



[The Nippon Foundation News] Marine Day Greetings

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. With the rainy season ending and schools starting summer vacation later in the month, July marks the beginning of summer in Japan in a practical sense. The third Monday in July is Marine Day, a public holiday to give thanks for ocean's bounty. The Nippon Foundation and the Japanese government jointly launched the *Umi-to-Nippon* Project (The Ocean and Japan Project) in 2016, and in November 2018 we started the Change for the Blue project to expand and develop new projects involving the private sector, the public sector, and academia. Both projects will be holding ocean-related events around Japan this summer, including beach cleanups, workshops and seminars, and recreational events.

Another symbol of summer in Japan is the *hozuki* (*Physalis alkekengi*; Chinese lantern plant), an ornamental plant with flowers that resemble paper lanterns. Temporary markets selling the plants are a summer tradition, and the most famous in Tokyo takes place at Sensoji temple in Asakusa. Sensoji is one of Tokyo's oldest and most famous Buddhist temples, and the Hozuki-Ichi (Hozuki Market) there takes place every year on July 9 and 10. Many stalls are set up with vendors selling potted hozuki plants as well as flowers and clipped branches. There is also a belief that prayers offered at Sensoji on July 10 will bring 46,000 days of blessings, making this a popular time to visit the temple.



A stall selling hozuki plants at Asakusa's Sensoji temple (left) and potted hozuki plants with wind chimes for sale (right)

News

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The Volunteer Program for Ukraine

Student volunteers report on activities in Poland



The first two 15-member groups of Japanese university student volunteers participating in The Volunteer Program for Ukraine have returned to Japan after spending two weeks each in Poland assisting evacuees from Ukraine. At a briefing at The Nippon Zaidan Building on July 7, representatives of the two groups reported on their activities, which included interacting with children, cleaning facilities, and managing supplies and equipment, mainly at a temporary evacuation center in the city of Przemyśl.

[Full Article](#)

Establishment of ‘Ukrainian Evacuees Assistance Fund’ Announced with U.S. and Ukrainian Ambassadors

Targeting 1 billion yen to welcome evacuees from Ukraine on behalf of Japanese people

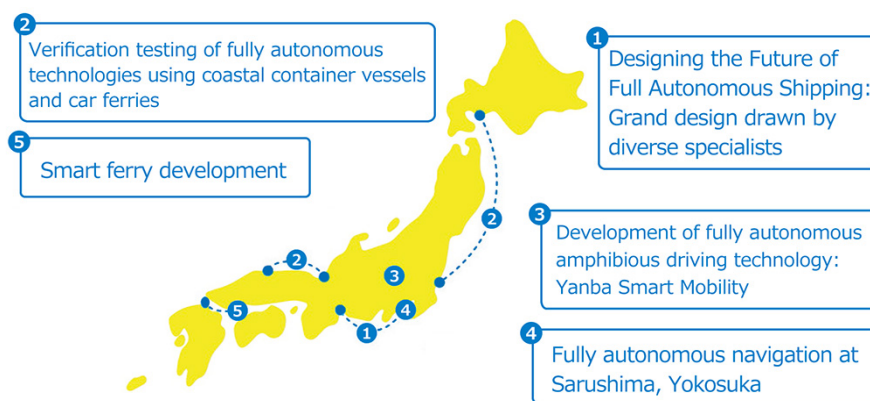


The Nippon Foundation, together with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel and Ukrainian Ambassador to Japan Sergiy Korsunsky, announced the establishment of the Ukrainian Evacuees Assistance Fund, which has begun accepting donations to assist people who have evacuated to Japan from Ukraine. The Fund was established as a way for Japanese people to express their feeling of welcome to evacuees from Ukraine, so that “each evacuee can live comfortably in Japan, even though they are far from home.”

[Full Article](#)

Targeting 2025 for Fully Autonomous Navigation

How will newly developed technologies change the future of the ocean?



The Nippon Foundation launched The Nippon Foundation MEGURI2040 Fully Autonomous Ship Program in February 2020 through the formation of five consortia comprising more than 60 companies from various fields. Satoru Kuwahara is the project director for one of the consortia, which successfully carried out a round-trip demonstration test between Tokyo Bay and Ise Bay from February 26 to March 1. He recently shared his observations from the project to date.

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