



[The Nippon Foundation News] SUPOGOMI World Cup

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. A press event was held at The Nippon Foundation headquarters in Tokyo on February 14 to announce the SUPOGOMI World Cup, a new event being launched to raise awareness of plastic ocean debris. The term SUPOGOMI comes from the Japanese words for sports (*supotsu*) and trash (*gomi*), and was created by Social Sports Initiative, a Japanese NGO, based on the idea of turning picking up trash into a competition. With 80% of ocean debris estimated to flow into the sea from the land and cities, the World Cup is being held as part of The Nippon Foundation's *Umi-to-Nippon* Project (The Ocean and Japan Project) using a donation from the UNIQLO clothing brand.

The sport is played by teams of three people, who compete to pick up the most trash in a defined area within a designated period of time. For the World Cup, qualifying tournaments are being held in countries around the world, with the World Cup scheduled to be held in Japan in November 2023. In Japan, qualifying tournaments are being held in all 47 prefectures from April to select the team that will represent the country. At the February 14 press event, The Nippon Foundation Chairman Yohei Sasakawa and Executive Director Mitsuyuki Unno were joined by Koji Yanai, director of UNIQLO operator Fast Retailing Co., Ltd., who spoke about Fast Retailing's environmental and sustainability initiatives. In addition, Olympic sport climber Miho Nonaka, Olympic swimmer Takeshi Matsuda, and entertainer Suzuran Yamauchi, who will act as SUPOGOMI World Cup ambassadors, spoke about their own experiences with plastic ocean debris on beaches and in the ocean, and their hopes for the event.

For more information, please visit [the SUPOGOMI World Cup website](#).



(Left to right) Yohei Sasakawa, Miho Nonaka, Takeshi Matsuda, Suzuran Yamauchi, and Koji Yanai at the press event (left), and a scene from a SUPOGOMI event in Japan (right)

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Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds - National Diet and Politicians

Results of 54th installment announced



The 54th installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out from January 27 to February 1 on the subject of the "National Diet and Politicians." The results showed that while a majority of respondents expressed interest in politics, negative views including "Responses to unforeseen events," "Reflecting the people's will," and "Lack of integrity / transparency" were expressed as well, with a majority saying the Diet is "Not a place for meaningful policy deliberation" and more than 60% feeling that the "Opinions of young people are not incorporated."

[Full Article](#)

1 Year After Russian Invasion, Evacuees from Ukraine Discuss Their State of Mind

Believing in a bright future, like plum trees blossoming in spring

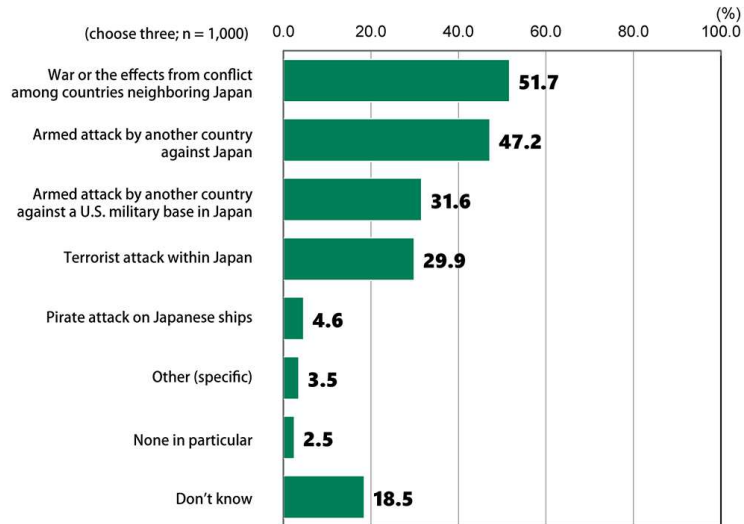


Ahead of the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, four of the 1,921 Ukrainian evacuees to Japan receiving support for travel and living expenses from The Nippon Foundation gathered to discuss the issues they currently face in Japan and their thoughts regarding their home country. The Foundation will use the first-hand discussions with these four evacuees, together with the results of a wider survey of Ukrainian evacuees in Japan, in its activities going forward to provide support that continues to be closely aligned with their actual needs.

[Full Article](#)

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds - National Security

Results of 53rd installment announced



The 53rd installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out from January 11-16 on the subject of "National Security." When asked what they saw as the biggest threat to Japan over the next five years, the top response among both men and women was "war or the effects from conflict among countries neighboring Japan," followed by an "armed attack by another country against Japan." Opinion was divided with regard to the increase in defense spending being deliberated in the Diet, with 38% approving and 32% disapproving.

[Full Article](#)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



[One Third of Japanese Youths Foresee Their Country Could Be Involved in Armed Conflict with Another Nation in Five Years: Poll](#)
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