



[The Nippon Foundation News] SPOGOMI World Cup 2023

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. SPOGOMI is a team sport that originated in Japan based on collecting trash (*gomi* is the Japanese word for trash), with points awarded based on the amount and types of trash collected within a designated area within a designated time. Given that roughly 80% of ocean debris originates on land, collecting this trash has the effect of reducing the amount that flows into the ocean. As part of The Nippon Foundation's *Umi-to-Nippon* Project (The Ocean and Japan Project): CHANGE FOR THE BLUE program, SPOGOMI World Cup 2023, the sport's first world championship, was held in Shibuya, Tokyo, on November 22. SPOGOMI World Cup aims to promote the sport internationally, raising awareness of the problem of ocean debris and providing an opportunity to reduce it across national boundaries and generations through a series of preliminary competitions held to select national representative teams. Representative teams from 21 countries competed, collecting a total of almost 550 kilograms of trash, with the team from Britain declared the winner and the Japanese team placing second.

The Nippon Foundation aims to hold a 2nd World Cup in 2025, with Executive Director Mitsuyuki Unno commenting at the closing ceremony, "Our aim is for a society in which trash collection and SPOGOMI will no longer be needed, with no more trash coming from cities and oceans. This is a difficult challenge, but together with the 1,764 teams from around the world that participated, this is the future we hope to achieve."

For more information:

[British Team Wins First SPOGOMI World Cup. \(2023.11.24\)](#)



Group photo of 21 national champion teams, hosts, and ambassadors

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81 Evacuees from Ukraine Studying Japanese Language Participate in Overnight Study and Exchange Event

Workshops, cultural tours, and social interaction



The Nippon Foundation recently held an overnight study and exchange event at its head office in Tokyo for 81 Ukrainians who have evacuated to Japan and are receiving scholarships to attend Japanese language schools. The first day featured workshops with evacuees from Ukraine who are already working at companies in Japan, and on the second day, the students broke out into five groups and took tours to experience Japanese culture while interacting with each other.

[Full Article](#)

Report on 3rd Coast Guard Global Summit

Representatives of 96 organizations from 87 countries gather to discuss and coordinate responses to marine issues

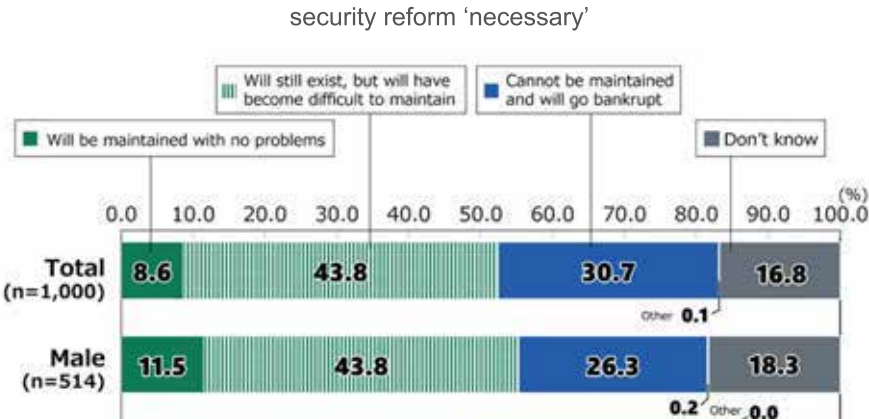


The Nippon Foundation and the Japan Coast Guard held the 3rd Coast Guard Global Summit in Tokyo on October 31 and November 1, 2023. The summit is one of the largest platforms for effective coordination and discussion among the world's coast guard organizations, bringing together representatives of 96 coast guard authorities and related organizations from 87 countries to discuss a broad range of marine issues including the depletion of marine resources and the increasing occurrence of disasters caused by climate change.

[Full Article](#)

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds – Public Pension System

More than 60% 'concerned' about finances in old age, majority say social security reform 'necessary'



The 58th installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out in October on the subject of the "Public Pension System," focusing on young people's views on how the pension system should be structured and its future prospects. The survey found that roughly more than 60% of respondents were "Concerned" about their financial situation when they reach the age of 65, and roughly 60% predicted that their public pension benefits would "Not cover half of their daily living expenses" and that the current public pension system "Needs to be reformed."

[Full Article](#)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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