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Program Policy



Working toward actualizing missions set out in its Mission Statement, the SPF is reviewing its programs, implemented since April 2015, and has adopted five priority goals for 2017, i.e. (1) Further strengthening Japan–U.S. relationship, (2) expanding Japan’s presence in Asia, (3) enhancing understanding on and relationship with Islamic countries, (4) establishing ocean governance and (5) empowering women.

Implementing unconstrained ideas as a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation, and maintaining a long-term perspective, the SPF is drawing up plans for achieving these goals, while staying aware of the need to adapt to changes in world situations flexibly and swiftly.

Further strengthening Japan–U.S. relationship



For Japan, the United States has been the most important ally from political, economic and security perspectives. Even to this day, however, it cannot be said that the people of the two countries have a sufficient level of understanding and recognition about each other. The SPF will further promote private-sector exchange between the people of Japan and the United States to make the bilateral ties closer and stronger than ever before. In the area of security, in particular, multi-faceted perspectives are used in promoting initiatives.

Expanding Japan’s presence in Asia



Asian countries and regions are enjoying strong economic growth, but facing a multitude of difficulties in terms of growing population, environmental protection, etc. at the same time. The SPF sees Asian people’s issues as its own issues, and shares Japan’s extensive knowledge as well as its unique solutions accumulated from its past experiences with the people of countries and regions across Asia. Efforts will be made to explore measures that lead to a path for stable and sustainable development under collaboration between Japan and the rest of Asia.

Enhancing understanding on and relationship with Islamic countries



The emergence of extremism and protracted armed conflicts in the Middle East are having a ripple effect on the rest of the world, affecting even Muslim communities in Asia. Despite an increasing inflow of such information, the Japanese society still has a long way to go before establishing recognition and true understanding of people in Muslim societies. The SPF will promote networking with Islamic countries around the world, urging Japanese people to establish correct understanding about the presence of Muslim societies.

Establishing ocean governance



Various issues such as environmental pollution and excessive fishing are becoming apparent in oceans around the world, requiring urgent action. However, many countries have yet to fully address the ocean crisis they face. The SPF will gather opinions from international experts of various fields about making our oceans sustainable, and establish mutual cooperation, so as to generate a greater collective impact.

Empowering women



The empowerment of women is essential in all aspects of our society, including politics, economy, education, and science, so that Japan can increase its influence in international society. The world offers numerous well-developed examples of women’s empowerment from which Japan should learn. The SPF will focus on roles that women fulfill in society, exploring new potential solutions to a range of international and social issues.



Japan–U.S. Program Department

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Promoting close cooperation and open discussion among diverse experts from Japan and the United States is of increasing significance to ensure regional peace and stability. Especially as international relationships continue to evolve — including notable political turbulence in the United States — it becomes even more important to deepen mutual understanding and foster cooperative ties between these two countries.

Our program aims to build and strengthen, within the nonprofit sector, a platform of experts and a strong intellectual base to help Japan and the U.S. pursue opportunities for cooperation and tackle global challenges from a medium-to long-term perspective. We believe that strong Japan–U.S. relations and cooperation can greatly contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

To this end, the Japan–U.S. program implements a wide range of projects. Recognizing the importance of contributing to policy-making and formation of public opinions from an independent perspective, it seeks to build multi-faceted, tight interpersonal networks through strategic people-to-people exchange, promoting policy research and joint studies (primarily on foreign policies and security issues), encouraging and involving next-generation experts in both countries, and enhancing the dissemination of information.

▶ Japan–U.S. Opinion Leaders Exchange Program IV

Type Self-operated (second year of three-year project)
Implementing agency Sasakawa Peace Foundation

[Research and Information dissemination]

This work includes various activities, such as ① research and analysis regarding the current politics, foreign policies, and social environment of the United States, ② policy recommendation project on Asia strategy of the Japan–U.S. alliance, ③ comparative studies on the relationships of various U.S. allies and partners with the United States, and ④ information dissemination and publication aimed at deepening mutual understanding and strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

[People-to-people exchange]

Seeking to contribute toward creating a diverse and strong network of interpersonal relationships among influential opinion leaders from Japan and the United States, this project takes a two-way approach, inviting American opinion leaders to Japan and sending Japanese opinion leaders to the United States. It also aims to foster broader cooperation, deepen mutual understanding, and build new and broader networks between the two countries. In addition, we conduct congressional exchanges in collaboration with the SPF-USA and other U.S. organizations, enhancing networking and relationships of trust among policymakers and lawmakers from the two countries.

▶ Asian American Leadership Delegation

Type Grant (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency U.S.–Japan Council

This project provides Asian American state legislators with a weeklong trip to Japan, to deepen their interest in and understanding of Japan and Japan–U.S. relations. The project encourages those legislators to promote an understanding about Japan and to strengthen Japan–U.S. relations at a broader level across the United States.

It also aims to provide an opportunity for Japanese leaders to learn regarding the historical background of Asian Americans and to deepen their understanding of the diverse nature of American society and politics.

▶ Japan Update Through Japan–America Societies

Type Grant (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency National Association of Japan–America Societies, Inc.(NAJAS)

To deepen medium-to long-term Japan–U.S. relationships, it is essential to promote understanding of Japan and of Japan–U.S. relations not only in major American cities but also in local cities. To this end, in cooperation with Japan–America Societies across the U.S., this project organizes seminars with various topics, to deepen mutual understanding between the two countries, and it provides opportunities to reaffirm the importance of Japan–U.S. relations.

▶ Young Strategists Forum

Type Grant (first year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States

This project seeks to develop a strategic mindset among the next-generation experts in Japan, the United States, and other countries, for an age of mounting domestic and international challenges. The project cultivates a new generation of strategic thinkers, enabling them to exert effective leadership in partnership with other democracies. The program also gives participants a high-level perspective on the Japan–U.S. alliance and its role in the Asia–Pacific region.

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA)

As a U.S. think tank specializing in Japan–U.S. relations in collaboration with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the SPF-USA seeks to influence policymaking and public opinion by conducting research projects on Japan–U.S. cooperation and disseminating its research findings to policy communities in the two countries. In an effort to promote the importance of Japan–U.S. relations, as well as mutual understanding and collaboration between the two countries, the SPF-USA also works with diverse groups of experts and emerging next-generation leaders including policymakers, business leaders, members and staff of Congress, and researchers.

SPF-USA Chairman Admiral Dennis Blair





International Peace and Security Department

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Since its establishment, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation has implemented and supported projects that contribute to global peace and security. The International Peace and Security Department carries out projects that strengthen peace and stability in Japan, the Asia–Pacific Region and the world. More specifically, it conducts research, disseminates information and provides policy recommendations concerning Japan’s defense issues, the Japan–U.S. alliance, which has been a key contributor to the stability of Japan and the Asian region, Asia’s regional issues, and challenges for world stability. Through these activities, the Department also plays a part in private-sector defense diplomacy (Track II diplomacy).

▶ Information Provision of International Situation and Security

Type Self-operated (second year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project is building a new information website “International Information Network Analysis (IINA)” on specialized security situations around the world. It distributes information obtained by analyzing security conditions concerning the United States, China, the Korean Peninsula, Europe, Russia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and the Japan’s security policy.

▶ Analysis of the Implication of China’s Economic Operation

Type Self-operated (second year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project gathers data on China’s investments, assistance, and other foreign economic activities and compares them with China’s diplomatic activities to highlight how China’s foreign economic activities play a role in its diplomatic strategy. The gathered data are also used in net assessment project.

▶ Scenario Planning

Type Self-operated (first year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project seeks to the scenario planning method (a method of creating flexible long-term plans, which combines known facts about the future with key driving forces identified by considering social, technical, economic, environmental and political (STEEP) trends) and to turn it into a risk assessment tool to study Japan’s security approach.

▶ US–Japan Alliance Study

Type Self-operated (second year of four-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project strives to define the significance of the U.S.–Japan alliance as a “Global Commons” of the regional and international community and Japan’s roles in the alliance. The research tries to identify options of operations which will be conducted in “situations” declared by the Japanese Government, based on scenario-flow. This research will seek an ideal shape of the U.S.–Japan alliance by extending the regional and implicational range.

▶ The Study of Contemporary China “SPF China Observer”

Type Self-operated (second year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project observes China’s diplomacy, military affairs, economy, etc. to develop an overall set of basic data for analyzing China’s foreign policy. Findings from the observations are compiled into specialized analyses and released publicly.

▶ Net Assessment

Type Self-operated (second year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project seeks to adopt the net assessment method (a method of general strategy evaluation in which trends of two countries in conflict are statistically examined to identify each country’s strengths and weaknesses) used by the U.S. Department of Defense and to turn it into an assessment tool to study Japan’s security.

▶ Implementation of National Security Table Top Exercise

Type Self-operated (second year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project designs and carries out table top exercises involving specific scenarios to examine policy judgments and operational actions in particular situations. The purpose is to identify issues in Japan’s security policy, command and control, and its execution and to propose solutions.

▶ Balance Sheet of Lesser Allies and Implication for Japanese Alliance Policy

Type Self-operated (first year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project sheds light on the advantages and disadvantages of Japanese cooperation to the US through comparison with the US allies in Asia and Europe. It also investigates how Japan should overcome its disadvantages and use advantages in order to keep good relationship with US.

Strengthening Defense Capabilities in the Cyber Space III

Type Self-operated (single-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project is generating policy recommendations on issues such as domestic and the international legal systems, government organizations, and international collaboration with an emphasis on the Japan–U.S. cooperation so as to reinforce Japan’s cyber defense capabilities. The project also organizes monthly seminars on cyber security.

Policy Proposal for Implementing “Proactive Contribution to Peace”

Type Self-operated (second year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Under the category of “proactive pacifism”, as presented by the Japanese government in its national security strategy, this project explores Japan’s future options with respect to diplomatic and security policies and defines their order of priority so as to recommended policies for adoption.

Research Project on Defense Diplomacy Through Non-Official Channel (DD-NOC)

Type Self-operated (second year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project carries out research on the defense diplomacy employed by advanced states, and it tries to examine the significance and usefulness of defense exchanges organized by a private-sector organization, so as to explore policies that can reinforce Japan’s defense diplomacy.

Japanese Energy Security in a New Era

Type Self-operated (second year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project analyzes risk factors in Japan’s energy security and aims to construct a risk map while also determining risk scenarios of particular severity, so as to prompt a response in the form of public-private partnership and reinforce countermeasures in coordination with other Asian countries.

Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries II

Type Self-operated (second year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project organizes mutual visits and networking between Asia’s elite defense officials and senior JSDF officers, so as to promote mutual understanding about defense situations and expand interpersonal networks, thereby contributing to building strong trust with relevant countries.

“Learning Lessons From History for Peace and Friendship”: Resumption of the Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation has supported the efforts to build trust between the Japanese Self Defense Forces and the Chinese Liberation Army since 2001.

The Japan–China Field Officer Exchange, launched in April 2001, is a program intermediated by the private-sector organization the Sasakawa Peace Foundation to coordinate annual visits of medium-level field officers from the Japanese Self Defense Forces (SDFs) and Chinese Liberation Army to each other’s country. However, the program was suspended in September 2012 as a result of a thorny bilateral issue concerning the Senkaku Islands (referred to as the Diaoyu Islands in China). Later, Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chairman of The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and Major General Hu Chang Ming, Chief of the Office for International Military Cooperation, the Central Military Commission (CPC), held talks in Beijing to reach an agreement to resume the program. On April 15, 2018, a 25-member delegation of the Chinese Liberation Army, led by Army Major General Ci Guo Wei, arrived in Japan under the program for the first time in five and a half years.

The year 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of the Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty. There is symbolic significance in bilateral history to be able to resume this program in such a commemorative year. Through this program, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation plans to increase the intensity of bilateral exchange and offer assistance that promotes the establishment of mutual trust and understanding. It continues its initiatives with a long-term vision encompassing the eventual implementation of joint drills to establish mutual cooperation in emergency.



Following the restart of the program, the delegation from the Chinese People’s Liberation Army visited facilities of the Japan Self-Defense Forces from April 15 to 22.

Policy Recommendation on the Promotion of Japan’s Arctic Policy

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) has engaged in discussions with Japan’s Arctic experts to compose a policy recommendation on Japan’s roles and international cooperation in the Arctic region.

The “Study Group for the Future of the Arctic” (Secretariat: SPF, The Nippon Foundation, and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies), an all-Japan discussion platform on miscellaneous issues concerning the Arctic region, has examined Arctic issues and measures that Japan should address, and compiled them into five elements for consideration. They were presented in the form of a policy recommendation to the government, which announced the Third Revised Basic Plan on Ocean Policy in May 2018.

protecting and utilizing the Arctic region; building a future vision for the Arctic region from the perspective of sustainable development; exploring cooperation in the Asian region including Japan; and identifying measures that Japan should prioritize. Arctic nations are strongly interested in learning about Japanese and other Asian nations’ stances regarding involvement in Arctic affairs, and have offered praise for such initiatives promoting mutual understanding between Arctic and Asian nations.

On behalf of the Study Group, Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, and Atsushi Sunami, SPF Executive Director and President of the Ocean Policy Research Institute, presented the policy recommendation to Tetsuma Esaki, then Minister of State for Ocean Policy, on January 25, 2018. In February, the three organizations of the Study Group jointly held “The Workshop on Arctic Governance in Tokyo 2018.” Inviting representatives from various countries involved in Arctic issues, the Workshop engaged in discussions on conserving,



(Left) Presentation of the policy recommendation.
(Right) Group photo from the “Workshop on Arctic Governance in Tokyo 2018.”



Pacific Island Nations Program

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Since the establishment of the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund in 1989, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) has carried out various activities including exchange and human resource development projects with the aim of contributing to the stability of the Pacific region and prosperity of the Pacific island nations.

More recently, the SPF has focused on the Micronesia Region, which has in-depth historical ties with Japan and is closely located to Asia geographically. In February 2016, the SPF, together with the Nippon Foundation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Palau to support its government through projects for enhancing capacity building of Coast Guard and promoting Eco-conscious Tourism. Furthermore, in light of recent growing influence of Pacific island nations in the international arenas, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation also focuses on new challenges in the Pacific islands region.

▶ Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region

Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project seeks to enhance capacity building of Coast Guard of Palau, which lacks sufficient maritime management capability for its vast exclusive economic zone (EEZ), thereby contributing to safety assurance and conservation of marine resources in Palau and the rest of Micronesia.

▶ Establishing New Japan-Pacific Island Countries Dialogue by Enhancing Second Track Diplomacy

Type Self-operated (second year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project promotes Second Track Diplomacy, led by the SPF, to deepen Japanese people's understanding of Pacific island nations, and issues practical recommendations for addressing new challenges of the Pacific island countries and its region, thereby reinforcing ties between Japan and Pacific island nations.

▶ Changing Situation of Economic Cooperation Towards Pacific Island Countries and Region

Type Self-operated (second year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project builds the foundation for accumulating information concerning trends of economic cooperation by non-OECD countries among Pacific island countries and its region, which is lacking in Japan, and suggests effective actions based on analysis of the identified trends.



Asia Peace Initiatives Department

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Fast-growing Asia is plagued by conflicts in various areas where people have suffered from violence for many years. The SPF has been committed to building peace in Thailand's Deep South, enhancing the capabilities of local civil society and developing an environment conducive to peace dialogue. Since last year, the SPF has also started a program in Northeast India, supporting the process of compiling policy recommendations for sustainable development by local intellectuals as well as launching initiatives to disseminate constructive information about the region. Furthermore, we assist in the training of journalists, with the purpose of supporting democratization in Asia.

▶ Japan's Roles in Peacebuilding

Type	Self-operated (first year of two-year project)
Implementing agency	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project supports peacebuilding in southern Thailand by facilitating communication among parties and individuals involved in Track 1 official peace dialogue, as well as supporting capacity building of local civil society and journalists. Furthermore, we plan to organize an international workshop and other activities to share our experiences of peacebuilding in Southern Thailand in the past 8 years.

▶ In Search for Alternative Approach of Peace Process

Type	Self-operated (first year of two-year project)
Implementing agency	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

SPF will collaborate with "Accord", an international acclaimed journal providing narrative and rigorous analysis of peace processes all over the world, to publish an issue on the importance of "Pre-Talk" phase, before conflicting parties engage in peace dialogue. SPF's experiences in Southern Thailand will be analyzed as one of the case studies. After the issue is published, a series of workshops will be organized in London and Brussel to share the findings and make policy recommendation.

▶ Looking into the Past for a Future: Shared History of North East India and Its Neighbours

Type	Self-operated (first year of two-year project)
Implementing agency	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

As a result of the Indian Government's Act East Policy, the region called Northeast India, which link South and Southeast Asia, have been attracting strong attention from inside and outside the country due to their potential value. Especially in the recent decades, it has been observed that there have been attempts at re-establishing connectivity between countries in the 'region' comprising the present North East India, Bangladesh and Myanmar through a series of multilateral infrastructural initiatives aiming at a shared future. However, it seems that such results of initiatives are heavily and most profoundly conditioned by 'social reconciliation' effected

▶ Conflict Transformation in the Deep South of Thailand

Type	Self-operated (first year of two-year project)
Implementing agency	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

In this project, SPF, in partnership with Peace Resource Collaborative, a network of intellectuals based in Bangkok, focus on activities to strengthen and deepen relationship with parties and individuals of Thai government side and supports working-level meetings of official peace talk, and initiatives to expand network with policymakers in Bangkok.

▶ Promoting the Creation of New Value Through Media and People's Exchange for Northeast India

Type	Self-operated (second year of two-year project)
Implementing agency	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Past media coverage of North East India, which borders Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and China, has tended to place great weight on insurgencies, violence, and conflicts. This project assists capacity building for people engaged in media, literature and art, and it disseminates constructive information that breaks stereotypes and gives hope to local youths, thereby reshaping the region's existing image and promoting a correct understanding of its diversity and potential.

through people to people contact based on mutual trust, confidence and friendships.

The proposed study intends to understand this conditionality by specifically looking at a) whether the 'shared history' of the region can constitute the core of the 'social capital' essential to forge an effective people to people contact and b) what is the scope and possibility of accommodating such an initiative to understand 'shared history' within the ongoing framework of 'regional cooperation'. In particular, attempts will be made to forge academic collaborations among individuals and institutions in answering these two questions.



Asia Social Integration Department

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Amidst ASEAN integration and economic growth, Asian nations are exposed to population ageing and rapid changes in their socio-economic structures. Japan, which has experienced these challenges earlier than its neighbors, can make good use of its experiences and lessons learned to assist other countries. Focusing on social issues in the Asian region, this Department takes on the issues of population ageing, gender, and migration as its central themes, aiming to attain a comprehensive grasp of demographic and social structural changes as well as associated challenges, so as to present alternative solutions in a practical manner.

▶ Asia Impact Dialogue

Type Self-operated (first year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project is aimed at proposing practical solutions to common social issues affecting Japan and Asia that are attuned to the realities in the region. For that purpose, it establishes a platform for dialogue among all stakeholders including experts, civil society, and policy-makers in the region. Also, it purports to transmit knowledge and take-outs widely through web.

▶ Creating New Roles for Men in Japan and Asia

Type Self-operated (first year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project advocates for a new image of modern-day men, different from that of traditional men, so as to rectify gender inequality by addressing mental biases, systems, and social practices based on traditional roles for men and women that have been widely accepted in Japan, East Asia and Southeast Asia. Based on comparative research conducted in various countries, the project seeks to implement effective projects targeting men in line with local conditions and accordingly recommend policies.

▶ Issues and Implications of Ageing Asian Population

Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Targeting East Asia (Japan, South Korea, and China) and South-east Asia (Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines), countries where population ageing is progressing at different rates, this project examines Japan's experiences and lessons learned from having experienced population ageing ahead of its Asian neighbors, with the aim of presenting specific solutions to issues likely to emerge in these countries as well.

▶ Support for the Establishment of KOSEN (College of Industrial Technology) Education System in Mongolia

Type Self-operated (second year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This is Phase 2 of a project that has been in place since FY2013 for the purpose of introducing the internationally acclaimed Japanese KOSEN (College of Industrial Technology) education system as a way of fostering the development of practical engineers who can support economic growth in Mongolia. The project seeks to complete a five-year education program pioneering the KOSEN education in Mongolia, thereby contributing to the establishment of the education system in that country.



Gender Investment and Innovation Department

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The Gender Investment and Innovation Department was established in FY 2017 after SPF identified women's empowerment as one of its main strategic pillars. Through the development of initiatives to support women's economic empowerment and gender equality, we envision a more prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive Asia. To achieve this goal, we work in close collaboration with regional partners to implement programs that meet local needs and to generate policy recommendations aligned with global trends to close gender gaps.

The Asia Women Impact Fund was also launched this year with the vision of empowering all women in Asia to reach their full potential. The Fund supports women entrepreneurs through innovative approaches to improve their access to finance, skills training, and business advancement through information and communication technologies (ICT).

► Ecosystem Building for SDGs Financing

Type Self-operated (first year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project aims to promote and accelerate the growth of impact investing in Asia. Through a series of ecosystem building activities such as publishing research reports and organizing workshops, we hope to encourage more philanthropic capital in Asia to flow into impact investing, to research on how various innovative financing mechanism could create impact, and to convene stakeholders of impact investing in Asia to facilitate partnership and knowledge sharing.

► Promoting Investment for Women Entrepreneurs in Asia

Type Self-operated (second year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project aims to improve the economic status and financial stability of women in Asia by supporting entrepreneurship. It helps women entrepreneurs in Asia gain access to finance, skills training, and technologies that can support their business development and growth, resulting in more inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the region.

► Women Leadership and Empowerment

Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project examines novel approaches to close gender gaps in women's economic empowerment. In-depth research, workshops, and policy recommendations have focused on ways to address the gender wage gap, promote gender equality in STEM through assessment, understand the impact of unconscious bias on women's career progression, and explore the impact of technology on women's economic empowerment in Asia.





Japan–China Cooperation Department

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The Japan–China Cooperation Department is the successor to the Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund (originally launched in 1989), one of the largest private-sector programs supporting exchanges between Japan and China. From its establishment, the Fund promoted mutual understanding between the people of Japan and China and actively participated in efforts to build an environment for shaping constructive, cooperative ties between the two countries. In the future, the Department will organize people-to-people exchanges and dialogues in specific fields, provide information and facilitate an environment that can contribute to mutual understanding, and enhance the sharing of experiences and cooperation so as to advance both countries' society and economy. It will also maintain broad awareness about collaboration opportunities involving Japan, China, and other countries in East Asia and will explore new cooperation projects.

▶ Japan–China Field Officer Exchange Program

Type Self-operated (first year of five-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

SPF restarted its exchange program between the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Chinese People's Liberation Army, conducted for 11 years until the deterioration of the political relationship between the two countries in 2012, involving visits by both sides to each other once a year. During this program, the visiting field officers will tour bases of the Ground, Marine, and Air Forces, undertake studies on national defense policies, exchange opinions with defense officials and civilians, take field trips to businesses and agricultural villages, and attend lectures on history, society, and culture, in efforts to foster mutual understanding and facilitate friendship.



Ci Guo Wei, Major General of the Army, on behalf of the visiting group, makes a speech at the welcome reception.

▶ Website for Dissemination of Information Phase II

Type Self-operated (fifth year of five-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project works in cooperation with the Chinese-language website "People's Daily Online" to provide information about China-related activities conducted by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and associated organizations. The project also posts articles about Japan that are designed to attract the attention of Chinese readers, and it disseminates other information intended to promote Chinese understanding of Japan.

▶ Invitation Program for Chinese Journalists

Type Self-operated (third year of five-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project invites China's media personnel, including popular online bloggers and journalists, to come to Japan and enjoy a first-hand experience of the country, so that they can report accurately on their experience to the Chinese people.

▶ Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application

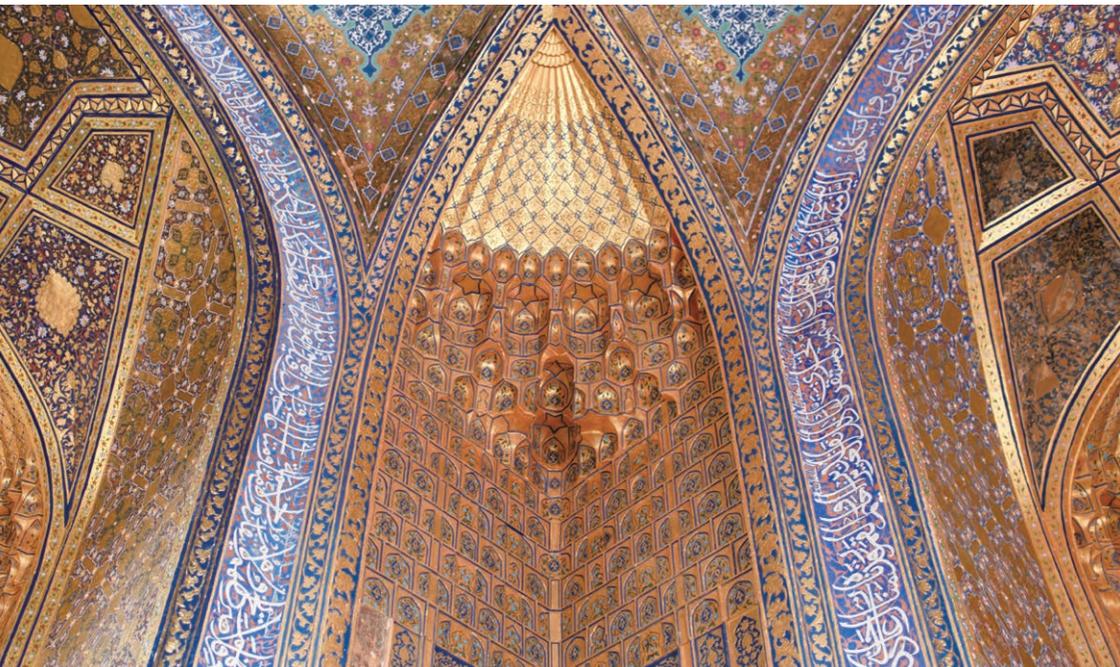
Type Self-operated (second year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project aims to provide mobile phone users in China with high quality information about modern Japan through SPF's account on a Chinese Social Network Service application. Chinese writers familiar with Japan edit and post on topics such as Japanese history, society, culture, tradition, nature, trends as well as China related topics provided by SPF.

▶ Training Project for Chinese Rural Community Leaders

Type Self-operated (second year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This training program aims to assist the social formation of China's farming communities, covering such themes as the environment, the ageing society, regional revitalization, and introduction of community association activities like those in Japan. The project shares effective measures and experiences of rural development and regional revitalization from Japan with the leaders of Chinese farming communities, so as to guide them in solving the problems that their own communities face.



Middle East and Islam Program Department

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Protracted conflict and exodus of refugees have cast a dark image on the Middle East. Yet, at the same time, fresh recognition of its geopolitical significance has prompted major countries around the world to establish activities in the region. This new recognition has broadened the scope of roles the region should play for peace, stability, sustainable growth and economic advancement of the world. Recognizing this new momentum and the increased significance endowed to the Middle East, the SPF promotes people-to-people exchange and policy dialogue on critical issues in the political, diplomatic, social and cultural fields. The global issue of Islam (including the issues of refugees and globally-spreading terrorism) has been added as a new project area of this Department.

▶ UK–Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East

Type Grant (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The School of Inter-Disciplinary Area Studies, University of Oxford

This project strives to foster and reinforce human resource development of the Middle East Studies for young researchers, based on the framework of international collaboration with the University of Oxford. Researchers will learn an interdisciplinary research method based on the cross-country teamwork and fieldwork in the Middle East.

▶ Building Relationships between Iran and International Society

Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

In a new era for Iran to return to the international community, the project helps support the country by building up an environment where her full potential ability can be exerted in contributing to regional, as well as global, peace, stability and development as a major power in the Middle East.

▶ UK–Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East Phase II

Type Grant (first year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The School of Inter-Disciplinary Area Studies, University of Oxford

This new Phase II project incorporates the results of the Phase I project, and keeps trying to enhance understanding of the Middle East through fostering young researchers and specialists with wider visions.



The International Workshop “Issues and Challenges in Promoting Women Entrepreneurship in Iran and Japan”

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs of Iran have been jointly conducting the research on “Promotion of Women Entrepreneurship” since 2017. Five female experts from Japan and Iran presented its results in the international workshop held in May 2018 in Tehran, Iran. In addition, the new agenda “Entrepreneurship and ICT for Women” started in FY 2018, which aims to further encourage knowledge exchange on women’s participation in society between the two countries.

Speech by H.E.Dr.Ebtekar, Vice President of Iran, at the workshop





The Ocean Policy Research Institute

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The Ocean Policy Research Institute's (OPRI) predecessor, the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF), began its activities in 2000 as a think tank specializing in research, policy recommendations, and information dissemination concerning ocean policies, with the aim of attaining a "harmonious relationship between mankind and the oceans." The Foundation contributed to the adoption of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy in 2007. Since then, it has actively participated in international conferences and discussions on ocean governance and served as a think tank promoting the materialization and implementation of the 12 Basic Measures set out in the Basic Act on Ocean Policy. Taking over OPRF's activities as well as its human resources, knowledge, and networks that facilitated its operations, OPRI continues to engage in ocean-related research, exchange, and information dissemination activities within and outside Japan.

▶ Research on Marine Resource Conservation Policy

Type Self-operated (second year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

In view of the critical state of oceans today and in order to ensure that oceans, the source of life, are passed on to future generations in a healthy state, this project makes recommendations to international society for effective policies and measures for their implementation including realization of the "Blue Economy" concept. These recommendations address a variety of issues such as drastic changes in marine ecosystems and the depletion of fisheries, both of which lead to decreased fishing activity, a condition that leads to a more vulnerable society and economy. The project also reinforces partnerships with overseas organizations to initiate joint activities, such as the development of new policies.

▶ Study on Effective International Cooperation to Arctic Governance

Type Self-operated (second year of two-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The purpose of this project is to contribute to the promotion of Arctic policies in Japan through conducting discussions with Arctic-related experts from Japan, the Arctic region, and Asian countries, to identify specific initiatives that Japan should implement in the Arctic region as well as how international cooperation in the Arctic should be carried out in the future, and to disseminate these outcomes, including policy recommendations.

▶ Research on Adaptation Measures for Global Warming and Ocean Acidification

Type Self-operated (third year of four-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project shares and disseminates information on the domestic and overseas status of global warming in oceans, ocean acidification and hypoxia (dead zone) to deepen public awareness of current situations and future tasks. The project also examines and promotes issues that Japan should address (e.g., building information infrastructure, organizing research collaboration in and outside Japan, and identifying socio-economic impacts), and makes recommendations on necessary future countermeasures (including adaptive and mitigation measures).

▶ Research on Integrated Ocean Governance

Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project supports implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and research on the establishment of holistic ocean governance in Japan as well as across the globe, with the aim of promoting Japan's initiatives and international cooperation on integrated ocean management, building domestic and international networks, and providing constructive recommendations to governments and other relevant organizations.

▶ Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Resource Use

Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The purpose of this project is to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The project supports research and international conferences, study, and specific policy proposals and measures aimed at establishing a new ocean governance that effectively balances conservation and sustainable use.

▶ Creative Research Towards the Future of the Oceans

Type Self-operated (single-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The global community has seen a new trend regarding ocean issues in recent years, with the comprehensive international agenda led by the sustainable development goals (SDGs), as well as the rise of the "Blue Economy" concept, which has attracted attention as a new socioeconomic model. Against this backdrop, our Foundation aims to conduct research activities that will contribute to the creation of a new order on the oceans, as well as actively engage in information dissemination activities both within and outside Japan.



▶ Public Relations for Ocean Policy

Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The conducting of comprehensive and cross-cutting research on the oceans from the perspectives of the natural and social sciences, the publication of those results as well as policy proposals, and other information dissemination activities both within and outside Japan are important. Following up on our Foundation's research activities, we aim to conduct comprehensive information dissemination activities to contribute to the creation of ocean related policies, as well as to improve understanding among the general public regarding the oceans.

▶ Study on Maritime Issues of East Asia

Type Self-operated (second year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Based on an understanding of the need for multilateral coordination in East Asian seas, this project facilitates discussions among experts from Japan, China, and other relevant countries on the characteristics of ocean issues that differ from those on land. The discussions focus on exploring solutions concerning various aspects of non-traditional maritime security, including legal perspectives on international ocean areas, environmental conservation, and resource management.

▶ Studies to Promote Implementation of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy

Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

OPRI continues to implement activities such as issuing constructive policy recommendations to actualize key maritime measures through the work of the Study Group on Strategy for the Basic Act on Ocean Policy, set up following the reorganization of the Study Group for the Follow-Up of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy in February 2012. This project continues to drive the Study Group's efforts to contribute to the promotion of Japan's ocean policies.

▶ Maritime Security Information Report

Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project collects publicly accessible information and partners with overseas research institutes and related organizations to exchange information about military developments on the oceans; maritime security issues arising from conflicts, piracy and, other illegal activities; incidents concerning maritime routes; various countries' Coast Guard policies; and the impact of climate change on maritime security. The information collected is analyzed, assessed, and then disseminated to relevant bodies, thereby contributing to policy research on maritime security.

▶ Collection and Dissemination of Information on Island Studies

Type Self-operated (first year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project collects highly credible primary information that can be referenced in resolving various issues surrounding island territories. Our researchers analyze this information from the perspective of international law and disseminate their findings to the international community, with the aim of contributing to the maintenance of maritime order and attaining peaceful resolution of island-related issues from the perspective of a private sector organization.

▶ Promotion of Ocean Policy Studies

Type Self-operated (single-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project carries out research activities on various ocean related policy issues from cross-sectoral, inter-disciplinary, and comprehensive perspectives, in an effort to promote and disseminate ocean policy studies.

▶ Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields

Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

This project cooperates in facilitating international education and development of maritime personnel, cultivating professionals who can take a comprehensive perspective on international maritime issues that may arise in the future, and promoting their exchange and networking. The project also implements measures to assist the networking of maritime and ocean education organizations around the world, thereby promoting international exchange and cooperation in ocean-related fields.

▶ Research and Development for Ocean Floor Mapping

Type Grant (single-year project)
Implementing agency GEBCO Guiding Committee

This project supports the process of developing technology for ocean floor mapping. Specifically, it assists the GEBCO-NF Team, formed around nine graduates of the "Postgraduate Certificate in Ocean Bathymetry" training course conducted by GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) with funding from The Nippon Foundation, as it participates in the international technology competition, XPRIZE. Through this process, the team intends to contribute to the Seabed 2030 project, the goal of which is to chart the entire topography of the world's oceans by 2030.

▶ Ocean Education Pioneer School Program

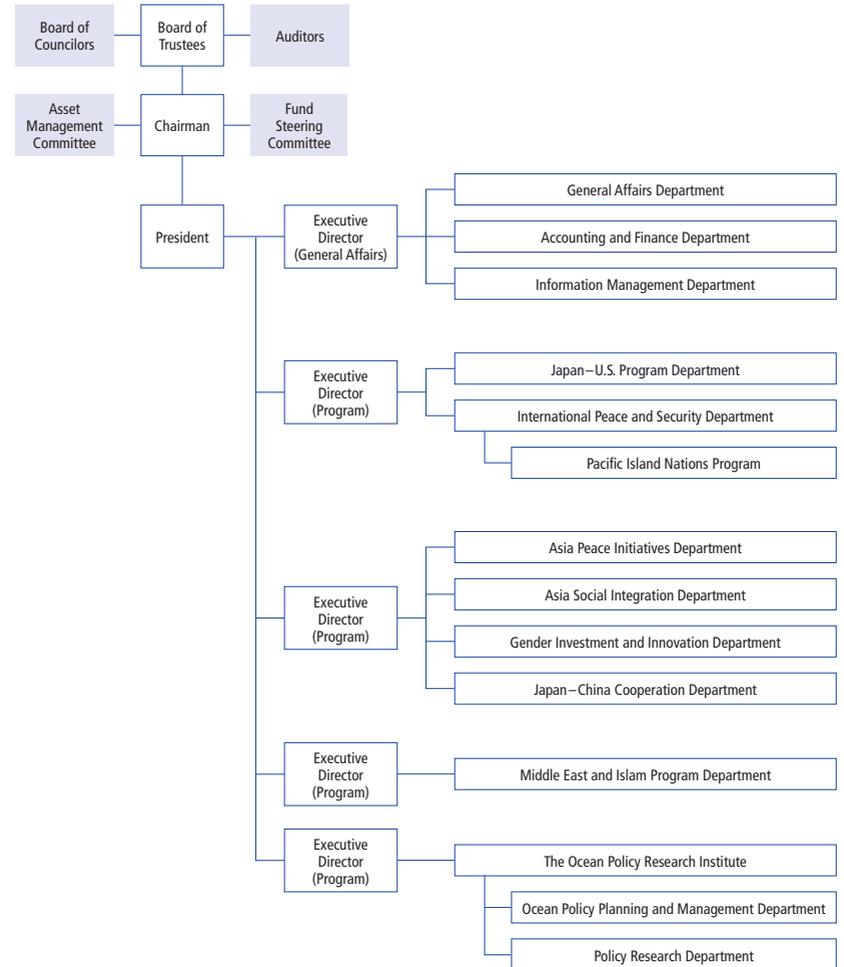
Type Self-operated (third year of three-year project)
Implementing agency The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Conducted in coordination with The Nippon Foundation and the Research Center for Marine Education at the University of Tokyo, this project awards grants to schools to provide ocean education, and also supports experts in educational and maritime fields, so as to develop ocean education curricula and train future leaders in ocean education across Japan. The project strives to broaden the scope of ocean education at schools and enhance its quality, with the aim of promoting the development of skilled professionals who can serve as leaders in the new maritime age and contribute to international society.

History of the SPF



Organization Chart (as of July 1, 2018)



Foundation Profile

Name	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)
Date of Establishment	September 1, 1986 (Transition to Public Interest Incorporated Foundation in October 2011); merged with the Ship & Ocean Foundation in April, 2015
Objectives	<p>We are committed to achieving the following objectives by applying the innovative ideas and methods of the private sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To respond to changes in nature and the social environment; - To contribute to the sound and sustainable development of human society, which is becoming more stratified and complex; - To build a new governance system for human society on this planet of oceans and land, by promoting research activities, making policy recommendations, and supporting international cooperation and exchange projects.
Project description	<p>To achieve the above-mentioned objectives, we carry out the following projects or provide assistance to parties implementing the projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Conducting research, disseminating information, and raising public awareness with the aim of solving issues in human society. (2) Developing human resources that contribute to solving issues in human society, supporting human exchange, and networking. (3) Conducting research, disseminating information, and raising public awareness with the aim of forming new governance systems in human society. (4) Conducting R&D and studies on maritime affairs. (5) Promoting international understanding, international exchange, and international cooperation. (6) Organizing conferences and events concerning items (1)–(5) above. (7) Gathering and disseminating information and issuing policy recommendations concerning items (1)–(5) above. (8) Lending facilities. (9) Conducting any other project required to achieve our objectives.
Endowment	63,104,392,000 (as of March 31, 2018)
Special assets	61,874,499,000 (as of March 31, 2018)
Fiscal 2018 Operating Expenses	3,689,050,000 (as of March 31, 2018)

Councilors, Honorary Chairman, Trustees (as of June 27, 2018)

Councilors	Kiyotaka Akasaka	President, Foreign Press Center Japan	
	Takeju Ogata	President, The Nippon Foundation	
	Hideki Kato	President, Japan Initiative	
	Atsuko Kanehara	Professor, Sophia University	
	Shin Kisugi	President, The Open University of Japan	
	Eiko Kono	Former Chairman, Recruit Co., Ltd.	
	Koji Tanami	Advisor, MUFG Bank, Ltd.	
Honorary Chairman	Yohei Sasakawa	Chairman, The Nippon Foundation	
Trustees	Chairman	Nobuo Tanaka	
	President	Shuichi Ohno	
	Executive Director	Akinori Sugai (General Affairs)	
	Executive Director	Junko Chano (Program)	
	Executive Director	Atsushi Sunami (Program)	
	Trustees	Motoshige Itoh	Professor, Gakushuin University
		Tamaki Ura	Director and specially appointed Professor, Center for Socio-Robotic Synthesis, Kyushu Institute of Technology
		Shigeki Sakamoto	Professor, Doshisha University
		Kaoru Hattori	Attorney at Law
	Auditors	Shuhei Okazaki	
	Sadahiko Yoshimura	Certified Public Accountant	