



[The Nippon Foundation News] Spring Greetings

Spring greetings from The Nippon Foundation. In Tokyo, the weather is getting warmer and the *sakura* cherry trees have fully bloomed and the blossoms have mostly fallen from the trees. Although coronavirus quasi-state of emergency measures that had been in place in 18 prefectures including Tokyo and Osaka ended on March 21, ad hoc measures continue to be taken on a situation-by-situation basis. This meant that for the third year in a row, large cherry blossom-viewing events were canceled, and popular parks limited the number of visitors and prohibited people from picnicking under the trees. People were still able to enjoy the blossoms, however, by going for walks in areas where trees were in bloom. With the daily number of new infections in Tokyo and other metropolitan areas lower than during the peak levels recorded in late January and early February but still relatively high, these types of measures appear set to continue for some time, as authorities attempt to strike a balance between preventing the spread of infections and restoring economic and social activity.



Sakura cherry trees in full bloom in Tokyo

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Humanitarian Assistance for People Displaced from Ukraine

Roughly 5 billion yen planned to aid with travel and living expenses

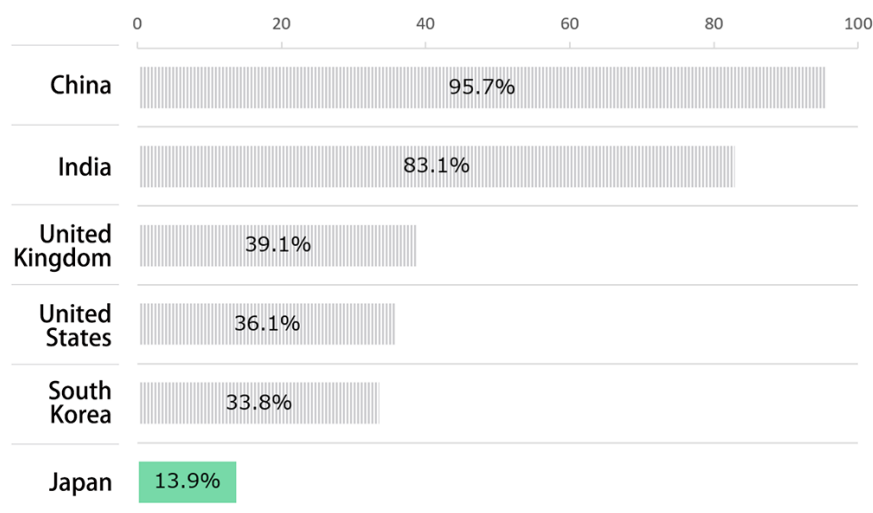


The Nippon Foundation has announced that it plans to provide humanitarian assistance for travel and living expenses of people who have been displaced from Ukraine, and who have family or acquaintances living in Japan and wish to reside in Japan. There are roughly 1,900 Ukrainian residents of Japan, and roughly 1,000 of their family members and acquaintances are expected to seek to come to Japan.

[Full Article](#)

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds

Lowering Age of Adulthood / International Survey on Society and Country



The 45th and 46th installments of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds were carried out in late January and early February on "Lowering the Age of Adulthood" and a six-country "Awareness Survey of Society and Country." The 45th survey, of 1,000 respondents in Japan, found that although more than 90% were aware of the legal revisions that lowered the age of legal adulthood to 18 from 20 for a range of activities from April

1, the percentages of those familiar with the specific provisions were much lower. The 46th installment found that relative to their peers in five other countries, Japanese respondents ranked lowest in their expectations for their country's future and economic competitiveness.

[Full Article](#)

First Measurement of Ocean Acidification Level that Could Affect Oysters in Japan's Coastal Areas

Announcement of actual effect and future projections



The Nippon Foundation and the Satoumi Research Institute held a joint press conference on March 17 to announce the latest findings of The Nippon Foundation Ocean Acidification Adaptation Project, launched in April 2020 for the purpose of identifying the situation regarding the increasing acidification of the ocean in Japan's coastal areas and its effect on the fishing industry, focusing on farmed oysters. Data analysis showed instances of acidification levels that could affect aquaculture, but that acidification has not reached a level that will damage the fishing industry at this time.

[Full Article](#)

6th Demonstration Test of Fully Autonomous Ship Navigation Successfully Completed

Autonomous navigation of amphibious vessel at Yanba Dam



The world's first demonstration test of a fully autonomous amphibious vessel was successfully carried out at Yanba Dam in Gunma Prefecture on March 14 as part of The Nippon Foundation MEGURI2040 Fully Autonomous Ship Program, which is developing navigation and obstacle avoidance systems and other technologies that are expected to contribute to greater ship safety. In addition to tourism and disaster relief, fully autonomous navigation of amphibious vessels holds potential for use as logistics infrastructure for Japan's inhabited offshore islands.

[Full Article](#)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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[The Nippon Foundation to Provide 5 Billion Yen Humanitarian Assistance to Displaced Ukrainians Coming to Japan](#) [2022/04/05]

[Japanese Consortium Conducts the World's First Demonstration of a Self-Driving Amphibious Vessel Supported by The Nippon Foundation](#) [2022/03/29]

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