



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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Japan-U.S. Program

A Hub of People, Ideas, and Information: Contributing to Develop a New Japan-U.S. Relationship, Facing a Rapidly 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., explore a new Japan-U.S. relationship in response to the changes of the U.S. and international community, and build a resilient 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 our 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 information 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 Networks of Experts, Practitioners, and Organizations Within the Japan-U.S. Policy Community

We work to develop dynamic intellectual cooperation by proactively promoting and facilitating intellectual exchanges and dialogue among experts and organizations of Japan and the United States. Our program strives to connect stakeholders within the policy community, such as researchers and congressional personnel, and encourage the involvement of new individuals and organizations with diverse perspectives into the community. Through this effort, we aim to bolster dialogue in 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 Rapid Change

We collaborate with experts to conduct objective and comprehensive research on topics including 1) the position of the U.S. in the international community, 2) politics, social issues, diplomatic/security policies of the U.S., and 3) Japan-U.S. relations, and our relations with countries and regions important for both countries. We also endeavor to maintain and evolve frameworks for dialogues and discussions among young and mid-career experts.

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

The diverse wisdom, knowledge, and information that serve as the foundation for Japan-U.S. contributions to the world, have been generated through our research and studies based on dialogue at various levels and in cooperation with experts. We disseminate them domestically and internationally in a variety of formats, including seminars, reports, videos, and audio recordings, that are in tune with the times.

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

Recent Topics

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

Our program conducts a variety of projects, including the “Japan-U.S. Network of Policy Research and Dialogue” and “Japan-U.S. Congressional Strategic Network.” In addition to study trip projects welcoming American experts (researchers, members of Congress, former government officials, and other practitioners), we also conduct fellowships for Japanese professionals and training programs for young strategists.

■ U.S. Congressional Delegation Visits Japan (February 2023)

Seven House members of the U.S. Congress visited Japan and met with political and business leaders in Tokyo and Hiroshima during their one-week stay.



Courtesy visit to SPF Honorary Chair Yohei Sasakawa.

■ Young Strategists Forum (January 2023)

We work with the German Marshall Fund of the United States to foster young strategists, mainly in Japan and the U.S. but also across Asia and Europe, and provide opportunities for them to deepen their understanding of the role of the Japan-U.S. alliance in the Indo-Pacific region. In January, for the first time in four years, participants selected through an open application process participated in the week-long program. A total of over 100 young strategists have participated in the program over the past 10 years, and many now play an active role in their own countries.



2. Research and Analysis

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).

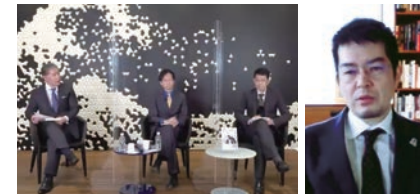
3. Disseminating Expert Information

Through our satellite site “Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations,” we seek to provide a wide range of perspectives and insights on the Japan-U.S. relationship by sharing our research and study outcomes including essays, policy recommendations, analyses, project reports, as well as a monograph series. In addition, we host public seminars and webinars on critical topics, and make and share original video and audio programs such as interviews and expert discussions. We also have started to share information through our program’s Twitter account and new podcast channel.

■ Webinars, Videos, and Audio

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).



Online dialogue entitled “Great Power Politics and ASEAN: U.S.-China Rivalry and the Changing International Order in the View of Southeast Asia” (December 6, 2022) between Professor Mie Oba of Kanagawa University [left] and Associate Professor Kei Koga of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore [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



East-West Center/
Sasakawa Peace
Foundation
“Japan Matters for
America/America
Matters for Japan”
4th Edition
(published by East-
West Center and SPF
Japan-U.S. Program,
February 2023)



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



*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 considering the challenges that have been laid bare by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We will also proactively share information on current developments and emerging issues in the fields 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 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

Recent Topics

1. Research Aimed at Producing Policy Recommendations

The Security Studies Program conducts a wide range of research, with a particular emphasis on a potential crisis in the Taiwan Strait. In addition, we collaborate on research with countries vital to maintaining stability in the greater Indo-Pacific region and examine the security policies which 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 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



"Protection of Nuclear Facilities and Japan's Role — In Response to Russian Invasion of Ukraine and Attacks on Nuclear Power Plants —"
(February 2023)



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

Urgent Recommendations



"Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Challenges in the Civilian Use of Nuclear Energy and Japan's Role"
(June 2022)

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)

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.



We held a symposium, which focused on security in Okinawa, entitled "War in Ukraine and Japan's New National Security Strategy" in Naha, Okinawa (March 4, 2023).



As part of the "Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries" project, the Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Defense and SPF Honorary Chair Yohei Sasakawa reaffirmed their commitment to regional peace and stability (November 2021).

3. Sharing Insights

Through our four 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.

Seminars and Symposiums

- SPF China Observer Open Forum (regularly held since FY 2017)
- Cybersecurity Seminars (regularly held since FY 2017)
- Symposium entitled "The EU as a Maritime Security Actor in the Indo-Pacific: In the Context of the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership" (co-hosted with EU Delegation to Japan), featuring Mr. Kimitake Nakamura (Deputy Director General, European Affairs Bureau, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Vice Admiral José M. Núñez Torrente (EU NAVFOR Somalia Operation ATALANTA Commander and Vice Admiral of the Spanish Navy), Mr. Yoshimitsu Morihiro (Senior Operations Coordinator, Joint Staff, Japan Ministry of Defense), Ambassador Michael Pulch (Senior Coordinator, EU Coordinated Maritime Presence North West Indian Ocean) and Mr. Ippeita Nishida (SPF Senior Research Fellow) (March 16, 2023).
- Seminar entitled "The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference: The Increasingly Difficult International Security Environment and the Future of Nuclear Disarmament" featuring Professor Tatsujiro Suzuki (Deputy Director, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA)), Mr. Masakatsu Ota (Editorial Committee Member, Kyodo News), and Mr. Yuki Kobayashi (SPF Research Fellow) (September 22, 2022).



SPF China Observer Open Forum entitled "Satellite Image Analysis – Current State of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and Concerns Going Forward" (November 4, 2022). From left: Mr. Bonji Ohara (SPF Senior Fellow), Mr. Yuki Kobayashi (SPF Research Fellow), and Mr. Yu Koizumi (Project Research Associate, Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo).

Satellite Sites



International Information Network Analysis: IINA
<https://www.spf.org/iina/en/>





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





Japan-U.S. Alliance Study
<https://www.spf.org/japan-us-alliance-study/en/>





Japan-US-Taiwan Security Research
<https://www.spf.org/japan-us-taiwan-research/en/>



Scholarship Program

Nurturing Future Leaders by Providing Opportunities for Outstanding Young People to Study Abroad

Confronted with issues such as COVID-19 and climate change, the international community has begun to reevaluate its socioeconomic system and other institutions. As these new structures emerge, we want to develop the next generation of leaders from Japan who can be active on the world stage. To this end, in FY 2022, SPF established the Scholarship Program*. This program seeks to provide students who are interested in social issues and who otherwise would not be able to study abroad with the opportunity to acquire the critical knowledge and experience that enables them to play active roles in the future. Our mission in providing these scholarships is to support young people to lead the future of the international community and Japan.

Scholarship Program Satellite Site



Please visit our website for details about the Scholarship Program, including application guidelines and other notices. We also accept inquiries and applications online.
[URL] <https://scholarship.spf.org/en/>

Pillars of Our Work

1. Increasing the Number of Japanese People Studying Abroad

Many students in rural areas of Japan do not see attending university overseas as an option due to a lack of information or the absence of role models for studying abroad. Moreover, very few people with disabilities have the opportunity to study at top universities in the U.S. or the U.K. Faced with this situation, we aim to increase the number of Japanese students studying abroad. To realize this goal, we hold information sessions in rural areas, provide information on our website, and follow up afterwards.

2. Operation of the Scholarship Program

We have established the application, selection, and operating structure to facilitate the smooth implementation of this program.

3. Caring for Scholarship Recipients

In addition to providing preparatory sessions and training camps, we also established a support system for scholarship recipients while they are studying overseas.

4. Creating Communities of Scholarship Recipients

We create forums and networks for scholarship recipients to share information and interact. We hope that in the future, our scholarship recipients will continue to use these networks for exchange across their respective fields, giving rise to even more groundbreaking initiatives.

5. Research and Analysis of Study Abroad Outcomes

We will collect, examine, and analyze a wide range of data about the outcomes of this study abroad initiative to help us improve the operation of the program.

Recent Topics

■ Information Sessions on the Scholarship Program

We held online information sessions in the summer and winter of 2022, as well as in-person sessions in Hokkaido, Okayama, Tottori, and Tokushima.

■ FY 2022 (Fall) Selection

From August to October 2022, we received applications for the first round of scholarships, shortlisted and interviewed the applicants, and selected potential recipients.



An information session in Tokushima in November 2022.

*This scholarship program consists of payments covering all expenses (including tuition, dormitory fees, return travel expenses, living costs, etc.) associated with obtaining a bachelor's degree from a selection of universities in the U.S. or the U.K. The program accepts applications twice yearly. Please refer to our website for details.



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 our position as a private organization to implement projects with unique ideas, methods, and mobility for solidarity and cooperation with the peoples of Asia and the Middle East. Together with these partners, we aim to establish stronger leadership in Japan and throughout these regions, and contribute to the development of peaceful, inclusive, and diverse societies by building a human-centered social model.

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:

- Asian Statespersons' Forum (ASF)
- Study on Japan-India Strategic Dialogue
- Dialogue and Resonance in Asia
- Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of Northeast India
- Imphal Peace Museum Project
- Building a Model for Intercultural Societies in the Age of New Immigration
- Climate-induced Displacement and Responses
- Building Strategic Middle Eastern Networks
- The True Picture of Islam in Japanese Society
- Advocating International Collaboration on Middle Eastern Research

| Our Approach in Asia |

1. Enhancing Networks and the Pursuit of Knowledge

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

■ Asian Statespersons' Forum (ASF)

The geopolitical importance of Southeast Asian countries is rising. They represent key partners for Japan in its efforts to realize a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," which requires deeper cooperation and collaboration. In this project, we support dialogue and the establishment of relationships built on trust between political leaders in Southeast Asian countries and Japan to contribute to achieving stability and peace for the regional community.

■ Study on Japan-India Strategic Dialogue

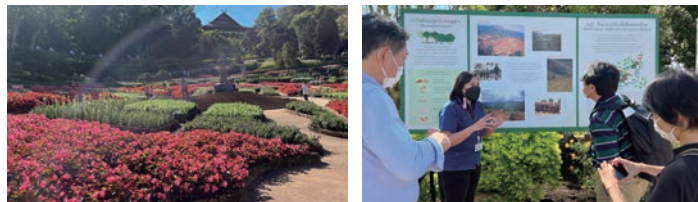
In a rapidly destabilizing world, the relationship between Japan and India is becoming increasingly important. This project seeks to create opportunities to deepen understanding and trust through direct dialogue between the political leaders of the two countries with the aim of bolstering mutual understanding and strengthening the bilateral relationship. To this end, we are implementing trial initiatives and collecting and analyzing information to establish relevant frameworks.

■ 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 identities rooted in the various cultural backgrounds and histories of the region, we promote diverse discussions and people-to-people exchanges aimed at achieving a peaceful society in Asia.



An expert conference held at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University in March 2023. Participants discussed the post-pandemic international situation from an Asian perspective, based on the results of surveys carried out in the Philippines and Indonesia.



Field survey of a poverty reduction project in the Doi Tung region of northeastern Thailand in December 2022.

2. Making Inclusive Societies a Reality

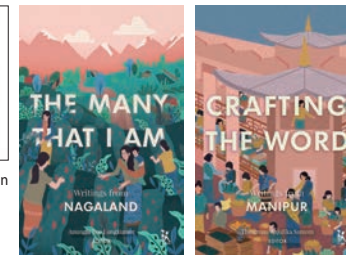
The Asian region boasts long and storied traditions of rich diversity and coexistence. Our team strives to emphasize these shared histories as we work to advance the development of inclusive and symbiotic societies that value the voices of their most marginalized populations.

■ 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.

■ Building Models Toward an Inclusive Society in Asia

In the new age of migration, the world is seeing 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 models that combine self-help and mutual-aid components, drawing on the experiences of local communities in Japan and foreign residents themselves. By promoting close cooperation between sending and receiving countries within Asia, as well as communicating information and creating forums for dialogue to encourage widespread implementation of the aforementioned models, we endeavor to contribute to the creation of an inclusive society that includes foreign residents and workers.

In March 2023, we held a public forum in Nagoya to encourage discussion between Filipinos in Japan, their supporters, and representatives of the Philippines government.



We supported the publication of a handbook for living in Japanese society created by KAKEHASHI, an organization that supports Filipinos living in Japan and people with roots in the Philippines.

Recent Topics

■ Climate-caused Migration and Countermeasures

We conduct research into the needs of climate refugees and people who have been forced to relocate due to natural disasters, climate change, or other environmental changes in the Asia, then work to identify the issues faced by the communities that receive these people. We also make policy proposals regarding inclusive adaptation and other measures to address climate change based on Japan's experience in disaster prevention and mitigation.

| 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, including Türkiye. With the easing of COVID-19 border restrictions in FY 2022, we have also recommenced our international activities.



We welcomed a delegation of students from the School of International Relations (SIR), an institution affiliated with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to Japan.



Short-term overseas training for Japanese students in Iran.



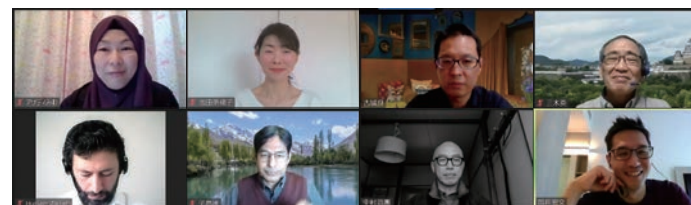
We welcomed members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye to Japan to participate in a seminar.

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.

■ Research on Muslims in Japanese Society

This project seeks to identify the challenges faced by local communities in Japan when working toward social harmony as the number of Muslim residents continues to grow. In addition, we also forecast 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.



We held the online public symposium "Creating Together: Imagining a Society That's Comfortable for All." This provided an opportunity to promote an accurate understanding of Muslims in Japan.

3. Cultivating Talent in Middle Eastern Studies

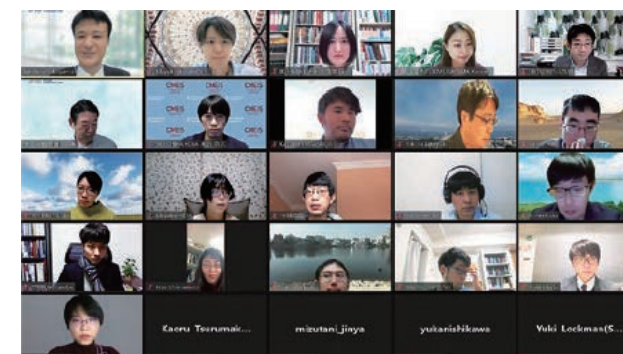
We believe cultivating the next generation of Middle Eastern Studies scholars will help produce novel insights on the region. As such, our department provides opportunities for young researchers specializing in the Middle East to carry out research, then helps them publish and share their results.

■ 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.

■ 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. New Directions for Peace Processes

Drawing on experiences of conflict resolution and peacebuilding from around the world as well as international trends in theories on peace mediation and conciliation, this program seeks to engage in establishing and promoting inclusive peace processes, with a particular focus on the Deep South of Thailand. We will also share our bottom-up model of our long-term engagement in the Deep South of Thailand with the international community.

2. Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda

More than two decades have passed since the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, acknowledging the gendered impact of war and conflict, and the significant role played by women for conflict resolution, peacemaking and peacebuilding, and various initiatives taken by the UN, member states and civil society. However, the initially expected transformation has not yet been realized. We seek to investigate how women can strengthen the decision-making process and promote gender equality in conflict-affected regions, consider how to support local initiatives as an external partner and other grassroots initiatives, and share insights gained from this experience with the international community.

3. Violent Extremism and De-radicalization

Since the September 11th terrorist attacks on the U.S., there has been a proliferation of initiatives for de-radicalization as a soft approach to the "war on terror" around the world. These efforts have had a range of impacts, both positive and negative, on conflict regions. We believe it is necessary to propose an evidence-based program founded on the analysis of each region's unique context and the background of radicalization processes of targeted groups. We will design a pilot program together with our local partners and share the results internationally.

Project Themes Include:

- New Directions for Peace Processes
- Addressing Violent Extremism and De-radicalization
- Contextualized Initiatives for WPS Agenda

Recent Topics

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. For fiscal year 2022-2023, we worked with the Muslim Attorney Center in the Deep South of Thailand to conduct a training called “Kalam Rakyat” (People’s Voices) with half of the participants being women, to train them on leadership and peacebuilding. In addition, we worked with local women’s groups in this conflict area to raise public awareness on the importance of women’s role in peacebuilding.

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 conduct research on the relationship among gender equality, peacebuilding, and masculinities. In 2022, we collected quantitative (more than 6,000 men and women) and qualitative data on perceptions of gender roles, masculinities, violence, and peacebuilding to present the significance of a masculinity lens in promoting the WPS agenda and context-specific knowledge to enhance the impact of outside intervention. We are planning to launch the results of this research in the U.S. and three field localities in late 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

The promotion of gender equality is a human rights goal common to all human societies. It is also a powerful way to resolve social challenges we face today. Through leveraging finance and providing support for entrepreneurs, we aim to further the economic empowerment of women in Asia, raise the status and build the capabilities of women to close the gender gap. We will also explore emerging possibilities and inclusiveness in economic activities in this new era brought about by digitalization and the rise of innovation, and search for ways to utilize the power of women to resolve social challenges.

Pillars of Our Work

1. Closing Gender Gaps Through the Power of Finance

The Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF) champions the use of finance to create social impact in pursuit of gender equality and the economic empowerment of women. We also seek to validate the effectiveness of this initiative in helping to resolve gender issues by managing the fund and measuring its impact. By sharing the experience and insights gained through AWIF, we contribute to directing fund flows to accelerate the realization of gender equality, especially in Asia.

2. Bolstering an Inclusive Entrepreneurial Support Ecosystem that Includes Women Entrepreneurs and Beyond

Given the central role of entrepreneurial activities for the economic empowerment of women in Southeast Asia, we seek to strengthen an inclusive entrepreneurial support ecosystem that includes women entrepreneurs and beyond. Together with investors and Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (ESOs), we are working to enhance the abilities of women entrepreneurs through online platforms, seek out innovative financing methods, provide inclusive assistance for entrepreneurs that does not exclude women, and improve access to business environments and resources for women entrepreneurs.

3. Realizing Inclusive Societies and Economies in a New Era

In this new era of economic activity driven by climate change, the destabilization of the international community, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we seek to help eliminate the current disparities and work toward closing the gender gap, while also conducting research into opportunities to use women's power more proactively to achieve inclusive and sustainable societies. We will explore funding mechanisms to enable social entrepreneurs to engage in sustainable activities as actors working toward the resolution of social challenges. We also plan to conduct research into measures to directly assist social enterprises to contribute to their corresponding local communities.

Projects Include:

- Closing Gender Gaps Through Finance
- Building an Entrepreneurial Support System with a Gender Lens
- Support for Entrepreneurs and Their Ecosystem in Cambodia to Apply a Gender Lens

Recent Topics

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. Through the operation of AWIF, we aim to create social impact in terms of gender equality, and female economic empowerment along with sustainable financial returns. We are working to establish methods to measure, manage, and report social impact; pursue real social impact; and share this experience and insights with others as case studies. We are also engaged in research looking into a wide variety of background information to ensure that private-sector funds are used for investments that will benefit more women and girls.

For example, we have surveyed the progress of gender equality at listed companies through analysis based on gender metrics linked to the UN Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPIs). We compared the status of gender equality at companies in Asia's five markets, revealing in detail the progress of gender equality and the importance of information disclosure. We raise awareness of companies that champion gender equality and ensure diversity for the era to come as innovation facilitators that enable sustainable growth in Japan and around the world.

2. Bolstering an Inclusive Entrepreneurial Support Ecosystem that Includes Women Entrepreneurs and Beyond

Entrepreneurship offers women in Southeast Asia a means to support themselves and their families, a decent and meaningful job, as well as an effective way to attain economic empowerment. In cooperation with our partners in Southeast Asia including ESOs in the region, investors, governments, international organizations, and NGOs, this program works to provide women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs dedicated to improving women's lives with technical support as well as assistance to boost their fundraising capabilities. We also engage in initiatives to incorporate a gender lens into entrepreneur support ecosystems, ensuring that inclusive assistance is provided to entrepreneurs while also supporting the sustainable growth of their businesses.

For example, in FY 2022 we launched an assistance program for women entrepreneurs in the Philippines. In cooperation with local ESOs, we aim to create an online platform connecting women entrepreneurs with mentors, investors, and other resources necessary for the growth of each business. At the same time, we also support competitions for women entrepreneurs with businesses that contribute to gender equality in the technology field and implemented training programs to enhance their skills. We also assisted in the establishment of the Gender Lens & Impact Investment Council (GLIC), a group of impact investors and financial experts, to help accelerate investment flow to women entrepreneurs. In FY 2023, we will continue to strengthen the capacity of women entrepreneurs to raise funds and work with local governments to facilitate the access of women entrepreneurs in rural areas to resources that tend to be concentrated in capital cities.

In Cambodia, where the government has begun actively promoting support for entrepreneurs, we have introduced a pilot entrepreneurial support program incorporating a gender lens. Working in



A platform to support women entrepreneurs in the Philippines.

collaboration with local investor groups, we help both male and female entrepreneurs gain access to the resources they need to grow their businesses through the implementation of a practical assistance program that more strongly reflects investor perspectives.

3. Realizing Inclusive Societies and Economies in a New Era

Women face a changing environment with the emergence of new challenges such as a new era of economic activity amidst the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), the transition to digitalization, as well as the social challenges brought about by climate change and shifting demographics. It is crucial that women participate fully in society without any gender discrimination, have access to the economic and social decision-making process, and make full use of their abilities to resolve social challenges, not only to promote women's empowerment but also from the perspective of building a fair, inclusive, and prosperous society. We will engage in research to explore measures to maintain and enhance the opportunities for women in this new era of economic activity, address the need for inclusive and innovative technologies, and correct gaps and disparities.

Social enterprises that seek to resolve social challenges through their business activities are effective role models. However, they face challenges including limited means and opportunities to raise funding to continue their businesses. We are exploring financing mechanisms to provide continuing support for social enterprises as new actors working toward the resolution of social issues. We are also unearthing challenges faced by investors and the various needs of regions and social entrepreneurs. Even in Southeast Asia, which boasts outstanding economic growth overall, conflicts and disasters have slowed growth in some areas and economic disparities are becoming more common. Through fieldwork, discussions, and dialogues with stakeholders, we seek to explore ways to create networks and systems that utilize the power of women to build democratic and inclusive local economies.



Address by Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson, president of Iceland, at SPF (December 2022).

Blended Finance

Blended finance is an innovative financing mechanism that seeks to close the funding gap in pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It mainly uses public funding to mobilize private-sector investment and is structured to enable investors with different risk tolerance to invest together. With our participation in blended finance through the JAPAN ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund (JAWEF), AWIF's second investment fund, together

with Japanese public funds providers such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), we have focused on the potential for this mechanism to become a more effective way to mobilize private-sector funds. As a public interest foundation, we seek to create an even greater social impact through blended finance.



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

Recent Topics

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.

■ 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 remote areas of China, investing in the development of the teachers who will mold and inherit the future of cooperation between Japan and China.



■ Celebrating 50 Years of Japan-China Relations: Japan-China Future Visions Workshop

We held a workshop where students — the next generation of Japanese and Chinese leaders — discussed the potential for cooperation across a range of fields and presented their ideas, with a focus on Japan and China a decade into the future.



The workshop was held on September 6 and 9, 2022. It was attended by 47 students from Japan and China.

■ Celebrating 50 Years of Japan-China Relations: Institute of Chinese Affairs x SPF Lecture Series

With the cooperation of the Institute of Chinese Affairs, we held online lectures by specialists in Japan-China relations spanning fields such as politics, foreign affairs, economics, society, and culture, as well as experts with practical experience.

Information Sharing

■ Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program Online

In April 2023, we launched a website presenting the activities of the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program from its establishment until the present. In cooperation with the Chinese news website “People's Daily Online,” we present articles in Chinese including interviews with individuals who have contributed to Japan-China relations. We also publish articles introducing aspects of Japanese society in “Japan at a Glance” on WeChat. These websites can be viewed by scanning the QR codes below.



Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program × People's Daily Online Dedicated Website



“Japan at a Glance” on WeChat



Building on Past Achievements and Opening up New Prospects The History of the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program.



■ Publications

In FY 2022, we published *Jingdu Gongyi* (*Kyoto Crafts*) (Shanghai Jiaotong University Press) and *Riben Shixiang: Dajiahua Fusang* (*Japan Social Conditions: Everyone's Talking About Japan*) (Shanghai Jiaotong University Press) in China. We also released five volumes from various publishing houses in Japan such as *Chinichika ga Kataru “Nippon”* (*Japanologists Talk About “Japan”*) (The Duan Press), *Gekkan News ga Wakaru Tokubetsuhen, “Chugoku ga Wakaru”* (*Understanding the News Monthly, Special Edition “Understanding China”*) (Mainichi Shimbun), *Nicchu Kankei 2001-2022* (*The Japan-China Relationship 2001-2022*) (University of Tokyo Press).





Ocean Policy Research Institute

Pioneers for a Sustainable Ocean

The Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) is a Think, Do, and Innovate-Tank targeting the sustainable development and sound management of the oceans. We analyze issues from a broad range of perspectives including science, technology, history, culture, law, economics, and politics, to gain an understanding of a wide range of ocean-related issues from a comprehensive viewpoint. We work to resolve issues by proposing feasible strategies to serve as a reference for policymakers in the international community and striving to engender an environment conducive to making these policies a reality. We focus on the resolution of Asia's ocean-related issues, which have a long history. By finding common ground with Western approaches, we aim to build a peaceful and safe world, beginning with the oceans.

Pillars of Our Work

1. The Ocean Environment and Economics — The Blue Economy

Various issues threaten the health and productivity of the oceans. These include climate change, overfishing, pollution, and the destruction of habitats. We must shift to a style of economic development that uses ocean resources fairly and sustainably while maintaining the health of the ocean environment. To this end, it is vital that we design systems for the quantitative assessment of the ocean's value and risks, the conservation and regeneration of the ocean environment, and the sustainable use of the ocean. We must pursue technological innovation in the field of ocean digital transformation (DX) and develop the application of Blue Finance to encourage economic activities that balances the preservation of ocean health with the utilization of resources. OPRI implements projects aimed at achieving these goals, not only in Japan and across Asia, but also in the Indo-Pacific, the Atlantic, the Caribbean archipelago, along the coast of Africa, and in other regions.

2. Sustainable Management of the Oceans

Ocean resources are part of the global commons. Effective management systems are crucial to promote the sustainable use of these resources and the establishment of a safe and secure social environment. We conduct research into various levels of initiatives aimed at resolving ocean-related issues between regions and countries while also proposing management methods to ensure the stable and sustainable use of the oceans. In addition to the ocean around Japan, OPRI will focus its efforts on the Arctic; the regions downstream of the vast glacial region of the Hindu Kush and the Himalayas, referred to as the Third Pole; and the Indo-Pacific region.

3. Forming a Basis for Ocean Human Resources — Ocean Education, Investing in Scholars, Policy Dialogue, and Communication

To strike a balance between conserving the ocean environment and achieving economic development, as well as building sustainable management systems, it is vital to train personnel who understand and promote these causes across generations. To this end, OPRI will engage in educating young people in Japan and across Asia about the ocean and training the next generation of young leaders. We will also promote dialogue between governments, experts, and organizations in civil society to establish a common recognition of local and global ocean-related issues. These steps are crucial to achieving a Blue Economy and promoting sustainable management of the oceans. To this end, we work to raise public awareness of the importance of the ocean and the need for sustainable ocean management, including through seminars, workshops, and publications.

1. The Ocean Environment and Economics — The Blue Economy

■ We have established a framework for certifying and trading blue carbon credits (J Blue Credits), which are based on a comprehensive assessment of value in terms of factors such as the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable food supply as well as CO₂ absorption and storage. The seaweed and seagrass beds created using these credits have generated new value and indicate the potential to change society through the regeneration of coastal ecosystems in Japan and overseas.



A field survey of the environmental value of seaweed, including blue carbon, etc.

■ We visualized the economic effects of ocean policies and the effects of reconstruction policies after ocean disasters for several local governments in Japan. To ensure the sustainability of ocean economies, we researched and developed methods to evaluate the conservation of ocean environments through blue financing and ESG (environmental, social, and governance) investing, as well as the effect of such funding on industries. We also conducted a quantitative evaluation of the economic effect of fish traceability data.



Conference in preparation for the establishment of the Satellite VDES Consortium (September 15, 2022).

■ We cooperated with research institutions, government organizations, and others in countries including Palau, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Tunisia to share the integrated ocean policy frameworks and methodologies we have developed.

■ Our proposals for use-cases of the next-generation ocean communications systems (VDES: VHF Data Exchange Systems) as well as an international cooperation body as part of IoT (Internet of Things) infrastructure for the ocean were adopted as an agenda item by the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA). In addition to establishing a private sector-led satellite VDES consortium and promoting social implementation, we held an international forum to introduce Japan's initiatives internationally.

■ We developed software capable of automatically collecting and analyzing text data, aimed to collect and utilize information about the ocean.

■ We calculated the Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index (CORVI) for major coastal cities in developing countries (Fiji, Philippines, and Bangladesh). We engaged in awareness-raising activities through international conferences and workshops and succeeded in reflecting these findings in local government policy.

■ We participated in meetings of the subsidiary bodies for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as the Conference of the Parties (COP27), and also contributed to the running of the first-ever Ocean Pavilion at COP, bringing together ocean research organizations from around the world. We presented the results of our research on the blue economy and initiatives to develop international ocean scholars.



Presentation on initiatives to develop international ocean scholars in the Ocean Pavilion at COP27 in December 2022.

2. Sustainable Management of the Ocean

■ We supported the 7th Our Ocean Conference, organized by the government of Palau. The conference was attended by the heads of numerous countries as well as leaders and experts from international organizations and research bodies. It featured wide-ranging discussions concerning ocean issues, with a focus on Pacific island nations.

■ We pursued joint research with a think tank in Canada, a member country of the Arctic Council, regarding the future of the rapidly-changing Arctic region after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Our research focused on the utilization of Arctic shipping routes and the issue of Arctic energy. We strengthened our networks with government organizations and research bodies in Greenland, China, and Russia, and built a framework for collecting information.

■ Continuing our collaboration with the Arctic Circle Secretariat, we held the Arctic Circle Japan Forum. While Arctic policy had become deadlocked due to the situation in Ukraine, the forum featured the participation of high-ranking officials from Japan and overseas, as well as



The 7th Our Ocean Conference, held in Palau (April 13, 2022).

Recent Topics

vigorous debate in many sessions, making a significant contribution to future progress in the management of the Arctic.

- Through the From The Oceans website operated by OPRI, we collect, analyze, and evaluate a range of relevant data and regularly share the results.
- We invited Mr. Richard Marles, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence of Australia, one of the key players in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), to present a lecture, deepening public understanding of the nature of international relations in the future, including ocean security in the Indo-Pacific region.



The main session of the Arctic Circle Japan Forum (March 4, 2023).

3. Forming a Basis for Ocean Human Resources — Ocean Education, Investing in Scholars, Policy Dialogue and Communication

- We supported the participation of six young people, mainly from countries in the Pacific, to sail in the Statsraad Lehmkuhl, a Norwegian tall ship, on the leg of the One Ocean Expedition from Palau to Yokohama. We also helped 12 young people from Japan, the Indo-Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean to participate in the 8th Our Ocean Conference held by the government of Palau.
- In the Ocean Education Pioneer School Program, we supported 143 schools and kindergartens around Japan in their efforts to foster the competencies required of the children who will lead the future, based on the theme of the ocean. Children in each region learned through hands-on activities in coastal areas as well as by using information and communications technology (ICT). We held the Ocean Education Workshop and Ocean Learner Conference for All (OLCA) 2022 to share these practical initiatives.
- OPRI administers the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program scholarships for students at WMU and supports alumni networking as the secretariat of the Friends of WMU, Japan.



Turning to the sea to expand educational opportunities (Ocean Education Pioneer School).

- Through policy dialogues with partner countries, we clarified the priority challenges in which to promote social collaboration, regional cooperation and international partnership aimed at achieving the conservation and sustainable use and development of the ocean in major countries and regions including Pacific island nations and Africa. In terms of bilateral dialogues, we resumed high-level interactions with leaders in various countries. In Palau, we enhanced our mutual understanding on challenges for advancing sustainable blue economies.
- We communicated our research, policy proposals, and a diverse range of ocean-related information using tools such as our website, printed materials, events such as the Ocean Forum, and social media outreach.



Japan Field Study Trip for the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Students 2023 (May 2023).

Ocean Policy Research Institute Satellite Sites

 <p>The Center for Island Studies https://www.spf.org/islandstudies/</p>	 <p>From the Oceans https://www.spf.org/oceans/analysis_en</p>
 <p>Ocean Education Pioneer School Program https://www.spf.org/pioneerschool/</p>	 <p>Friends of WMU (World Maritime University), Japan https://www.wmu-japan.net/</p>

Pacific Island Nations Program

Contributing to the Development of Multi-layered Relationships Between Japan and Pacific Islands Through Research, Practical Initiatives, and Dialogue

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
- 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, government, 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

We have resumed our full range of personnel development and people-to-people exchanges, including promoting network-building, including young people, in Japan and Pacific island nations.

Aiming to achieve sustainable island societies together with future generations (internship training at the Kaito Yumin Club in Toba, Mie, in October 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

74,062,320,935 yen (as of March 31, 2023)

Special Assets

78,803,851,198 yen (as of March 31, 2023)

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget for Operating Expenses

6,529,740,000 yen (as of March 31, 2023)

Board Members (As of December 1, 2023)

Councilors

Kiyotaka Akasaka	Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
Takeju Ogata	President, The Nippon Foundation
Atsuko Kanehara	Professor, Sophia University
Nobuko Kayashima	Advisor to the Executive Director/Senior Research Advisor, JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development
Susumu Takahashi	Chairman Emeritus, The Japan Research Institute, Limited
Kaoru Nakata	Executive Director, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
Tadashi Maeda	Managing Director, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Japan Bank for International Cooperation

Honorary Chair

Yohei Sasakawa	Chairman, The Nippon Foundation
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Trustees

President	Atsushi Sunami	
Executive Directors	Eiji Sakai	General Affairs
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	Hide Sakaguchi	Programs
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Website, E-Newsletter and Social Media Information

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

Website/E-Newsletter

SPF shares event details, the latest articles written by our research fellows, press releases, and other information through our website and e-newsletter.



Official Website

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



E-Newsletter Registration

https://f.msgs.jp/webapp/form/19951_jndb_4/index.do

Facebook/X (Twitter)/LinkedIn

We post details on SPF-hosted events, our most recent analyses, media appearances by our researchers, lecture schedules, and a wide range of other information in both Japanese and English on our social media accounts. Please visit the links below or use the QR codes below to learn more.



Official Facebook

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



Official X (Twitter)

https://twitter.com/SPF_PR



Official LinkedIn

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

YouTube

Our YouTube channel hosts a variety of videos including interviews with experts and specialists as well as lectures and symposiums sponsored by SPF.



Official YouTube Channel [spfnews]

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

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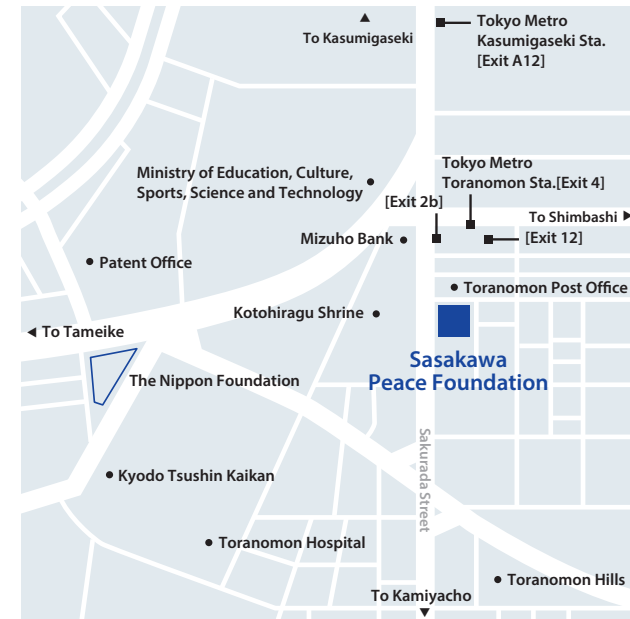
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