

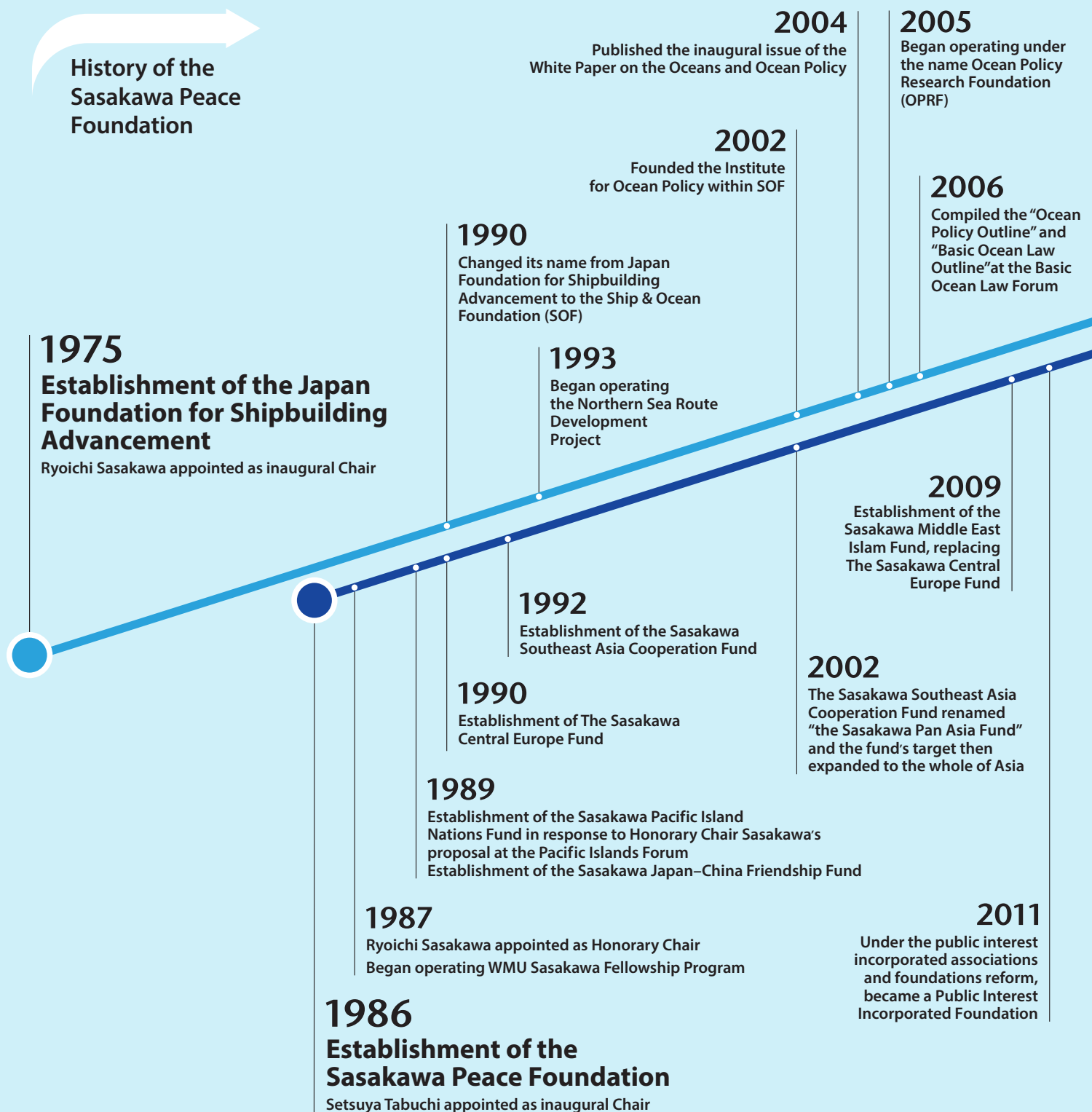


Annual Report 2023

Think, Do, and Innovate-Tank

A think tank as well as a foundation, SPF believes that both words and actions are key to understanding the challenges of today and forging new paths toward a more harmonious, sustainable, and inclusive future.

History of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation



2013

Under the public interest incorporated associations and foundations reform, legal status of the Ship & Ocean Foundation (SOF, a.k.a. Ocean Policy Research Foundation) became a General Incorporated Foundation

2014

Received the Seventh National Maritime Award (Prime Minister's Award) in the "Special Contribution to Marine-Based Development of Japan" category

2016

Yohei Sasakawa appointed as Honorary Chair

2018

Granted special consultative status by the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council

2022

Began operation of the Sasakawa Scholarship Program

2021

Announced new slogan "Think, Do, and Innovate-Tank"
Declared commitment to promote diversity and inclusion

2017

Establishment of the Sasakawa Program Fund, using a portion of Specific Funds
Establishment of the Asian Women's Impact Fund
Adoption of the Five Priority Goals

2015

Merged with the Ship & Ocean Foundation

OPRF commenced operation as the Ocean Policy Research Institute

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From Full-Scale Operation to a New Step Forward Addressing Multifaceted Problems Through Innovation

President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Atsushi Sunami

Already we are 25 years into the 21st century. The last 25 years have seen us confronted with a string of major challenges unprecedented in both scale and speed, including climate change, natural disasters, war, and the pandemic. Humanity seems to be facing challenges of ever-increasing severity and complexity. We cannot hope to tackle these challenges using conventional experience and expertise. We must reappraise our current thinking and start developing new ideas and approaches. In other words, we need continuous innovation, and we need to actively solicit input from a variety of new and different sources if we are to successfully overcome the challenges of our times.

Looking now to international relations, the world is beset with a series of conflicts at the moment, not least the battle for supremacy between the U.S. and China, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the ongoing dispute between Israel and Palestine. The world needs to come together and break the cycle in order to put a halt to all of this conflict. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) is predicated on the ideal of peace, which is included in our

name. "Peace" is surely one of the world's most overused words and is increasingly devoid of real meaning. At SPF, our concept of peace is, quite simply, a state where people of various backgrounds acknowledge and celebrate the existence of one another and live together in harmony like family.

"Sasakawa-style" Public Diplomacy

If we accept the traditional definition of diplomacy as the art of arriving at a mutually acceptable relationship between nations with competing or conflicting interests, then we might well conclude that conventional diplomacy between nations is not having great success at present. In the case of groups designated as terrorist organizations and denied recognition as states, or nations under sanctions imposed by opposing Western countries, there is no avenue for dialogue. As a private foundation, SPF is in a position to engage in dialogue via our own channels as a means of clarifying the ideas and desires of others and



putting forward our position. I believe we are now at a point where “Sasakawa-style” public diplomacy can make a meaningful contribution that complements conventional diplomatic efforts between nations.

For example, SPF conducts research and exchange programs designed to promote the Japan–U.S. relationship and build strong foundations for the Japan–U.S. alliance. We also have a field officer exchange program involving personnel from the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army. We believe that by building strong relationships with the U.S. and China and by fostering better mutual understanding among our three nations, SPF can make a material contribution to achieving the ultimate goal of peace. In this way, both of these important projects share a common objective.

Analyzing Issues From a Mid-term Perspective

FY 2023 was akin to the start of a new era, when the foundation was able to emerge from the shadows of the COVID-19 pandemic and resume full operations. To have all of our projects finally back up and running normally was an achievement in itself and indeed the defining characteristic of this fiscal year.

FY 2024, then, is a year where we can move forward with our mid-term plans by setting out our priorities for the next five years while also considering the allocation of resources and trialing new techniques and approaches. Our main task for FY 2024 is to identify key issues for the short-to mid-term based on recent international developments and embark on the first steps of implementation.

To this end, in April we updated SPF’s Five Priority Goals. Specifically, we will continue to devote more resources to research and projects designed to promote stability in the international community and strengthen the Japan–U.S. relationship against a backdrop of increasing security tensions, while also pursuing multi-tiered engagement and collaboration with ASEAN nations as well as India, China, and countries in the Middle East, as a means of building stronger strategic relationships with Asia and improving our understanding of and relationships with Islamic countries. We are also working on a range of initiatives as part of our mission of realizing a peaceful world through the ocean, which encompasses a range of efforts including data collection and analysis, dialogue, proposals, implementation, and training and development. We also added a new goal to support the development of the next generation of Japanese leaders with the skills and capabilities to tackle major global issues. Along with the Sasakawa Scholarship Program, we incorporate training and development as a central aspect of SPF’s work.

A Message to the Young Generation of Today

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation is engaged in a wide range of projects and initiatives. Our ultimate mission is to achieve harmony among all the peoples of the world, and indeed all living things, irrespective of factors such as race, gender, or religion. It is surely the young people of today with whom this ideal resonates most strongly. SPF is committed to ongoing innovation, and we hope that many young people will join us in our mission.

Special Feature: FY 2023 Projects Scholarship Program: Sasakawa Scholarship

Nurturing the Capacity of Japanese Youth Through Overseas Studies

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation started the Sasakawa Scholarship Program in 2022. The program offers young students the opportunity to study abroad and has become one of the largest scholarship programs in Japan. To date, the program has provided individual scholarships of up to 14 million yen per year for four years. SPF Executive Director Junko Chano, who oversees the program, recounts the past two years of activities.

*Note: Assuming USD1 = JPY130 (scholarship payments are made in USD/GBP)

Junko Chano: Executive Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Community-building to Support Scholars

What were the main highlights of FY 2023?

Ms. Chano The Sasakawa Scholarship provides support for Japanese students to attend leading universities in the U.K. and the U.S. We started the program in FY 2022, when we selected 35 scholars out of nearly 370 applicants. These scholars started their freshman years overseas in the fall of the following year. As such, FY 2023 turned out to be another year of firsts, the same as the previous year, and we initiated most of our activities from scratch. These activities included supporting the first cohort of scholars with a preparatory camp as part of community-building efforts, distributing scholarship payments, visiting schools throughout Japan to introduce our program, offering information sessions at schools or online, and organizing a tour for Japanese high school students to visit leading universities in the United States.

This scholarship is open to anyone with Japanese nationality irrespective of age, income level, or disability, and especially looks for those who stand out with their strong desire and determination to address social and global issues through overseas studies. At the same time, we are mindful to recruit those with high potential who will grow into global leaders in the future. From this point of view,



The preparatory camp at the foot of Mt. Takao gave students the chance to form enduring friendships, with many of them staying in touch prior to departure.

this program shares the same mission as other programs in SPF, namely to assist Japanese people and institutions to lead efforts in solving global issues and challenges.

Our first activity in FY 2023 consisted of two online sessions followed by a three-day preparation camp for the scholars before their departure, which was held at the end of June. As the name shows, the camp is meant to help scholars prepare for their new endeavors. I also hoped that the camp would serve as a way for scholars to develop a sense of community among themselves. I place such importance on the idea of community building among the scholars because I firmly believe that no matter how talented they are, when they step out into the world to do something, they will need support from many people and institutions. The community they build will be the foundation for their future activi-

ties and a dependable source of support.

The camp began with SPF Day where students were free to explore the foundation building, venture to speak with our staff members, and familiarize themselves with our work and the foundation, so that they would trust us as a resource for the future and see themselves as important members of the SPF community. This was a new undertaking for SPF as well, but the staff members were looking forward to it and worked hard to make it a success. The group then spent the next two days at a facility at Hachioji, near the foot of Mt. Takao just outside of Tokyo, where they had plenty of opportunities to get to know one another via a series of workshops and a mountain hike. By the second evening, many friendships had been made and the scholars chatted away late into the evening.

After the camp, the scholars were duly sent off, and payments were made respectively. In due time, we moved on to the selection for the second cohort.

Junko Chano

Ms. Chano studied at Hitotsubashi University and worked at the Japan Foundation before joining the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in 1991. She moved to the U.S. in 1993 to complete a Master of Public Administration at the University of Pennsylvania. She worked at the Ford Foundation before returning to Japan in 2003. As the Director of the General Affairs Department and then Executive Director, Ms. Chano helped to launch and run the Japan-U.S. Program, the Middle East and Islam Program, and the Security Studies Program, before setting up the Scholarship Program in 2022.



SPF Day was an opportunity to meet with SPF staff and discuss the work of the foundation.

An Opportunity to Rethink the Principles of Education and Learning

I understand you were also actively promoting the Scholarship Program.

Ms. Chano Since the fall of FY 2023, we visited 51 schools in a variety of prefectures to offer information sessions. At each session, we introduce our scholarship program including its purpose, our expectations, and our methods for selecting scholars. At the same time, we make sure that students understand the selection process administered in the U.S. and U.K. universities, as it is quite different from that of Japanese universities.

Universities in the U.S. and U.K. do not place as much emphasis on grades and test scores. Likewise, university rankings in these countries do not dictate what universities students shall apply to. Students wishing to study overseas need to understand that applicants are not chosen solely on their test scores and grades. Rather, many U.S. universities employ a holistic review method that assesses an individual's competencies by considering one's experiences, attributes, academic metrics, and essays. In addition, the Common Application system, where a single set of application documents is used to apply to multiple universities, means that students can submit more applications to more universities, resulting in a more competitive application process overall.

Even so, university admissions officers say that they can tell when a student has their heart set on getting into a particular university. It's important to use the various online information sessions and virtual tours to identify the university that best meets the students' needs, not just in terms of course content but also in terms of aligning with their values and personality, and then clearly articulate the reasons for their choice in the application documents.

Understanding these differences is quite important, and we do our best to emphasize this in our information sessions. To my regret, however, the message often fails to get through. So, we have embarked on a new initiative called the Campus Visit, where prospective students visit a number of universities in the U.S. to help them make more informed decisions.

We approached five public senior high schools in Tokushima, Osaka, Hiroshima, Tottori, and Kumamoto prefectures where we had information sessions. We were excited that these five schools agreed to recommend two students respectively for the tour. The tour ran from April 28 to May 4, 2024. Given the sheer



We delivered presentations at the Municipal Sapporo Kaisai Secondary School, an accredited International Baccalaureate government school in Hokkaido. The school combines both junior and senior high levels, and we presented to both levels. Session with the junior high school students.

size of the United States, the tour was limited to six institutions in relatively close proximity: the University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College, Princeton University, Williams College, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Harvard University. Participating students attended information sessions, which are regularly held by admissions officers, as well as campus tours guided by respective university students.

One of the participants commented that she was deeply impressed by the fact that admission officers make an intentional effort to gauge how much hard work the students pursue in their own academic environment, with economic and geographic backgrounds also being taken into account as part of the evaluation. Another thought the tour could be useful and informative even for those who may not be planning to study overseas.

Furthermore, one student mentioned that she initially wasn't interested in studying in the U.S., but she now highly appreciates the level of freedom and autonomy students enjoy, leading her to decide that liberal arts colleges resonated with her well. Many students seemed to be attracted to the idea of the liberal arts model, where you can spend time working out your area of interest while pursuing a broad-based educational program encompassing both arts and sciences. Under this model, students do not necessarily need to decide on a field of specialization when choosing a university.

Judging from the positive feedback from all participants, I think we can say it was a great success, and that's because it won't just benefit the participants; they will spread the words to many more students.

What do you hope to achieve through the scholarship?

Ms. Chano Given the nature of this scholarship, the number of recipients is

limited. On the other hand, I would like to reach out to more people with potentially useful information. SPF initiatives such as the Campus Visit and information sessions at schools throughout Japan provide not just junior and senior high school students but also teachers with valuable insights into how universities in the U.K. and U.S. operate. The Japanese government is promoting a number of education reforms in the public school system such as the introduction of integrated junior and senior high schools and the International Baccalaureate course. I hope what we offer might serve as a glimpse of future directions that some teachers would find useful.

On a personal note, looking back on the seven years I spent at the Ford Foundation in the United States as the only Japanese person on staff, I wish I had engaged more with the local Japanese community and asked for support on occasion. When you're young and you go overseas to study, you cross paths with new and interesting people, make new friends, and become part of a number of communities you feel attached to. These experiences are the ideal foundations for flourishing on the international stage. It is my hope that the steadily growing community of Sasakawa Scholarship alumni, along with the broader SPF network, will produce a great many talented global leaders.



Students on a campus visit tour to the University of Pennsylvania. The student accommodation was located on the other side of the road, providing a direct view into the atmosphere of the university.

Special Feature: FY 2023 Projects

Asian Statespersons' Forum (ASF) project implemented by the Asia and Middle East Program

Laying the Foundations for Future Peace

The Asian Statespersons' Forum project provides opportunities for young and mid-career political leaders in Japan and Southeast Asia to engage in direct dialogue and networking. This initiative represents an important element of "Sasakawa-style" public diplomacy and can act as a model for similar initiatives all over the world. We asked some of the key personnel behind the ASF for their thoughts on the event and how it went.

**Nobuyuki Konishi, Director of the Asia and Middle East Program/
Sachiyo Ito, Senior Program Officer/Masako Iwashina, Program Officer/
Kaoru Kajigayama, Associate Program Officer**

Focus on Future Generations

What were some of the standout developments in the Asia and Middle East Program during FY 2023?

Mr. Konishi The most noteworthy event was the Asian Statespersons' Forum, a key pillar of the "Sasakawa-style" public diplomacy approach espoused by the foundation. SPF is a private foundation dedicated to promoting global peace and stability. The world today is beset with wars and conflicts, most notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the war between Hamas and Israel. SPF seeks to provide opportunities for political leaders to obtain the wisdom, intelligence, and broad-minded outlook needed for genuine diplomatic efforts to prevent war and conflict. To this end, we would like to cooperate to move the international community in that direction.

The ASF holds forums where selected prominent political leaders and officials of equivalent or similar standing in the near future will be invited to come together and engage in free and open discussion and debate. Our hope is that this form of engagement will help to build relationships of mutual trust and respect. In this way, SPF is committed to providing forums for direct dialogue and discussion in a bid to help circumvent war and conflict in situations where conventional diplomatic efforts have faltered or even before that stage. Although the ASF is specifically targeted at Southeast Asia, SPF is keen to use it as a model for launching similar programs in other countries and regions, such as India and the Middle East.

Ms. Ito This will be a five-year project

starting in FY 2023, initially targeting Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam. In addition to the annual forum, we will invite selected persons to Japan for direct dialogue with relevant political leaders, Japanese government officials, and so forth.

This is similar to the Asian Statesmen's Forum, an initiative of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in the past. Sixteen forums were held through to 2018, with cumulative attendance of around 90 prominent political leaders from Japan and Southeast Asia. We have built our project upon the work of the GRIPS forum. We have also planned to set up an alumni group of people involved in the project including participants from the forum.



Nobuyuki Konishi

Mr. Konishi worked for several years in the private sector before joining the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 1995. He was stationed for a total of eight years in Thailand, initially in the JICA Thailand Office and later as a JICA expert attached to the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net). Upon returning to Japan, he served in a number of roles of JICA Headquarters including Deputy Director-General of the Private Sector Partnership and Finance Department and Deputy Director-General of the Human Development Department.



Masako Iwashina

Ms. Iwashina graduated from Waseda University before undertaking a post graduate course at the Institute of Education, University of London. She worked at the Industrial Bank of Japan-Securities and an NGO, then spent 11.5 years as a JICA specialist working on primary education reforms in Laos, and after that tackled human trafficking in Vietnam. Ms. Iwashina has been in her current role since August 2022.



Sachiyo Ito

Ms. Ito graduated in Persian languages (Turkish) from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, then completed a postgraduate course at the Ochanomizu University Graduate School of Humanities and Sciences. She worked at the Institute of Developing Economies Advanced School (IDEAS) before moving to the U.K. to pursue further studies at the Graduate School of the University of Wales, Swansea. Ms. Ito then spent time at Engineering and Consulting Firms Association, Japan (ECFA), JICA, etc. before joining SPF in August 2022.



Kaoru Kajigayama

Ms. Kajigayama completed a three-year master's program at the Faculty of International Culture, Graduate School of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University. She worked as a cultural officer at the Embassy of Japan in Jamaica and as an NGO staffer before joining SPF in July 2023.

Note: Photos taken at the 1st Asian Statespersons' Forum

Our largest event in FY 2023 was the inaugural Asian Statespersons' Forum, which was held from August 25 to August 27 in Tokyo. Participants are selected by SPF based on recommendations put forward by scholars and experts specializing in Southeast Asian studies who have an intimate knowledge of political developments in the relevant countries and then interviewed by us. The selection process is predicated on a demonstrated commitment to the core SPF values of democracy, social diversity and inclusiveness, and collaboration to promote regional stability and security. Participants are also required to be around 35 to 55 years of age with the potential to be political leaders in the future. It is also important to get a suitably balanced profile of ruling and opposition parties, genders, religions, central and local government, and whether they are

part of a political family. Eligibility extends to those who are not currently members of parliament (or equivalent) but may be in future, or who are otherwise interested in entering politics. The FY 2023 event was attended by 13 delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand along with 7 upper and lower house parliamentarians from Japan.

There was a formal reception on the evening of Day 1, followed by a group debate session at the SPF International Conference Hall on Day 2. The debate was configured as a free discussion held entirely behind closed doors so that participants would feel able to contribute their views in an unhindered manner. Mealtimes between sessions also proved to be important. By lunch on Day 2, the atmosphere was markedly more relaxed, and by dinner that evening, a leader had

emerged from among the invited political leaders who was merrily cajoling the entire room into an a cappella karaoke singalong.

Mr. Konishi It wasn't just the political leaders who had to sing. It was us as well! We were forced into it! In any case, it was all part of the wonderful camaraderie.

Ms. Ito On Day 3 we were joined by Japanese researchers in Southeast Asian studies with deep knowledge of the region for a round of country-specific group sessions. In addition to taking advice from experts on the initial selection process for delegates from Southeast Asia, we also plan to get them to utilize the ASF as an opportunity for direct dialogue with political leaders from different parts of Southeast Asia.

Working With Our Whole Heart

What sort of difficulties or challenges have you encountered?

Ms. Ito Politics is always in flux. There have been cases where a participant we have carefully selected has to pull out at the last minute due to a change in circumstances, typically in relation to bilateral relations, party politics, or personal political circumstances. This is simply a part of the world in which we operate, and we have to be flexible enough to adapt as required. At the same time, we also see real evidence of the value of what we do. In the most recent forum, for example, we hosted six representatives from four different political parties in Indonesia, who all got on well and managed to engage in discussion and debate without resorting to party political positions.

Ms. Iwashina I am in charge of Thailand, where the democratic and progressive Move Forward Party won the most seats in the May 2023 general election. Following strident opposition from the conservative parties, however, there was a Prime Minister vote in August where the new Prime Minister was elected from the Pheu Thai Party (For Thais Party), which came second. Selecting delegates for the forum was thus an extremely delicate task, which in its own way exemplifies the core message of SPF. It was difficult indeed to identify candidates who share the core SPF values of democracy, societal diversity and inclusiveness, and collaboration to promote regional stability and security.

Mr. Konishi Our work is all about creating human networks with "heart," and heartfelt responses are an important as-

pect of that. At the same time, we cannot be seen to be supporting any particular politician or political party. We strive to build networks among political leaders whose values align with those of SPF. For example, SPF has worked with all three candidates in the February 2024 presidential elections in Indonesia. In this way, our approach to diplomacy involves employing multiple approaches in parallel to achieve our aims.

What are your goals or ideals for the project?

Ms. Ito First of all, we want it to be sustained and ongoing. Relations between Japan and the countries of Southeast Asia are increasingly important for the future stability of Asia in general. Good relationships are predicated on having enough politicians at the highest levels who are capable of engaging in honest and forthright discussion. We need to boost the "added value" component of the project to ensure that it is seen as a worthy exercise.

Ms. Iwashina When I was working on

basic education support in Southeast Asia, I witnessed first-hand how the good intentions of politicians can impact the lives of ordinary people. I think it is important for us to be able to show politicians what life is like for ordinary people. We also need to pursue projects and programs at ground level that are relevant and take into consideration both local and global circumstances, as well as providing feedback to international forums on the reality of life for ordinary people.

Ms. Kajigayama I joined SPF in July 2023, and was assigned to the Philippines. Currently I am involved in selecting delegates for the upcoming second Asian Statespersons' Forum. I believe that personal relations between individual politicians can really influence relations between nations, which is why I find the project so rewarding. I am keen to learn more about the Philippines, gain lots of experience, and share my knowledge and expertise with the world.



Participants at the 1st Asian Statespersons' Forum. Yenny Wahid from Indonesia, who participated in the program, said, "It was beneficial in terms of networking among young leaders in Southeast Asia. Personally, it was a valuable opportunity to discuss sensitive issues in a closed setting, to meet and learn from other politicians, and to build relationships that will help us to improve each other's spirits."

Japan-U.S. Program

To maintain and develop experts' networks within the Japan-U.S. policy community, leverage these human resources to generate new wisdom and information, and contribute to the strengthening of Japan-U.S. relations and the cooperation between the two countries in response to global changes, we have implemented three independent projects and two grant projects for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA). The program has a particular focus on the following areas: "promoting deeper relations and dialogue among Japan-U.S. policy experts," "research and information dissemination," "U.S.-Japan Congressional exchanges," and "giving stronger voice in the U.S. regarding Japan and Japan-U.S. relations."

During this period, the United States, while grappling with social and political divisions, saw its domestic political activities intensify in preparation for the 2024 presidential election. In terms of foreign policy, in addition to its ongoing responses to the Ukraine war and its stance towards China, the outbreak of the Hamas-Israel war in October 2023 forced the U.S. to confront even more

complex and multifaceted threats.

In response to these significant shifts in the global order, the era, and the United States, we have implemented projects aimed at generating new wisdom and information through the collaboration of the Japan-U.S. policy community, with the goal of contributing to the creation of deeper cooperation between the two countries.

We have operated and developed a variety of multifaceted initiatives, including deepening relationships and dialogue among policy experts from both countries, conducting research activities, and establishing an information dissemination infrastructure to utilize the outcomes as intellectual resources.

Promoting Deeper Relations and Dialogue Among Japan-U.S. Policy Experts

The "Japan-U.S. Policy Research and Dialogue Network" project aims to create a network of people and dialogue among experts in the Japan-U.S. policy community through a multifaceted approach. This network will foster understanding and research of "Changes in the United States," "The World and Japan-U.S. Relations after the Ukraine War," and "The Changing International Order and the Roles of Japan and the United States." The project seeks to deepen and expand the network of experts as well as dialogue in policy research.

In FY 2023, with the aim of deepening the network of Japan-U.S. policy researchers, we invited Dr. Hal Brands (Professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies [SAIS]) and Dr. Zack Cooper (Senior

Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute [AEI]), both of whom are active in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, in collaboration with the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMFUS), we conducted the "Young Strategists Forum (YSF)." In FY 2023, 17 young strategists from Japan, the United States, Asia, and Europe, selected from over 300 applicants, participated in a seminar/education program in Japan in January 2024. They engaged in strategic simulations and discussions with Japanese government officials and experts, deepening their understanding of the security environment in the Indo-Pacific region, the significance of the Japan-U.S. alliance, and Japan's foreign and security policies.

In the policy dialogue, we co-hosted a

public symposium titled "The Future of World Order and Nuclear Weapons: Thinking from Hiroshima" with Hiroshima University in Hiroshima in July 2023. Nine guest speakers both from Japan and the United States participated, engaging in candid discussions about the global realities surrounding nuclear issues. The event attracted over 200 participants both onsite and online. Additionally, we actively created opportunities to deepen discussions between American experts and Japanese intellectuals by holding three roundtable sessions in Tokyo.

In addition, we revived the "Asia Strategy Initiative (ASI)," a dialogue framework for mid-career policy experts from Japan and the U.S., for the first time in nearly four years since February 2020, and held



On July 1, 2023, we hosted a joint symposium in cooperation with Hiroshima University entitled "The Future of the World Order and Nuclear Weapons: Thinking from Hiroshima."



On August 22, 2023, we hosted a public seminar entitled "The Future of U.S.-China Rivalry and Changes in the International Security Environment," featuring Dr. Hal Brands and Dr. Zack Cooper.

a closed workshop in Honolulu in December 2023. Fourteen experts from Japan and the U.S. discussed the challenges of the Japan–U.S. alliance. Furthermore, in collaboration with the National Association of Japan–America Societies (NAJAS), we conducted the

"Geostrategy in the Grassroots Seminar" series in five cities across the United States, featuring experts from Japan and the U.S. In March 2024, we co-hosted a public lecture titled "The Global Climate Change Nexus: The Latest U.S. Climate Change Policy and the Importance of

Japan-U.S. Cooperation in a Turbulent International Environment" in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy, featuring Mr. John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the U.S. President for International Climate Policy, as a guest speaker.

Research and Information Dissemination

In the “Insight into U.S.–Japan Relations II: Research and Dissemination” project, which involves collaboration with mid-career and young experts from both Japan and the United States, we conducted research and disseminated the findings through reports and articles.

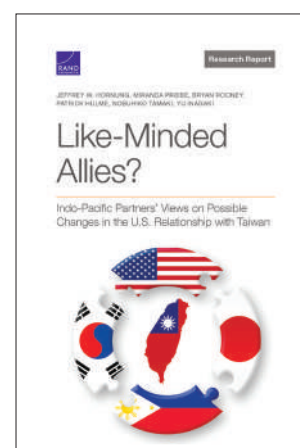
As part of this project, we published 17 articles from the “America Genjo Monitor” study group. Additionally, based on the results of the 2022 joint research with the RAND Corporation titled “Like-Minded Allies? Indo-Pacific Partners’ Views on Possible Changes in the U.S. Relationship with Taiwan,” we co-hosted a webinar with RAND to compare the responses of allied countries to U.S. policy on Taiwan.

In March 2024, we co-hosted a closed

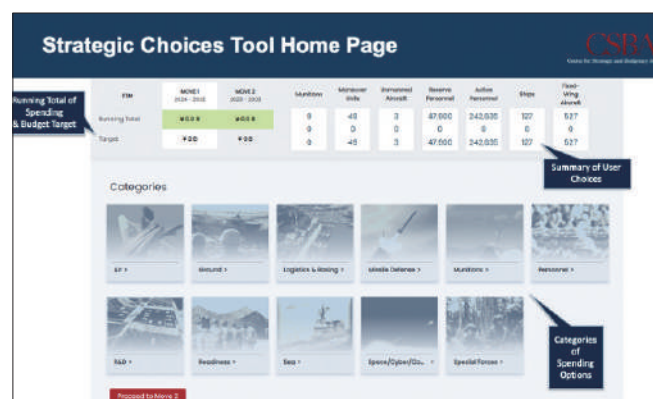
workshop with the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA), attended by 14 Japanese security experts. During this workshop, we utilized the Japanese version of the “Strategic Choices Tool (SCT)” to deepen discussions on the options of Japan’s defense equipment planning.

Based on these activities, we planned and released original videos and podcasts, providing analysis and insights on the current state and changes in U.S. politics and society, the current status of U.S. foreign and security policies, and the impact of these factors on the Japan–U.S. relations and the Japan–U.S. alliance. We also enhanced our satellite site, “Insight into Japan–U.S. Relations,” and continued to deepen our information

dissemination efforts.



"Like-Minded Allies? Indo-Pacific Partners' Views on Possible Changes in the U.S. Relationship with Taiwan" (July 2023)



Japanese version of Strategic Choices Tool (SCT) developed by the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA)



U.S.–Japan Congressional Exchanges

As an independent initiative, we launched the “Strategic Network between Japan–U.S. Legislatures” project, aiming to develop and strengthen Japanese parliamentary human resources and create dialogue and networks between the Japan–U.S. legislatures on specific themes. In terms of enhancing Japanese parliamentary human resources, we also have formalized the SPF-APSA Congressional Fellowship in collaboration with the American Political Science Association (APSA) and the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMFUS). One fellow each from 2022 and 2023 had a chance to work at the U.S. Congressional offices. Recruitment for the 2024 fellowship has also begun.

Additionally, we have started preparations to realize theme-based dialogues aimed at deepening parliamentary exchanges.

Through the SPF-USA grant project “Enriching U.S.–Japan Congressional Exchanges,” we have continued the long-standing tradition of hosting U.S. Congressional delegations and Chief of Staff delegations in Japan for over a decade. We supported the U.S. Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ) of the Former Members of Congress (FMC), which is the contractor for SPF-USA, in implementing these programs. In January 2024, a delegation of eight U.S. House Representatives, co-led by Representatives Diana DeGette (Democrat)

and Larry Bucshon (Republican), visited Japan. They paid a courtesy call on Prime



FY 2024 SPF-APSA U.S. Congressional Fellowship application
page

Minister Fumio Kishida and engaged with members of both ruling and opposition parties. Additionally, in May–June 2023, a delegation of eight Chiefs of Staff visited Tokyo and Okinawa. CSGJ also hosted seminars in the United States Congress on the Japan–U.S. relationship and Asian Affairs.



In May–June 2023, a delegation of Chiefs of Staff from the U.S. Congress visited Japan. They visited Tokyo and Okinawa, where they engaged in discussions with politicians and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited cultural and research facilities, and toured military bases. Additionally, they had a meeting with Japanese students at the Sakakawa Peace Foundation (photo).

Giving a Stronger Voice in the U.S. Regarding Japan and Japan–U.S. Relations

Through the SPF-USA grant project “Strengthening Japan–U.S. Relations from an American Perspective,” we continued to support programs such as the Japanese Diet Members’ study tour to the U.S. and the Asia Understanding Course for U.S. Congressional Staff. These programs contributed to enhanc-

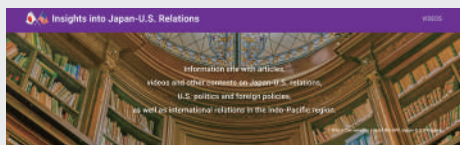
ing the understanding of people in the U.S. Congress on Japan and Japan–U.S. relations. The program also deepened the Japanese Diet members’ understanding of the United States.

SPF-USA also actively engaged in disseminating information related to Japan–U.S. relations to diverse audiences within

the United States, primarily in Washington, D.C. They also implemented various other programs, such as the Japan visit of Young Professionals Group on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS).

Information Dissemination

■ Insights Into Japan–U.S. Relations (satellite site)



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

Articles, videos, and other content on Japan–U.S. relations, U.S. politics and foreign policy, and international relations in the Indo-Pacific region.

■ SPF’s America Genjo Monitor (Japanese only)



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

We have published over 150 articles from study groups since 2017 (hosted on the Insights Into Japan–U.S. Relations website)

■ X account

<https://x.com/spfJapanus>

We share information about our group’s reports and latest articles, as well as publications from other groups. We also disseminate a wide range of information, including updates on Japan–U.S. government consultations and public opinion polls within the United States.



■ Webinars, videos, and podcasts



VIDEOS

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



PODCASTS

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

Content produced in FY 2023



Original Video Programs

SPF Executive Director Nobukatsu Kanehara and Bonnie S. Glaser: “Prospects of U.S., China, and Taiwan Relationships, and Implications for the Japan–U.S. Alliance” (recorded March 18, 2024)



Brad Roberts and Sugio Takahashi: “Two Nuclear Peer Problem: Implications for U.S. Nuclear Deterrence Strategy” (recorded April 18, 2023)



Podcasts

Hal Brands and Zack Cooper: “Challenges facing the U.S. and Japan in 2024: Russia–Ukraine War, Middle East, China, and the U.S. Presidential Election” (recorded January 17, 2024)



Event Video

Jeffrey Hornung, Miranda Priebe, and other authors of the report “Like-Minded Allies?” featured in this discussion of Indo-Pacific Partners’ Views on Possible Changes in the U.S. Relationship with Taiwan (held October 5, 2023)



Discussion on “The Global Climate Change Nexus” featuring John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the U.S. President, and Shinjiro Koizumi, Member of the House of Representatives (held March 14, 2024)

Security Studies Program

The Security Studies Program focuses on issues around national security in Japan, the Japan–U.S. alliance, and Japan’s relations with key countries and regions, with the aim of promoting the peace and security of Japan, the Indo-Pacific region, and by extension the entire world. We are also studying recent issues in new domains such as cyber, sharing our findings, and developing policy recommendations. In light of Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine, it is becoming increasingly clear that we need to rethink fundamental principles such as the international security framework and the nuclear deterrence principle. To this end, in FY2023 we conducted a research project looking at peace and security in Japan and the Indo-Pacific region and developed relevant policy recommendations.

National Security Strategy

The Japan-U.S. Alliance Study II is a project that focuses on issues around Japan’s security and the nature of the Japan-U.S. alliance. It involves research and discussions between Japan and the U.S. in relation to two main objectives: crafting an appropriate response to changes in the international security environment and designing a new framework for Japan-U.S. collaboration

predicated on the Three National Security Documents released by the Japanese government in late 2022. Shaping the Pragmatic and Effective Strategy Toward China is the title of a set of policy recommendations put forward in FY 2022 as part of the Shaping the Effective Strategy Toward China project, which was formally released at a public seminar.



“Shaping Pragmatic and Effective Strategy Toward China” (February 2024 policy proposal)

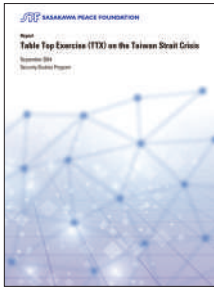
Relationships with Key Countries and Influential Institutions

Among the many projects that explore relationships with countries and regions deemed to be of importance to Japan, the Japan-U.S.-Taiwan Security Research project is of particular relevance in light of increasing concern about the situation in Taiwan. This project involves Japanese researchers identifying salient issues and includes joint research by think tanks in Japan, the U.S., and Taiwan. The findings were taken to Taiwan, where discussions were held with representatives of local think tanks and other officials. The results of the project were also published in the report “Table Top Exercise (TTX) on the Taiwan Strait Crisis” in FY 2022.

The Study of Contemporary China III is an ongoing project involving information gathering, analysis and reporting on China and Taiwan. The project includes a dedicated satellite site fea-

turing publications from expert analysts in Japan and the United States as well as video content. The Japan–U.S. Experts Dialogue on Russia-China Relations project held an interview-style meeting where Russia and China experts from Japan and the United States were joined by Japanese government officials to discuss Russia-China relations mainly over the war in Ukraine, the Arctic/energy, and the Global South. The newly launched Russia and the World satellite site (Japanese only) features general information on Russia-related issues. The International Conference: Securing the Indo-Pacific II project seeks to build a new framework for cooperation in the region. To this end, a second Japan-India-France policy dialogue was held in Singapore in February 2024, entitled Order and Disorder in the Indo-Pacific: Trilateral on Policy Perspectives from Japan, India and France. Some 30 researchers and senior policy practitioners from Japan, France, India, and Southeast Asia discussed various topics including nuclear norms, maritime security, and the impact of climate change on energy. Experts from Japan, India, and France also took part in expert-level discussions on the potential for a new trilateral policy coordination mechanism in the Indo-Pacific and the

prospect of conflict between major powers in the region. In light of recent developments such as the withdrawal of EU counterparts, FY 2023 was spent summarizing key outcomes from the Japan–EU Maritime Dialogue project during FY 2022, which led to the publication of the book *The European Union as a Security Actor in the Indo-Pacific: Perceptions and Responses from the Region* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024).



“Table Top Exercise (TTX) on the Taiwan Strait Crisis” report (March 2024)



Discussion with Taiwanese think tank held in February 2024 under the Japan-U.S.-Taiwan Security Research project (in conjunction with the Research Into the Japan–U.S. Alliance II project)



Yogesh Joshi, Ippeita Nishida and Shavinyaa Vijaykumarr, “Japan-India-France Trilateral Dialogue: The Emerging Politics of the Indo-Pacific” (July 2023)

Defense Diplomacy and New Domains

With the recognition that international peace operations are at a turning point, the Future of International Peace Operations project conducted a study of other forms of cooperation that do not involve sending troops, and released the policy reports “UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) — Structure of Paralysis and a Search for New Directions” and “The European Union as a Security Actor in Action — Crisis Management through CSDP.”

In terms of new domains, the Enhancing National Cyber Security II project has set up a study group to examine legal issues in new security domains such as cyber threats. The study group has held discussions on issues in domestic and international law and released its findings widely, including via the book *New Domains Security*. We held a workshop for junior and senior high school students on strategies for identifying disinformation on social media in July 2023, followed by an online seminar on this topic in December 2023. We also set up a Cyber Security Research satellite site, featuring an intuitive visual map of the findings of a survey of disinformation in the Indo-Pacific region. The Deterrence in the New Domains project, which concluded in FY 2022, released a final report produced by experts in the deterrence, space, and cyber security domains, entitled “War 3.0: The Rapid Change of War-



A webinar on The Risk of Nuclear Escalation in the Russia-Ukraine War, held on July 20, 2023, featured (left to right): Yu Koizumi, (then) visiting lecturer at the Tokyo University Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology; Michito Tsuruoka, Associate Professor at Keio University; and Sugio Takahashi, Head of the Ministry of Defense National Institute of Defense Studies.

fare — Deepening Deterrence in the New (Space and Cyber) Domains.”

The Growing Nuclear Threats and Deterrence project set up a study group to discuss issues around nuclear deterrence and nuclear arms control. A July 2023 public webinar on the Risk of Nuclear Escalation in the Russia-Ukraine War was well received.

The Nuclear Arms Control Research project convened several study group sessions in Japan, and based on the results of these discussions, interviewed an American expert on nuclear deterrence in January 2024. Given that the group was largely unanimous that the risk of nuclear arms was at its highest level since the Cuban missile crisis, the project released an emergency statement ahead of the Japan-U.S. summit meeting in April 2024, calling on the leaders of both nations to reaffirm their commitment to

ruling out the use of nuclear weapons and to maintaining the current nuclear world order.

Turning to domestic issues, the Study on Crisis Response in Japan project convened several study group sessions involving expert observers and analysts, and analyzed documentation on legal systems governing emergency response procedures in other countries, particularly in the West. The study group traveled to Switzerland to inspect the Sonnenberg nuclear fallout shelter in Lucerne and investigate key considerations such as how the shelter operates in the event of a nuclear attack, the evacuation procedure, and coordination with the armed forces and public security authorities. The findings will be incorporated into a series of recommendations to be presented to the Japanese government.



Hikaru Yamashita “UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) — Causes of Paralysis and a Search for New Directions” (March 2024)



Sasakawa Peace Foundation New Domains Study Group (Ed.) *New Domains Security — Legal Implications of Cyber Security, Space and Unmanned Missiles* (January 2024, Wedge)



“War 3.0: The Rapid Change of Warfare — Deepening Deterrence in the New (Space and Cyber) Domains” (March 2024)



“Analysis of Disinformation in the Indo-Pacific Region” (November 2023)

Information Sharing and Capacity Building

The Information Provision of International Situation and Security III project published articles from around 30 internal and external writers categorized by region (e.g., North America, China, Europe) and by topics such as non-traditional security approaches and cyberse-

curity. In total, 106 papers in Japanese and English were posted on the International Information Network Analysis (IINA) satellite site. The ongoing release of timely reports and updates on national security policy in Japan and the general security environment helped to raise

the profile of the foundation. The 4th International Information Network Analysis (IINA) forum was held in July 2023 on the topic of Failures of U.S. Policy in the Middle East and the Outlook on China and Russia.

The Future Fellowship for Okinawa II

project provided leadership training in national security issues for participants in Okinawa prefecture. Between April 2023 and February 2024, the seven selected participants attended eight seminars delivered by 16 guest speakers on topics such as introduction to international politics, principles of national security, and recent developments in the international arena. One of the seminars was delivered offsite across two locations, Yokosuka City Hall and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Yokosuka Base. A public symposium on the topic Japan's National Security Amid an Increasingly Complex International Situation — Defending the Southwest Islands was held in March 2024 at a hotel in Naha City and attracted 91 participants.

The Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian



A symposium on Okinawan security with the title Japan's National Security Amid an Increasingly Complex International Situation — Defending the Southwest Islands was held on March 2, 2024. Speakers included Keiko Iizuka, editorial writer for the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper; Takahiro Tsuchiya, associate professor at Kyoto University of Advanced Science; Isao Miyaoka, Keio University professor; Makoto Ogata, former major general and former manager of the Taipei office of the Japan–Taiwan Exchange Association; and Tomohide Murai, specially appointed professor at Tokyo International University.



The 4th International Information Network Analysis (IINA) forum “Failures of U.S. Policy in the Middle East and the Outlook on China and Russia” was held on July 14, 2023. The forum heard presentations from guest speakers Koichiro Tanaka, professor at Keio University Graduate School, and Amane Kobayashi, senior researcher at the Institute of Energy Economics Japan, as well as SPF staff including Senior Research Fellow Taisuke Abiru, Senior Fellow Bonji Ohara, and Senior Fellow Tsuneo Watanabe.

Countries III project marked the post-pandemic resumption of the exchange program with a visit to Vietnam by a 13-member delegation composed of emerging mid-tier officials in the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces. From December 9 to 16, 2023, the delegation made a courtesy call on the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army and visited the bases of Army, Navy, and Air Force, in order to build on mutual understanding between Vietnam and Japan.

A delegation of eight retired generals of the Self Defense Forces visited South Korea from November 28 to December 1 as part of the exchange with the retired generals of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces. The delegation also made a courtesy call on the Minister of National Defense and visited the bases of Army, Navy, and Air Force.

The Dissemination of Security Knowledge to U.S. Military Personnel in Japan project held a total of 24 seminars across the six cities that host major U.S. military bases (Misawa, Yokota, Yokosuka, Iwakuni, Sasebo, and Okinawa). Each seminar featured a guest speaker who shared their insights on national security issues in Japan.



A 13-member delegation largely composed of Ministry of Defense officials and serving field officers from the Japan Self-Defense Forces visited Vietnam from December 9 to 16, 2023.

Content on our satellite sites



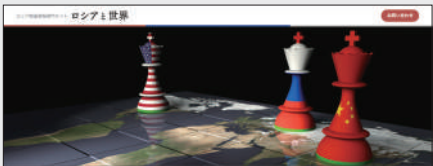
International Information Network Analysis (IINA)
<https://www.spf.org/iina/en/>



National Cyber Security Research (Japanese only)
<https://www.spf.org/cyber/>



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



Russia and the World (Japanese only)
<https://www.spf.org/russia-analysis/>



Scholarship Program

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation embarked on a merit-based scholarship program in 2022 to support Japanese youths who wish to study at colleges and universities in the U.S. and the U.K. The program, called the Sasakawa Scholarship, aims to nurture the capacity of these young students with Japanese nationality to acquire useful knowledge for the future and broaden their perspectives. Our hope is that these young students will grow into leaders in Japan and the international arena. In FY 2023, the first cohort of scholars started their studies either in the U.K. or the U.S. Before their departure, the Scholarship Program organized online sessions and a camp to help them prepare for their overseas studies as well as to build the foundation of the scholarship community. Simultaneously, the program selected the second cohort of scholars, while continuing efforts to visit schools in various areas, thereby appealing to potential applicants.

*For more, see the Special Feature on page 6–7

Scholarships Granted to First Cohort of Scholars

The Sasakawa Scholarship covers tuition, room and board, health insurance, as well as stipends for respective scholars. As every school differs in its billing system, efforts were made to make sure scholars complete the necessary payments without delay. In so doing, the program maintained close contact with the scholars, and this communication continued throughout the year, which helped the program to obtain information about their experiences on campus.



Press conference to announce the first round of scholarships on July 5, 2023

Community-building Exercises to Support Scholars After Graduation

To ensure the first cohort of scholars were fully prepared, the program provided two online briefing sessions starting in May and a three-day preparatory camp at the end of June. The first day of the camp was organized at the SPF building where scholars were encouraged to walk around the office and talk to staff members. This exercise helped scholars understand the work of the foundation and recognize the fact that they are already part of the SPF community. At the same time, scholars spent three days together engaged in many activities to get to know one another better.

After the camp, scholars used Slack to maintain communication. The program hopes that a series of activities such as these will help build a foundation for



their community during their school years and after they start their careers.

The first cohort of scholars came to the SPF office on the first day of their preparatory camp to meet with staff and learn about the work of the foundation.

Selection of Second Cohort of Scholars Entering University in Autumn 2024

Selection for the second round of scholars took place twice: once in autumn and again in spring. In autumn, the program received applications in August. After screening the applications, the program interviewed select applicants and finally nominated 13 students as prospective scholars.

The January application period, as part of the spring review process, was targeted solely at students who are admitted through the early admission process at U.S. schools as well as those who are admitted by the University of Oxford or Cambridge in the U.K.

Those who applied to other U.K. universities receive the admission results afterwards, while those who applied by regular admission in the U.S. are notified at the end of March to early April. The program made necessary preparations for another spring review process, namely in early April.

Outreach Efforts to Appeal to Many Students

In FY 2022, the program partnered with a number of Board of Educations at the prefecture level. In addition, in FY 2023, the program staff members visited 51 senior high schools in a variety of prefectures to introduce the program, which resulted in delivering an information session to students at some of these schools.

The program joined a number of overseas study fairs run by consulates and

prefectural governments at their invitation. These opportunities also helped promote the Sasakawa Scholarship and allowed us to share detailed information.

Other promotion efforts were made through the Sasakawa Scholarship website and social media such as LINE. In addition, the program offered online information sessions to introduce the scholarship and answer questions

raised by viewers. As a special session, the program organized a roundtable discussion with the first cohort of scholars, which was distributed online.

As for written materials, the program updated leaflets and other materials, while preparatory discussions were made for a relaunch of the Sasakawa Scholarship website taking place in FY 2024.



The program visited 51 schools in FY 2023.



During the informal roundtable session, scholars were asked about their experiences, particularly in relation to classes at university and extracurricular activities.

Information Sharing

Website



<https://scholarship.spf.org/en/>
The website has full details of the scholarship scheme including the application process, current student interviews, and in-school information sessions, along with inquiry and application forms.

LINE (social media)



<https://lin.ee/Kguvd95>
Register on our website to get real-time notifications and updates.

Printed materials



<https://scholarship.spf.org/document/>
The Overseas Study Starter Book (pdf) has everything you need to know about preparing for overseas studies.

Videos



<https://scholarship.spf.org/video/>
"All about the Sasakawa Scholarship: For those who want to help shape the future of our world"
"First cohort of Sasakawa Scholars announced: Annual payments of 14 million yen"

Sasakawa Scholarship

Universities selected in first round

United States

Yale University
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Chicago
Duke University
Northwestern University
Harvard University
Brown University
University of Pennsylvania
Boston University
University of Washington
Washington University in St. Louis

Liberal arts colleges (U.S.)

Williams College
Carleton College
Swarthmore College
Pomona College
Middlebury College

United Kingdom

Imperial College London
University of Edinburgh
University of Oxford
King's College London
University of Cambridge
University College London

Disbursements

Scholars are eligible for annual payments
Maximum scholarship amount to date = JPY 14 million (USD 110,000) per year
Note: Scholarship payment covers actual tuition fees, accommodation (including meals), health care and travel expenses (single return trip only), in addition to stipends in a fixed amount.
Actual payments may vary from student to student, as rates and costs set by respective colleges and universities differ.
Converted at USD 1 = JPY 130
Scholarship payments are made in either USD or GBP.

Applicants

1,147 applications received
Breakdown
FY 2023: Autumn = 270, Spring = 160
FY 2022: Autumn = 361, Spring = 356
Successful Application Rate: 5.5%

Scholars

Number of scholars = 63 (35 in first cohort, 28 in second cohort)

Asia and Middle East Program

The Asia and Middle East Program coordinates and collaborates with people from Asia and the Islamic countries of the Middle East to strengthen leadership in these regions and in Japan while also developing human-centered social models whereby diverse peoples can live together in peace and harmony. To achieve this, we have been working on “Building and strengthening partnerships on equal footing based on mutual understanding and trust,” “Empowering the socially vulnerable, respecting human rights, and promoting social diversity in Japan and overseas,” and “Promoting collaboration as a means of tackling global issues relevant to social development and world peace.”

Asia Team

Despite the ongoing progress of globalization in both social and economic spheres, we are seeing an increase in social division throughout the world, with ever greater threats to peace and safety. Through coordination and collaboration with the peoples of Asia, the program seeks to strengthen leadership in both Japan and Asia, develop human-centered social models, and support local initiatives for peace, with the ultimate aim of creating social systems whereby diverse peoples can live together in peace and harmony. We are currently pursuing three projects with the objective of “Building and strengthening partnerships on equal footing based on mutual understanding and trust,” along with another four projects designed to work toward “Empowering the socially vulnerable, respecting human rights, and promoting social diversity in Japan and overseas.”

Building Partnerships Based on Trust, Understanding, and Equality

The purpose of the Asian Statespersons’ Forum project is to make contributions toward putting the foundations in place for peace and stability in the regional community by establishing a framework for direct dialogue between political leaders in Southeast Asia and Japan. To this end, the project held a forum of political leaders in Tokyo from August 25–27, 2023, inviting 13 delegates from four countries in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand) to Japan to meet with seven political leaders from Japan as part of network-building efforts (see also article on page 8–9). The project also extended an invitation for Chair Fuadi Pitsuwan, the Surin Pitsuwan Foundation, considered a potential future political leader in

Thailand, to Japan for the purpose of networking and promoting peace and social stability. In Japan, Pitsuwan held discussions with local political leaders and researchers specializing in Southeast Asia and met with an atomic bomb survivor in Hiroshima. We also arranged for three Japanese political leaders to visit Indonesia, where they met with local political leaders and others to discuss bilateral collaboration initiatives for peace and security.

In pursuit of a new project to strengthen strategic dialogue and foster mutual understanding between Japan and India, under the Study on Japan–India Dialogue, we hosted six members of Indian parliament from Northeast India to Japan from November 27 to December 2, 2023.

The delegation visited Gunma prefecture, where they met with Governor Ichita Yamamoto and other officials to discuss Japan’s history of social development in the prefecture. They were also provided with opportunities for dialogue and networking with members of Japanese parliament.

One of the priority goals of the foundation is to strengthen partnerships between Japan and the rest of Asia, and to this end we are working to improve coordination between the relevant projects. The Dialogue and Resonance in Asia project involves a range of activities including research studies and reports, informed debates and publications. In a joint initiative with Hiroshima University and Columbia University, the project



The welcome reception at the 1st Asian Statespersons’ Forum was attended by around 60 guests including political leaders from the region along with (then) Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoshimasa Hayashi and the relevant ambassadors in Japan. It was an important meet and greet opportunity that also marked the official start of the forum.



A round table meeting of parliamentarians from Japan and India was held on November 30, 2023, to discuss development in Northeast India and Japan–India relations. The Indian delegation of six members of parliament was led by Mr. Vincent H. Pala.

hosted 27 students from Asia, Europe, and the United States in Hiroshima for 12 days during early August 2023. The objective was to inform and inspire younger generations to pursue the ideal of peace. To this end, the students attended lectures on peace issues and visited relevant locations around Hiroshima. There were also opportunities to engage in group discussion.

In collaboration with Hiroshima University we also organized six meetings with ten Japanese experts and analysts, where a range of opinions and insights on Japan's role in working to achieve peace in Asia were discussed.

In addition, in collaboration with the Surin Pitsuwan Foundation in Thailand, a three-week peace exhibition was organized in Bangkok featuring works by enamel artist and atomic bomb survivor Toshiko Tanaka, together with associat-

ed events. The exhibition, which drew 860 visitors and attracted considerable interest on social media, helped to illustrate the true horrors of the atomic

bombing while emphasizing the importance of working toward peace through non-violent means.



The exhibition of peace artworks was held at the Jim Thompson Art Center. The artist Toshiko Tanaka gave a tour on the opening day where she shared some of the ideas and motivations behind her works.

Empowering the Socially Vulnerable, Respecting Human Rights and Promoting Social Diversity in Japan and Elsewhere



SPF hosted members from the Northeast India AV Archive from February 14-22, 2024, for enhancing the operational capability of the archive. The participants participated in a briefing at the Fukuoka City Public Library.

The Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of Northeast India and Asia project seeks to support a more harmonious and multicultural society in Asia by assisting in Northeast India, a remote region with rich ethnic and cultural diversity, with initiatives for passing on histories and memories to future generations. Working together with the Indian publishing house Zubaan, the project provides minority groups in society with opportunities for self-expression and supports the next generation of writers. To this end, the project supported young researchers and female writers, held workshops, and produced two printed publications. The project assisted with capacity building at the Northeast India AV Archive (which is attached to St. Anthony's College, which itself maintains an extensive archive of primarily photos and videos) by sending over a Japanese archival curator and running a training program in Japan for five members of the archive.

The Imphal Peace Museum Project III,

with financial support from The Nippon Foundation, provides operational support to the Imphal Peace Museum, which opened in the state of Manipur, India, in June 2019. The museum serves as a hub for peace education, multicultural coexistence, and a model of passing on history to future generations. This year, the project worked on the evaluation and cataloging of items related to the Battle of Imphal that have been donated to The Nippon Foundation from sources inside Japan. Meanwhile, further progress was made on a partial translation of one of the War History Series, *The Battle of Imphal*.

The Building Models Towards Inclusive Society in Asia project seeks to build harmonious societies that are inclusive of foreign workers and residents, in the context of the modern era of constant movement featuring both settled and transient migration. To this end, the project has launched a platform that sup-

plies useful information on migration within East and Southeast Asia, provided support for people with lived experience to produce content such as written articles and documentaries, and generated reports and updates on the living conditions and basic rights of migrants. In August 2023, the project released the findings of a participatory survey on social protections in Malaysia. In September, this was followed by a public event on maritime migrant workers at the ASEAN People's Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In Japan, the project has been developing a framework to support self-help and mutual-aid initiatives by foreign residents. To this end, interviews were conducted with overseas-born local citizens to identify key issues and a forum on strategies to promote multicultural harmony in Japan was held in Kobe in February 2024.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness



The ASEAN People's Forum included a panel discussion on protections for the rights of maritime migrant workers.

of support services tailored to specific ethnic groups and to make recommendations for the development of administrative systems, a pilot program was implemented in February and March, including a community-led settlement orientation program run by the Filipino community in Japan.

The Climate-induced Displacement Responses project seeks to contribute to the formulation of comprehensive policies and strategies in response to rising levels of migration caused by natural disasters and climate change. The project conducted two preliminary investigations into the real-life impacts of natural disasters in Indonesia in November 2023



On February 29, 2024, the project hosted a hybrid format international seminar on Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) — Lessons from Artificial Island Development in the Maldives, which brought together experts and analysts to discuss climate change strategies in Japan and the Maldives as well as related issues such as migration and international aid.

and in the Philippines in February 2024. A joint international study was conducted on migration from remote islands of the Maldives to the metropolitan area on the reclaimed island of Hulhumalé in the

Indian Ocean as a direct result of climate change, and an international seminar on climate change adaptation strategies in the Maldives was held in Tokyo in February 2024.

Middle East Team

Amid the unresolved Palestinian issue, including the Gaza conflict which intensified in October 2023, and the unstable situation in regional conflicts and relations with various foreign countries, the geopolitical importance of this region continues to play a significant role in global peace and stability. With the growing number of Muslim residents in Japan, it is crucial for Japanese people to raise awareness and foster a deeper understanding of Muslim communities. This not only promotes a better grasp of global issues but also strengthens Japanese society by embracing diversity. To this end, the Middle East Team, in collaboration with countries in the region, is pursuing three projects with the objectives of tackling global issues, promoting social progress, and working toward world peace, in line with the following priority domains: “Diplomatic policy dialogue and strategic people exchange programs,” “Capacity-building for Japanese researchers,” and “Promoting understanding of Islam and the Middle East in Japan.”

Diplomatic Policy Dialogue and Strategic Personnel Exchange

Through the Human Exchanges between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries’ project, which aims to strengthen exchanges between Japan and Middle Eastern countries through a multifaceted approach, we have

worked on enhancing people-to-people networks between Japan and Iran or Türkiye respectively.

On August 30, 2023, in Tokyo, we held a roundtable discussion in collaboration with the Institute for Political and Inter-

national Studies, an affiliated think tank of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran. Experts from both countries engaged in discussions on the situations in the Middle East and East Asia. In December, we invited nine diplomat candidates from



Above left: Joint roundtable with officials from the Institute for Political and International Studies, an affiliated think tank of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran.

Above right: From December 6–14, 2023, nine students from the School of International Relations (SIR) visited Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Kyoto. Through exchanges and stays, they deepened their understanding of Japanese people, politics, economy, history, and culture. The participants in Hiroshima learned about peace initiatives.

Left: Japanese university students visited Iran from February 10–22, 2024, where they met with diplomatic officials and SIR students and gained insights into religion, history, and everyday life in Iran.



Joint roundtable with officials from the Center for Strategic Research in Türkiye's Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Four young career Turkish diplomats toured Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Kyoto from July 10–16, 2023, for discussions and site visits to learn more about Japan. They had a courtesy call with Kansuke Nagaoka, (then) Director General of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

the School of International Relations (SIR) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran to Japan. During their stay, they engaged in discussions with members of parliament, attended lectures at universities, exchanged views with Japanese students scheduled for short-term dispatch to Iran, and participated in peacebuilding lectures in Hiroshima. In addition, in February 2024, we dispatched nine Japanese students, selected through a public recruitment process, to Iran. During their visit, they attended university lectures, interacted

with Iranian students, paid courtesy visits to government ministries, and conducted observations of local cities.

Regarding cooperation with Türkiye, we held roundtable discussions with experts from both countries on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the situation in the Middle East, and the situation in East Asia. These discussions took place in Türkiye in June 2023 and online in January 2024. These events were conducted in collaboration with the Strategic Research Institute, an affiliated think tank of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Türkiye. In July 2023, with the aim of fostering pro-Japanese diplomats, we invited four young Turkish diplomats to Japan. During their stay, they attended lectures by Japanese experts on topics such as the aging society, disaster prevention measures, and Japan–Türkiye relations. They also visited private companies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, exchanged views with Japanese students majoring in Türkiye, and participated in peacebuilding training in Hiroshima.

Capacity-building for Japanese Researchers

The UK–Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East Phase III project assisted young researchers with an interdisciplinary perspective in developing greater expertise in the Middle East, as well as general capacity building. Under this project, fellows Dr. Kenichi Tani (Cultural Anthropology and Iran Studies) and Dr. Antonella Acinapura (Middle Eastern Political Science) conducted studies on Islamic society and culture in the Middle East and Caucasus regions with the guidance and supervision of Oxford University professors. They presented their findings at academic conferences and met with other researchers from the U.K. and beyond.

Additionally, as part of the “Human Exchanges Between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries” project, which

aims to establish a foundation for research activities by young researchers in Middle Eastern issues, we held three online study sessions of the “Young Researchers’ Forum on Contemporary Middle East.” These sessions included research presentations by graduate and postdoctoral researchers specializing in

contemporary Middle East issues, accompanied by comments from mid-career Middle Eastern experts. The three topics were: “War and Peace in Central Asia and the Caucasus — Politics, Society, and Literature,” “Islam Theory and Practice in Modern Muslim Societies — Ideological Networks that Transcend Time and Space,” and “Migration of People and Borders — The Persian Gulf Coast as a Case Study.”



An overseas researcher joined the 3rd study session of the Young Researchers’ Forum.

Promoting Understanding of Islam and the Middle East in Japan

The Research on Muslim in Japanese Society project conducted a grassroots surveys on local Muslim societies in Japan, to promote a fact-based awareness across the country. Four surveys were conducted with the following key areas: (1) Relationships between Muslim communities and surrounding communities in Japan; (2) Issues faced by Mus-

lim patients and medical professionals (based on interviews, discussion sessions, and data collection); (3) Challenges encountered by elementary and junior high school teachers in educating Muslim pupils, as well as how local Muslim schools are addressing these challenges; and (4) Employment-related issues, including refugee employment

initiatives, career development for second-generation Muslims, and the experiences of local Muslim entrepreneurs. The survey findings were presented at an online workshop on February 28, 2024, entitled “Issues Facing Muslims Living in Japan — Community, Health Care, Education, and Employment.”

Peacebuilding Program

In January 2022, the Peacebuilding Program was launched based on the outcomes from projects in the Deep South of Thailand that have been underway since 2010. The program develops structural change proposals and intervention plans predicated on understanding the unique historical context, local culture, and social characteristics of conflict regions and respecting the autonomy of parties to the conflict as well as the local community. The program also uses insights and understanding gained through activities in the field to develop models to share with the international community. In FY 2023, our work focused on three main areas: peacebuilding in the Deep South of Thailand, the role of women, and deradicalization initiatives.

Peacebuilding in the Deep South of Thailand

Under the New Directions in Peace Processes project, we worked on the design and implementation of a comprehensive peace process founded on the hopes and aspirations of peoples in regions impacted by conflict (with a particular focus on the Deep South of Thailand) with the aim of sharing our findings and insights with the international community.

As part of the peace process in the Deep South of Thailand, in October 2023, we sent a leadership group from the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) armed rebels over to the Basque Country in Spain, where they met with leaders of the Basque Homeland and Liberty (ETA) group, which had been engaged in armed conflict for several decades

before transforming into a political party. They discussed the history of the conflict, how the local assembly operates, and strategies for the protection and preservation of their unique culture and language. In March 2024, we held a leadership training session in Jakarta, Indonesia in conjunction with IMAN Research from Malaysia.

Following the May 2023 general election, the Thai parliament set up a special committee on Southern Thailand. We supported the inclusion of leading figures from the Deep South on the sub-committees to ensure the representation of local viewpoints.

In conjunction with Current Asia and MAC, we sourced information on Indonesia,

ran capacity-building workshops for young people in the Deep South region, and held an Agenda for Peace strategy formulation meeting for women.

We also studied instances of conflict in relation to self-determination and associated peace processes. Together with U.K.-based Conciliation Resources, we launched a report in Europe and the United States entitled “Mediating Self-Determination Conflicts,” which presents key concepts and new approaches to mediating conflicts over self-determination in order to achieve peace.

The Role of Women

The Contextualized Initiatives for WPS Agenda project contributed to discussions around the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda by offering the foundation’s unique insights into key challenges and practical solutions in regions impacted by conflict. We also worked to raise awareness of WPS in Japan and encourage genuine policy debate and discussion.

In the area of gender equality, peacebuilding, and masculinity, we produced

two reports in conjunction with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS), Conciliation Resources (U.K.) and Integral Knowledge Asia (Indonesia), based on extensive analysis of FY 2022 data. The reports — “Beyond Engaging Men: Masculinities, (Non) Violence, and Peacebuilding,” and “Reconstructing Masculinities: Gender dynamics after conflict in Aceh, Maluku and Bangsamoro Mindanao” — were presented at events in Washington D.C.,

the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Brussels (Belgium), and London. We also produced three policy briefs together with partner agencies in Mindanao in the Philippines and Aceh and Ambon in Indonesia, the three survey regions that have experienced conflict, and presented these to the relevant local authorities.

In Japan, we held study sessions and seminars in conjunction with the WPS Caucus and a number of embassies in Tokyo to further the WPS Agenda in the country. We took the opportunity presented by the special summit meeting of Japan and the Association of Southeast



Left: “Beyond Engaging Men: Masculinities, (Non) Violence, and Peacebuilding” report (October 2023)

Right: The report was launched at the United Nations headquarters in New York on October 30, 2023, with United Nations ambassadors Linda Thomas-Greenfield (U.S.) and Kimihiro Ishikane (Japan) in attendance along with numerous experts in the field.

Asian Nations (ASEAN) in December 2023 to organize a dialogue between Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and her Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi, as well as a seminar entitled “Why Do We Need Women’s Perspectives?” that featured a panel of three experts from every ASEAN nation. It showcased the commitment of the two foreign ministers to the WPS Agenda, and discussed the future orientation of Japan-ASEAN cooperation.



We held a seminar on December 16, 2023, entitled Female Foreign Ministers of Japan and Indonesia Talk: Why do we need women’s perspectives? Here we see Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa (right) and her Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi (center) discussing the importance of WPS.

Deradicalization

In line with growing international interest in deradicalization programs, the Violent Extremism and Deradicalization project provides support and intervention services for targeted individuals, generating insights and learnings that can be shared with the international community. The project also seeks to incorporate the Japanese experience into international debate on violent extremism and promote expert-level dialogue on the issue.

We continued with the deradicalization program from FY 2022, providing training camps for roughly 100 former inmates and their wives in Poso, Cen-

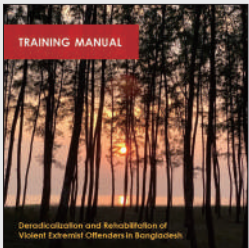
tral Sulawesi, Indonesia. We monitored the progress of participants after the program and ran a bazaar featuring the goods made by former inmates as a way of promoting social integration within the local community. Project outcomes were presented at an International Democracy Forum in Jakarta in November 2023. In February 2024, we provided deradicalization training to 25 participants from the Indonesian government and local communities on behalf of the Indonesian National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT).

Working together with the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime

(CTTC) unit under Dhaka Metropolitan Police in Bangladesh, we provided 32 former inmates and persons deemed to be at risk of radicalization with a package of five programs: religious counseling, psychological counseling, educational counseling, legal counseling, and cultural counseling.

In Japan, we collaborated with the globally respected Journal of Deradicalization on five English-language papers relating the experiences of ex-cult members whose escape is being supported, and prepared a feature edition on Japan for publication in the journal.

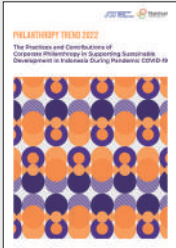
Publications



“Training Manual: Deradicalization and Rehabilitation of Violent Extremist Offenders in Bangladesh” (July 2023)



“Philanthropy Trend 2022” (July 2023)



“Integrating Gender in the DNA of Peacebuilding: Learning with Peers” (July 2023 report)



Tak Bai 2004: Taste of Memories photobook (September 2023)



“Mediating Self-Determination Conflicts” report (October 2023)



“Reconstructing Masculinities: Gender dynamics after conflict in Aceh, Maluku and Bangsamoro Mindanao” report (March 2024)

Gender Investment and Innovation Program

It is globally understood that eliminating gender disparities is essential to achieving sustainable development. The Gender Investment and Innovation Program is dedicated to the complete eradication of structural factors in economic activity that give rise to gender disparities. To this end, the program seeks to put in place ecosystems to support ongoing solutions driven by local communities in target countries. The program's main focus in FY 2023 was in two areas: mobilizing more capital towards economic empowerment of women and building support frameworks for women entrepreneurs.

Mobilizing More Capital Towards Economic Empowerment of Women

SPF set up the Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF) in September 2017 to drive economic empowerment of women and gender equality in Asia. The AWIF project acted as a catalyst for the creation and growth of gender lens investing, encouraging investors to adopt gender-focused strategies and working to establish an ecosystem in which funding is directed toward women entrepreneurs. In FY 2023, the final year of the project, with discussion of new investment proposals on hold since FY 2022 due to a range of factors such as the depreciation of the Japanese yen, rising interest rates in the United States, and an uncertain global investment market, we turned our attention to preparing the Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) framework, defining indicators for impact creation, and conducting impact measurement on end beneficiaries of specific portfolio companies using the

indicators thus defined. We also produced an in-house impact report as a follow-up to the "Introduction to IMM" report published in September 2023. We released a report detailing the findings of a survey of the experiences of the end beneficiaries of investment targets within the AWIF portfolio at an enterprise in India.

As part of our work in raising awareness around gender lens investment, SPF hosted an official side event at the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) summit together with 2X Global, a global industry organization championing gender lens investment. We provided gender lens investment training for investors, called Shifting from "Why" to "How" in Gender Lens Investing. The side event was attended by leading global pension funds and institutional investors at the PRI summit, so it was a valuable opportunity to raise awareness and



"Measuring Impact: Responsible Investors—Introduction" (September 2023 report)

share know-how of gender lens investment. With support from the Foreign Ministry, we held a public seminar on Public-Private Sector Collaboration and Impact Investment Targeting Gender Issues, featuring Ken Shibusawa, who serves on the Council of New Form of Capitalism Realization under Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, along with the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC) members. The seminar was also an opportunity to announce the introduction of the AWIF IMM framework that was completed in September.



Shifting from "Why" to "How" in Gender Lens Investing was an official side event at the UN PRI summit on October 6, 2023. Through a series of lectures and group workshops, around 50 participants learned about how to incorporate the gender perspective into the investment process and engaged in discussion on key issues and challenges.

Support Ecosystems for Women Entrepreneurs

The Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in the Philippines Through Ecosystem Building project promotes the success of women entrepreneurs by providing a platform to help drive growth and build networks with investors.

In FY 2022, the project's first year, we learned that many of the businesses run by women entrepreneurs are dedicated to addressing social issues. It was decided therefore to pivot the focus of the project to supporting primarily social (women) entrepreneurs. The burgeoning popularity of grassroots social enterprises dedicated to tackling poverty and eliminating gender inequalities in the Philippines has led to increasing interest in the movement of social enterprises. In addition, a long-standing bill in the parliament proposing formal recognition of and systems of support for social enterprises has resurged due to recent intensified movement to promote social enterprises as a driving force for change. We continued working to support women entrepreneurs while identifying prospective collaboration partners and developing novel approaches. We also provided training for women entrepreneurs on the technique of crowdfunding, a relatively new way of sourcing capital, and giving the gender perspective greater emphasis on social entrepreneur digital platforms with the aim of creating networks for reciprocal sharing of knowledge and insights. We worked with QBO Innovation, a government agency that supports startups, to develop a system for matching local entrepreneurs working in the digital space with suitable investors.

We also worked to educate investors through initiatives such as a gender investment conference and published a first of its kind report "Closing the Gender Finance Gap: Mapping the Opportu-



The Investing in Gender Equality for a Sustainable Future for All seminar was held on December 14, 2023.

nity for Gender Lens Investing in the Philippines" and produced a number of domestic benchmarking materials.

Under a one-year project called Preparatory Work for Applying Gender Lens to Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Cambodia, we identified key issues in relation to setting up frameworks to direct funds toward women entrepreneurs in Cambodia. We also worked on building relationships as well as data gathering and analysis, in order to identify suitable forms of intervention to be undertaken by the foundation.

In our role as a strategic partner, we conducted the first gender investment snapshot survey in Cambodia as a means of incorporating gender perspectives into government-led entrepreneur support schemes. In response to the survey findings, the Cambodian government moved to incorporate the gender lens as an integral part of a new entrepreneur support regime currently under development.

We also strengthened partnerships to implement the Cnai Accelerator Program first cohort, which features gender lens perspective throughout the program. This program was conducted with a specially designed curriculum with a strong focus on the gender perspective for 20

entrepreneurs. It was very well received in Cambodia, with three of the participants going on to successfully secure external funding upon completion of the program. This successful implementation led to funding support from a Cambodian government agency as well as from technical projects run by the governments of the United States and Australia. With these five partner organizations, the second cohort of the program is now underway. This is a rare case of SPF successfully being able to mobilize funding from multiple agencies and organizations and act as a central organization for partnerships.

We also used our involvement in Women20 (also known as W20), the official engagement group of the G20 grouping of countries and regions, to raise awareness of women's economic empowerment as well as the work of the foundation, build up our networks, and source information for upcoming projects using a variety of formats including SPF podcasts; a series examining the work of W20 and gender gaps in the digital realm; and a special webinar to commemorate International Women's Day.



The Social Enterprise Roadmap Council Conference was held in the Philippines from November 27–28, 2023. Discussions were moderated by SPF Program Officer Dissa Ahdanisa (left).



The SPF website features a series of articles on Cambodian entrepreneurs. This photo is taken from the article "Women Entrepreneurs' Challenge: Solving Social Issues through Entrepreneurship Vol. 2 — Passion for Cambodian Coffee, AGRO AGAPE: Supporting Women Micro-Entrepreneurs through 'Farm to Table, Table to Farm' Coffee Business."

Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Program

The Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Program, backed by one of the largest private-sector funds of its kind, was established in 1989 under the philosophy of “promoting understanding, nurturing talent, and furthering cooperation to shape the future.” The program is dedicated to promoting greater understanding between the peoples of Japan and China in addition to laying the groundwork to facilitate constructive cooperation. Key projects in FY 2023 focused on: an overview of historical relations between Japan and China as well as current analysis and future outlook; personnel exchanges and dialogue; information sharing and promoting mutual understanding; talent development and networking; and collaboration for socioeconomic progress.

Overview of Historical Relations Between Japan and China as well as Current Analysis and Future Outlook

A Summary of Private-Sector Diplomacy Between Japan and China project published a collection of papers providing a general overview of private-sector diplomatic initiatives since the normalization of bilateral diplomatic relations. In Japan it was given the title *Behind the Scenes of Normalization of Diplomatic Relations—Those who Worked for Friendship*, and in China it was called *China–Japan Private Diplomacy Events*. The release was celebrated with a series of exchanges between the two countries.

An Analysis of the Current Status and Prospects of Japan–China Exchange project followed up a FY 2022 study into the impact of the pandemic on exchanges between Japan and China by conducting interviews with groups that organize and facilitate exchanges, then summarized the findings in a report. A

presentation based on the report was held on December 5, 2023, and work is underway on preparing the report for publication.

The Japan–China Relations in 2050 project convened a number of expert study groups on specific topics exploring current relations between Japan and China, such as Japan policy in China versus China policy in Japan, Chinese politics, economics issues, the semiconductor industry, and climate change policy. The project also produced several reports. In addition, the project ran a number of future-focused workshops using scenario planning techniques to explore specific topics such as key issues related to Japan and China, the intellectual property industry, the economic environment, and Japanese language instruction in China. These yielded a num-

ber of structural insights into relations between Japan and China.



A book launch event was held on January 30, 2024, in the International Conference Hall at SPF.



Yu Shan and Hu Yiping, eds, translated into Japanese by Duan Press, *Behind the Scenes of Normalization of Diplomatic Relations — Those who Worked for Friendship* (December 2023, Duan Press)

Personnel Exchanges and Dialogue

In-person exchanges under the Japan–China Field Officer Exchange Program finally resumed after a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic. A delegation composed of Defense Ministry officials and field officers from the Japan Self-Defense Forces visited China from July 16–24, 2023. The delegation met with leaders from the People’s Liberation Army; held discussions with defense officials; inspected army, navy, and air force bases and held further discussions; and paid visits to private industry as well as important historical and cultural sites. This private-sector led defense exchange initiative was reported extensively by mainstream media in both Japan and China. We are confident that it has made a significant contribution to improving trust and understanding not only among defense personnel but within the general public of both nations.

The Invitation Program for Chinese Opinion Leaders II project invited six experts on international issues to take part in a discussion session with representatives from Japanese media on topics such as the Middle East and China–ASEAN relations. We also hosted six environmental experts from China from March 10 to 15, 2024, for discussions on climate change issues with their Japanese counterparts.

The Exchange Project for Japan–China



Experts in Traditional Arts and Crafts II released a publication in China entitled *Japanese Living National Treasures and Traditional Crafts*. The book launch, held in Shanghai in June 2023, was attended by the Japanese authors and representatives of living treasures — holders of important intangible cultural property — who had the opportunity to meet with traditional Chinese artisans. In September 2023, a delegation of traditional Chinese artisans and cultural figures came to Japan for the corresponding reporting session in Tokyo, where they also attended a cultural event organized by

A delegation of field officers from the Japan Self-Defense Forces visited China from July 16–24, 2023, where they met with officials from the People’s Liberation Army and inspected army, navy, and air force bases.

the Japan Kogei Association and met with Japanese experts and craftsmen.

The Promotion of Exchange Between People Involved in the Field of Content and Entertainment Between Japan and China project organized a study group of researchers, entertainers and content generators from both countries, conducted joint research projects, developed networks of entertainment industry workers, and identified current issues and challenges.



Left: Shanghai Committee for the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Japan Kogei Association (eds.), *Living National Treasures and Traditional Crafts in Japan* (May 2023, Commercial Press)



Right: Launch events for the book were held in Shanghai on June 21, 2023 (photo) and Tokyo on September 15.

Information Sharing and Promoting Mutual Understanding

The Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application III project posted articles on Japan written by Chinese people living in Japan to the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program's media account on the popular WeChat messaging app, and saw an increase in views from mobile users in the Chinese-speaking world.

Similarly, the Website for Dissemination of Information Phase III project posted articles about the China-related activities of the foundation and affiliates along with other matters of interest on the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund Special Page on the People's Daily Online web media platform. We also set up a separate page to commemorate the 35th year of the Japan-China Sasakawa Medical Fellowship, featuring interviews with people from both countries who have been involved in the program in some way.

The Enhancing Dissemination of Information Relating to China in Japan project held a series of Japan-China Future Visions Workshop for Chinese

and Japanese students in June 2023 in Numazu, November 2023 in Beijing, and February 2024 in Tokyo, with the total number of participants reaching 144 across the three workshops. The workshops received extensive coverage from influencers as well as in mainstream media and on the websites created by the students.

We conducted a second iteration of the Survey of Perceptions of China in Japan (the first was in FY 2022) and presented the findings for discussion at a conference of experts from Japan, the U.S., China, and South Korea. We also held a discussion session for current university students. In conjunction with the NPO Kokubunji International Association, we ran an Introduction to Chinese Characters workshop with activities for elementary school students, designed to appeal to people of all ages.

We produced a reference book on Japan-China relations that uses data to illustrate the interdependence between Japan and China.

Building Networks with Chinese Studies Institutes is a three-year project that

aims to build up networks that shed light on China's growing international influence and involvement from both inside and outside of China. For the first year of the project, we organized eight study groups at the University of Tokyo and set up a China research project that encompasses multiple organizations. In addition to public lectures, symposiums, and bilateral researcher exchanges, we periodically posted research reports and papers on chugokugaku.com for the benefit of general readership.



The Japan-China Future Visions Workshop in Beijing was attended by 43 people, primarily Chinese and Japanese university students. The workshop discussed potential opportunities for Japan-China collaboration in a range of fields in the near future, with participants contributing a number of unique ideas. The workshop received coverage in mainstream media outlets such as the People's Daily Online.

Talent Development and Networking

The Network Construction Between Japanese and Chinese Young Leaders project arranged for 40 early career experts in international relations in both



Tripartite discussions at the University of Tokyo on July 15, 2023

countries to set up study groups on four topics: Japan-China-U.S. relations, global governance, Southeast Asia, and the history of diplomacy. The study groups met online on ten occasions. In July, the project hosted 15 international relations scholars from China who joined with eight scholars from Japan and another eight from the United States for trilateral discussions at the University of Tokyo, the first to be held since the pandemic. The discussions focused on politics and diplomacy, security, and economic ex-

change. Afterward, a group of 20 scholars from Japan and China attended a three-day research retreat in Okinawa for the purpose of friendship and understanding.

The Training for Teachers of Japanese Language in Border Areas of China project ran a training program in China for 100 mid-career Japanese language instructors. The 23 most talented instructors were then invited to Japan to undertake further training from July 31-August 28, 2023.

Collaboration for Socioeconomic Progress

With the pandemic finally receding, information gathering and networking initiatives resumed on issues common to Japan and China, such as regional devel-

opment and climate change strategy. We invited representatives from university publishing houses in China to Japan to meet with their counterparts and start

planning for the resumption of translation exchange programs.

Ocean Policy Research Institute

The ocean, which acts as a natural divider between countries and regions, also plays an important role in bringing these same countries and regions together. As a shared asset for all living things, our ocean provides water, ecosystems, and other materials necessary to sustain life, while also regulating the global environment. However, the ocean has also become the site of conflicts between nations, illegal fishing, piracy, and other crimes, and is threatened by a variety of factors, both natural and caused by humans. With the goal of protecting the shared asset of the ocean for all life on earth, SPF aims to collect and analyze data based on research conducted in the field and seek out new values to make the ocean a platform for peace and prosperity, bringing together nations, communities, regions, and diverse populations through information sharing, dialogue, and education.

Gathering and Analyzing Key Information

The Demonstrating the Benefit of Satellite VDES project traveled to Lisbon, Portugal, as well as Denmark and Norway to collect the latest information about research and development of the next-generation marine communication system VDES (VHF Data Exchange System). The team also had the opportunity to outline our project and explore the possibility of joint collaborations in the future. As a result, some of the organizations agreed to collaborate on joint demonstrations if they are un-

dertaken in future. Following discussions in the Satellite VDES Consortium, consortium members compiled a “use-case catalog” along with a list of cases they hope to be demonstrated by OPRI. Communication equipment and infrastructure were prepared for the demonstration, and preliminary trials were conducted in Tokyo Bay with vessels owned by the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology.

In the Ocean Shot Research Grants project, four projects were selected

from 30 applications in the first round, led by the Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), Tohoku University, the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), and the University of New Hampshire. Grant payments commenced in accordance with contracts for phase 1, from December 2023 to March 31, 2025. We also set out detailed rules and guidelines for the grants system designed to circumvent any potential issues.

Developing Policy Recommendations

The New Sustainable Ocean Governance Methodology project participated in an academic seminar focusing on the governance of enclosed and semi-enclosed seas at Xiamen University in China to present the findings of a study comparing ocean management in East Asia and the Mediterranean. OPRI participated in the annual conference of the East China Sea and Yellow Sea Studies Think-tank Alliance in Yantai, Shandong Province, China, and made a presentation on the role of the Think-tank Alliance in the management of the East Asia Seas as an epistemic community, which was inspired by the success factors of the Mediterranean Sea governance.

OPRI also conducted research on the current status of international fishery resources (walleye pollock) and the relationship between TAC calculation methods and catches of managed fish species.

In addition, OPRI held study group meetings three times on the theme of the next formulation of “Japan’s Arctic Policy” and the strategic use of Arctic research vessels. OPRI also held the 197th Ocean Forum on the topic of “The Arctic Ocean and Asia: What are the challenges for CJK cooperation?”

and developed a dialogue between CJK and Norwegian experts. OPRI also engaged with the Canada Asia Pacific Foundation for discussion and information sharing.

OPRI attended the first Inter-Polar Conference at the Next Generation of Ocean Policy in the Arctic project, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, and took part in a project brainstorming session with the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). We conducted local studies in the Karnali and Koshi provinces of Nepal, along with evaluation and analysis.

OPRI attended the Arctic Circle As-

sembly 2023 in Reykjavík, Iceland in October 2023 to observe developments at the Arctic Council after Norway assumed the role of host country. OPRI also hosted the Asia and the Arctic session at the Arctic Circle Assembly and discussed potential cooperation among Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea on the issue of shared access to Arctic Ocean shipping routes, confirming a positive outlook for future cooperation. OPRI exchanged information and views with experts concerned with the development of the Arctic region in December and confirmed that OPRI will continue to cooperate on education and training



SPF attended the annual conference of the East China Sea and Yellow Sea Studies Think-tank Alliance from November 15–17, 2023, to deliver a report on ocean management in different regions and share our knowledge base.



The Arctic Circle Assembly from October 19–21, 2023, discussed proposals for cooperation among Japan, China, and South Korea on access to shipping channels in the Arctic Ocean.

initiatives. OPRI discussed the resumption of scientific cooperation in the Arctic, including Russia, with mainly European researchers in Geneva, Switzerland, and revisited Moscow to exchange views on energy policy in the Russian Far East region and remote islands, the possibility of resumption of trade between Japan and Russia, and the status of environmental protection legislation in the Arctic Ocean shipping routes and its legal institutionalization and associated legal structures.

The Blue Impact Finance project worked with the European ocean think tank Lighthouse to develop a Blue Impact Index for assessing the impact of blue financing. A preliminary case analysis was performed on a sample of 30 ocean-related venture businesses.

In addition to overseeing the development of a localized Japanese version of the Blue Impact Navigator, we held a joint workshop with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and the Social Innovation and Investment Foundation (SIIF) in preparation for the Blue Impact Finance Initiative dialogue to promote the global roll-out of Blue Impact Finance. We also held a joint seminar on Blue Impact Finance for investors, government officials, and venture businesses together with SIIF.

In the Research Study for Global Ocean Governance Project, researchers from OPRI carried out the OPRI Challenge project, and also generated insights on potential solutions to a variety of maritime issues across Bangladesh as well as international legal approaches to tackling maritime challenges associated with climate change. The project also contributed to the national committee for the “UN Decade of Ocean Science as well as the UN Ocean Decade ECOP Japan Symposium” as a way to boost awareness and understanding of the issues within Japan. It hosted the 10th Maritime Security Symposium on maritime security in a rapidly changing world, entitled “Sea power as the key to building trust and preventing armed

conflict — new approaches in an increasingly divided world.”

We prepared a foundation for research on the South Sea Islands in Japan by issuing Vol. 12 Ed. 2 and Vol. 13 Ed. 1 of the “Island Studies Journal” as well as “South Sea Islands Collection Catalogue III,” held by the Asia-Pacific Library at the Asia Center of Japan. We also sourced information relevant to maritime security in multiple countries as well as related fields, and published reports and updates.

The Promotion of Ocean Digital Society project carried out a demonstration with Suruga Bay as the model sea area, in which smart buoys were installed to begin real-time observations in fixed-nets, in collaboration with the Super Smart Society Promotion Consortium at Tokyo Institute of Technology (now Institute of Science Tokyo). The project also conducted ocean observations combining environmental DNA (eDNA) and underwater sound data. As a case study, a combined analysis of integrated observations made at a fixed-net was carried out to match detected species by eDNA and sound data. The findings were presented at academic conferences and symposiums in Japan, and fixed-net data analysis was recognized as a promising new methodology and awarded the Academic Society prize at a conference.

OPRI continued to work with the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) to formulate guidelines for coordinating the shared resource of the aforementioned VDES technology.

OPRI collated research findings from the last few years in a set of policy recommendations entitled “Recommendations for capacity building in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) — Satellites, field observation, and implementation structures,” and also published a book entitled *Introduction to Ocean Satellite Remote Sensing*.

The Action Research on Sustainable

Blue Economy project conducted a study of abandoned and lost fishing equipment in the town of Taketomi in Okinawa prefecture and found that most equipment can be traced to countries and regions in East Asia. A local study also found considerable quantities of fishing debris within the blue carbon ecosystem, some of which cannot readily be retrieved. We reported on the methodology of Blue Carbon certification projects in Japan, both within and outside Japan, and identified technical and systemic issues in relation to scaling up in the future. The project also held two international workshops and released the Amamo 2023 Declaration, which stresses the importance of information sharing among non-governmental organizations in Japan, China, and South Korea on marine debris in East Asia, and sets out a Blue Carbon action plan for the next five to ten years.

Findings that form the basis for designing financing and evaluation methodologies were included in an ADB Press publication. The findings were also presented at a partnership program with AXA Life Insurance and Tohoku University. We stressed the importance of these findings to people in academia and the life insurance industry, and to young people.

We used a marine industry input-output table to generate an economic flow-on evaluation tool for the city of Goto in Nagasaki prefecture, and held a workshop in Goto for representatives from both Goto and Nagasaki to explain how the tool is utilized. We also presented to the Fisheries Agency, which is responsible for promoting the fishing industry in Japan, where we emphasized the importance of industry analysis to determine the economic flow-on effect when making policy evaluations of the fishing industry in different parts of the country.



Left: The very first Blue Impact Finance conference took place in the Asia-Pacific region in February 2024 (Photos courtesy of SIIF). Right: A scene from a field study of the kelp industry, a promising sector for innovative ocean industry.

Fostering Dialogue With and Learning From Epistemic and Local Communities

In furtherance of the Strengthening Ocean Policy Dialogues and Networks project, a hybrid-format international forum was held ahead of the G7 Ministerial Meeting on the Environment to discuss key policy issues, and to contribute to the formulation of a ministerial communique. We presented research findings at a series of international conferences including the UN General Assembly in September 2023, the Davos Meeting in January 2024, and the Economist World Ocean Summit in March 2024. We also held workshops in six locations including Jamaica.

We held seminars in Bergen and other locations featuring experts from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research, a member of the advisory network to the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, to discuss strategies to prepare for the 2025 UN Ocean Conference. For the fifth meeting of the High-Level Panel held in conjunction with the UN General Assembly, we gathered and analyzed information about the meeting outcome. We continued our preparations for the UN Ocean Conference, and facilitated discussions, for example by convening a roundtable at the World Ocean Summit.

We took part in the side events at the

28th Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) with our partners, including Indonesia, to discuss, for instance, the nexus of climate change and the Blue Economy. We organized a number of meetings and sessions including: Think20, a meeting composed mainly of experts and representatives from think tanks at the G20 in India; discussions among the President of Palau, ministers, and researchers on COP28 and the World Ocean Summit; Japan-China marine science dialogue meetings in Beijing and Qingdao in China; discussions around a study of recreational fishing in Japan and China; policy dialogue on the British island territory of Bermuda; dialogue with French research organizations at the World Economic Forum; and discussions at the

Oman Embassy in Japan.

The Tackling Vulnerabilities of Island Regions and Creating Value project sourced relevant literature and other data on vulnerabilities among the islands of the Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean associated with natural disasters and climate change, as well as environmental conservation programs and the potential for value creation from new industries. We focused in particular on the Caribbean, about which we have only limited information, and investigated the feasibility of integrating the local fishing and tourism industries to stimulate regional island economies and preserve local cultures, via an eco-tourism version of the community-based tourism (CBT) model developed by SPF for the Pacific Ocean region.

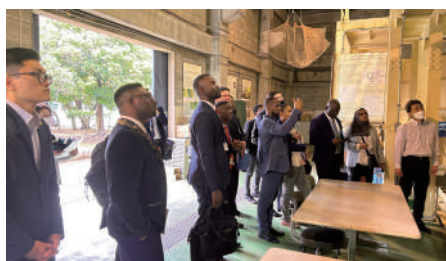


On April 6, 2023, OPRI held an international forum on Sustainable Oceans and the G7, a key element of ocean policy, ahead of the G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting in Sapporo.

Disseminating Knowledge and Promoting Education and Awareness

As a part of the Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields project, we provided opportunities for 30 Sasakawa Fellows from the Class of 2023 and 31 Fellows from the Class of 2024 to study at the World Maritime University (WMU). At the same time, we fostered networking among the Sasakawa Fellows through in-person events such as the Gathering Orientation and the WMU Sasakawa Fellows Award Ceremony.

We also invited the Sasakawa Fellows from the Class of 2023 to the Japan Field Study Trip to learn about Japan's maritime and ocean sectors through visits to various institutions and facilities in Tokyo, Kita-Kyushu, and the Kansai region.



In addition, we strengthened the network by updating the database of Sasakawa Fellows and stakeholders, and by sharing information through newsletters, websites, and other channels. We also promoted human resource development and institutional collaboration by dispatching part-time lecturers to WMU and participating in events hosted by WMU and the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute (GOI).

The Ocean Education Pioneer School Program III funded educational programs at 181 schools in 34 prefectures all over Japan including boards of education, local governments, and schools

at all year levels. Recipient schools were selected by a panel of experts, which also provided objective advice and input on all aspects of the program.

The Ocean Education Study Group, the Sunset Talk, and the Ocean Learner Conference for All (OLCA) 2023 (for participating schools) were provided as discussion opportunities for educators. In addition, on-site instructional lessons were delivered at 15 schools around the country. Production of an original instructional text on ocean education and an educational comic book, *Umi no himitsu* (Secrets of the Sea) were underway. The work of participating schools



Following a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic, a group of students was invited to Japan in May 2023 for training.

funded by the program was presented at the Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2023, the International Pacific Marine Educators Network, and the Taiwan International Ocean Forum.

The Public Relations for Ocean Policy project published *Ocean Newsletter* with information about the latest developments in the oceans space. Twice a month we issue reader-friendly articles, crafted in plain and relatable language,

to convey specialized and academic information for distribution via email and on our blog. We also published Vol. 6 in *Oceans and Humankind* series, *Toward Gender Equality in the Oceans*. We continued with the OPRI website overhaul underway since FY 2022.

Following an evaluation of the different types of media used by OPRI to get its message out together with a reappraisal of the target audience, we set up

the OPRI Messaging Advisory Board as a central body to replace the separate editorial boards for each type of media.

It is important that the next generation, who represent the future, get the message out about the value and importance of our oceans. To this end, we provided training for 27 participants from 19 countries under the 100 Global Youth Program for the Ocean.



The "Exploring Our Kitakami Sea" class of Kitakami Elementary School of Ishinomaki City (part of the Ocean Education Pioneer School program)



27 young people from 19 countries took part in a two-week training program at sea under the 100 Ocean People Plan.



Publications



Sasakawa Peace Foundation Ocean Policy Research Institute, *Introduction to Ocean Satellite Remote Sensing* (March 2024, Seizando)



Tomoya Akimichi, Kaoru Kubokawa, and Hide Sakaguchi, *Oceans and Humankind* series Vol. 6: *Toward Gender Equality in the Oceans* (March 2024, Nishinohon Publisher)



Xiaobo Lou, Naotomo Nakahara, Sachiko Harada and Xiang Gao, *Recreation Use and Management of the Sea: Practices in Japan and China* (March 2024, Tokai Education Research Institute)



OPRI Perspectives – collected articles and papers

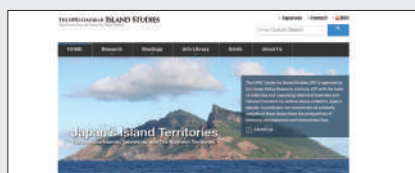


Ocean Newsletter – forum for general discussion on ocean issues

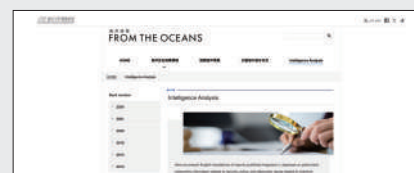


Journal of Island Studies (Center for Island Studies), Vol. 13 No. 1 (Dec. 2023), Vol. 12 No. 2 (May 2023)

Satellite Sites



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



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



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



WMU (World Maritime University) Sasakawa Fellowship Program
<https://www.wmu-japan.net>



Pacific Island Nations Program

With the Pacific island region attracting international attention from a security perspective due to the rise of geopolitical competition, in FY 2023, the region was in the process of strengthening regional unity and overcoming the threat of division among Pacific island countries, as well as recovering from the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of this situation, the Pacific Island Nations Program conducted activities under the pillars of “Policy Recommendations,” “Feedback and Dialogue with Local Representatives,” and “Education and Awareness,” with the aim of contributing to the establishment of a multilayered relationship between Japan and Pacific island countries, based on an understanding of the perspectives of the people of Pacific island countries and the actual events occurring on the ground.

Policy Recommendations

In the Enhancement of Public-Private Partnership for Upgrading Japan’s Strategy Toward Pacific Islands Region project, the program hosted the second Eminent Persons Meeting for the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) and summarized a recommendation paper for the development of PALM that was delivered to Foreign Minister Yoko Kami-

kawa. The program also sent approximately 50 academics with expertise in the Pacific island nations region to Samoa to attend a meeting with the International Science Council (ISC) on the establishment of a regional scientific academy. Moreover, the program invited practitioners from the Cook Islands, Tonga, and other countries, and held a con-

ference on industry-government-academia-private cooperation on topics such as sustainable tourism, education, and microeconomics. Through these efforts, momentum was created towards the establishment of a multilayered relationship between Japan and Pacific island countries, with PALM10 as a target.

Feedback and Dialogue with Local Representatives

In the Economic Revitalization in Pacific Island Communities by Boosting Community Based Tourism project, the program conducted on-site verification and pilot tours in the six states participating from rural areas (Babeldaob Island), dialogues with participating states, consultations with the national government in Palau, and internship training in Toba, Mie Prefecture, to promote efforts to realize community-based ecotourism in

Palau. To expand Community Based Ecotourism in the region, the program presented the concept and methods of introducing it at events such as the Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO) meeting in Tahiti and the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Micronesia Chapter in Saipan. As a result, the Marshall Islands and Tonga agreed to join the project.



CBT (Community Based Tourism) in Palau

Education and Awareness

In the Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region III project, the program continued to provide salaries for Palau Marine Law Enforcement officers for the operation of the small patrol boats and 40-meter patrol vessel that were supplied to Palau by The Nippon Foundation. The program also arranged for a Japan Coast Guard Mobile Cooperation Team (MCT) to visit Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands to conduct training for Marine Law Enforcement personnel, with a particular focus on the area of Search and Rescue (SAR). In this way, the project made a significant contribution to bilateral collaboration with those countries on maritime security.

In the Building a Foundation of Human Relationships Between Pacific Islands

and Japan for Future Generation project, the program co-hosted the 3rd Indo-Pacific Islands Dialogue in New York with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as a means of providing the international community with insights into issues and challenges common to the islands of the Indo-Pacific. The program also held a Young Practitioners Forum with graduate students from Pacific island countries in Japan for the purpose of identifying local issues and challenges, and promoted building human networks with the Pacific island countries for future generations.

In terms of information dissemination, the program shared local news along with unique insights on the Breaking News from the Pacific Islands satellite site, and worked to promote an accurate understanding of the situation in

the Pacific island region both in Japan and overseas through media relations and public-private consultations with Japan, the United States, and other relevant countries.



Japan Coast Guard personnel conducted training sessions in Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands.

Project List

Japan–U.S. Program

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	A/C (yen)	Year
Japan–U.S. Congressional Strategic Network	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	25,027,989	1/3
Insights into Japan–U.S. Relations II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	20,693,806	1/3
Japan–U.S. Network of Policy Research and Dialogue	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	95,428,672	1/3
Enriching U.S.–Japan Congressional Exchanges 2023	Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA	USA	Grant	75,279,061	1/1
Strengthening the U.S.–Japan Relationship from U.S. Perspectives 2023	Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA	USA	Grant	299,687,862	1/1

Security Studies Program

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	A/C (yen)	Year
Japan U.S. Alliance Study	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	34,012,995	5/5
Information Provision of International Situation and Security III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	24,485,027	2/5
Maintaining Peace and Stability in the Taiwan Region: Collaborative Research by Think Tanks from Japan, the U.S., and Taiwan	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,838,401	2/3
International Conference: Securing the Indo-Pacific II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	20,696,607	2/2
Future of International Peace Operations	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	13,309,044	2/3
Enhancing National Cyber Security II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	17,006,957	2/3
Dissemination of Security Knowledge to U.S. Military Personnel in Japan	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,223,408	2/2
Japan–EU Maritime Dialogue *1	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	0	2/2
Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges Between Japan and Asian Countries IV	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	36,140,247	1/3
Future Fellowship for Okinawa III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	15,390,318	1/3
Nuclear Arms Control Reserach Project	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,000,000	1/2
Study on Crisis Response in Japan	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,620,864	1/2
Japan–U.S. Experts' Dialogue on Russia–China Relations	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	15,629,216	1/2
Growing Nuclear Threats and Deterrence	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,480,879	1/2
The Study of Contemporary China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,664,946	1/4

*1 Project discontinued due to retirement of key personnel from the foundation and from our European partner.

Scholarship Program

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	A/C (yen)	Year
Sasakawa Peace Foundation Scholarship	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	532,812,980	1/1

Project List

Asia and Middle East Program

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	A/C (yen)	Year
Dialogue and Resonance in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	30,938,877	3/3
Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of North East India and Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	32,387,644	2/3
Building Models Towards Inclusive Society in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	33,256,551	2/5
Study on Japan-India Strategic Dialogue	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	19,509,711	1/1
Asian Statespersons' Forum (ASF)	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	23,780,940	1/5
Climate-induced Displacement and Responses	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,796,815	1/3
Imphal Peace Museum Project III *2	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	105,200	2/3
Human Exchanges Between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	31,348,876	2/3
UK-Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East Phase III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	23,215,239	2/3
Research on Muslim in Japanese Society	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	13,059,866	2/3

*2 Most project activities for the current fiscal year were suspended due to worsening security situation in Northeastern India.

Peacebuilding Program

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	A/C (yen)	Year
New Directions in Peace Processes	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	75,748,320	1/1
Contextualized Initiatives for WPS Agenda	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	86,400,740	1/1
Addressing Violent Extremism and De-radicalization	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	63,903,957	1/1

Gender Investment and Innovation Program

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	A/C (yen)	Year
Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF) Implementation Project	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	19,882,320	3/3
Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in the Philippines through Ecosystem Building	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	21,197,575	2/3
Preparatory Work for Applying Gender Lens to Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Cambodia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	22,380,796	1/1

Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	A/C (yen)	Year
Website for Dissemination of Information Phase III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,151,291	5/5
Exchange Project for Japan-China Experts in Traditional Arts and Crafts II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	11,528,253	2/3
A Summary of Private Diplomacy Between Japan and China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	7,551,261	2/2
Network Construction Between Japanese and Chinese Young Leaders	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	13,836,565	2/5
Training for Japanese Teachers in Remote Areas of China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	35,235,910	2/5
Enhancing Dissemination of Information Relating to China in Japan	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	18,585,504	2/5
Japan-China Relations in 2050	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	20,853,460	2/2
Building Networks with Chinese Studies Institutes	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	18,983,319	1/3
An Analysis of the Current Status and Prospects of Japan-China Exchange	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	15,439,786	1/1
Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,749,973	1/5
Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,248,481	1/5
Invitation Program for Chinese Opinion Leaders II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,906,480	1/3
Promotion of Exchanges Between People Involved in the Field of Contents and Entertainment between Japan and China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	7,633,056	1/2

Ocean Policy Research Institute

Division of Ocean Policy Planning and Management

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	A/C (yen)	Year
Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	365,010,551	3/3
Ocean Education Pioneer School Program	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	115,257,606	2/4
Public Relations for Ocean Policy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	111,124,346	2/5

Division of Ocean Policy Research

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	A/C (yen)	Year
Strengthening Ocean Policy Dialogues and Networks	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	98,412,901	3/3
Promotion on Ocean Digital Society	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	59,590,293	3/3
Action Research on Sustainable Blue Economy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	74,728,121	3/3
Research Study for Global Ocean Governance	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	78,786,189	2/3
Blue Impact Finance	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,952,946	2/3
Oceanshot Research Grant	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,880,838	1/4
Next Generation Ocean Policy in the Polar Regions	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	7,834,547	1/5
Demonstrating the Benefit of Satellite VDES	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	99,719,948	1/4
Vulnerability Reduction and Value Creation in Island Areas ^{*3}	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	0	1/4
New Sustainable Ocean Governance Methodology	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	74,462,916	1/3

^{*3} In-country project activities were discontinued due to contract dispute with local partner; focus has shifted to study of available literature and analysis of current situation.

Pacific Island Nations Program

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	A/C (yen)	Year
Economic Revitalization in Pacific Island Communities by Boosting Community Based Tourism	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	24,016,164	2/5
Enhancement of Public-Private Partnership for Upgrading Japan's Strategy Toward Pacific Islands Region	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	36,017,387	2/3
Building a Foundation of Human Relationships Between Pacific Islands and Japan for Future Generation	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	37,155,288	2/5
Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	82,176,219	2/5

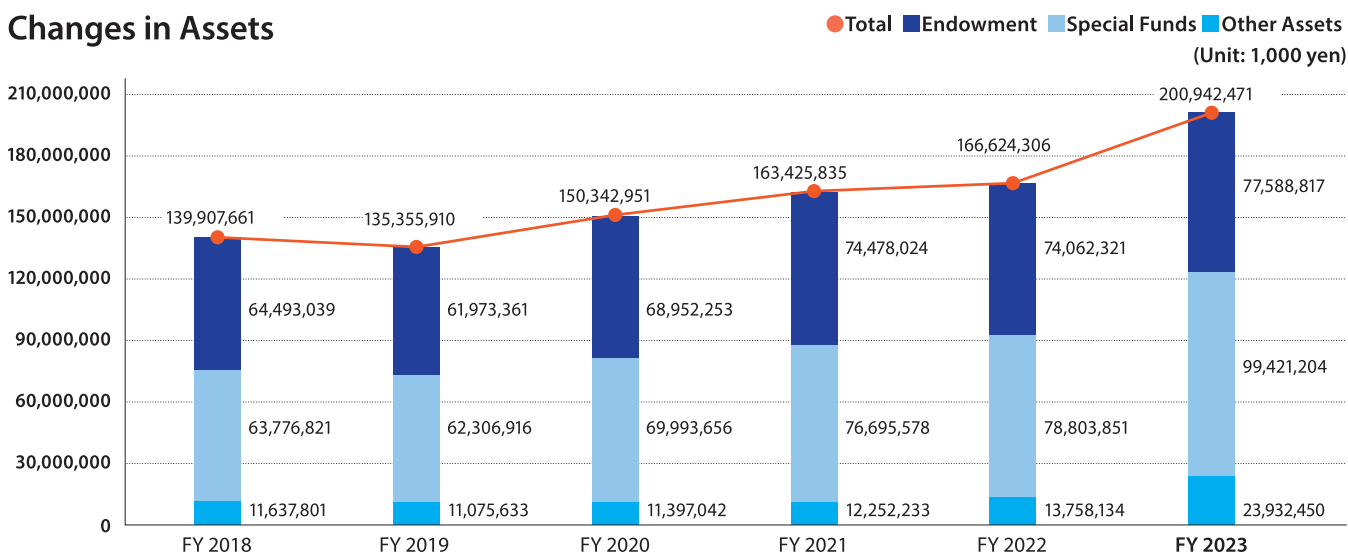
Financial Position (From April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024)

Statement of Income and Expenses

(Unit: 1,000 yen)

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
I. Operating activities						
1. Income						
From endowment	1,625,058	1,721,795	1,802,582	1,725,827	3,760,858	11,689,939
From special funds	1,542,209	1,599,834	1,709,678	1,793,095	4,175,585	11,565,310
Other income	136,948	132,260	131,346	231,584	230,472	1,203,244
Contributions / grants	703,342	638,979	602,944	1,353,809	1,775,170	6,172,739
Total income from operating activities	4,007,557	4,092,868	4,246,550	5,104,315	9,942,084	30,631,233
2. Expenses						
Program	3,098,410	2,993,668	2,342,480	2,729,060	4,128,823	5,055,678
General and administrative	286,067	284,817	314,783	324,076	425,139	455,770
Total expenses from operating activities	3,384,477	3,278,485	2,657,263	3,053,136	4,553,962	5,511,448
Net income from operating activities	623,080	814,383	1,589,287	2,051,179	5,388,122	25,119,785
II. Investing activities						
1. Income						
Proceeds from sales of investments	460,532	2,384,060	177,197	306,409	659,584	1,407,772
Deposits return income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sale of property	128	0	0	0	0	0
Total income from investing activities	460,660	2,384,060	177,197	306,409	659,584	1,407,772
2. Expenses						
Purchase of investments	437,415	3,418,329	1,039,269	1,963,819	5,516,178	24,238,107
Purchase of property	11,979	74,149	53,892	25,366	46,142	32,697
Long-term prepaid expenses	3,758	0	0	0	0	0
Total expenses from investing activities	453,152	3,492,478	1,093,161	1,989,185	5,562,320	24,270,804
Net income from investing activities	7,508	△ 1,108,418	△ 915,964	△ 1,682,776	△ 4,902,736	△ 22,863,032
III. Financing activities						
1. Income						
Total income from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Expenses						
Total expenses from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income	630,588	△ 294,036	673,323	368,403	485,386	2,256,753
Net income, beginning of year	2,717,710	3,348,298	3,054,262	3,727,585	4,095,988	4,581,374
Net income, end of year	3,348,298	3,054,262	3,727,585	4,095,988	4,581,374	6,838,127

Changes in Assets



Statement of Changes in Net Assets

(Unit: 1,000 yen)

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
I. Net assets-unrestricted						
1. Recurring revenues and expenses						
(1) Recurring revenues	4,191,251	3,992,254	4,014,039	4,423,802	5,243,970	7,299,393
(2) Recurring expenses	3,673,437	3,496,558	2,874,557	3,277,034	4,745,518	5,673,618
Net assets from recurring activities before valuation	517,814	495,696	1,139,482	1,146,768	498,452	1,625,775
Profit and loss on appraisal in basic assets	457,361	△ 933,702	2,336,615	1,954,503	3,539,069	22,209,536
Net assets from recurring activities	975,175	△ 438,006	3,476,097	3,101,271	4,037,522	23,835,310
2. Non-recurring revenues and expenses						
(1) Non-recurring revenues	127,870	0	1,031	0	814	0
(2) Non-recurring expenses	0	0	0	0	0	11
Net assets from recurring activities	128	0	1,031	0	814	△ 11
Change in unrestricted	975,303	△ 438,006	3,477,128	3,101,271	4,038,335	23,835,300
Net assets-unrestricted, beginning of year	31,672,747	32,648,050	32,210,044	35,687,172	38,788,443	42,826,778
Net assets-unrestricted, end of year	32,648,050	32,210,044	35,687,172	38,788,443	42,826,778	66,662,078
II. Net assets-temporarily restricted						
Change in net assets-temporarily restricted	2,626,770	△ 4,026,748	11,516,710	9,840,084	△ 722,929	10,383,722
Net assets-temporarily restricted, beginning of year	103,688,184	106,314,954	102,288,206	113,804,916	123,645,000	122,922,071
Net assets-temporarily restricted, end of year	106,314,954	102,288,206	113,804,916	123,645,000	122,922,071	133,305,793
III. Total net assets, end of year	138,963,004	134,498,250	149,492,088	162,433,443	165,748,850	199,967,871

Balance Sheet

(Unit: 1,000 yen)

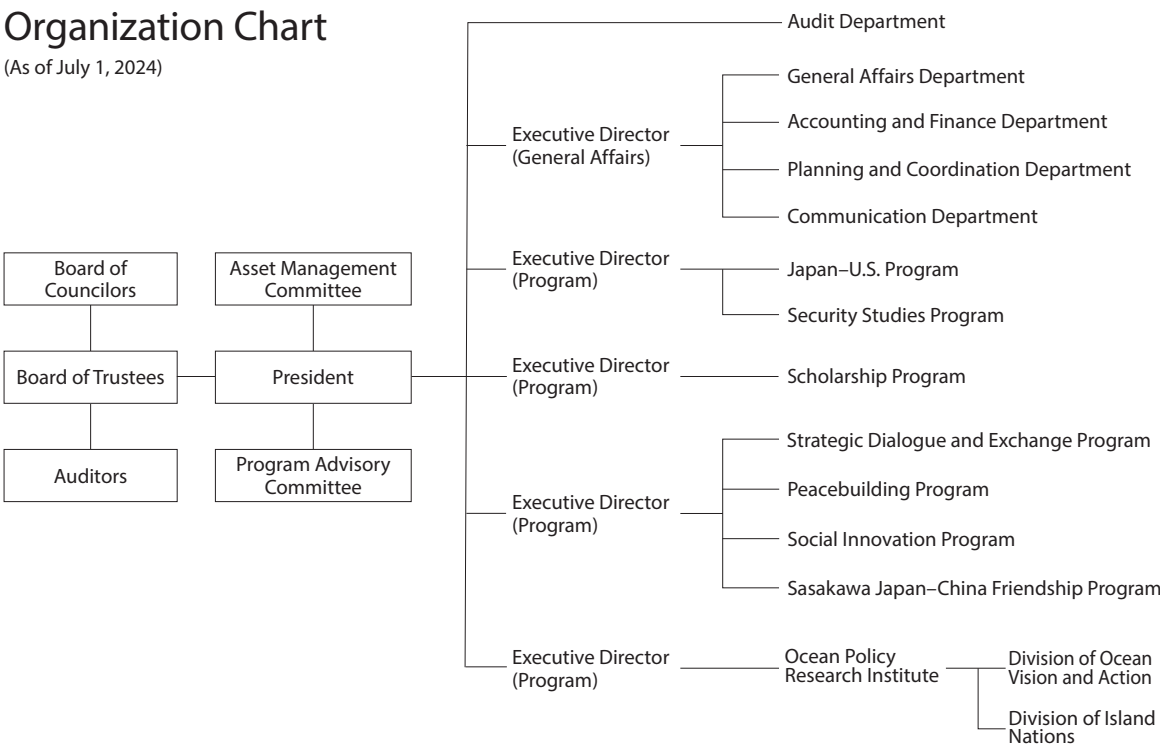
	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
I. Assets						
1. Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	3,580,763	3,421,916	4,059,024	4,477,491	4,933,830	7,128,060
Investments	225,052	0	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	303,122	253,139	230,499	302,471	179,803	378,097
Total current assets	4,108,937	3,675,055	4,289,523	4,779,962	5,113,633	7,506,157
2. Fixed assets						
Endowment	64,493,039	61,973,361	68,952,253	74,478,024	74,062,321	77,588,817
Special funds (special assets)	63,776,821	62,306,916	69,993,656	76,695,578	78,803,851	99,421,204
Other special assets	2,674,014	2,708,323	2,570,407	3,132,359	4,434,146	12,377,118
Other fixed assets	4,854,850	4,692,255	4,537,112	4,339,912	4,210,355	4,049,174
Total fixed assets	135,798,724	131,680,855	146,053,428	158,645,873	161,510,673	193,436,313
Total assets	139,907,661	135,355,910	150,342,951	163,425,835	166,624,306	200,942,471
II. Liabilities						
Current liabilities	567,891	500,562	497,731	632,939	511,417	647,815
Long-term liabilities	376,765	357,097	353,132	359,453	364,039	326,785
Total liabilities	944,656	857,659	850,863	992,392	875,456	974,600
III. Net assets						
1. Net assets-temporarily restricted	106,314,955	102,288,206	113,804,916	123,645,000	122,922,071	133,305,793
To endowment	(58,311,679)	(56,268,880)	(62,547,178)	(67,650,150)	(67,403,601)	(70,406,739)
To special assets	(48,003,276)	(46,019,326)	(51,257,738)	(55,994,850)	(55,518,471)	(62,899,054)
2. Net assets-unrestricted	32,648,050	32,210,045	35,687,172	38,788,443	42,826,778	66,662,078
To endowment	(6,181,360)	(5,704,480)	(6,405,076)	(6,827,874)	(6,658,720)	(7,182,079)
Total net assets	(18,092,679)	(18,654,236)	(20,974,924)	(23,489,648)	(27,395,475)	(48,608,318)
Total net assets	138,963,005	134,498,251	149,492,088	162,433,443	165,748,850	199,967,871
Total liabilities and net assets	139,907,661	135,355,910	150,342,951	163,425,835	166,624,306	200,942,471

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	<p>In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, SPF directly engages in or provides assistance to parties who carry out the following initiatives:</p> <p>(1) Research and public awareness raising campaigns 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 research, development efforts, and studies 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.</p>
Endowment	77,588,817,197 yen (as of March 31, 2024)
Special Assets	99,421,203,757 yen (as of March 31, 2024)
Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for Operating Expenses	8,748,470,000 yen (as of March 31, 2024)

Organization Chart

(As of July 1, 2024)

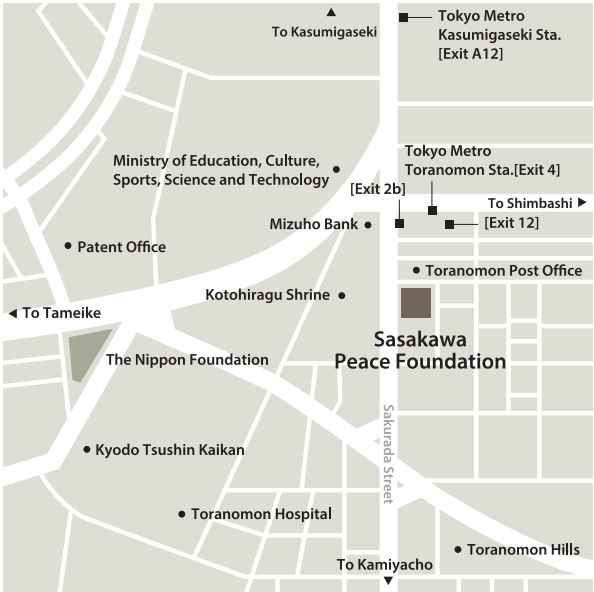


Board Members

(As of October 1, 2024)

Councilors		Kiyotaka Akasaka	Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
		Takeju Ogata	President, The Nippon Foundation
		Izumi Kadono	President, The Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research
		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	Councilor, Advisory Council for the National Headquarters for Ocean Policy
		Tadashi Maeda	Managing Director, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Japan Bank for International Cooperation
Honorary Chair		Yohei Sasakawa	Chairman, The Nippon Foundation
Trustees	President	Atsushi Sunami	
	Executive Director	Eiji Sakai	General Affairs
		Junko Chano	Program
		Itsu Adachi	Program
		Nobukatsu Kanehara	Program
	Trustee	Akio Takahara	Distinguished Visiting Professor, Tokyo Woman's Christian University
		Kaoru Hattori	Attorney at Law
	Auditor	Satoshi Sugawara	Executive Director, B&G Foundation
		Sadahiko Yoshimura	Certified Public Accountant
	Special Advisor	Hide Sakaguchi	Former Executive Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Contact and Access



Get off at Toranomon Station on the Tokyo Metro Ginza Line. About 1 minute walk using Exits 2b, 4, or 12.
Get off at Kasumigaseki Station on the Tokyo Metro Chiyoda, Hibiya, and Marunouchi Line. About 5 minute walk using Exit A12.

Sasakawa Peace Foundation

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To learn more about the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, please visit our website.
www.spf.org/en/

