



[The Nippon Foundation News] Summer Greetings

Greetings from the Nippon Foundation. After a longer-than-usual rainy season (including rain on 30 of 31 days during the month of July), summer has come to Tokyo in full force, with temperatures over the past several days exceeding 35°C. This week is also the time of the traditional Bon holiday, when many city residents return to their hometowns and visit family, or travel to other destinations. According to Buddhist tradition, the Bon holiday is when ancestors' spirits return to earth, and one custom is to visit and clean the family grave, and some people will also visit a temple and have the priest say prayers on their ancestors' behalf. This year, however, Tokyo residents are being asked to avoid travel to help contain the spread of the new coronavirus. In response, new, innovative services, including local grave cleaning services and online prayers at temples, have been created for people who will not be able to carry out these activities themselves.

At The Nippon Foundation, last week three new public toilets in Tokyo parks were made available to the general public, the first of 17 to be built as part of THE TOKYO TOILET project. These facilities are being designed by leading architects and designers to be accessible and comfortable for anyone to use. Please see the article below for more information.



Newly built public toilets as part of THE TOKYO TOILET project (From The Nippon Foundation website; Photos by Satoshi Nagare)

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THE TOKYO TOILET Project

Pritzker Prize winners among 16 creators transforming 17 public toilets



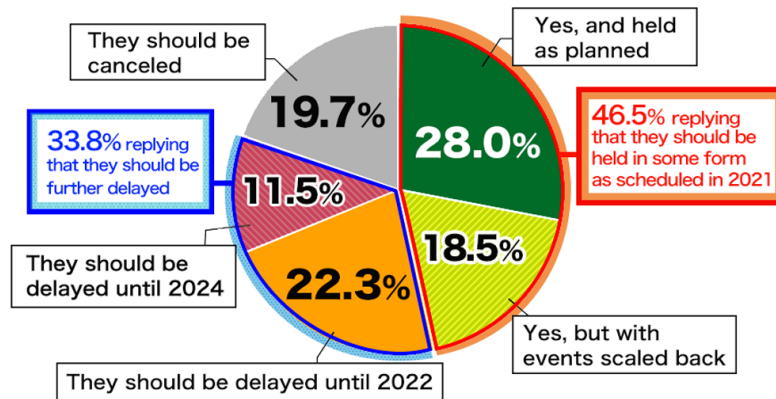
From The Nippon Foundation website; Photo by Satoshi Nagare

Japan is known as one of the cleanest countries in the world, but the use of public toilets in Japan is limited because of stereotypes that they are dark, dirty, smelly, and scary. To dispel these misconceptions, The Nippon Foundation has decided to renovate 17 public toilets located in Shibuya, Tokyo, in cooperation with the Shibuya City government. These public toilets will use advanced design to make them accessible for everyone regardless of gender, age, or disability, to demonstrate the possibilities of an inclusive society.

[Full Article](#)

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds

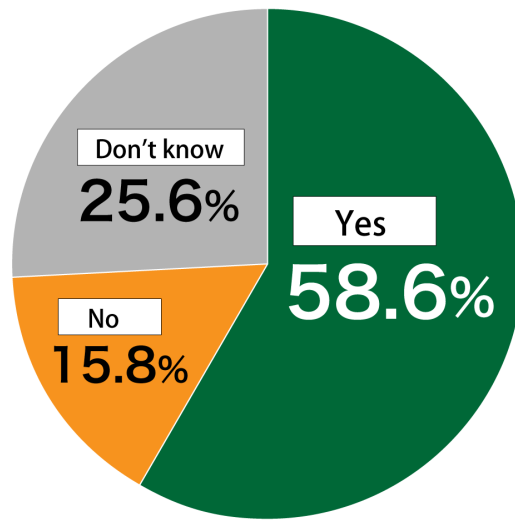
Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games



The 27th installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was the second survey carried out on the topic of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, the previous being in July 2019, prior to the new coronavirus pandemic. The survey showed that slightly less than half of respondents felt the Games should be held in some form in 2021 as currently scheduled, while roughly one-third thought they should be delayed further, and almost 20% thought they should be canceled altogether.

[Full Article](#)

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds School Education and Starting the School Year in September



The 26th installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out in late May on the theme of the "School Education and Starting the School Year in September." The survey showed that more than half of respondents believed that school closings will lead to gaps in education, while roughly 15% of respondents did not. As to how the delays from these closing should be addressed, the most cited measure was increased online education, followed by shorter vacations.

[Full Article](#)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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Please send your comments or suggestions by e-mail to
The Nippon Foundation Public Relations Team
email : pr@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp
TEL.+81-3-6229-5131 / FAX.+81-3-6229-5130 .



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