



[The Nippon Foundation News] Early Winter Greetings

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. With recent temperatures having suddenly turned colder, winter is arriving in Tokyo. The leaves on the trees have changed from green to a palette of reds, yellows, and oranges, and are now falling to the ground. Ueno Park, next to Ueno Station, Tokyo's gateway to the northeast, and Hibiya Park, adjacent to the Imperial Palace grounds in central Tokyo, are two of the city's oldest and largest parks. This year, the new coronavirus has meant that people are especially eager to spend their leisure time outdoors, but also close to home. With mostly sunny and relatively warm weather during much of November, Tokyo's parks have been ideal places to spend a weekend afternoon enjoying nature without having to travel.



People enjoying the last of the warm weather under the trees in Ueno Park (left); Autumn leaves in Hibiya Park (right)

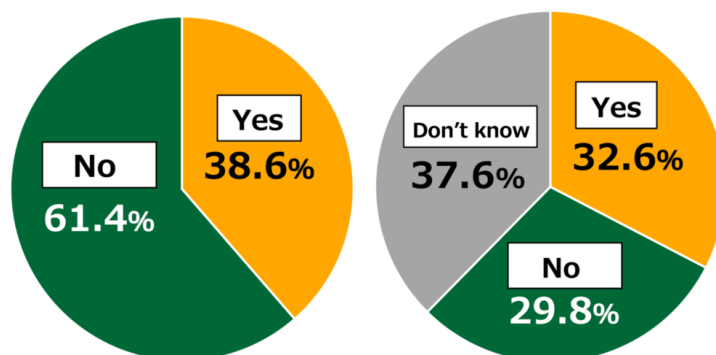
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Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds

New foods



The 31st installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds addressed the subject of “New Foods.” The survey showed that less than half of respondents see possibilities for technological innovation in food, but of those who do, the areas of reduction of food waste, creation of better-tasting meals, and development of more environmentally friendly industries were seen as the most promising. With regard to alternative sources of protein, close to one-third of respondents see meat substitutes and insect-based food products as future food sources.

[Full Article](#)

“Festival” to Increase Voter Turnout

University Music Festa bringing entertainment to social issues



University Music Festa was originally launched by Haruki Takamura during his first year of university, as a group of students who shared a love of music. The group organized festivals featuring music played by DJs in clubs and other venues, eventually attracting up to 800 people. Over time, he came up with the idea of using music festivals to harness this energy to bring about social change. Recently, UMF organized a festival in Osaka to encourage young people to vote in a local referendum.

[Full Article](#)

Using Technology to Provide Mobility for Everyone

‘Mover’ program provides transport for older persons in rural areas



Older residents of rural areas in Japan are facing increasing difficulty with regard to transportation and mobility, with many of these areas losing population and public transportation services being curtailed, while driving one's own vehicle ceases to be an option for older drivers. Fumitaka Kitajima is working to address this situation with a system that uses "AI to allow older persons to hitchhike," by instantly matching older persons who want to go somewhere with adult day care facility vehicles that are driving in that area.

[Full Article](#)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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