyushu in 1600 and is regarded as the first Englishman to reach Japan. With a few exceptions, Japan was closed to foreigners at this time, but he went on to become an important advisor to the shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu, advising on trade and diplomatic matters. He oversaw the building of Japan's first Western-style ships, led trade missions to Southeast Asia, and helped to establish Dutch and English trading posts in Japan. He was one of the first Westerners to achieve the rank of samurai and is the basis for the main character in James Clavell's novel "Shogun." Today a stone marker indicates where his house in what is now the Nihonbashi area of Tokyo once stood.

The Nippon Foundation was originally founded as the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation, and throughout our history safe navigation and other ocean issues have been at the core of our activities. In May, a team affiliated with The Nippon Foundation won the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE, an international competition in deep-sea exploration technology. The team's work is related to The Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project, which seeks to expand our understanding of the ocean and aid navigation by mapping 100% of the ocean's floor by 2030. The team's success in the XPRIZE competition marks a major step toward the achievement of that goal.



*Stoner marker at the site of William Adams's Tokyo home (left) and Nihonbashi, Tokyo, today (right)*

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## **GEBCO-Nippon Foundation Alumni Team Wins International Competition in Deep-Sea Exploration Technology**

**\$4 million prize to be used to pursue detailed**

## submarine topography and further development of marine technologies with sponsor XPRIZE Foundation



The GEBCO-Nippon Foundation Alumni Team, comprising mostly graduates of an international scholarship program operated by The Nippon Foundation, has won the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE, an international competition in deep-sea exploration technology. The award, which includes a prize of US\$4 million, was presented at a ceremony in Monaco on May 31.

[Full Article](#)

## The Nippon Foundation – University of Tokyo Ocean Debris Project

Agreement for new project signed on May 14



Bringing together The Nippon Foundation's project implementation capabilities and the University of Tokyo's research capabilities, a signing ceremony was held on May 14 at the Ito International Research Center at the University of Tokyo to mark the launch of The Nippon Foundation – University of Tokyo Ocean Debris Project to tackle the continuously increasing amount of ocean debris.

[Full Article](#)

## The Nippon Foundation Para Athlete Scholarship Presentation Ceremony 11 athletes named as 3rd group of recipients



The Nippon Foundation Para Athlete Scholarship program aims to cultivate athletes with disabilities who can be expected to compete at the Paralympic, Olympic, or similar global level, and a ceremony was held on April 16 at Nippon Sport Science University's (NSSU) Tokyo Setagaya Campus to present scholarships to the third group of 11 recipients.

[Full Article](#)

## Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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