



[The Nippon Foundation News] New Year's Greetings

Happy New Year from The Nippon Foundation. The New Year's holiday is the most significant holiday of the year in Japan, with December 31 through January 3 as official public holidays and many companies adding additional days of vacation as well. Trains and planes are packed with people traveling overseas or returning to their family homes, meaning that the atmosphere in Tokyo is relatively quiet. Things have now returned to normal, and we are looking forward to the new year ahead.



'Kadomatsu,' a traditional New Year's decoration made of pine and bamboo (left); The words 'Kinga Shinnen' (Happy New Year) at the entrance to a neighborhood Shinto shrine (right)

A major event for The Nippon Foundation each January is the Global Appeal to end stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy. The Global Appeal is held to coincide with World Leprosy Day, which is observed on the last Sunday in January, and this year's event will be held on January 27 in Tokyo. With the Paralympic Games to be held in Tokyo this year and in recognition of our common goal of achieving an inclusive society, Global Appeal 2020 is being held with the endorsement of the International Paralympic Committee. For more information, please refer to the news release below.

Global Appeal 2020 (news release)

[Global Appeal 2020 To End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy](#)

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The Nippon Foundation Social Innovation Forum 2019

Young people pursuing dreams

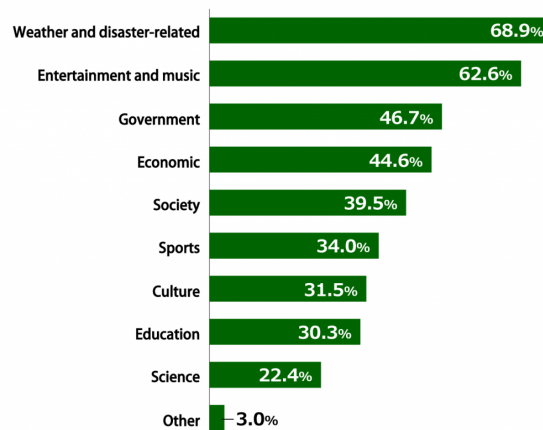


One of the sessions at The Nippon Foundation Social Innovation Forum 2019 was titled *Yume Jitsugen Taikai* (Rally to Achieve Dreams). The program was organized by “i stand,” a group of students at a high school in Tokyo who are working to bring about social change with an emphasis on individual initiative. The session featured a keynote address by Takeshi Okada, former manager of the Japan national soccer team, a panel discussion with four junior and senior high school students who are involved in social activities, and a presentation by members of i stand.

[Full Article](#)

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds

Results of 19th and 20th installments announced



The 19th installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds, launched by The Nippon Foundation in October 2018, was carried out in mid-September on the theme of “Media.” The survey showed that the information deemed most important for daily life was weather and disaster-related information, followed closely by entertainment and music, and with television as the most popular source of information. The 20th installment was an “Awareness Survey of Society and Country,” and for this installment the survey covered 17- to 19-year-olds in nine countries. The survey showed that in a number of areas, young people in Japan ranked last compared with their peers in other countries in terms of

considering themselves to be adults, having dreams for the future, and believing that they can change society or their country.

[Full Article](#)

The Nippon Foundation Social Innovation Forum 2019

Announcement of results of nine-country Awareness Survey of Society and Country



The Nippon Foundation Social Innovation Forum 2019 was held from November 29 to December 1 in Tokyo. One of the special sessions, held on November 30, presented the results of the 20th installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds, titled “Awareness Survey of Society and Country” and covering 17- to 19-year-olds in nine countries. The session featured four student panelists – one from India, two from Japan, and one from Vietnam – who are involved in social activities.

[Full Article](#)

Building 50 Learning Centers in Cox’s Bazar District, Bangladesh

The Nippon Foundation to provide \$2 million to BRAC



The Nippon Foundation and the Bangladesh-headquartered, international NGO BRAC held a joint press conference at the BRAC Centre in Dhaka,

Bangladesh, on December 11 to announce an agreement under which the Foundation will provide roughly US\$2 million in support to BRAC for the construction of 50 steel 2-story structures, to be used as learning centers in refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh.

[Full Article](#)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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