



SASAKAWA PEACE FOUNDATION

Our Programs

About the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), established in 1986 through endowments from The Nippon Foundation and the Japan motorboat racing industry, has worked since its inception to advance international exchange and cooperation. We leverage the unique freedom our status as a private foundation grants us to explore innovative solutions and approaches for addressing a wide range of issues facing the world today in partnership with a diverse community of both domestic and international collaborators.

Our 3 Missions:



Our 5 Priority Goals:

1. Further strengthening the Japan-U.S. relationship

2. Expanding Japan’s presence in Asia
3. Enhancing understanding of and relationships with Islamic countries

4. Establishing ocean governance

5. Empowering women

Our new slogan “Think, Do, and Innovate-Tank”

SPF acts not only as a “think tank” that conducts research and formulates proposals based on a high degree of expertise in global issues, but also as a “do tank” that is rooted in the field and integrates the priorities and perspectives of communities on the ground in collaboration with partners around the world. Through this integrated approach, we envision a more harmonious world that transcends differences in politics, values, religions, race, and beyond, while also providing space for all living things to coexist and thrive. In order to realize this vision, SPF strives to incorporate innovation into all aspects of our work, which is reflected in our adoption of the new phrase “innovate-tank.”

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Introducing the Sasakawa Peace Foundation Scholarship

SPF is pleased to announce a new international scholarship program aimed at investing in the future of our shared world. Open to young Japanese students interested in social issues who have not yet had the opportunity to study abroad, this scholarship will fund selected scholars’ pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in the U.S. or England. It will provide participants the chance to gain invaluable knowledge and experiences that will form the foundation for their future success.



Japan-U.S. Program

A Hub for People, Knowledge, and Ideas Convening to Construct a New Japan-U.S. Relationship in a Radically Changing World

The international community now faces a major turning point. For the U.S., this transformative period has been marked by a plethora of challenges as well as increasingly profound internal political and social divisions. The Japan-U.S. Program aims to promote deeper understanding of these shifts within the U.S. and build a network that will persevere through the changes yet to come. These turbulent times are shaking the foundations of democracy and the current world order, prompting the international community to explore new values and principles. It is imperative for Japan and the U.S. to consider their respective responsibilities and draft blueprints for greater cooperation. The Japan-U.S. Program collaborates with Japanese, American, and international experts and generates networks, ideas, and data which can help tackle the ever-evolving regional and global issues as well as bilateral issues and challenges.

Pillars of Our Work

1. Expanding and Reinforcing a Network Connecting Experts, Practitioners, and Organizations in Japan and the U.S.

We work to develop dynamic intellectual cooperation between the U.S. and Japan by proactively promoting and facilitating intellectual exchanges among relevant experts and organizations. This program strives to link stakeholders within the policy community, such as researchers and congressional personnel, and bring new talented individuals and organizations with diverse perspectives into the fold as well. Through this effort, we aim to bolster dialogue conducted at various levels and further deepen mutual understanding.

2. Developing New Wisdom for the Future of Japan-U.S. Relations and the International Community in this Period of Drastic Change

Our program conducts objective, comprehensive research on topics including the standing of the U.S. in the international community, American politics, social issues, as well as foreign and security policies. We examine relations between Japan and the U.S., in addition to those with countries and regions important to both nations. We also maintain and cultivate frameworks for dialogue and discussion between young and mid-career experts.

3. Disseminating Information and Analyses on Japan-U.S. Relations, American Politics and Foreign Policies, and Related Issues

Our research and dialogues conducted through various levels and in close collaboration with experts, has produced invaluable and multifaceted knowledge, wisdom, and data that can contribute to reinforcing the foundation of the Japan-U.S. relationship. We regularly share these insights with Japanese and international audiences through seminars, reports, videos, audio recordings, and an array of other media suited to meet the needs of the moment.

Research Projects Include:

- America Genjyo Monitor (Monitoring Current American Politics and Society)
- Asia Strategy Initiative (ASI)
- Medium- and Long-Term Prospects for U.S. Foreign Policy and Challenges for Japan

1. Bolstering Ties Within the Japan-U.S. Policy Community

Our program coordinates projects for building strategic people-to-people networks between Japan and the U.S., as well as for fortifying exchanges between members of the U.S. Congress and the Japanese Diet. We invite American experts including researchers, congressional members, former government officials, and other practitioners to Japan, organize lectures, and host online seminars. In addition, our program dispatches Japanese experts to the U.S. We also endeavour to enhance cooperation with leading American think tanks.

■ U.S. Congressional Delegation Visits Japan (May-June, 2022)

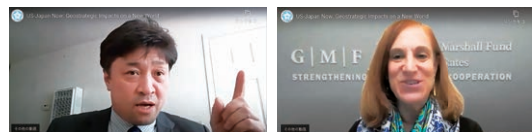
Restarting for the first time in two years and three months, this program brought seven members of the U.S. House of Representatives to Japan where they met with political and business leaders in Tokyo and Kyoto during their one-week stay.



Courtesy visit to SPF Honorary Chair Yohei Sasakawa (May 31, 2022).

■ Geostrategy in the Grassroots Series (2021-2022)

The Japan-U.S. Program works with the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS). Through this series, local Japan-America societies across America hold "Geostrategy in the Grassroots Seminars" by inviting experts from both countries to discuss issues related to Japan-U.S. relations as well as East Asian foreign policy and security challenges. This project continued via webinars during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Still from a webinar hosted by the Japan-America Society of Georgia on March 23, 2022, featuring Bonnie Glaser (Director of the Asia Program at the German Marshall Fund of the United States [right]) and Yasuhiro Matsuda (Professor in the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia at the University of Tokyo).

2. Research

We host two study groups to obtain fresh insights to help better understand the U.S. and explore considerations for the future of the Japan-U.S. relationship. The first, "SPF America Genjo Monitor," analyzes shifts and fluctuations within American politics and society. The second, "Medium- and Long-Term Prospects for U.S. Foreign Policy and Challenges for Japan," takes stock of the changes brought on by this transformative period, examines mid-to long-term prospects for America, and considers implications for the future of Japan-U.S. relations. Other projects have included "Worldviews on the United States, Alliances, and International Order" as well as the "Asia Strategy Initiative." Furthermore, we publicize the results of our studies such as those compiled in "Allies Growing Closer: Japan-Europe Security Ties in the Age of Strategic Competition" (Rand Corporation).

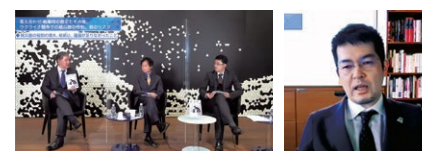
3. Disseminating Expert Information

In April 2022, we renewed the group's "Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations" satellite site as part of our goal to develop a portal for information relevant to the bilateral relationship. On this website, visitors can obtain research and study outcomes such as essays, policy proposals, assessments, and reports, as well as our SPF Japan-U.S. Special Monograph Series. In addition, we host public events such as webinars and share videos of interviews and panel discussions. Our program also created our own Twitter account in November 2021 to share updates on such publications and activities.

■ Webinars and Event Recordings

We invite experts to participate in webinars, podcast-style roundtable discussions, and other events, the recordings of which are then made available to the public.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB78B425B34A66F7A>



First of panel discussion series entitled "The War in Ukraine and the End of 'Nuclear Forgetting,'" released on April 28, 2022. From left to right: Nobumasa Akiyama (Professor, Graduate School, Hitotsubashi University), Sugio Takahashi (Head, Defense Policy Division, Policy Studies Department, National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense), Hirofumi Tosaki (Director, Center for Disarmament, Science and Technology, the Japan Institute of International Affairs) and Yu Koizumi (Lecturer, Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, the University of Tokyo).



Webinar entitled "Anti-Asian American Hate Crimes and U.S. Society" (August 19, 2021) featuring Takayuki Nishiyama (Professor, Seikei University [upper middle]), Russell Jeung (Professor, San Francisco State University [lower left]), and Michael Omi (Professor Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley [upper right]).

■ Satellite Site Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations



<https://www.spf.org/jpus-insights/en/>

Portal site hosting articles, videos, and other materials concerning issues such as Japan-U.S. relations, the alliance, American politics and diplomacy, and international relations in the Indo-Pacific region.

■ Twitter Account



<https://twitter.com/SPFJapanUS>

■ Publications



On Obama's Memoirs, by Masato Watanabe (November 2021)
*Japanese only



Allies Growing Closer: Japan-Europe Security Ties in the Age of Strategic Competition, by Jeffrey Homung (Rand Corporation, January 2021)



The End of Nuclear Forgetting: Revival of Nuclear Weapons, co-edited by Nobumasa Akiyama and Sugio Takahashi (Keiso Shobo, June 2019)



Security Studies Program

Helping to Construct a New International Security Paradigm and Bring Peace and Stability to the Greater Asia-Pacific Region

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 shocked the international community to its core. This course of unilateral aggression by a major power has prompted an urgent review of the theoretical framework undergirding the existing international security regime and nuclear deterrence movement. Its effects are also expected to reverberate within other authoritarian states and influence their future actions. Over the years, this program has led studies on issues including the Japan-U.S. alliance, peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region, and Japan's policies concerning emerging domains such as cybersecurity and space. Going forward, we aim to continue our current research while also tackling the challenges unearthed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We will also proactively share information on current developments and emerging issues in the field of security and international relations.

Pillars of Our Work

As one of Japan's leading think tanks in the security field, we aim to:

1. Make Recommendations on Issues Such as Global Peace and Security, and Propose Corresponding Strategies for Japan

This program places particular focus on research examining the emerging challenges affecting worldwide peace and security. Drawing on the knowledge of experts and organizations in Japan and abroad, we conduct studies on domestic and global defense and security issues to formulate strategies for the future, then publish those results as policy proposals. Through these efforts, we also aim to nurture the capacity of young researchers within and outside of SPF while also strengthening cooperation with domestic and foreign think tanks.

2. Contribute to the Development and Maintenance of Japan's Security Environment

Our program strives to advance public understanding of peace and security issues. We also endeavor to foster a security environment beneficial for Japan by sponsoring fellowships and facilitating exchanges focusing on relevant themes with countries of importance to Japan.

3. Lead the Debate on Japanese and Global Peace and Security

In an effort to guide the discussion on global peace and security, the Security Studies Program formulates strategies drawn from our studies that accurately respond to shifts in the security environment within Japan and around the world. We then share our insights with political, business, academic, and public stakeholders by hosting seminars, publishing essays and reports, and publicizing information on our satellite sites and other outlets.

Research Themes Include:

- Japan U.S. Alliance Study
- The Study of Contemporary China
- Japan-India-Russia Strategic Dialogues
- The Future of International Peace Operations
- Deterrence in New Domains
- Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries
- Security in the Indo-Pacific Region
- Enhancing National Cyber Security
- Study on Nuclear Safeguards and Security
- Security Research in Collaboration with Japan, the United States, and Taiwan

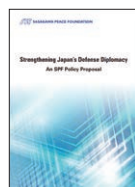
1. Research Aimed at Producing Policy Recommendations

Alongside our exploration of the Japan-U.S. relationship, our program continues to carry out various studies, some concerning the Taiwan Strait Crisis in particular; collaborate on research with countries vital to establishing peace in the greater Indo-Pacific region; and examine the security policies Japan has implemented in response to emerging domains such as cybersecurity and space. Going forward, we will also continue discussions on the quandaries Russia's invasion of Ukraine brought to light in an effort to contribute to the restructuring of a global framework for peace and security. Our program will strive to influence the realization of better policies by compiling the results of our various research efforts into policy recommendations, reports, books, and other publications, and widely sharing them with the world.

[Policy Proposals]



"Prepare for Foreign Disinformation Campaigns! The Threat Posed by Information Manipulation in the Cyberspace Sphere" (February 2022)



"Strengthening Japan's Defense Diplomacy: An SPF Policy Proposal" (October 2021)

[Reports]



"Challenges for Joint Japan-U.S. Responses to Cyberattack-Triggered Crises in Taiwan" (April 2022)

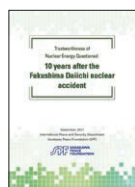


"Emergency Preparedness Shortcomings in Japan: A Legislative Review of Japan's COVID-19 Response" (March 2022)

[Books]



Taiwan Contingency Scenarios, edited by Satoshi Morimoto and Bonji Ohara (January 2022, Minerva Publishing)
What is Defense Diplomacy?, edited by Tsuneo Watanabe and Ippeita Nishida (October 2021, Keiso Shobo)



"Trustworthiness of Nuclear Energy Questioned: 10 Years After the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Accident" (September 2021)

2. Cultivating Talent and People-to-People Exchanges to Improve the Security Environment

We take full advantage of our position as a private organization to facilitate exchanges among defense officials from strategically important nations and serve as a bridge between government and private sectors by hosting Track 1.5 conferences, among other initiatives. The program also offers fellowship opportunities to foster the talents of future leaders in the peace and security domain.



Two security and defense dialogues between Japan and Vietnam. After much discussion conducted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic (August 2020 (left)), the Deputy Minister of Defense of Vietnam and SPF Honorary Chair Yohei Sasakawa met in person in November 2021 and affirmed their intentions for the exchange to contribute to regional peace and stability.



3. Sharing Insights

Through our two dedicated satellite sites, we provide the latest analyses and articles on international peace and security. We also convene timely seminars and symposiums, which focus on the current state of affairs in Japan and around the world.

[Satellite Sites]

■ International Information Network Analysis (IINA)

IINA provides analyses on topics carefully selected in terms of objectivity, accuracy, timeliness, and importance to Japan. Penned by both internal and external experts, these examinations dissect country-level and regional security issues, as well as cross-regional themes, around the world.



<https://www.spf.org/iina/en/>



■ SPF China Observer

Through the "SPF China Observer," Japanese experts on China regularly offer insights drawn from observational studies in their respective fields of specialization. We also host online forums with the Observer's editors, contributing experts, and renowned academics from within Japan and abroad.



<https://www.spf.org-spf-china-observer/en/>



[Seminars and Symposiums]

■ SPF China Observer Public Forums (regularly held since FY 2017)

■ Cybersecurity Seminars (regularly held since FY 2017)

■ SPF NUS-ISAS Joint Webinar entitled "The Bear in the Room: Russia and the Indo-Pacific" (January 27, 2022). Speakers included Dr. Aleksei Zakharov (Research Fellow at the Higher School of Economics, National Research University, Russia), General Oliver Kemp (Associate Fellow, Foundation for Strategic Research, France), Taisuke Abiru (Senior Research Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation), and others.

■ Webinar entitled "Shaping the Pragmatic and Effective Strategy Toward China: Defense and Economic Security" (November 9, 2021). Speakers included Eric Heginbotham (Principal Research Scientist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Mireya Solis (Director, Center for East Asia Policy Studies, The Brookings Institution), Nicholas Szechenyi (Deputy Director and Senior Fellow, Japan Chair, CSIS), Tsuneo Watanabe (Senior Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation), and others.



Shot from the SPF China Observer Forum: "Draw a Clear Line with Putin's Russia" (April 27, 2022). From the left: Akio Takahara, (Professor, University of Tokyo), Kazuyuki Suwa (Professor, University of Shizuoka), Bonji Ohara (Senior Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation).



Asia and Middle East Program

Building a Foundation of Trust Between Japan, Asia, and the Middle East to Fortify Solidarity and Engender Peaceful Coexistence

Amidst the rapid, continued spread of socioeconomic globalization, social divisions that threaten peace and stability have been fomenting in every corner of the world. Our program leverages the advantage we enjoy as an independent organization to explore unique ideas, methods, and mobilization techniques for working in solidarity and collaborating with the people of Asia and the Middle East. Together with these partners, we endeavor to shine a spotlight on vulnerable populations left behind in the wake of globalization, as well as those more deeply impacted by social unrest, to support the development of inclusive, diverse societies where these voices are heard and respected.

Pillars of Our Work

1. Empowering Vulnerable Populations, Respecting Human Dignity, and Championing Diverse Societies in Japan and Abroad

The continued economic growth and globalization of the greater Asian region is laying bare the problems associated with increased inequality, as well as highlighting the need to further protect and empower minorities, women, foreign workers, refugees, and displaced persons. This program is devoted to elevating the shared history and rich diversity this region boasts while also supporting the development of inclusive societies that listen to the voices of their most marginalized members. We work directly in the field and build models to advance these goals, share our insights with the world, and make policy proposals, among other initiatives.

2. Working to Resolve Global Issues Through Collaboration to Promote Social Development and World Peace

Despite instability in terms of intra-regional conflicts and strained relations with other members of the international community, the Middle East has an ever-expanding responsibility to contribute to world peace and security due to the important geopolitical role it commands. By working in partnership with these countries to resolve global issues, our program aims to help promote development in both Japan and Middle Eastern nations, and contribute to achieving global peace and stability. As part of this effort, we organize events such as people-to-people exchanges and policy dialogues to promote political, diplomatic, social, and cultural projects.

3. Building and Strengthening Equal Partnerships Rooted in Mutual Understanding and Trust

This program deeply values interpersonal relationships based on the mutual understanding and trust we believe form the foundation for the growth of peaceful, secure, and symbiotic societies. Motivated by these principles, we endeavor to strengthen ties between Japan and the countries in these regions by supporting the development of individual talent and establishing people-to-people networks aimed at nurturing equal and prosperous partnerships.

Program Themes Include:

- Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of Northeast India
- Dialogue and Resonance in Asia
- Imphal Peace Museum Project
- Research and Study on Men and Masculinities
- Engaging Northeast India in Act East
- Building Strategic Middle Eastern Networks
- Enhancing Responsible Business Conduct in Asia
- Women's Empowerment in Iran and Japan
- Building a Model for Intercultural Societies in the Age of New Immigration
- The True Picture of Islam in Japanese Society
- Advocating International Collaboration on Middle Eastern Research

* In January 2022, the Asia Peace Initiatives Department and the Middle East and Islam Program Department merged to form the Asia and Middle East Program.

Our Approach in Asia

1. Making Inclusive Societies a Reality

The Asian region boasts long and storied traditions of rich diversity and coexistence. Our team strives to emphasize these shared histories as we work to advance the development of inclusive and symbiotic societies that value the voices of their most marginalized populations.

■ Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of Northeast India

One of the most culturally and ethnically diverse regions in Asia, Northeast India and its residents have long suffered from conflict, underdevelopment, and marginalization. This program supports efforts led by the local community to preserve accounts of their own history, memories, and records to establish a foundation through which these traditions can be shared and passed down to future generations.



Online publication of a collection by young Northeast Indian researchers and writers entitled "e-Essays from the Northeast."



The Many That I Am: Writings from Nagaland, edited by Anungla Zoe Longkumer (left); *Crafting the Word: Writings from Manipur*, edited by Thingnam Anjulika Sanom, published by Zubaan in October 2019.

■ Imphal Peace Museum Project

Our program provides multifaceted operational support to the Imphal Peace Museum, which was built at the site of the fierce battles Imphal saw during World War II. The museum traces the history and memories of the fighting from the perspectives of the local people who lived through the war and shares a message of peace with its visitors.



The museum opened on June 22, 2019, in Manipur, India, with financial support provided by The Nippon Foundation.

■ Engaging Northeast India in Act East

Though a geopolitically important node connecting South and Southeast Asia, Northeast India has a complex past and bears sources of strife that have divided its communities and led to conflict. Our project encourages growth through projects that take a bottom-up approach. One such initiative, for example, provides support for locals engaged in production that harness the region's unique characteristics.



The project promotes self-reliance by training young people and women to become entrepreneurs and supporting self-employed farmers in rural Assam, where employment opportunities are scarce and difficult to create.

■ Enhancing Responsible Business Conduct in Asia

Increasingly globalized corporate activities are raising ever-greater concerns about the ways in which businesses infringe on the well-being of people across national borders. This project works to promote responsible business conduct and devise grievance mechanisms that can provide remedy to victims of such abuses, focusing mainly on the supply chains of Japanese companies in Asia.



Hosted the webinar entitled "Engagement and Remedy Forum for Promoting Responsible Business Conduct 2022" on February 28, 2022.

■ Building a Model for Intercultural Societies in the Age of New Immigration

In the new age of migration, the world is seeing now features a mix of people who establish fixed residences and those who go back and forth between their host country and country of origin. We developed this project in response to such trends in order to construct local, community-based models in Japan that combine self-help and mutual-aid components. By promoting close cooperation between sending and receiving countries within Asia and encouraging widespread implementation of the above-mentioned models, we endeavor to contribute to the creation of symbiotic societies inclusive of foreign residents and workers.

2. Enhancing Networks and the Pursuit of Knowledge

This program endeavors to construct equal and prosperous partnerships between Asia and Japan.

Initiatives Include:

■ Dialogue and Resonance in Japan

As the COVID-19 pandemic profoundly affected existing challenges and difficulties in today's society, this project seeks to address issues common to Japan and Asia by facilitating the sharing of knowledge through collaborative efforts, dialogues, exchanges, and research projects. With great respect for the diversity, various cultural backgrounds and histories of the region, we also explore Asian perspectives to engage with unforeseeable international relations.

■ Research and Study on Men and Masculinities

This project studies the ways in which men can and should play in achieving gender-equal, diverse, and inclusive societies. It seeks to take stock of the varied expressions of masculinity rooted in the region, examining themes such as "care," "violence," and "diversity." Through this research, we aim to explore and deepen our knowledge on the matter, and share insights.

Satellite Site Related to Asia



Asia Insight
<https://www.spf.org/asia-islam/asia-insights/>

We use our dedicated Japanese-language satellite sight, Asia Insight, to share our activities and research results.

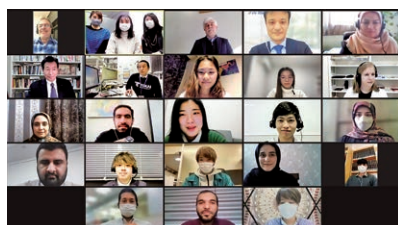
Our Approach in the Middle East

1. Reinforcing Exchanges Between Japan and Middle Eastern Countries

Our team encourages the development of greater mutual understanding between Japan and Islamic countries in the Middle East through exchanges, policy dialogues, and related activities. Additionally, we construct and nurture people-to-people networks to assist in forging multilayered relationships built on trust that will stand the test of time.

■ Building Strategic Middle Eastern Networks

Ever since its establishment in FY 2009, this project has organized projects engaging with the Middle East, built up interpersonal networks, and established relationships grounded in trust. Going forward, we aim to continue to augment our collaboration with Iran via initiatives such as policy dialogues and youth exchange programs. We will furthermore strive to strengthen our relations with other Middle Eastern nations, particularly Turkey and Egypt.



Online Japan-Iran Student Exchange Program, co-hosted with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs-affiliated School of International Relations (SIR) and in cooperation with Tokai University (December 21-22, 2021).



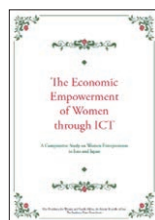
Scene from the webinar on March 16, 2022, entitled "Women's Empowerment in Egypt: Initiatives and Challenges," featuring Dr. Hania Sholkamy (American University in Cairo's Social Research Center [left]), and Dr. Kazuaki Takemura, (Associate Professor at Takachiho University).

2. Addressing Global Challenges

Our program works in partnership with Middle Eastern countries and a diverse range of relevant actors to help resolve global issues. Guided by fresh perspectives, we strive to foster socioeconomic development locally as well as in Japan, help pave the way for world peace and security, and promote accurate understanding of Islam in Japanese society.

■ Women's Empowerment in Iran and Japan

This project seeks to help Iranian women achieve their full potential in the nation's economy, thereby fostering a socio-economically equitable society. Through engagement with Iran on women's economic empowerment, we aim to develop a joint action plan to advance these goals.



A publication on "The Economic Empowerment of Women through ICT" [left]. Scene from an online workshop with the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs of Iran (July 5, 2021).

■ Research on Muslims in Japanese Society

This project is devoted to identifying the challenges regional communities experience in attempting to achieve social harmony amidst the continuous expansion of Islamic foreign nationals in Japan while also forecasting the types of initiatives that they will require in the future. By widely sharing the insights gleaned from our efforts, we aspire to promote an accurate understanding of Islam in Japan.

3. Cultivating Talent in Middle Eastern Studies

We believe cultivating the next generation of Middle Eastern Studies scholars will help produce novel insights on the region. As such, our department provides opportunities for young researchers specializing in the Middle East to carry out research, then helps them publish and share their results.

■ Advocating International Collaboration on Middle Eastern Research

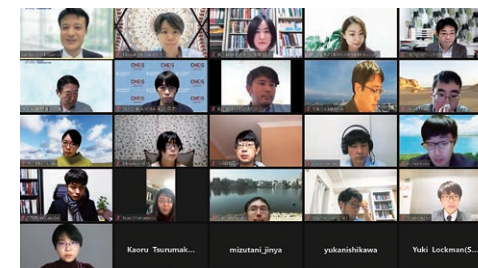
This program sponsors a fellowship for study at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA) to nurture and develop the capabilities of young scholars specializing in the Middle East who bring interdisciplinary perspectives to their studies.



Scene from the March 29, 2022 webinar "The state, Islam and religious minorities in Turkey," featuring a lecture by Dr. Ceren Lord (British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow and former fellow at SPF during the second phase of the fellowship program [left]), Dr. Masamichi Iwasaka (then Associate Professor Faculty of Law, Hokkai-Gakuen University [middle]) and Dr. Aya Kokaki (Research Fellow, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Chiba University [right]) joined the panel discussion that followed.

■ Building Strategic Middle Eastern Networks (Hosting Meetings for Young Researchers)

This project was established to provide a forum for young researchers who study the contemporary Middle East to share knowledge and exchange opinions with one another. Through these meetings, we also seek to facilitate connections and foster networks among participants that transcend organizational affiliation.



The first meeting of the Society for Early Career Researchers of Modern Middle Eastern Studies (December 23, 2021).



Peacebuilding Program

Pursuing Resolutions to Lingering Conflicts and the Establishment of Peace

The Peacebuilding Program was newly established in January 2022 upon the foundation of SPF's work stretching back to 2010 in Thailand's Deep South. Self-funded and politically flexible, this program will leverage our strengths as a private organization to apply unique approaches to peacebuilding. Specifically, we will strive to respect the unique historical contexts, local languages, and regional cultures of each conflict zone while respecting the autonomous decision-making of every party and community involved. Upon this bedrock, we will brainstorm, plan, and implement strategies for structural change. Incorporating the perspectives gained through our field practice, as well as our experience-based insights on the sorts of challenges that can occur in these settings, we will formulate models for peacebuilding that we can share with the international community.

Pillars of Our Work

1. Field-Focused Interventions

Our program will regularly monitor unresolved conflicts, particularly those in Asia, identify areas where SPF has a comparatively advantageous position, and commit to long-term interventions with people in those regions. We will work with local stakeholders to analyze the conflicts and develop plans of action that respect the autonomous decision making of all parties involved. For FY 2022-2023, we aim to prioritize the border regions between Myanmar and Bangladesh in addition to Thailand's Deep South.

2. Research and Policy Proposals

The Peacebuilding Program will focus its research efforts around themes of great international interest such as New Directions for Peace Mediation Support, De-Radicalization, and the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda, analyzing corresponding trends in international assistance as well as developments in areas receiving this targeted support. We will then take these field perspectives into account as we design our own research projects and share our results with the international community.

Project Themes Include:

- Women Political Participation in Asia
- Interventions for Peacebuilding
- Peacebuilding Research and Policy

1. Women and Peacebuilding

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1325, emphasizing the important roles women play in peacebuilding efforts. This resolution also led to the creation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, which our Peacebuilding Program is actively working to promote in both theory and practice.

The practical implementation of this agenda includes support we offer to women involved in activism. In March 2022, we invited women activists from diverse ethnic backgrounds in Myanmar, where clashes between the military and civilians have been growing increasingly more severe since the 2021 coup d'état, to a meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia. This meeting provided activists with opportunities to discuss the future of Myanmar, reflect on their activism thus far, and form new connections and networks. In that same month, we also held women's leaders training sessions in Phuket, Thailand for activists from the country's Deep South who are fighting for peace despite the restrictions on political speech and social activities imposed on them by the region's traditionally Malay Muslim society.

Furthermore, we support the research by women in Bangkok and the Deep South about victims of the Tak Bai incident, which caused mass casualties when people were crushed to death during transportation by trucks after military and police repressed the local people's protest movements in October 2004 in Narathiwat Province.

Furthermore, we collaborate with the Southeast Asian Women Peacebuilders Network (SEAWP) to organize opportunities for women activists in Southeast Asia to initiate collaborative efforts amongst themselves, share their experiences, and engage in dialogue.

On the theoretical level, we are working in partnership with international scholars at organizations such as Conciliation Resources, InteGRAL, and the Georgetown Institute of Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS), to research on the relationship among gender equality, peacebuilding, and masculinities. We expect to publish the results of these studies in 2023.

Leadership training for women activists in Thailand's Deep South who must navigate the strict constraints on women's activities in the region's traditional Malay Muslim society.



2. De-radicalization and De-escalation of Violence in Asia

The de-radicalization of violent extremists, from reintegrating ISIS returnees into society to preventing lone wolf terrorist attacks, has become an area of global concern. Our program will

examine the forms international support in this field have taken in Asia and what approaches will prove realistic in assisting the most vulnerable populations. After synthesizing this data, we will present concrete models for such support.

In Indonesia, our program is working with the Habibie Center to develop a pilot program for former inmates in Poso, Central Sulawesi, an area considered to be a hotbed of terrorism and the site of violent conflicts between Muslims and Christians, which have been escalating since the late 1990's. In this region, that religious strife casts a darker shadow over the lives of former inmates than extremist Islamic ideology.

Through our pilot program, we will illuminate this historical background as we collaborate with the authorities and psychologists in Indonesia to provide assistance centered on therapeutic counseling, coaching to improve communication skills, and vocational training.

Furthermore, our program is also working in partnership with the Centre for Genocide Studies at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh to explore possible initiatives for collaborative with local government authorities.



Leveraging 12 Years of Practice in Peacebuilding into the Future

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation began its assistance efforts in Thailand's Deep South in 2010, in accordance with our policy to commit to long-term engagement in targeted conflict areas. Our first goal was to build trust with stakeholders in the region, which we approached through different projects including those aimed at strengthening the capacity of local media, civil society, and women's organizations. Through our partnerships with these groups, we endeavored to gain a deeper understanding of the area's background. Next, we aided the Thai government and its agencies in their search for pathways to peace, and have been facilitating back-

channel communications between the negotiating parties ever since official peace talks began in 2013. Meanwhile, we have also been working to craft a mechanism for supporting a bottom-up peace process that elevates the experiences of those in the Deep South and ensures voices of local society are heard.

Personal effects and photograph of a victim of the Tak Bai incident recovered by Silpakorn University's research team.





Gender Investment and Innovation Program

Envisioning a Society Where Women in Asia Can Realize Their Full Potential

This program is devoted to paving the way for a society where women in Asia can enjoy the agency to fulfill their potential, a future we strive to achieve by supporting their economic empowerment and gender equality projects. We take full advantage of the unique freedom we command as one of the leading private foundations in Japan to address gender inequality through two main tracks: leveraging finance as a tool to advance women's empowerment and supporting inclusive entrepreneurial initiatives for women entrepreneurs to grow and thrive. We also promote gender lens investing (GLI), contribute to the implementation of concrete actions through research findings as well as collaboration with local and regional organizations, and present practical policy recommendations based on these initiatives.

Pillars of Our Work

1. Closing Gender Gaps Through the Power of Finance

This program is dedicated to realizing a society where women in Asia are free to fulfill their full potential, and to promoting gender lens investment (GLI) in pursuit of that goal. As part of these efforts, we established and continue to manage the Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF), while measuring the impacts of this practical example of gender lens investing. We also conduct research and publish reports to share new perspectives on GLI for closing gender gaps in Asia.

2. Achieving Gender Equality Through Entrepreneurship

In collaboration with Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (ESOs), our program explores innovative finance mechanisms tailored to the needs of women entrepreneurs and provides accessible and highly inclusive entrepreneurial assistance programs for them. We strive to create a supportive entrepreneurial environment that works with investors, investors' organizations, and networks; improves the business climate women must navigate; and increases their access to financial as well as business resources.

3. Building a Gender-Inclusive Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

We endeavor to fortify the ecosystem underpinning gender lens investing and women entrepreneurs by leveraging our extensive contacts and networks to conduct research, share knowledge, and provide capacity development initiatives.

Projects Include:

- Promoting Gender Lens Investing
- Gender Lens Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (GLEE) Development in Southeast Asia
- Building an Entrepreneurial Support System with a Gender Lens
- Closing Gender Gaps Through Finance
- Asia Women Impact Fund

1. Closing Gender Gaps Through the Power of Finance

Since its establishment in 2017, the Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF) has harnessed the power of finance to promote women's economic empowerment. SPF continues to operate AWIF while measuring and managing its impact. We communicate these outcomes with stakeholders and guide our decision-making processes so that more private capital is directed toward women's empowerment and gender equality, an approach that increases women's access to financial resources, promotes gender-inclusive business practices, and expedites women's financial inclusion. AWIF also conducts studies to promote GLI, such as market landscape reports and an assessment of companies with gender equality indicators, publishing those results for our target audience including investors interested in and practicing ESG and impact investing. Furthermore, we conduct workshops and information sharing sessions in Japan and abroad to promote GLI.



2. Achieving Gender Equality Through Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship offers women in Southeast Asia a means to support themselves and their families, secure decent working conditions, and financially empower themselves. In cooperation with our partners in Southeast Asia, this program works to provide women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs dedicated to improving women's lives with technical support as well as assistance to ease funding gaps by using innovative finance mechanisms and/or connecting them to the right organizations and investors. As one example, we operate a gender-inclusive acceleration program in Myanmar called the SanThit Accelerator Program. We also support the development and management of



a digital platform, WE Rise Community Asia, through which we help women entrepreneurs in the Philippines and Myanmar bridge the funding gaps they encounter.

In this same vein, we collaborated with the Australian government to develop the Gender Lens Incubation and Acceleration (GLIA) Toolkit (<https://gliatoolkit.com/>). Launched in 2019, the toolkit provides guidance for ESOs on how to incorporate gender perspectives in their

operations. By supporting organizations that take advantage of this resource, we aim to encourage many more women entrepreneurs to participate in entrepreneurial programs in Southeast Asia.

3. Building a Gender-Inclusive Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

SPF works in collaboration with regional ecosystem builders to help reinforce the networks supporting both gender lens investing and support for women entrepreneurs. As part of these efforts, we carry out research, share our insights, and implement as well as fortify impact management systems.

In February 2022, we published a report entitled "Stakeholders Research for Successful Investment in Southeast Asia." For the report, we surveyed Japanese stakeholders about what type of support or interventions could facilitate more Japanese investment in women entrepreneurs in Southeast Asia.



Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF)

With the establishment of AWIF in 2017, SPF became the first private foundation in Asia to found an impact fund guided by gender-equality perspectives. SPF has committed to investing up to 100 million USD of its endowment toward three specific goals: promoting gender equality, encouraging financial inclusion for women, and supporting women entrepreneurs in Asia. As of March 2022, SPF has invested approximately \$38 million in funds

that support women entrepreneurs in Indonesia, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, and other Asian countries, as well as in efforts geared toward improving their access to financial services.

As a pioneering practitioner of GLI, we also aim to testify to the effectiveness of this investment strategy by evaluating both its impact on financial returns and end beneficiaries.



Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program

Forging a Future of Lasting Peace and Mutual Understanding

Upon its establishment in 1989, the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund became one of the largest private funds bridging Japan and China. This program has built upon those foundations ever since, inheriting the fund's philosophy of "promoting understanding, nurturing talent, and furthering cooperation to shape the future." As part of this effort, we have been and continue aspiring to engender greater understanding between the peoples of Japan and China as we work to facilitate an environment conducive to constructive cooperation. Currently, we center our work around three pillars: first, organizing people-to-people exchanges and dialogues between Japan and China; second, sharing information and nurturing an environment that can foster greater mutual understanding; and third, sharing experiences and collaborating to encourage socioeconomic development in both countries.

Pillars of Our Work

1. Facilitating People-to-People Exchanges and Dialogues

The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program seeks to encourage respect and harmonious coexistence between the citizens of Japan and China, organizing an ever-expanding array of opportunities for our peoples to learn different aspects about each other and form close connections. Similarly, the program forges various communication channels between the two countries by, for example, facilitating exchanges between youth leaders in various fields.

2. Supplying Informational Materials and Nurturing a Cooperative Environment to Encourage Mutual Understanding

The program supplies opportunities for experts, members of the media, and other specialists from Japan and China to engage in high-caliber intellectual exchanges, provides platforms for sharing objective information in both countries, and nurtures an environment conducive to cooperation. We supplement these initiatives with our continued efforts to encourage true understanding between our peoples through publications, website updates, social media posts, and other communications directed at audiences of both countries.

3. Sharing Experiences and Fostering Cooperation to Encourage Socioeconomic Development in Both Japan and China

We strive to encourage the resolution of social issues our countries face by arranging opportunities for people to share their experiences and learn from each other's examples. Subsequently, we compile the results of these discussions and share them widely with Japanese and Chinese audiences.

Program Themes Include:

- Inviting Chinese Journalists and Opinion Leaders to Visit Japan
- Exchange Projects for Masters of Traditional Arts and Crafts
- Field Officer Exchanges
- Leveraging Communication Tools in Japan and China to Share Information

People-to-People Connections

■ Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program

This project organizes regular exchange visits between mid-level defense officials in the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Chinese People's Liberation Army. It originally ran for 12 years from 2001 to 2012, then resumed operation in 2018. During these visits, which are designed to help deepen mutual understanding, participants visit army, naval, and air force bases, attend lectures on defense policies, make courtesy calls to defense officials, tour businesses and agricultural villages, and receive cultural and historical trainings. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, all such meetings have moved online.



On October 29, 2021, SPF and the China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CISS) hosted an event titled "The First Japan-China Military Commanders Online Exchange Meeting," which featured senior officers from the Japan Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces as well as the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

■ Exchange Projects for Masters of Traditional Arts and Crafts

In collaboration with the Shanghai Eon Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Foundation, Japan Kōgei Association, and the Kyoto Culture Association, this project seeks to promote traditional arts and crafts in Japan and China by facilitating exchanges between master artisans in both countries.



Masters of traditional Chinese arts engage with lacquer ware artist and Preserver of Important Intangible Cultural Properties, Mr. Kazumi Murose.

■ Japanese and Chinese Expert Engagement

SPF creates multiple channels for private sector exchange through this program so that leaders in diverse fields can engage in thoughtful dialogue. We further utilize these same avenues to share information and knowledge to promote mutual understanding between our two nations.

Scene from an online webinar hosted on January 20, 2022, entitled "Real Estate Market Trends and the Chinese Economy." Clockwise from top-left: Kang Jia, President, China Academy of New Supply-side Economics; Toshiya Tsugami, Adjunct Fellow, Japan Institute for International Affairs; and Zhixing Zhou, Chair of The U.S.-China New Perspective Foundation.



Investing in Talent

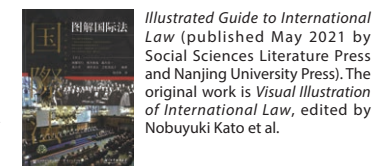
■ Training Teachers of Japanese Language in Remote Areas of China

In collaboration with the China Education Association for International Exchange and the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies, this project provides online training for Japanese instructors in rural areas of China, investing in the development of the teachers who will mold and inherit the future of cooperation between Japan and China.

Information Sharing

■ Supporting the Translation and Publication of Japanese Books

This program supports the translation and distribution through seven Chinese publishing houses of a curated selection of Japanese-language books carefully chosen by Japanese and Chinese experts.



Illustrated Guide to International Law (published May 2021 by Social Sciences Literature Press and Nanjing University Press). The original work is *Visual Illustration of International Law*, edited by Nobuyuki Kato et al.

■ Sharing Information Online

Through the Chinese news website "People's Daily Online," SPF publishes interviews on individuals who have contributed to relations between Japan and China and other related articles. We also use our dedicated media account on China's WeChat, "Japan at a Glance," to publish articles penned by prominent Chinese writers living in Japan that delve into Japanese social affairs from a variety of angles.



The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program's media account, "Japan at a Glance"



Chinese news website "People's Daily Online"

50 Years of Japan-China Relations

■ A Review of the 50 Years of Japan-China Relations (1972-2022) and Future Perspectives

This initiative will publish research results summarizing the 50-year history of relations between Japan and China. The report, to be released in both countries, will also consider future prospects for the relationship. Additionally, SPF established the "21st Century Japan-China Relations Study Group" through this project and hosted discussions touching on many topics including international relations as well as economic, social, and historical themes.

■ A Summary of Private-Sector Diplomacy Between Japan and China

Another publishing venture, this project will produce a book to be released in Japan and China that will shine a spotlight on people in the private sector whose lives have been impacted by the normalization of diplomatic relations. In addition, it will map out a comprehensive overview of such private-sector engagement.

■ Japan-China Relations in 2050

Through this project, SPF will conduct research and studies exploring the future of Japan-China relations.



Ocean Policy Research Institute

Pioneers for a Sustainable Ocean

Developing an Innovative Ocean Governance

As a Think, Do, and Innovate-Tank, the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) takes a comprehensive view on a wide range of ocean-related issues, analyzing challenges through a scientific approach that integrates the natural and social sciences as well as the humanities. We propose feasible strategies to serve as reference for policymakers in the international community and strive to engender an environment conducive to making these policies a reality. At OPRI, we are committed to using policy research approaches to assist in resolving the myriad marine challenges we face and help establish a new ocean governance so that we may ensure future generations can enjoy healthy waters for years to come.

Pillars of Our Work

1. The Blue Economy

OPRI conducts policy research on the Blue Economy, a framework that assesses the value and risks associated with ocean-related economic pursuits and attempts to balance sustainable use with conservation of marine and coastal resources. By championing initiatives such as ocean-derived carbon credits and scenario-based analyses of marine industry development, we aim to promote a sustainable and more resilient ocean economy.

2. The Oceans and the Environment

We work to ensure the ocean takes center stage in international rule-making forums by incorporating key marine issues into international treaties. OPRI also conducts research and presents policy proposals on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, thereby helping further relevant domestic and international discussions.

3. Ocean Governance

As we continuously update our understanding of the various phenomena occurring in oceans around the globe, OPRI seeks to propose a new form of ocean governance, which can ensure stable and sustainable utilization of our world's ocean.

4. Ocean Science — Illuminating the Oceans from Underwater and from Space

OPRI believes we must integrate innovations that shed light on the hidden depths of the world's oceans with data on every ocean collected via space to bring about the realization of a marine Society 5.0. Additionally, we propose strategies for efficient observation systems and information collection measures that can assist in finding solutions to ocean issues.

5. Ocean Education and Investing in Scholars

In schools throughout Japan, OPRI provides education support to encourage greater understanding of the connection humanity shares with the oceans. These initiatives double as opportunities to cultivate talented individuals who can one day go on to join marine conservation efforts and help foster sustainable ocean development and utilization. Likewise, we sponsor scholarships at World Maritime University to nurture international talent and networks connecting people around the globe.

6. Sharing the Depths of Our Knowledge and Capacity Building

OPRI is committed to helping formulate international ocean policymaking and spread awareness about the oceans. To this end, we publicize information that draws from our research and policy proposals via diverse communication outlets such as our websites, publications, and events.

1. The Blue Economy

Many of our initiatives center on the Blue Economy, a framework for economic growth through the sustainable use of marine resources. This system quantifies the economic benefits and drawbacks to aspects of ocean development as well as damage from disasters such as tsunamis. Through this lens, we aim to help devise a pathway for sustainable use and conservation of the oceans that takes into account international perspectives from countries and regions such as Japan, the Asia-Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Africa.

Initiatives Include:

- **Establishing Carbon Credit Frameworks:** OPRI aims to establish a framework for the creation and trading of carbon credits that includes not only initiatives that absorb carbon, but also those that stimulate biodiversity and purify water as well. Similarly, we work to highlight the potential value in regenerating macroalgal beds and mangrove forests in Japan and abroad.
- **Quantifying Ocean Industry Interactions and Ripple Effects:** We quantify the complex interactions among marine industries to devise and propose policies aimed at producing the most effective economic ripple effects. At the same time, this work allows us to grasp the detrimental impacts discarded fishing gear inflicts on local economies.
- **Efforts to Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing:** OPRI aims to expedite the elimination of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and harmful subsidies by drawing from empirical analyses to promote research projects that examine topics such as an international framework for cooperation, the introduction of certification systems, and means for ensuring traceability.

2. The Oceans and the Environment

OPRI studies ocean-based mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change, coastal communities' resilience to its effects, and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the high seas. From these studies, we then formulate appropriate policy proposals to be shared in both domestic and international forums.

Initiatives Include:

- **Participating in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:** Through this forum, OPRI calls attention to the problems caused by ocean warming and acidification afflicting oceans and coastal zones, while furthering the international debate on themes such as harnessing marine renewable energy, climate-induced migration issues, and coastal adaption to climate change.
- **Furthering the Development of an International BBNJ Legal Instrument:** Our institute carries out research in order to contribute to the development of a new legally binding international instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which would regulate the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).
- **Resilience Indicators and Management Case Studies:** As part of our pursuit to foster sustainable marine environments, OPRI develops climate change resilience indicators for coastal areas and researches sustainable Satoumi-style management case studies.
- **Blue Finance Research:** We design and conduct innovative research on topics such as the application of Blue Finance, a mechanism for fundraising for sustainable ocean usage, as well as marine plastic pollution.



3. Ocean Governance

Extreme shifts in the world's natural environments and the diplomatic and security landscapes are generating what we call "Blue Infinity Loops." OPRI executes research studies on the Indo-Pacific and Arctic regions in an effort to formulate proposals relating to the new type of ocean governance these interconnected belts now demand.

Initiatives Include:

- **Proposing East Asian Ocean Governance Policies and Anti-IUU Strategies:** We present policy proposals to address specific issues such as the type of ocean governance needed for East Asian waters and the greater Indo-Pacific region, as well as strategies for combatting IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) fishing.
- **Publishing Results and Networks:** By sharing the results of our studies, we seek to help build a network of scientific institutions and specialized organizations in Japan and abroad, as well as establish a system of ocean governance that incorporates matters of maritime security.
- **Reliable Primary Data Collection and Analyses:** OPRI underpins the maintenance of the maritime order by collecting reliable primary data to serve as reference for addressing the multiple challenges island nations face, then producing and publishing analyses of these issues from an international legal perspective.



The 8th Maritime Security Symposium, "Challenges and Prospects for Maritime Defense Forces Responding to Climate Change" held on October 25, 2021.

4. Ocean Science — Illuminating the Oceans from Underwater and from Space

Our institute strives to promote the digitalization of the oceans, which has fallen far behind corresponding land efforts. This push includes proposing a new system for capturing real-time maritime conditions in order to expedite the realization of Society 5.0, where big data can be utilized to both sustainably develop the world's ocean economies and resolve the problems afflicting them.

Initiatives Include:

- **Proposing Accurate Marine Observation Systems and Data Collection Methods:** In addition to sharing existing platforms in the Sea of Japan and collating the data they gather, we draw from the latest remote sensing technologies and our research on secure and open data management to develop proposals for surveillance systems and information collection methods that accurately assess ocean conditions.
- **Championing AIS (Automatic Identification Systems):** OPRI encourages the use and widespread adoption of the next-generation of AIS monitoring networks, which enable a bi-directional flow of information to and from all the world's oceans. We also conduct research and corroborate the validity of efforts to achieve safe and secure marine traffic as well as space-based marine surveillance. Using the results of these studies, we then propose new communication and observation systems that link the oceans and space.
- **Charting Marine Strategies Over the Years:** Our institute carries out textual analyses to bring to light the measures taken by marine stakeholders. As seen in our "Fisheries White Paper" and "Environment White Paper," we apply machine-learning methods to extract topics of interest and map annual changes in such initiatives over the past 12 years.



5. Dialogues on Ocean Policy

OPRI facilitates dialogues on ocean policy with decision-makers and a wide range of stakeholders, harnessing multilateral and bilateral frameworks to ensure effective discussions. Additionally, we strive to bolster networks dedicated to assessing, analyzing, and implementing policies on the myriad challenges facing the oceans.

Initiatives Include:

- **Analyzing Ocean Policy Dialogues:** We closely follow the movements and trends in major multilateral forums such as the Our Ocean Conference, the UN Ocean Conference, and the World Ocean Summit. OPRI takes advantage of these symposiums to share our knowledge of the Asia-Pacific region as well.
- **Fortifying Networks:** We aim to strengthen the networks connecting Japan to countries including the UK, Palau, Indonesia, and Norway through dialogues that promote joint projects to address common maritime policy initiatives and encourage collaboration.
- **Advancing Arctic Policies:** We focus on Japan's Arctic policies and strategic use of Arctic research vessels, facilitating spaces to share different viewpoints and explore these topics. Collaboration is key: we nurture and seek to expand existing cooperative relationships with Iceland and other Arctic Council member nations, and join forces with think tanks overseas to conduct joint research on the Arctic as well.

6. Ocean Education and Capacity Building

OPRI supports diverse ocean-based scholastic activities throughout schools in Japan through the Ocean Education Pioneer School Program. We also promote the development of international human resources and the formation of human networks in ocean-related fields.

Initiatives Include:

- **The Ocean Education Pioneer School Program:** We support educational activities that incorporate the ocean to expand and explore new ways to teach children about the ocean while nurturing their attributes and abilities as they inherit the future. The program is conducted in collaboration with The Nippon Foundation and the Center for Marine Education, Graduate School of Education, the University of Tokyo.
- **World Maritime University (WMU) Sasakawa Fellowship:** OPRI sponsors fellowships for students at World Maritime University (WMU) and serves as the secretariat for the Friends of WMU, Japan, which supports alumni networking. Graduates of this program often go on to work for their home countries' governments, educational institutions, and other organizations, and take advantage of their influential positions to become proactive leaders in ocean-related fields.



Turning to the sea to expand educational opportunities.



WMU Sasakawa Scholars visiting the Port of Kobe in 2019.

7. Sharing the Depths of Our Knowledge

We share our research, policy proposals, and a wide variety of ocean-related information via our websites, blogs, printed materials, events, and other outlets.

Publications and Events Include:

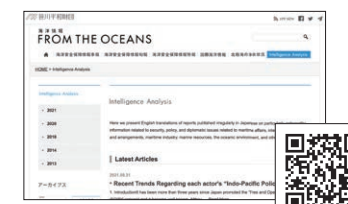
- **"White Paper on the Oceans":** A comprehensive, cross-sectional annual summary of domestic and international developments regarding the oceans, published in both Japanese and English.
- **"The Ocean Newsletter":** A bi-monthly bulletin first published in August 2000 that features articles penned by experts from Japan and abroad and provides the latest news in ocean fields.
- **"OPRI Perspectives":** This series of articles and commentaries, authored mainly by in-house OPRI researchers and published irregularly online, analyzes ocean developments in Japan and abroad.
- **Ocean Forum:** Organized roughly once a month, these topical panels feature guest experts who explore specific ocean-related themes of social concern.
- **Publications including the book series, *A Study of Our Ties to the Sea*, and other examinations of ocean governance issues including research papers in the "Ocean Policy Studies" series and analytical reports in the "Maritime Security Intelligence Quarterly."**



Ocean Policy Research Institute Satellite Sites



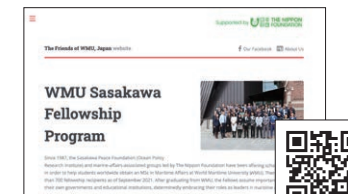
The Center for Island Studies
<https://www.spf.org/islandstudies/>



From the Oceans
https://www.spf.org/oceans/analysis_en



Ocean Education Pioneer School Program
<https://www.spf.org/pioneerschool/>



Friends of WMU (World Maritime University), Japan
<https://www.wmu-japan.net/>

Pacific Island Nations Program

Facilitating Mutual Understanding Between Pacific Island Countries and Japan and Contributing to the Stability and Prosperity of the Pacific Islands Region Through Research and Practice on the Ground

Since the establishment of the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund in 1989, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation has been implementing exchanges and human resource development programs with the aim of contributing to the stability and prosperity of the Pacific islands region. Since April 2022, as the Pacific Island Nations Program Team in the Ocean Policy Research Institute, the Pacific Island Nations Program has been working on regional situation analysis, maritime security, sustainable tourism, human resource development, the evolution of the Pacific Island Leaders Summit (PALM), and collaboration between industry, academia, and the private sector, aiming to build a multilayered and strategic relationship between Pacific island countries and Japan.

Projects Include:

- Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region III
- Enhancement of Public-Private Partnership for Upgrading Japan's Strategy Toward Pacific Islands Region
- Economic Revitalization in Pacific Island Communities by Boosting Community Based Tourism
- Building a Foundation of Human Relationships Between Pacific Islands and Japan for Future Generation

Pillars of Our Work

1. Paving the Way for Enhanced Governance and Security of the Oceans

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Republic of Palau, The Nippon Foundation, and SPF in February 2016, the foundation provides a range of support to strengthen maritime security capacity in the Republic of Palau. As part of these activities, SPF provides salary supplements to Palau's marine law enforcement officers in charge of the operation of patrol vessels and small patrol boats granted by The Nippon Foundation, and conducts technical training in collaboration with the Japan Coast Guard Mobile Corporation Team and Japan Association of Marine Safety.

2. Achieving Sustainable Societies

With the support of The Nippon Foundation, the Pacific Island Nations Program is working with the national government, state governments, and people in the local communities in Palau to introduce a management method based on tourism carrying capacity surveys and community-based ecotourism. By spreading this initiative to Pacific islands regions as a practical model for sustainable tourism, the Pacific Island Nations Program aims to help stimulate recovery of island societies whose vitality has been reduced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Bolstering Ties Between Pacific Island Countries and Japan

The Pacific Island Nations Program aims to build a multi-layered, strategic relationship between Pacific island countries and Japan based on mutual understanding. To this end, the program analyzes regional situations and facilitates candid dialogues with the national governments, regional organizations, and intellectuals in the Pacific islands region and Japan, in order to evolve the Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM) and strengthen cooperation between industry, academia, and the private sector.

4. Passing Down Records and Memories and Rebuilding Interpersonal Networks

In order to pass down records and memories of the relationships between the Pacific island countries and Japan to future generations, the Pacific Island Nations Program promotes various forms of people-to-people exchange that bridge the generations, including internships, visiting fellowships, and the Pacific Island Students Assembly in Japan.

Recent Topics

For the first time in two years, the Pacific Island Nations Program resumed its community-based eco-tourism initiatives, which had been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Towards a better post-COVID-19 recovery (Scene of an experiential tour in Aimeliik State, Palau, in April 2022).



Foundation Profile

Name The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)

Date of Establishment September 1, 1986

October 2011: Transitioned to Public Interest Incorporated Foundation

April 1, 2015: Merged with the Ship & Ocean Foundation

Objectives

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation is dedicated to responding to changes in the world's natural and social environments caused by human activity. We are also committed to working toward ensuring the healthy and sustainable development of the increasingly stratified and complex societies around the world. We aim to contribute to the welfare of humankind by leveraging the unique freedoms afforded to us as a private organization to pursue innovative ideas and methods for conducting research, presenting policy recommendations, advocating for international cooperation and exchange, and formulating a new governance system for humanity that encompasses all the world's oceans and lands.

Description of Activities

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, SPF directly engages in or provides assistance to parties who carry out the following initiatives:

- (1) Research and information sharing efforts geared toward solving issues facing human society.
- (2) Provide training resources, create exchange opportunities, and build people-to-people networks to help solve societal issues.
- (3) Conduct research and publicize recommendations on new governance systems to regulate human society.
- (4) Carry out innovative studies and R&D efforts on maritime affairs.
- (5) Promote international understanding, exchange, and cooperation.
- (6) Convene conferences and special events related to items (1)-(5).
- (7) Gather and distribute information and present policy recommendations concerning items (1)-(5).
- (8) Facility rentals.
- (9) Other projects required to achieve our objectives.

Endowment 74,478,023,733 yen*

Special Assets 76,695,578,041 yen*

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for Operating Expenses 5,662,970,000 yen*

(*as of March 31, 2022)

Contact and Access

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

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105-8524, Japan

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Fax: +81-3-5157-5420

Email: spfpr@spf.or.jp



Get off at Toranomon Station on the Tokyo Metro Ginza Line.
About 1 minute walk using Exits 2b, 4, or 12.

Board Members (As of June 29, 2022)

Councilors

Kiyotaka Akasaka	Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
Takeju Ogata	President, The Nippon Foundation
Hideki Kato	President, Japan Initiative
Atsuko Kanehara	Professor, Sophia University
Nobuko Kayashima	Advisor to the Executive Director/Senior Research Advisor, JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development

Eiko Kono	Former Chairman, Recruit Co., Ltd
Tatsuo Sekine	Director, The Yomiuri Shimbun Holdings
Kaoru Nakata	Executive Director, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
Yohei Sasakawa	Chairman, The Nippon Foundation

Honorary Chairman

Trustees	President	Atsushi Sunami	
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		Tamaki Ura	Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
		Shigeki Sakamoto	President, Center for Human Rights Education and Training
Auditors		Kaoru Hattori	Attorney at Law
		Satoshi Sugawara	Executive Director, Blue Sea and Green Land Foundation
		Sadahiko Yoshimura	Certified Public Accountant

E-Newsletter and Social Media Information

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation regularly shares updates on our activities via our e-newsletter and social media accounts, which can be accessed using the links or QR codes below. Please follow us to learn more.



E-Newsletter Registration

<https://www.spf.org/en/spfnews/e-magazine/subscription.html>



Official Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SasakawaPeaceFoundation>



Official LinkedIn

<https://linkedin.com/company/sasakawapeacefoundation>



Official Twitter

https://twitter.com/SPF_PR



Official YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/spfnews>



Official Website

www.spf.org/en/



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