



[The Nippon Foundation News] New Year's Greetings

A Happy New Year from The Nippon Foundation! The New Year holidays in Japan are traditionally a time for travel and gatherings of friends and colleagues. In December 2020, these activities were mostly canceled because of COVID-19, but December 2021 saw a return of some activity, although still more subdued than in the past. More families returned to their hometowns than in the previous year, and television news showed scenes of grandparents happy to be seeing their grandchildren for the first time in two years. Friends once again gathered in small groups, but companies mostly refrained from holding large parties for employees and customers. On New Year's Eve, popular temples and shrines that were quiet last year once again saw crowds of (masked) people lining up to offer prayers for the new year. The first grand sumo tournament of the year began as scheduled on January 9, but with restrictions on the number of tickets sold and other measures being taken to prevent the spread of infections. Restaurants and the travel industry are also seeing customers begin to return, while remaining vigilant against new waves of infections.



Illumination displays are popular during the New Year season

INDEX –January 13, 2022

News

- Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds (2021.12.21)
- Tadao Ando Building Design for The Nippon Foundation (2021.12.16)
- Memorandum of Understanding Concluded for The Nippon Foundation - DeepStar Joint Research & Development Program (2021.12.06)

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds

International and Multicultural Coexistence



The 43rd installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out on the subject of “International and Multicultural Coexistence.” The survey, intended to examine young people’s interest in countries other than Japan and their perception of non-Japanese persons living in Japan, found that the pandemic has had a negative effect on young people’s desire to be internationally engaged, and also suggested a correlation between having experienced or being interested in international exchange and receptiveness toward diversity.

[Full Article](#)

Tadao Ando Building Design for The Nippon Foundation - Osaka University Infectious Disease Project

‘Spaceship Earth’ design theme



The Nippon Foundation and Osaka University today announced that the building to house The Nippon Foundation - Osaka University Infectious Disease Project will have an elliptical shape to evoke an image of “Spaceship Earth,” with the design overseen by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Tadao Ando to incorporate a sense of bringing together top researchers from around the world in a collaborative endeavor. Scheduled for completion in February 2025, the building will become a new landmark for Osaka University and all of Japan.

[Full Article](#)

Memorandum of Understanding Concluded for The Nippon Foundation - DeepStar Joint Research & Development Program

Collaboration with oil companies around the world to promote a decarbonized society



The Nippon Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the international offshore technology development consortium DeepStar for the establishment of a joint research and development program to promote decarbonization in the field of offshore oil and natural gas, with a focus on renewable energy and the environment. The program is being launched with a budget of up to \$10 million (roughly 1.1 billion yen), and is scheduled to run through 2026.

[Full Article](#)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



[Almost 300 Sylff Fellows Receive COVID-19 Relief to Continue Studies, Start New Careers \(1\)](#) [2022/01/12]

[The Nippon Foundation, Osaka University Announce Conceptual Design for Infectious Disease Research Center](#) [2022/01/06]

[The Nippon Foundation, DeepStar Sign MoU to Promote Decarbonization in Offshore Oil, Natural Gas Development](#) [2021/12/24]

[Honored to Talk with Nobel Laureate Dr. Yunus About Post-COVID-19 World](#) [2021/12/21]

[\[Yohei Sasakawa Around the World\] \(9\) Visit to "Leprosy Island" in Palau in 2010](#) [2021/12/16]

[Welcoming Japan's Decision to Conduct Free COVID-19 PCR Tests for Those Without Symptoms](#) [2021/12/14]

[Deepest Gratitude for 161.8 Million Yen Anonymous Donations](#) [2021/12/09]

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