



[The Nippon Foundation News] Summer Festivals

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. Late July through mid-September is festival season in Japan. Festivals range from small, neighborhood events featuring food stalls and entertainment, to huge fireworks displays, dance festivals, and parades of floats that attract one million visitors or more. Most of these events have been canceled or significantly scaled back and held online for the past two years to prevent the spread of coronavirus infections, and many were canceled again this year, but others were held for the first time in three years. One of the most popular festivals is the *Bon Odori* (Bon dance). The Bon holiday (also called *Obon*) is observed in mid-August (or mid-July in some regions), and the period from August 13-15 is one of the busiest travel times of the year. Although not an official public holiday, many people are given or take time off and return to their hometowns to visit parents and relatives. The holiday is said to be the time when one's ancestors return to visit, and the Bon Odori is intended to welcome them. The dances are very lively, with the dancers wearing colorful *yukata* summer kimono and accompanied by *taiko* drums and *shamisen*, a stringed instrument



People participating in a Bon Odori in Tokyo this past weekend

Please note that the period for donations to the Tonga Emergency Relief Fund, set up in response to the huge underwater volcanic eruption in January, ended on July 31. Our thanks to everyone who donated. For more information about the Fund's activities, please visit:

[Conclusion of Period for Donations to Tonga Emergency Relief Fund \(2202.08.01\)](#)

News

- Increasing Support for Evacuees from Ukraine to 2,000 People (2022.07.29)
- Hiroo East Park Toilet (Tomohito Ushiro, Creator) Opens (2022.07.22)
- 10,000-Person Survey on Japanese People’s Relationship with the Ocean (2022.07.15)

Increasing Support for Evacuees from Ukraine to 2,000 People

65% wish to stay in Japan for an extended period



The Nippon Foundation has decided to increase the number of evacuees from Ukraine that it will support with daily living and other expenses, to 2,000. This is double the initial figure announced on March 28, prior to the program’s commencement in April, and will bring the total amount of assistance budgeted to 8.58 billion yen. More than 1,600 people from Ukraine have already evacuated to Japan, and as of July 27, The Nippon Foundation had received applications for support for 1,321 people.

[Full Article](#)

Hiroo East Park Toilet (Tomohito Ushiro, Creator) Opens

The Nippon Foundation’s THE TOKYO TOILET project



The Nippon Foundation's THE TOKYO TOILET project is recreating public toilets in 17 locations in Shibuya, Tokyo, to make them accessible to everyone. The 13th toilet, in Hiroo East Park, was designed by Tomohito Ushiro and opened to the public on July 22. Mr. Ushiro commented that he wanted a public toilet that all people would find agreeable. The location in a park, surrounded by greenery in an area where many people live, means that it is also like a piece of public art that is part of people's daily lives, and is always posing questions.

[Full Article](#)

10,000-Person Survey on Japanese People's Relationship with the Ocean

Is coronavirus the reason roughly half have not been to the sea during the past year?



Ahead of Japan's Marine Day holiday, The Nippon Foundation carried out an awareness survey regarding the ocean. The survey raised concerns of a decline in people's attachment to the ocean, with 45% of respondents replying that they had not been to the ocean during the past year. On the other hand, no decline was seen in the number of people who want to go to the ocean. Compared with the previous survey, awareness of ocean issues rose overall, and the number of people engaged in activities tied to protecting the ocean increased.

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



[A Tribute to Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe \(1\)](#)

[2022/08/10]

[Nearly Half of Japanese Have Not Been to the Sea During the Past Year: Poll \(2\)](#)[2022/08/05]

[Nearly Half of Japanese Have Not Been to the Sea During the Past Year: Poll \(1\)](#)[2022/08/04]

[Japanese Student Volunteers Report on Their Activities in Poland to Help Ukrainian Evacuees \(2\)](#)[2022/08/01]

[Japanese Student Volunteers Report on Their Activities in Poland to Help Ukrainian Evacuees \(1\)](#)[2022/07/29]

[\[Nearly a Quarter of the World's Ocean Floor Now Mapped Under Seabed 2030 Project \(2\)](#)[2022/07/26]

[Nearly a Quarter of the World's Ocean Floor Now Mapped Under Seabed 2030 Project \(1\)](#)[2022/07/25]

[Participating in Early-Hours Virtual Conference with Global CEOs on Disability Business Inclusion](#) [2022/07/22]

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