Integrated Report 2026

2026

Charting the Future, Together.

SASAKAWA PEACE FOUNDATION

40 YEARS

To our valued partners,

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) was founded in September, 1986.
We are pleased to have reached our 40th anniversary, thanks to the support of a great many stakeholders. SPF champions private-led international diplomacy as a novel and forward-thinking approach to tackling major issues. To this end, we believe in the importance of dialogue predicated on in-person interaction and input from local partners on the ground. Over the past 40 years we have conducted extensive research, implemented countless practical programs and initiatives, and produced many proposals and recommendations. The world is currently in a period of upheaval attributable to a combination of factors including transformation of the international order, climate change, and the rapid advance of AI. So what can SPF contribute, as a “Think, Do, and Innovate-Tank” based in Japan? The Integrated Report 2026 outlines our ideas and approaches, our programs and initiatives, and our achievements.
It also describes our efforts in relation to consolidating and strengthening our governance framework. We look forward to working with all of you to help bring about a future of peace and security for all.

This report primarily covers activities during FY 2025 (April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026), though some sections also include initiatives from FY 2026.

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President's Message



Our Mission in Increasingly Divided Times

Atsushi Sunami

President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Founding of SPF: Background and Philosophy Championing Private Diplomacy

In 1986, when the Sasakawa Peace Foundation was established, Japan was committed to being a nation of peace with no intention of repeating the mistakes of the past. By that stage, Japan had achieved success not only in postwar rebuilding and recovery, but in developing further to become a major economic power. This in turn brought about a rapid rise in status on the world stage, as exemplified by Japan's inclusion in the 1985 Plaza Accord. Japan joined the ranks of industrialized nations on the basis of its economic prowess and increasingly globalized economy, and with this elevated status came a greater degree of responsibility within the international community. To this end, Japan committed to boosting support to developing nations through the provision of Overseas Development Aid (ODA) rather than by military means, with a key focus on economic contributions, primarily in the form of financial security and exchange rate stability.

At the same time, cognizant that economic support alone was not sufficient, resources were also put into social, cultural, and academic international exchange and international cooperation programs at the individual rather than state level, as a means of building relationships of trust. There is a big difference between government-led and private sector-led initiatives. The founding principle of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation was to champion self-funded private sector led international exchange programs across a variety of fields, with a key focus on technology and cultural exchange.

The foundation's work initially involved primarily grant programs, although we also played an important role in supplementing programs in areas where governments were less able to contribute. Unlike today, SPF did not have the capabilities of a think tank, nor the resources to strategically implement a range of different programs.

A major turning point came in 2015, when the foundation merged with a research organization (now the Ocean Policy Research Institute) thereby acquiring the ability to operate as a think tank. Drawing on the expertise of highly qualified external experts and analysts, we were able to take the initiative in identifying and analyzing issues and delivering policy recommendations to governments, rather than being confined to grant projects. Today, the foundation operates programs and projects in a wide range of fields, from international security and peacebuilding to personnel development and training programs, including through the Sasakawa Scholarship Program. The foundation enjoys an established reputation in Japan, Asia, and throughout the world, based on many years of developing international connections, networks, and expertise.

Heightened Expectations of "Sasakawa-style" Public Diplomacy in a Volatile World

One of the key defining features of SPF is our capacity to pursue "Sasakawa-style" public diplomacy. Track 1 diplomacy refers to formal diplomatic interactions between nations or governments, while Track 2 refers to interactions between private or non-government entities. As a private foundation, SPF seeks to chart a middle route using what we call "Sasakawa-style" public diplomacy. This approach, which is known as Track 1.5, allows the foundation to act as an intermediary or bridge between opposing sides.

Recent developments on the global stage have generated heightened expectations of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in this regard. In an increasingly divided world, with nations split into groupings of enemies and allies, conventional forms of interaction become all but impossible, and fear and suspicion take their place. We are seeing an increase in disinformation and hybrid warfare strategies that involve targeting an adversary with information designed to sow doubt and confusion. Once this becomes widespread, nobody will know who they can trust, further exacerbating the division and conflict.

Diplomatic initiatives driven by the private sector are better able to generate forward momentum with greater flexibility and freedom of scope in areas or settings where governments traditionally have limited ability to engage due to political and/or other considerations. A private organization is in a unique position to provide opportunities for dialogue between governments and entities with whom they are in disagreement. So it has never been more important for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation to step in and act as mediator between nations or other entities in disagreement. As a private and independently funded foundation, we are able to act with greater freedom in pursuing our mission of peace, as befits our name. This explains the heightened expectations around "Sasakawa-style" public diplomacy, which we can expect to continue for the foreseeable future.

Training and education programs will also take on increasing importance, I believe. Much of our work at SPF revolves around training and education, particularly through the Sasakawa Scholarship Program. We see this as a long-term investment in individual capacity-building and the foundation for international cooperation. It could be said that providing educational support to minority groups and vulnerable segments of society is an area that governments have difficulty in addressing.

The Changing Role of SPF Championing the Universal Good of Human Security In Pursuit of Peace

The global situation has changed considerably in the years since the Sasakawa Peace Foundation was founded, and our role has evolved accordingly. With Japan playing an increasingly large role on the world stage in line with the heightened expectations of the international community, the breadth of work performed by SPF, as a private foundation, has also expanded considerably, in terms of our capacity, the projects we undertake, and the fields in which we operate.

International exchange and cooperation projects initiated by the private sector have traditionally been regarded as supplementary initiatives. At a time of rising geopolitical tensions and heightened conflict and disagreement among nations, sound relationships cultivated through years of private-sector exchange programs represent our powerful asset. We seek an ideal world by adopting a global outlook that extends beyond our national borders, and we use that to guide our work, predicated on a diplomatic stance with strategic value that generates genuine benefits for the world.

All that we do is predicated on the universal good that is human security—the fundamental principle of safety and dignity for all. Our primary mission is to facilitate people from different countries, religions, and value systems coming together in the spirit of cooperation.

The Pursuit of Enduring Peace

In order to achieve our goal of world peace and security, we need to address a range of issues around the world.

The idea that humans could one day all learn to live together in peace and harmony on the same planet may seem like a fantasy right now. Ultimately, we see that humankind, and human societies, are battling grimly in a competition for survival that separates the strong from the weak. Alliances and partnerships with like-minded countries are offset by nations in opposition to one another, which only exacerbates existing divisions. We are living in extremely difficult times, where individuals and nations deliberately seek to divide the world and create uncertainties for their own benefit.

Given this background, it is important that we constantly re-interrogate the aspirational goal of world peace and security. What do we mean by peace and security? How can we bring about peace? What should we be doing to achieve peace? Peace should be lasting and permanent. With respect to the definition of peace, we cannot claim to have peace until such time as the world is permanently free of war and conflict. As such, the peace that we seek, as per our mission, must be lasting and permanent. We must be unceasing in our efforts and embrace a variety of different approaches if we are to get even one small step closer to lasting peace.



President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation; President, Showa University of Music; Chairperson, Deloitte Tohmatsu Strategy Institute. Special Advisor to the President and Guest Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS); Guest Professor, Waseda University Research Organization for Nano & Life Innovation. Specialist in international relations and public policy (particularly in regards to science, technology, and innovation).

Special Advisor to the Cabinet Office; Chairperson, Okinawa Development Council, Cabinet Office; Member of the Economic Security Legislation Council, Cabinet Office. Other roles include: Co-Chair of Japan National Committee for UN Decade of Ocean Science; Program Officer, Space Strategy Fund, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA); Chairperson, Consortium for Satellite Earth Observation, JAXA; and Co-Chair, Lunar Industry Vision Council.

Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University; Master of International Affairs (MIA) from Columbia University; Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) from Georgetown University.

Mission Statement, Medium-Term Management Plan, and History

Mission Statement

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) aims to promote the sound and sustainable development of our increasingly complex and multifaceted human society by addressing the changes in the natural and social environments brought about by human activity. Leveraging our flexibility in thought and methodology as a private organization, we seek to advance research, develop policy proposals, and support international collaboration and exchange. Through these efforts, we strive to establish a new governance model for human society, encompassing both land and the ocean, thereby contributing to human welfare and the sound development of our global society.

Medium-Term Management Plan (FY 2025–FY 2029)

Global-scale changes, including shifts in the international order and climate change, are intertwined in complex ways, threatening people's lives, livelihoods, safety, and dignity. It is imperative that the global community overcome domestic and international divisions to collaborate to take on these challenges. SPF, as a Japanese "Think, Do, and Innovate-Tank," has formulated its Medium-Term Management Plan (FY 2025–FY 2029) to contribute to solving these challenges based on our missions. We will pursue our initiatives based on three approaches to work toward our five priority goals. Furthermore, we will strive to secure management resources, including financial, human resources, infrastructure, and information, while strengthening our governance framework to enhance our operation as a public interest incorporated foundation.

History

1975
Establishment of the Japan Foundation for Shipbuilding Advancement

1990 Renamed Ship & Ocean Foundation (SOF)
(2013 Became a General Incorporated Foundation)

2005 Began operating under the name Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF)

2015 Sasakawa Peace Foundation merged with the Ship & Ocean Foundation (OPRF), commenced operation as the Ocean Policy Research Institute

1986
Establishment of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation
(2011 Became a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation)

1992 Establishment of the Sasakawa Southeast Asia Cooperation Fund
(2002 Renamed the Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund)

1991 Establishment of The Sasakawa Central Europe Fund

1989 Establishment of the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund and the Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund

Medium-Term Management Plan Overview (FY 2025–2029)

Our 3 Missions

- Work toward establishing new ocean governance
- Encourage the realization of world peace and security
- Promote solutions for the diverse problems of the planet

Our 5 Priority Goals

- Stabilizing the international community and strengthening Japan-U.S. relations
- Strengthening strategic relations between Asia and Japan
- Deepening understanding of and strengthening relations with Islamic countries
- Realization of a peaceful world through the ocean
- Fostering international leaders from Japan

Our 3 Approaches

World-Class Think and Do Tank

We take a balanced approach to analyze the essence of various issues to identify, develop, and share solutions.

"Sasakawa-style" Public Diplomacy

We seek to bridge diverse values and perspectives, transcending barriers of nation, race, and religion.

Nurturing the Leaders of the Future

We aim to develop next-generation leaders to take on the challenge of solving problems.

Initiatives to Strengthen Our Governance Framework

Financial Foundation

Building a Solid Financial Foundation
Strengthening Asset Management Governance

Human Resources

Personnel System Reform
Multinational Talent Support

Infrastructure

Building Renovation
IT Infrastructure Renewal

Information

Information Security Strengthening
Public Relations

Strengthening Governance and Compliance

Stabilizing the International Community and Strengthening the Japan–U.S. Alliance



Nobukatsu Kanehara

Executive Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after graduating from the Faculty of Law at The University of Tokyo. Served in a number of roles including Director of International Legal Affairs Division, Treaties and Conventions Bureau; Director, Japan–U.S. Security Treaty Division of the North American Affairs Bureau; Director of Management and Coordination Division of the Foreign Policy Bureau; and Director-General of the International Legal Affairs Bureau. Served at Japan's missions to the European Union and the United Nations, as well as its embassies in the United States and South Korea. He was Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary (in charge of foreign affairs) and Deputy Secretary General of National Security Secretariat during the second Abe administration. He was appointed Executive Director at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in 2023. In 2015, he was decorated with the l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur by the government of France.

The Role of Japan Amidst Turmoil in the International Order

The year 2026 marks the 40th anniversary of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. The established global order has undergone a significant transformation in recent times, and this puts Japanese diplomacy at a crossroads.

Forty years ago, we were right in the middle of the Cold War. There followed the collapse of the Soviet Union, after which Russia joined the G8, while China aligned itself with Western nations. Many at the time were confident that the international order would be broadly defined by liberalism on a global scale.

Sadly, it was not to be, with Russia choosing to invade Ukraine early in the millennium. China, despite being an economic powerhouse, has adopted an increasingly aggressive foreign policy under President Xi Jinping and is actively pursuing the militarization of the South China Sea region and conducting military exercises around Taiwan. Meanwhile, America under the Trump administration champions a revived version of the Monroe Doctrine that moves away from its former foreign policy stance predicated on helping to maintain the postwar international order.

In light of ongoing tensions between major powers, namely China, Russia, and the U.S., it is incumbent upon Japan, as the first Asian nation to industrialize and become a mature democracy, to take the lead in promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific. It is in Japan's interests to be working together with the increasingly powerful Global South nations to actively promote an international order predicated on liberalism and freedom of expression for all. Having emerged from the depths of colonialism and overcome racism, the Indo-Pacific region is now starting to enjoy prosperity underpinned by free trade, in what could be considered the best period of the last few hundred years.

Multifaceted Reports and Recommendations on Navigating the Future

In this context, the Japan–U.S. and Security Studies Unit devotes considerable resources to producing reports and updates in its role as a think tank. These cover a range of geographical regions including the United States, Europe, India, Russia, and Asia, as well as specific topics such as the nuclear issue. In the last fiscal year we staged several symposiums: one on cyber issues in conjunction with the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper; another on Japan–U.S.–Australia relations, in conjunction with the University of Sydney; and a third on Japan–U.S.–Taiwan relations, which was held in Taiwan, where we paid a courtesy visit to President Lai Ching-te.

We also devoted considerable time to producing a raft of different proposals and recommendations, including recommendations on nuclear deterrence developed in collaboration with the Commander of United States Strategic Command, the national intelligence officers, and senior officers of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF). We delivered recommendations to the Minister of Defense on improving treatment for members of the Self-Defense Forces. Facilitating exchange was another key program area for the Japan–U.S. and Security Studies Unit, where we worked with the Ministry of Defense to organize senior and junior officer level exchanges with Vietnam and Indonesia. We also organized exchanges between parliamentarians in Japan and Congressional representatives in the United States on the topic of mental health. Elsewhere, we hosted a study group on the law of the sea, the only such meeting in Japan that brings representatives from government and academia together.

The Japan–U.S. and Security Studies Unit remains committed to working with senior fellows (whose ranks include former high-ranking bureaucrats and JSDF officers as well as expert analysts from academia and the media) to continue shining a light on areas of need during these challenging times, while at the same time charting an appropriate course for Japan within the context of the wider international community.

1 Reinforcing Japan's Security Capacity

The international order is in a state of flux. The Russia-Ukraine war continues to drag on and there is ongoing instability in the Middle East, as well as heightened conflicts between superpowers in addition to other conflicts over economic security and advanced technology. It is therefore of great importance to strengthen our security capacity across the board, particularly in areas such as defense capabilities, personnel, policy formulation, and international networks. To this end, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation conducted four projects for strengthening security capacity during FY 2025 via an integrated approach combining research, policy recommendations, training programs, and international dialogue.

Security Policy Research and Recommendations

We delivered policy recommendations based on research into military and economic security.

For the Security Strategy Studies project, a study group was established to examine the theme of "strengthening the human resource base of defense capabilities." The study group held 11 meetings and conducted overseas research. Drawing on the insights and expertise of an independent third party, the project developed policy recommendations unconstrained by existing systems and institutional frameworks. These recommendations were submitted to relevant government agencies in May 2025 and presented to the public through a press conference and public forum attended by approximately 200 participants. The project will continue its work through more focused research aimed at further refining and deepening the recommendations.

Another study group on "strengthening economic security capabilities for technological development and the defense industry" held six meetings to develop policy recommendations with a view to the enactment of a Basic Act on Promoting Security Technologies. By presenting policy options on strengthening the human resource base of defense capabilities and economic security, the project has contributed to advancing policy discussions in these areas.



Press conference for the release of "Policy Recommendation on Enhancing the Foundation for Human Resource Base of Defense Capabilities" (May 2025)



Visit to an Estonian Defence League (EDL) training exercise during overseas research on enhancing the foundation for the human resource base of defense capabilities (December 2025)

Training and Capacity-Building Programs and Japan's Policy Community

We provided training programs and networking opportunities for the next generation of leaders and practitioners working in the security field.

The Future Fellowship for Okinawa III project offered a series of eight training sessions and field visits for seven Okinawa-based fellows, with the aim of cultivating the next generation of leaders in the field of security. The program also hosted a public symposium attended by approximately 90 participants, contributing to the development of a foundation for security-related dialogue in the region through discussions with Okinawa's political and business leaders. The program's impact has also extended beyond the current cohort. Alumni from previous

fellowship cohorts have increasingly taken the initiative to organize their own symposia and related activities, helping to advance the formation of locally rooted professional networks and strengthen the human foundation for security dialogue in Okinawa.

In addition, as part of the Security Strategy Studies project, 11 early- and mid-career officials from Japanese government ministries and agencies were dispatched to the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) in the United States to enhance their understanding of the security environment, particularly on issues related to the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The program received high praise from both the participants and their home organizations, and contributed directly to strengthening the practical capabilities of government personnel.

Together, these projects and initiatives have contributed to capacity-building and networking in the security field, in both national and regional contexts, thus providing a firm foundation for policy development in the medium to long term.

Building Strategic Networks Around the World

With respect to building stronger relationships with countries around the world, we pursued strategic dialogues and networking initiatives focused on security and government policy.

Under the Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries IV project, building on an initiative launched in FY 2014, we facilitated three Track 1.5 defense exchanges with Vietnam, Indonesia, and South Korea, involving a total of 43 active-duty defense officials at mid-level and junior officer level, as well as retired general officers. We facilitated interactions across the military services, promoting trust and mutual understanding among defense professionals.

In Indonesia, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Indonesian Ministry of Defense and conducted research in collaboration with the University of Indonesia with a view to providing a platform for further exchange on defense policy and security studies. In South Korea, we were able to maintain our program of dialogues with retired general officers despite the political situation, thereby facilitating the development of multitiered defense networks between our two countries.



Senior officers from the People's Army of Vietnam meet with then Minister of Defense Gen Nakatani in Japan (June 2025)

In this way, SPF helps to strengthen relationships among defense personnel in Japan and Asian countries.

The Japan-U.S. Congressional Strategic Network project supported the placement of Japanese researchers and political practitioners in the U.S. Congress through the American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellowship Program, providing them with opportunities to engage directly in the policymaking process. By dispatching a total of three fellows during FY 2024 and FY 2025, the program contributed to the development of professionals with deep expertise in U.S. politics while expanding congressional networks between Japan and the United States.

SPF also organized two study sessions on youth mental health for members of Japan's National Diet, with eight participants in each session. These discussions helped strengthen relationships with legislators who could play a leading role in future Japan-U.S. legislative exchanges on this issue. Enhanced collaboration with leading U.S. experts also laid the groundwork for future engagement, including expert exchanges and joint policy discussions.

These efforts helped deepen Japan-U.S. legislative ties, expand networks among policymakers and experts, and strengthen the human and institutional capacity for sustained policy dialogue and bilateral cooperation.



Parliamentary study session on youth mental health in Japan and the United States (March 2026)

These initiatives, implemented as an organic combination of policy research, recommendations, training and capacity-building, and international networking, are collectively designed to build a solid foundation for reinforcing Japan's security capacity. The use of policy recommendations within government, the accumulation of human capital and expertise, and the development of multilayered networks within Asia and with the United States have reinforced one another, helping us to build constructive foundations for the future. These initiatives allow us to expand the knowledge base and personal networks that underpin practical and effective security policies in the context of an international environment characterized by great uncertainty, while also helping to maximize the policy and social benefits in this field.

2 Changing Global Order and Japan–U.S. Relations

The international order remains in a period of significant uncertainty and transition. Since taking office in 2025, the second Trump administration has contributed to renewed debate over the future of U.S. foreign and economic policy, while also prompting allies and partners to reassess their relations with the United States. Meanwhile, shifts in the security environment surrounding nuclear issues and nuclear energy, coupled with rapid advances in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and space, continue to reshape the foundations of international cooperation and governance. In response to these developments, the program carried out seven projects in FY 2025. Priority was placed on generating and disseminating policy-relevant insights on the Japan-U.S. alliance under Trump 2.0, broadening cooperation with partner countries including those in Europe, and deepening expertise on strategic issues such as nuclear policy and space affairs.

Japan–U.S. Relations and Alliance Networks

With the Japan-U.S. alliance under the Trump administration as a central focus, we implemented projects to strengthen cooperation between Europe and the Indo-Pacific while responding to evolving dynamics within the policy community.

Under the Japan-U.S. Network of Policy Research and Dialogue, SPF collaborated with the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMFUS) to convene the 12th Young Strategists Forum (YSF) in Tokyo. The program brought together 17 emerging strategists selected from approximately 300 applicants. Through strategic simulation exercises, policy discussions, and visits to Japan Self-Defense Force facilities, participants deepened their understanding of the Japan-U.S. alliance and the evolving security environment in the Indo-Pacific.

SPF further strengthened the foundation for sustained collaboration between research institutions and researchers by seconding Senior Fellow Taisuke Abiru to the RAND Corporation as a Visiting Scholar and hosting a Visiting Scholar from RAND in return.

As part of its policy dialogue, SPF released, in both Japanese and English, “Toward Improving the Effectiveness of Extended Deterrence in the Japan-U.S. Alliance: To Make the 'Nuclear Umbrella' Be Real,” a policy recommendation developed through dialogue among former government officials and senior military leaders from Japan and the United States. Accompanied by a webinar attended by approximately 200 participants and a press briefing, the publication was covered by more than 20 media outlets, including major national newspapers, contributing to broader policy discussions on the issue.



This public webinar in June 2025 attracted considerable interest.

The Asia Strategy Initiative (ASI) Dialogue brought together 16 mid-career experts from Japan and the United States for in-depth discussions on the Japan-U.S. alliance under the Trump administration, Japan’s policy options, and current developments and challenges within the U.S. policy community.

SPF also organized the Japan-U.S. Emerging Technology Experts Dialogue on the theme of “Space and AI.” Eleven Japanese government officials and researchers visited U.S. research institutions, NASA, universities, and space-related companies to exchange views on technological developments, the U.S. innovation ecosystem, and security implications. The dialogue was recognized as a valuable forum connecting policy and technology communities while exploring new opportunities for Japan-U.S. cooperation.



Eleven Japanese researchers and government officials visited research institutes, NASA facilities, and space industries in the United States (February 2026)

Under the Cooperation Between European and Indo-Pacific Powers in the U.S. Alliance System project in conjunction with the Hudson Institute in the United States, an international conference was held in Washington D.C. along with a tabletop exercise (TTX). Sixty attendees engaged in detailed discussions on potential cooperation within the alliance system in new strategic spaces such as the Arctic Ocean, as well as associated issues. The results were released publicly in the form of a report.

A pilot version of a Track 2 Japan–U.S. Deterrence dialogue meeting was held in partnership with the Center for Nuclear Security Policy (CNSP) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), as part of the project development framework. The pilot meeting was attended by an MIT expert group as well as leading Japanese researchers on nuclear deterrence, nuclear non-proliferation, and arms control. Discussions were characterized by frank and honest opinions and expert knowledge of the subject matter, providing an excellent platform for continuing policy dialogue in the coming year.

International Order and Strategic Issues—Nuclear Policy, Nuclear Energy, and Energy Security

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation conducted important research into strategic issues that go to the core of the international order, namely the nuclear question (deterrence, non-proliferation, and arms control), advanced technology, and energy security.

Under the China's Nuclear Buildup and Japan–U.S. Deterrence Response project, SPF set up a study group of domestic experts to conduct an analysis of China's growing nuclear capability and the future nuclear posture of the United States, as the basis for a multifaceted study of extended deterrence options encompassing the feasibility of introduction of nuclear weapons and nuclear sharing. A report compiled with input from United States experts is being readied for publication in book form in 2026.

Meanwhile, the Project for Elucidating China's Nuclear Warhead Production Cycle analyzed satellite images and publicly available documents in a groundbreaking investigation into the nuclear warhead production process designed to provide a clearer picture of China's current nuclear capability. The findings were published as a report in both Japanese and English versions, which were supplied to government officials and relevant international organizations. The analysis garnered international recognition and clearly had a concrete impact on policy development, including a request to use the findings in the NPT Review Conference. The project also received international recognition, including proposals for collaborative research from overseas research institutions.



"Uncovering China's Nuclear Warhead Production Cycle" (March 2026)

The Research on Carbon Neutrality Policy Compatible with National Security project examined the question of whether both carbon neutrality and economic security can be achieved at the same time, via a series of 10 domestic study group sessions along with domestic and international investigations that identified key issues for Japan in working towards decarbonization while avoiding over-reliance on external sources of resources and technology. Research in Europe, and particularly Germany, provided valuable insights into renewable energy implementation issues and strategies that will inform policy recommendations in the coming fiscal year.

Multi-Layered Policy Research and Outreach: Building Intellectual Foundations

SPF used two key projects to further enhance our information sharing capabilities.

Under Insights Into Japan-U.S. Relations II: Research and Outreach, SPF published 14 "America Monitor" commentaries and produced podcasts examining developments in U.S. politics and foreign policy. Drawing on field research in the United States, the project provided analysis of policy debates and on-the-ground perspectives from Washington. The Japanese-language platform recorded approximately 300,000 page views during the year.



The 6th IINA Public Forum explored the impact of Trump's tariffs on Asia and Japan's strategic response (July 2025)

The Information Provision of International Situation and Security III (IINA) project released some 120 Japanese- and English-language analyses and research papers on the United States, the Middle East, energy, and cybersecurity, and a range of other topics. The Japanese-language pages were viewed around 570,000 times during the year, and the English-language pages around 130,000 times.

In this way, we put considerable resources into reporting and informing both in Japan and beyond, in an effort to raise awareness of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

Through the combined impact of these initiatives, implemented as an organic combination of research, policy dialogue, reporting and informing in multiple formats, and cultivating policy networks predicated on the Japan–U.S. alliance, SPF generated valuable insights operating as a think tank at a time when the international order centered on the United States is being reconfigured. As a result, we are able to have an increasing influence on policy decisions and impact on wider society.

SPF Websites

Satellite sites
Insights Into Japan–U.S. Relations

International Information Network Analysis (IINA)

X account

3 China in the Context of World Affairs

As the international order continues to undergo profound change, Japan faces persistent unilateral attempts to alter the status quo by force in its surrounding regions, making the maintenance of stability in areas including the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea an increasingly urgent challenge. Amidst the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, an increasingly volatile situation in the Middle East, and escalating cyberspace threats, the security environment has become more complex than ever before. Against this backdrop, SPF pursued five projects in FY 2025 that brought together research, strategic dialogue, crisis management simulations, policy recommendations, and public outreach in relation to several key topics: regional security in the context of U.S.–China relations; developments in Europe and Russia; Indo-Pacific cooperation; and cyber defense initiatives.

U.S.–China Relations and Regional Security

We facilitated dialogue, conducted joint research, and released policy outreach in relation to key regional security issues, particularly concerning the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea.

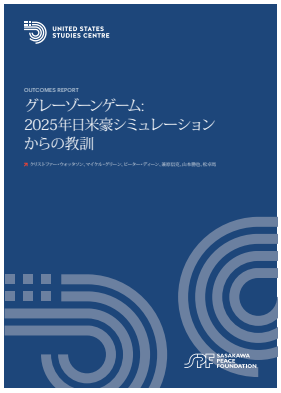
The U.S.–China Relations and Japan's Security project facilitated four key events examining security in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea: the Annual Japan-Taiwan Dialogue in Tokyo; the Japan-Taiwan-Philippines Trilateral Security Dialogue in Manila; a Japan-U.S.-Australia Crisis Management Simulation in Sydney; and a Japan-U.S.-Taiwan Crisis Management Simulation in Taipei.

These events gave participants the opportunity to share practical insights about crisis management and develop common understandings as the basis for working together on improving interoperability, while also establishing concrete ties between the relevant countries at multiple levels including government authorities and think tanks. In particular, by establishing linkages between different joint research products and dialogue frameworks, we helped to create a multilateral analytical framework including Taiwan and the Philippines.

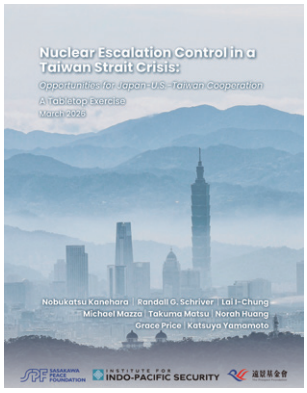
SPF published 19 essays and commentary pieces (12 in Japanese and 7 in English) along with a video. The project's engagement in shaping international policy discourse was further strengthened through sustained interactions with leading international media outlets, including the BBC in the United Kingdom and the South China Morning Post (SCMP) in Hong Kong, which regularly sought interviews and expert commentary from SPF. It also indicates the impact of our contribution to policy debate on regional security, as well as heightened awareness of SPF on the world stage.



Security experts from Japan, the United States, and Taiwan in Taipei for a crisis management simulation and a courtesy visit to Taiwan's Presidential Office (July 2025)



"Grey-zone games: Lessons from the 2025 AJUS simulation" (March 2025)



"Nuclear Escalation Control in a Taiwan Strait Crisis: Opportunities for Japan–U.S.–Taiwan Cooperation—A Tabletop Exercise" (March 2025)

Strategic Dialogue with Europe and the Indo-Pacific

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation facilitates dialogue with countries in Europe and the Indo-Pacific as a way to contribute to policy debate on security issues and maintain international networks.

The Experts' Dialogues on Russia project maintained the ongoing Japan-Russia Dialogue and the Japan-U.S.-Russia Track 2 Dialogue, and also held a Japan-U.S. experts' dialogue in Tokyo focused on Russia-China relations and Russia-China-North Korea relations.

These efforts helped establish a framework for the continuous monitoring and analysis of Russia-China and Russia-North

Korea cooperation, thereby strengthening the foundation for ongoing policy discussions. We have maintained and further developed communication channels that can be used to work through delicate strategic issues, including the Japan–Russia dialogue and Japan–U.S.–Russia dialogue held in Tashkent as well as ongoing discussions with government officials.

The Japan–India Policy Dialogue advanced discussions on the situation in the Taiwan Strait and maritime security issues through involvement in expert dialogue sessions in Tokyo and India, public symposiums, and international conferences such as the Raisina Dialogue, in conjunction with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and other partners.

These efforts promoted a clearer understanding of India's engagement in the Western Pacific and highlighted key policy challenges, thereby deepening the alignment of security perceptions between Japan and India. Closer ties with Indian think tanks such as ORF and the Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR) allowed us to contribute to building a foundation for sustained dialogue among policy communities.

International Peace Operations

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation conducted research, facilitated dialogue, and published reports and findings on key policy issues in relation to international peace operations.

The Future of International Peace Operation II project focused on the EU's security activities, with the publication of "The European Union as a Security Actor," Japan's first comprehensive report on the subject. SPF representatives joined the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM UA) in an observation capacity and took part in expert meetings. SPF also invited United Nations Under-Secretary-General Mr. Atul Khare to speak at a public symposium for around 120 participants.

The resulting insights were used to generate a systematic knowledge base in relation to the practical security capabilities of the EU, along with concrete policy implications for Japan. The insights from the EUMAM UA visit and international dialogue sessions are particularly relevant to the policy debate in Japan regarding international peacekeeping operations.

In this way, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation contributed to advancing policy discussions on international peace operations and strengthening international cooperation among practitioners, policymakers, and experts.



Public symposium "A Decade of Partnership: Japan's Capacity Building Initiatives for UN Peace Operations" with guest speaker United Nations Under-Secretary-General Mr. Atul Khare (July 2025)

Cybersecurity

In the field of cybersecurity, SPF conducted research, public outreach, and capacity-building activities related to responses to cyberattacks, information warfare, and other emerging security challenges.

The Enhancing National Cyber Security III project conducted research into active cyber defense (ACD), information warfare, and influence operations; built a social media analysis platform and disinformation portal; and released nine editions of the "Information and Cognitive Warfare Newsletter." In this way, SPF has provided a robust cybersecurity analysis platform that includes the cognitive domain, while contributing to our knowledge base on cybersecurity.

SPF also addressed the challenge of disinformation by co-hosting a seminar with the Taiwanese think tank DSET, focusing on public-private collaboration and international cooperation in countering disinformation. SPF conducted a range of public outreach activities such as information literacy workshops for junior and senior high school students; a public webinar analyzing House of Representatives elections in Japan, which attracted around 440 participants; and a media briefing that was attended by some 30 media outlets. Furthermore, SPF invited former U.S. National Cyber Director Chris Inglis to participate in the forum "Protecting Society from Cyber Attacks," co-hosted with The Yomiuri Shimbun, which drew approximately 250 participants.

These initiatives helped raise public awareness of the societal impacts of cyberattacks and information warfare, while generating broader societal outreach through media coverage and other public engagement activities. They also contributed to the advancement of Japan's cybersecurity policy by promoting understanding among policymakers and informing policy discussions.



Discussing strategies to combat disinformation with former U.S. National Cyber Director Mr. Chris Inglis and others at the Sasakawa–Yomiuri Global Forum (March 2026)

Through this body of work, SPF strengthened an integrated intellectual foundation that bridges regional security, Russia and Europe-related developments, and cyberspace by combining analysis, dialogue, and public dissemination. These efforts contributed to enhancing policy formulation capacity amid an increasingly complex and uncertain security environment, while also reinforcing Japan's international profile.

Strengthening Strategic Relations Between Asia and Japan



Building Bridges of Dialogue and Trust Across an Asia in Transition

Nobuko Kayashima

Executive Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Graduated from the Faculty of Letters at Kyoto University then joined the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), working on educational development programs for many years before serving in a number of senior leadership positions including Chief Representative of the Bangladesh Office, Director General of the Human Development Department, Director of the JICA Research Institute, and Senior Vice President. Undertook further study at the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning and completed the DEA program at University of Paris V, later earning a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Development at Nagoya University. Has worked on design and implementation of education cooperation programs by Japan, while also contributing to academic research on educational development and the internationalization of higher education. Appointed Executive Director at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in 2025.

Japan's Role as a Member of a Changing Asia

Asia, the region we call home, now stands at a major turning point. Amid ongoing unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the Indo-Pacific, new challenges posed by climate change and demographic shifts, and deepening interdependence driven by globalization, Japan needs more than ever to deepen its ties with its Asian neighbors. Close cooperation with the diverse nations of Southeast Asia, in particular, is vital to Japan's peace and prosperity. Furthermore, building new cooperative partnerships with India—a rapidly rising economic and technological powerhouse—and engaging in constructive dialogue with China, the world's second-largest economy, are pressing imperatives that Japan cannot avoid. In these priority regions, the Asia Unit at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation fosters exchanges among politicians and experts, nurtures the young people who will shape our future, and addresses unresolved challenges to regional peace through field-based initiatives. Operating with the agility and flexibility unique to a private foundation in areas beyond the reach of government and business, we strive to build relationships of trust across multiple levels—among politicians, experts, youth, and civil society.

People-to-People Exchanges and Field Initiatives in FY 2025

Guided by this approach, we carried out numerous initiatives in FY 2025. To highlight a few examples, in August we held a three-day retreat on Awaji Island that brought together promising, internationally minded politicians from Southeast Asian countries and Japan, forging deep bonds among the participants. In fragile post-conflict regions such as Aceh and Maluku in Indonesia and Mindanao in the Philippines, we have been conducting peacebuilding field projects that integrate a gender perspective under the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Building on the outcomes of these projects, in March we invited Dr. Monica McWilliams—negotiator and signatory to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement—and Dr. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, former chair of the peace panel of the Government of the Philippines, to Tokyo for a seminar that drew a strong response. To promote Japan–China friendship, in May we held a forum for Japanese and Chinese university students at Renmin University of China, where participants planted cherry trees in hopes of lasting friendship between the two countries. In October, six lacquer art experts from Japan, including two Holders of Important Intangible Cultural Properties (Living National Treasures), visited China and engaged in lively discussions with their Chinese counterparts, drawing on the long history of cultural exchange between our two countries. And in November, a delegation of field-grade officers from the Japan Self-Defense Forces visited China, deepening mutual understanding through warm exchanges with People's Liberation Army officers and visits to army, navy, and air force bases.

Sustaining the Bonds of Nongovernmental Exchange into the Future

FY 2026 marks the milestone 40th anniversary of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. At a time when inward-looking nationalism and exclusionary sentiment are rising around the world—and even among some in Japan—we firmly believe in the power of dialogue and remain committed to serving as a bridge connecting people. We will further strengthen our people-to-people exchanges, human resource development, and public outreach with the Asian region, as well as our peacebuilding projects in the field, while sharing the insights gained from these activities through publications, policy recommendations, and international conferences. Although Japan–China relations have remained challenging since the second half of FY 2025, it is precisely in times of difficulty that we must never allow the bonds of nongovernmental exchange connecting our two countries to be broken. We will redouble our efforts to advance exchanges between Japan and China.

1 Strengthening Dialogue and Capacity Building in Asia

The strategic environment across Asia has changed enormously due to a confluence of factors: the shifting international order; the increasingly inward focus of the United States; the rise of China, Russia, and India; and the corresponding decline in the power and influence of Western nations. For the sake of regional peace and stability, we must seek to create and maintain networks at multiple levels, particularly among political leaders and the next generation of influential figures, rather than relying solely on state-to-state relationships. To this end, SPF conducted five projects in FY 2025 geared toward the priority target of promoting dialogue and capacity-building.

Facilitating Dialogue Among Statespersons and Policy Networking

Projects in the area of promoting dialogue between political leaders were designed to facilitate policy dialogue on regional issues as well as building and maintaining international networks.

This year's edition of the Asian Statespersons' Forum (ASF) was attended by 14 policital leaders from Japan and 6 countries in Southeast Asia. The forum brought together experts for presentations and candid discussion on the topics of regional security, social media and democracy, and the impact of Trump's tariffs on regional economics. It fostered mutual understanding and relationships predicated on trust, and facilitated networking among statespersons. The forum also prompted ongoing exchange initiatives outside of the forum framework, thereby helping to promote and sustain networks. In this way, SPF plays an important role in helping to put in place the foundations for regional problem-solving.

The Enhancing Japan–India Strategic Network project brought three Indian parliamentarians to Japan for a series of individual meetings with Japanese politicians as well as a roundtable discussion and a public symposium. Through a combination of site visits and meetings with expert scholars, SPF facilitated high-quality substantive policy dialogue and created opportunities to share visions for the future of both Japan and India. The public symposium, meanwhile, provided an opportunity to share the outcomes of policy debate with the wider public while also promoting mutual understanding between our two nations and providing a platform for ongoing policy dialogue. In this way, SPF helped to set up an ongoing policy network for Japan–India relations while raising awareness of the foundation's work.



Discussions at the 3rd Asian Statespersons' Forum (August 2025)



Three Indian parliamentarians in Japan for roundtable meeting with Japanese politicians (March 2026)

Multilayered Dialogue with Key Strategic Regions

SPF engaged in multi-tiered dialogue and personnel exchange programs in key regional strategic areas such as Northeast India to promote mutual understanding and foster good relations.

The Multilayered Dialogue with Northeast India project invited politicians (including Chief Ministers) and opinion leaders from this key geopolitical region to Japan, where they engaged in dialogue with government officials and attended a public symposium. Meanwhile, the KIZUNA international symposium brought together representatives from a wide variety of fields to promote shared understanding of regional history and development issues through discussion. Finally, six Japanese university students were sent to Northeast India for educational purposes and to facilitate exchange among young people.



Japanese university students with peers from St. Anthony's College

In this way, SPF has helped to foster mutual understanding and cultivate trust between Japan and Northeast India, while also raising awareness of this important region within Japan. The public symposium and international conference were particularly useful in boosting awareness of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and gaining global recognition for the value of our work.

Building Networks Among the Next Generation of Politicians and Opinion Leaders

SPF facilitated connections between leaders engaged on regional issues and helped to set up networks at the international level, as part of our commitment to nurturing future leaders.

The Asia Inclusive and Innovative Leadership Program held a workshop in India for 21 up and coming leaders working on regional issues, who were drawn mainly from Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. Two follow-up activities held after the workshop served to further strengthen connections among participants. We have since seen evidence of new collaborative programs emerging among the participants, demonstrating the practical benefits of the workshop in terms of networking.

Five young politicians, including an opinion leader of Japanese descent (Nikkei), were invited to Japan to meet with Japanese politicians, academics, and media representatives. They also took part in a public symposium. This helped to raise awareness in Japan of the current circumstances of Nikkei Brazilians, while also establishing important connections between Japan and the Nikkei community in Brazil. In this way, SPF is working to build and maintain networks complemented by a multi-tiered platform to support regional problem-solving and promote mutual understanding.



Five young Nikkei politicians and an opinion leader from Brazil at Yamba Dam in Gunma prefecture (January 2026)

Nurturing the Next Generation of Peace Leaders

SPF cultivated peacebuilding insights and knowledge and promoted networking at the international level as part of our commitment to nurturing future leaders.

Under the Developing the Next Generation of Human Resources for Peace in Asia project, SPF staged a summer program in partnership with Hiroshima University for 42 students from 19 countries. The students were presented with a number of opportunities to learn about complex issues in relation to conflict resolution, reconstruction and recovery, and resource management. These included presentations, field work, talks by atomic bomb survivor, and a peace ceremony.

By facilitating dialogue among participants from a variety of different nationalities and backgrounds, SPF encouraged multifaceted understanding of the peacebuilding process and provided opportunities for international networking between participants. The program outcomes were publicized through external media, which helped to raise awareness of peace education on the global stage.



Students at a Positive Peace Workshop in the summer program in Hiroshima

In this way, through an organic combination of dialogue among political leaders, regional dialogue, next-generation networking, and education and training programs, SPF is working to build multi-tiered policy and personnel networks in Asia. The knowledge and insights generated from the forum and symposium in particular are able to influence policy debate by supplementing intergovernmental dialogue, thereby contributing to a platform for regional stability and cooperation. Through educational programs and networking initiatives for the next generation of leaders, we are developing a knowledge base for future policy development and increasing our ongoing influence on Japan's policies toward Asia.

2 Programs, Reports, and Recommendations in Asia

In Asia today, traditional security issues and non-traditional challenges, including the risk of renewed conflict, social division, climate change, and increased levels of transmigration, are intricately intertwined. For this reason, initiatives that link policy recommendations with practical outcomes at the local level are more important than ever before. Post-conflict stabilization and inclusive growth strategies must be based on data-driven policies and validation performed at the local level. To this end, SPF conducted four projects in FY 2025 centered on the key goals of peacebuilding and promoting inclusive economic and social development, using an integrated approach encompassing practical programs, policy recommendations, and information sharing at the international level.

Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation provided support for conflict resolution in the form of peacebuilding initiatives involving program validation at the local level linked to policy dialogue.

In line with the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda that champions the important role of women in conflict resolution, peacemaking, and peacebuilding processes, SPF supported gender-driven peacebuilding projects in post-conflict regions in Indonesia and the Philippines. We set up a unique model providing psychological support to 106 people in the Indonesian province of Aceh, while in Maluku province, we provided practical education programs at 25 schools and set up domestic violence prevention facilities in 20 villages. In the Philippines, we set up Women and Children Protection Units at six hospitals in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), and facilitated the signing of an MOU with the local government. Drawing on the outcomes of these projects, we engaged in policy discussions with the governments of both countries. This had a direct impact on policy-making processes; in the Philippines, for instance, we were able to include the WPS agenda in the congressional agenda both in the Senate and House of Representatives in 2026.



Training session on trauma informed care at a Women and Children Protection Unit in Mindanao (January 2026)

SPF organized an international symposium in Tokyo that featured female negotiators who had played a major role in bringing about peace agreements in various parts of the world. We also presented the findings of a joint research study with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) on the importance of women's coalitions to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). These efforts were lauded internationally.



"Women's Leadership for Peace and Security" symposium in Tokyo (March 2026)

The Violent Extremism and De-radicalization project analyzed the outcomes of a social reintegration program for 127 former combatants and their family members that ran for three years (launched in FY 2022) in Poso, Indonesia. The findings were presented in report form, and preparations were made for moving on to the next stage, namely, support for economic independence. Work is already underway to promote a community-based business focusing on honey production, which will



Honey farm run as a community-based business by former combatants

serve as a bridge between Muslim and Christian communities. We also analyzed data from around 2,200 residents of a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh and established a potential correlation between access to livelihood opportunities and risk of radicalization. We presented these findings during policy dialogue with the government of Bangladesh and forwarded them to the relevant UN conferences for consideration. We also developed a policy framework that reframes refugee issues in terms of public safety and security considerations.



Seminar in Dhaka to present findings of a study on radicalization risks in Rohingya refugee camps (March 2026)

Under the Reconciliation and Religious Education in Post-Conflict Areas in Indonesia project, we supported grassroots educational initiatives in the form of three Cross-Cultural Religious Literacy (CCRL) training programs for a total of 108 instructors in Maluku province. We also produced 18 educational songs, presented our findings at international conferences, and signed an MOU with the municipal government of Anbon, as part of a wider effort to build an integrated foundation for the education system. Our work was featured in some 50 media reports, bringing it to the attention of wider society and helping to build an international profile for this template that can be used to build mutual understanding between different religions.

Inclusive Economics and Societies

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation is championing a new approach to social inclusion that combines peacebuilding with economic development.

The Co-creating Impact Through Inclusive Economic Activities project concentrates on nurturing social enterprises and linking this to government policy in Indonesia and the Philippines. In the municipality of Palu in Indonesia, we assisted the local government in formulating a Regional Action Plan (RAD) 2025–2029 for people with disabilities and incorporating the RAD into the city's medium-term planning. In the Philippines, we provided support of a systemic nature, primarily by helping to set up Social Enterprise Councils and assisting with roadmap localization. In FY 2026, the project scope will be extended to include former fighters and their spouses in regions recovering from conflict.



Seminar in Palu to gather input on disability action plan from stakeholders (December 2025)

The combined effect of these initiatives was organically linked to practical programs in the field and policy recommendations on conflict resolution, economic development, and social integration. The knowledge and insights gained from these projects is shared through policy dialogue in Japan and overseas as well as presentations to international conferences, and has an influence on decision-making within government and on the design of systems and structures. Through a combination of research, practical projects, and dialogue, we are constantly adding to our knowledge base and developing sustained policy networks. Against the backdrop of a security environment characterized by great uncertainty, the work of SPF makes a meaningful contribution to policy formulation and helps to raise Japan's profile on the international stage.

3 Establishing Enduring Networks and Information Sharing Between Japan and China

The Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Program, one of the largest private-sector funds of its kind, was established in 1989 with a mandate to promote mutual understanding and enduring peace in Japan and China. In line with the philosophy of promoting understanding, nurturing talent, and furthering cooperation to shape the future, the program encompasses a range of initiatives including personnel exchanges tailored to immediate needs, talent development, and information sharing across a broad spectrum of political and economic domains as well as general culture and society, predicated on a future-focused long-term view. For over 30 years now, SPF has facilitated a variety of exchange programs between our two countries at multiple levels, ranging from ordinary citizens to government officials and involving more than 26,000 participants in total. In this way, we have built a solid foundation for mutual understanding between the Japanese and Chinese peoples. In FY 2025, we conducted 13 projects with the focus on cultivating networks through an organic combination of personnel exchanges, knowledge exchanges, and information sharing.

Personnel Exchange Programs and Multi-Tiered Networks

Personnel exchanges involved dialogue across a broad range of topics ranging from politics and security issues through to culture and regional issues.

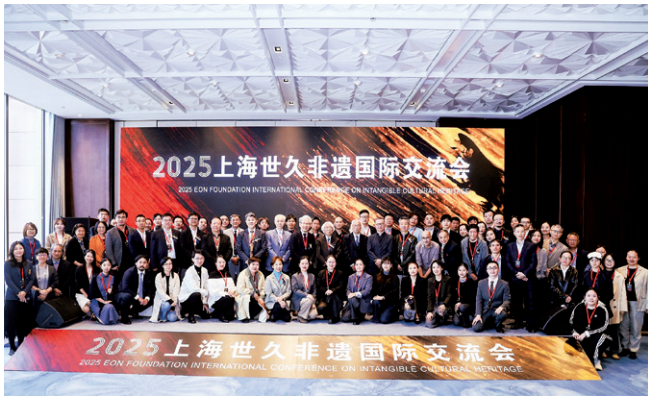
Through the Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program, 13 senior officers from the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces visited the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Academy of Military Science and military facilities, and also held discussions with PLA senior officers. Although a planned visit to Japan by senior PLA officials was postponed, we took care to maintain the relationship with defense officials in China in order to cultivate a sense of trust in the area of bilateral security. The exchange program, well known in both countries thanks to extensive media coverage, helps to raise awareness of the significance of the Japan–China relationship.

The Invitation Program for Chinese Opinion Leaders project invited eight scholars and experts on environmental policy and public discourse to Japan for formal dialogue with officials from the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as discussions with local media. They shared expert opinions and engaged in in-depth policy dialogue.



Delegation of 13 senior officers from the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces inspecting an air force base in Wuhan during a visit to China (November 2025)

The Exchange Project for Japan–China Experts in Traditional Arts and Crafts invited eight Chinese experts in traditional crafts to Japan and arranged for six Japanese experts in lacquer and other disciplines to visit China. The project also staged a conference on preservation of cultural treasures. The Exchange Project for Japan–China Experts in Regional Revitalization, meanwhile, invited six China experts on regional revitalization to Japan for discussions with local officials, and sent three Japanese experts to China for discussions. In this way, SPF fosters private sector-led collaborative relations in the areas of culture and regional development.



Japanese and Chinese practitioners of traditional arts and crafts meet in Shanghai (October 2025)

Knowledge Sharing Platforms and Research Networks

In the field of knowledge sharing, SPF worked on developing academic and education networks. The Network Construction Between Japanese and Chinese Young Leaders project staged a joint

study group for around 50 Japanese and Chinese scholars active in the field of international studies. On-site research by Kyushu University and the City of Shimonoseki was used as the basis for dialogue on important topics such as historical perception.

The Building Networks with Chinese Studies Institutes project set up 8 research groups at the University of Tokyo, which together held 22 workshops as well as 2 symposiums and published a total of 41 papers. Some 58 articles were posted on the "*chugokugaku*.com" website, attracting 120,000 views over the course of the year. A summary of the presentations was published under the title, *University of Tokyo Contemporary Chinese Studies*.

As for capacity building in the field of education, the Training for Teachers of Japanese Language in Remote Areas of China project ran a training program in China for 100 Japanese language instructors, as well as an additional training program in Japan for a select group of 20 instructors. Some of the alumni set up educational networks among themselves, thereby establishing a platform for ongoing exchange.



Workshop for local Japanese language university instructors at Inner Mongolia University (September 2025)

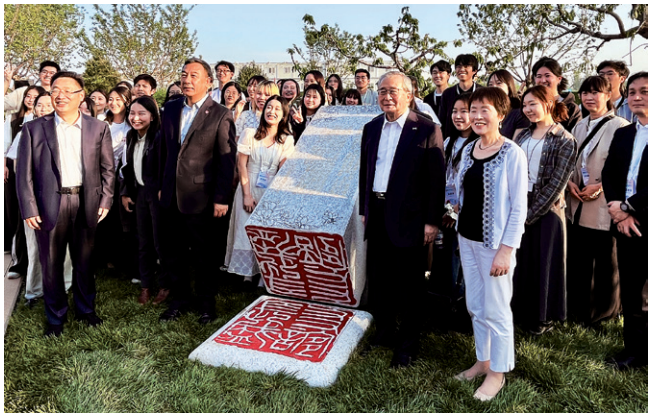
Sharing Information and Promoting Mutual Understanding

In terms of information sharing, SPF utilized resources connected with a variety of exchange programs to strategically deliver information in both Japan and China.

In Japan, the Enhancing Dissemination of Information Relating to China in Japan project conducted the 2025 iteration of an opinion survey entitled Perceptions of China in Japan. The findings were presented in an English-language paper that appeared in the *International Journal of Asian Studies* (IJAS) published by the University of Cambridge in the U.K.

The 7th iteration of the Japan–China Future Visions Forum, a forward-focused vehicle for presenting solutions to major challenges in society, was staged at Renmin University of China, with some 81 university students from Japan and China in attendance. The 8th Forum, held at Kyushu University, attracted 38 attendees.

We also ran 3 workshops for elementary school students and their parents and guardians exploring Japanese and Chinese culture through the medium of kanji characters, which were attended by a total of 41 people. In this way, SPF provides the next generations in both countries with opportunities to learn about the other's society and culture.



Planting cherry blossom trees as a symbol of lasting friendship during the 7th Japan–China Future Visions Forum at Renmin University of China (May 2025)

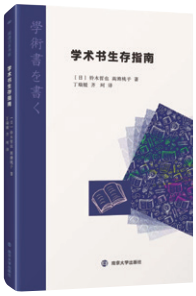
The Sasakawa Peace Foundation announced at the Beijing International Book Fair that our Japan–China Book Translation and Publication Exchange Program would resume work on publishing translations in partnership with six university publishers in Japan and China. The partnership saw the publication of Chinese translations of three original Japanese works and launched a new initiative that gives ordinary citizens from both countries the chance to take part in exchanges through the medium of translated works.



Japan–China Exchange — Those Who Worked for 50 Years (University of Tokyo Press, June 2025)



Chinese translation of Japanese book *The Era of Great Disasters — Japan and Its Three Major Earthquakes* (Nanjing University Press, June 2025)



Chinese translation of Japanese book *Rethinking Scholarly Publications* (Nanjing University Press, June 2025)

The Past, Present, and Future of Japan–China Exchange project published the findings of a survey of 1,462 groups and organizations involved in Japan–China exchange initiatives. The findings were also presented at a briefing session for 245 attendees.

The program partnered with the People's Daily to publish 62 long-form articles, 13 media reports, and 7 videos on their website. We also posted 156 articles on a Chinese social media account called Yilan Fusang, which currently has 65,000 followers. Through these two initiatives we are maintaining a platform that continues to provide information to the Chinese-speaking world in a bid to contribute to a better understanding of Japan.

Deepening Understanding of and Strengthening Relations with Islamic Countries



Itsu Adachi

Executive Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Joined the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from Sophia University. Spent 35 years at JICA leading international cooperation programs in developing countries, serving variously as Chief Representative of the JICA Cambodia office and head of post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction in Cambodia; also led reconstruction and development projects in Southeast Asia and elsewhere and championed associated technological innovation and digital transformation initiatives. Appointed executive director in 2020. Currently responsible for overseeing research, dialogue, and exchange programs in the West Asia and Islamic regions.

Deepening Understanding of and Strengthening Relations with the West Asia and Islamic Regions

West Asia remains a region mired in conflict and confrontation. The military confrontation that pits the U.S. and Israel against Iran is affecting the entire region, as exemplified by the Strait of Hormuz closure and attacks on U.S. military basis in Gulf countries, inviting a major international security crisis with significant implications for the global economy. This has created a crisis situation for Japanese industry and government, given our dependence on West Asia for energy and resources, and underlined the importance of achieving security in the region. In Japan, meanwhile, we have a limited understanding of West Asia and of Islam, due in no small part to skewed media reporting, and this appears to be an obstacle to developing better relations with Islamic countries. In light of the importance and influence of West Asia and Islamic countries in relation to global peace and security, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation is increasingly cognizant of the importance of pursuing dialogue and exchange programs and addressing social issues in the relevant regions, while also seeking to raise the level of understanding among Japanese people.

Maintaining Dialogue and Social Programs in Difficult Circumstances

In FY 2025, SPF was able to develop alternative options for achieving our aims in the context of the current instability in West Asia.

SPF pursued ongoing dialogue with Iran and strove to maintain relationships despite the difficult circumstances, firstly by welcoming the Deputy Minister and President of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran to Japan along with researchers from IPIS and students from the School of International Relations (SIR), and secondly by arranging for Japanese university students to visit neighboring countries in the region. SPF is working to build closer relations with Türkiye, which is increasingly viewed as a key influence in peace mediation talks and other arenas, for example, by organizing a roundtable in Japan and inviting early-career diplomatic officials as well as senior officials from the Center for Strategic Research (SAM) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Türkiye. In June, SPF welcomed researchers from the Al Jazeera Centre for Studies in Qatar for discussions with West Asia analysts in Japan, among other networking initiatives.

Meanwhile, we were pleased to see that programs designed to address shared regional challenges in relation to migration flows and support for entrepreneurs were able to deliver the anticipated outcomes.

Stronger Focus on Informed Debate and Collaboration

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation is looking to launch new initiatives to promote intellectual dialogue and expand networks with researchers and opinion leaders from Arab nations. The foundation also aims to expand innovative initiatives for addressing social issues in collaboration with organizations in the West Asia and Islamic regions, drawing on its experience with past initiatives in Southeast Asia and Japan, such as supporting female entrepreneurs and building an inclusive society with foreign residents.

Meanwhile, the foundation is also committed to raising awareness and understanding in Japan of West Asia and Islamic countries, by building our research capacity in the region and devoting more resources to reporting and information sharing.

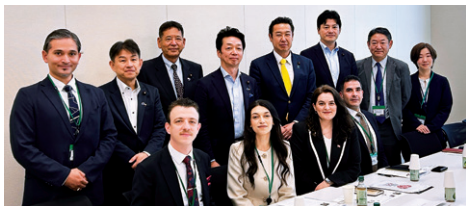
1 Strengthening Dialogue and Capacity Building in West Asia

Notwithstanding the advent of a new government in Syria, the regional order in West Asia is in a state of considerable turmoil at present due to the ongoing situation in Gaza; attacks by the U.S. and Israel on Iran, resulting in the closure of the Strait of Hormuz; and escalating violence in southern Lebanon. This is having a marked impact on international security and the global economy, necessitating a strategic response from Japan. At the same time, it has been noted that understanding of Islam within Japan remains limited, which causes issues within domestic society and clouds our foreign relations. In FY 2025, SPF undertook six projects aligned with the key theme of building and maintaining relationships, through a combination of dialogue, exchange programs, and information sharing initiatives designed to address social issues in the relevant region, as part of the Building Strategic Japan–Iran Ties and Promote Understanding and Dialogue Between the Middle East and Japan projects.

Promoting Understanding and Dialogue Between the Middle East and Japan

SPF is committed to improving our understanding of West Asia. To this end, we worked on developing dialogue platforms and knowledge networks particularly with Türkiye and the Gulf nations.

The Promote Understanding and Dialogue Between the Middle East and Japan project brought four early-career diplomatic officers from the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye to Japan for training sessions held largely in Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Kyoto. We also held a roundtable with representatives from the Center for Strategic Research (SAM) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discussed government policy in relation to regional risks and mediation diplomacy. This was an excellent opportunity for Japan and Türkiye to share insights on the diplomatic policy positions of middle powers.



Four early-career Türkiye diplomats meeting with Diet members from the Japan–Türkiye Parliamentary Friendship League in Japan (May 2026)

SPF invited 2 researchers from the Al Jazeera Centre for Studies in Qatar to take part in presentations and briefing sessions that attracted around 60 participants, and put in place a framework for ongoing online dialogue. In this way, SPF is working to provide researchers and media representatives in Japan with information from the West Asian perspective in a bid to raise the standard of domestic policy debate.



Two researchers from Al Jazeera Centre for Studies in Japan for a presentation (June 2025)

We have also set up a local research fellowship program due to commence in FY 2026, which will provide a platform for nurturing early-career Japanese researchers. It is envisaged that these initiatives will help to promote the development of enduring networks with key players in the West Asia region and strengthen the intellectual foundation of these efforts.

Building Strategic Japan–Iran Ties

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation has been attempting to maintain ties between Japan and Iran via policy dialogue and networking initiatives, in spite of the deteriorating situation.

The Building Strategic Japan–Iran Ties project has had to suspend or postpone operations in parts of Iran due to the rapidly deteriorating domestic security situation. We have adapted project designs where possible, with a shift in focus toward hosting Iranian representatives in Japan. In November 2025, we arranged for the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister and four researchers and other representatives from the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) to come to Japan for a presentation and roundtable attended by around 60 people. This was a wonderful opportunity for Japanese policy-makers and researchers to hear the Iranian perspective on recent developments in the region, providing an important source of input into policy discussions.

In the area of early-career training and development, we arranged for nine students and one instructor from the School of International Relations (SIR) to attend a training program in Japan, where they also got to meet with Japanese university students. Given that it is not currently possible to send Japanese university students into Iran, SPF arranged alternative training programs for nine students in neighboring Qatar and Oman.

This enabled them to hear a different perspective on the Iran situation from the point of view of the Gulf countries.

Despite the current constraints on political relations, SPF is committed to maintaining ties between Japan and Iran through informed debate and networking in order to provide a solid basis for rebuilding the relationship at some point in the future.



Nine students and one instructor from SIR Iran in Japan for training and student exchange (December 2025)

Disseminating Information and Promoting Social Understanding

At SPF, we see information sharing between both domestic and global audiences as a means of addressing social issues and promoting understanding in society.

To this end, we published a book called *Education of Muslim Children Living in Japan* based on the findings of previous projects, which contains insights designed to encourage a better understanding of Islam among the Japanese public. We also shared presentations and articles providing recent updates on the situation in West Asia, and contributed reports and other materials for the purpose of policy debate.



Education of Muslim Children Living in Japan (Akashi Shoten, August 2025)

These initiatives will contribute to a better understanding of Islamic society in Japan while adding to the knowledge base that informs foreign policy.

Addressing Shared Regional Challenges

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation generated data-driven policy recommendations on shared regional challenges such as climate change and migration flows.

The Climate-Induced Displacement Responses project surveyed conditions in Indonesia and the Philippines and conducted a Loss and Damage analysis to identify the anticipated long-term impacts. The findings were published in the form of three academic papers and two reports that were presented at international conferences and academic societies. In this way, SPF has provided a material basis for policy debate on climate-induced transmigration and contributed to the international knowledge base in this field.

Meanwhile, the Project on Education Support for Migrant Children through Mutual Learning Between Thailand and Japan developed a model template for improving educational access for the children of migrants, which involved running training sessions for 80 volunteers at 3 sites in Thailand; revising and updating teaching materials; and engaging in policy dialogue. The Building Models Towards Inclusive Society in Asia project produced the “Handbook for an Inclusive Society with Foreign Residents,” designed a training model for collaboration with communities of foreigners, and linked these into Immigration Services Agency processes. These efforts were recognized by the Immigration Services Agency with the Commendation for Promoting Inclusive Society, indicating our direct influence on policy implementation and showing the social value of our work.



SPF is presented with the Commendation for Promoting Inclusive Society from the Immigration Services Agency (January 2026)

In Cambodia, we set up a support ecosystem comprising entrepreneur support and mentoring programs, along with a framework that integrates policy, training, and funding. In this way, we outlined a new policy perspective that links economic inclusion to conflict prevention and social stability. We presented our findings at international conferences and in other settings as a way to influence cross-regional discussion and debate. It is hoped that the insights gained through this work can be applied to future efforts to address shared challenges in the West Asia and Islamic regions.



Mentor development program in Cambodia (July 2025)

Despite the turmoil in West Asia, SPF remains committed to maintaining good relations between Japan and Islamic countries, to the extent that it is possible, via ongoing dialogue, exchange programs, and information sharing. Notwithstanding rising tensions in Iran that limit opportunities for exchange, SPF was able to pursue dialogue and training programs, employing alternative strategies where necessary.

We see it as a very valuable undertaking that underpins the Japan–Iran relationship. Our work has helped to maintain a foundation for rebuilding the relationship in the future, and also underscored the significance of private-sector led exchange initiatives in a challenging international environment.

Realization of a Peaceful World Through the Ocean



Mitsutaku Makino

President, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

After graduating from the Faculty of Agriculture at Kyoto University, he completed an M.Phil. at the University of Cambridge and a doctoral program at Kyoto University. After serving in positions including senior researcher and head of the Fisheries Policy Group at the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, he became a professor at the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute of the University of Tokyo in 2019. Specializing in ocean policy, fisheries management, and ecosystem conservation, he has served as a member of Japan's delegation to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) and as chair of the Human Dimensions Committee of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), among other roles.

Science and Rules to Unlock the Ocean's Potential

Life on Earth emerged in the ocean around 3.5–4 billion years ago. Over time, life evolved, grew more diverse, moved onto land, and formed ecosystems that include humankind. As the phrase "mother ocean" suggests, the ocean is the ancestral home of all life. Covering 70% of Earth's surface, the ocean is also a place that connects people, countries, and cultures. I believe that through the ocean, we can achieve sustainability for humankind and peace throughout the world.

The key to achieving this lies in the fact that the ocean belongs to everyone. There is only one ocean on this planet, and people can use it together in many different ways. It can be used sustainably to produce food, transport goods, generate energy while enhancing biodiversity, absorb and store CO2, extract minerals, and support tourism and education. The same ocean space can be used by different sectors across four dimensions — for example, on the surface, below the surface, or on the seabed; at high tide or low tide; in the morning or at night; and in different seasons.

To realize this kind of relationship between people and an ocean full of possibilities, we need a scientific understanding of the ocean's structure and functions, the use of cutting-edge technologies, and integrated rulemaking that allows diverse uses to coexist.

Turning Ocean Knowledge Into Policy and Practical Implementation

In recent years, discussions about ocean-based economic development, including the blue economy, have gained momentum around the world, particularly in Asia, Africa, and island nations. It is also becoming increasingly clear that the ocean can play a greater role in mitigating climate change than previously understood. Discussions will also begin globally on a post-SDG framework for Goal 14 (Life Below Water). Moreover, 2027 will mark the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Basic Ocean Law, a major milestone for our foundation. Ocean policy is attracting significant attention both in Japan and around the world.

Working in partnership with the academic community, the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) formulates and proposes ocean policies based on scientific evidence. We support legislative and administrative bodies in putting those policies into practice, while generating new knowledge and value through collaboration with people on the ground. All OPRI staff will continue working together to serve as a nexus linking ocean science, policy, and society.

1 Ocean Projects

The ocean environment faces complex and multilayered challenges, including worsening climate change, biodiversity loss, declining resources and growing difficulties in resource management, the growing importance of ocean data, and heightened international activity surrounding ocean governance. In recent years in particular, increasing importance has been placed on translating ocean science into policy, implementing the blue economy (a concept that seeks sustainable growth of the ocean economy while conserving the marine environment), strengthening polar governance, and increasing the international mobility of ocean professionals. Against this backdrop, under the priority goal of "Realization of a Peaceful World Through the Ocean," SPF carried out a total of 13 projects in FY 2025, focusing on connecting science and policy, sustainable ocean use, responses to polar-region challenges, capacity building, and information sharing.

Using Science and Technology to Advance Understanding of the Ocean and Inform Policy

In ocean science, we focused on strengthening the knowledge base that connects cutting-edge scientific research with policymaking.

Through the 6 research projects selected under the first and second open calls of the Ocean Shot Research Grant, researchers discovered 143 species of meiofauna, 3 new deep-sea cave-dwelling species, and 3 undescribed species of brittle stars, among other findings. The projects also advanced the development of new technologies, including high-resolution imaging, compact remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), a new echo sounder for mapping seafloor topography, and a shadowgraph imaging system, while establishing a framework for collaboration among the research projects. Under the third open call, we also selected two new research projects using AI analysis and genomic technologies, establishing a comprehensive interdisciplinary research platform. These efforts advanced understanding of marine ecosystems and generated knowledge that can inform policy.

Under the Policy Research on the UN Decade of Ocean Science, we analyzed research trends within international frameworks and the state of Japan's participation, clarifying the direction of the national committee. The findings were presented at PICES 2025 and other forums, and the work received international recognition, including an outstanding presentation award won by an early-career researcher. This helped lay the groundwork for stronger Japanese engagement in ocean science policy.



Outstanding Early-Career Presentation Award ceremony (left: OPRI Research Fellow Kotaro Tanaka; right: OPRI President Mitsutaku Makino. Photo: Raphael Roman)

Under the Demonstrating the Benefit of Satellite VDES* project, in FY 2025 we used an operational satellite to conduct Japan's first communications demonstration transmitting navigational warnings to ships immediately after a simulated tsunami. We also took the lead in developing the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA) guidelines for sharing satellite VDES resources. Through their contribution to international standard-setting in ocean digital transformation (DX), these efforts had a direct impact on policymaking. (* VDES: VHF Data Exchange System.)

Solving Ocean Challenges in Japan and Asia and Promoting Sustainable Development in Africa

In sustainable ocean use, we promoted initiatives that integrate practical implementation with policy proposals.

Under the Project Related to Marine Litter Control, we conducted a pilot collection of approximately 70 tons of marine litter across 4 prefectures around the Seto Inland Sea in Japan, helping systematize region-specific models and build a policy foundation.

Under Ocean Innovation from Asia, we implemented the

use of oyster shells in Hiroshima as an alternative input for steel-making, supporting the recycling of approximately 8,200 tons of material annually and reducing CO_2 emissions by around 15%. In Palau, we also rolled out the conversion of waste plastic into solid fuel, demonstrating a locally adapted blue economy model.

In addition, through participation in the 1000 Ocean Startups Ocean Impact Navigator (OIN) Advisory Board for ocean impact investment and the development of an AI-based evaluation system, we directly contributed to international rule-making for blue impact finance. As an outcome of the Eminent Persons Meeting on Sustainable Development and International Partnerships for Africa, we submitted 28 policy recommendations across 7 areas to the foreign minister. The results were also shared at international forums including the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), providing concrete insights for policy discussions (see boxed article on p. 35 for details). We further achieved policy-level impact through measures including presenting a proposal for a fund to the African Development Bank.





Left: Policy recommendations “Toward the Promotion of Sustainable Development in Africa” (July 2025)
Right: The recommendations are presented to then Minister for Foreign Affairs Takeshi Iwaya in conjunction with TICAD9.

Together, these initiatives connected solutions to regional challenges with international policy discussions and helped translate sustainable ocean policy into concrete action.

Addressing Challenges in the Polar Regions

In polar policy, we integrated scientific research and policy dialogue in the polar regions, which are on the front lines of climate change.

Under the Next Generation Ocean Policy in the Polar Regions, we promoted salmon resource management and citizen science in collaboration with Alaska Native communities, developing a community-led resource management model.

We also partnered with UiT The Arctic University of Norway and other institutions to deliver a summer school program



November 2025: SPF President Atsushi Sunami with Vivian Motzfeldt, then Minister of Foreign Affairs and Research of the government of Greenland (left).

for 13 early-career researchers covering governance, security, and climate change, and agreed to continue the program in the future. Additionally, we established an institutional framework for research and policy dialogue through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the government of Greenland.

In the Hindu Kush–Himalaya region, the world’s third-largest store of ice after the Arctic and Antarctic, we identified accelerating glacier retreat and landslide risks in the Ganges River basin, and established a foundation for assessing flood risks and ecosystems in the middle and lower reaches. These findings were shared at international conferences and other forums as concrete input for climate change and water resource management policies.



Conservation and development survey conducted in the Hindu Kush–Himalaya region in Nepal.

In addition, under the New Sustainable Ocean Governance Methodology, we deepened collaboration with research institutions in China and South Korea, and the North Pacific Arctic Research Community (NPARC), while strengthening cooperation with Arctic Council member states. We also convened experts to examine Japan’s next Arctic policy and compiled the framework for a set of recommendations.

These initiatives helped strengthen Japan’s engagement in polar governance and deepen international cooperation.

Developing Ocean Professionals and Strengthening Education

In capacity building, we promoted systematic training and development for professionals who will lead policy and research.

Under the Ocean Education Pioneer School Program III project, we supported inquiry-based learning at 205 schools in Japan, promoting the spread of ocean education and the accumulation of practical models. We also advanced the sharing and exchange of knowledge through efforts such as presenting insights from educational practice in Japan at international conferences and bringing them into international discussions.

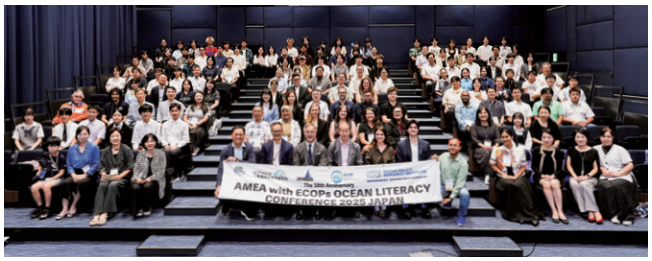


In May 2026, 30 WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program students visited Japan, touring maritime and ocean-related institutions in Tokyo, Yokohama, Imari, Shimonoseki, and Kobe.

Under the Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields project, the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program at World Maritime University (WMU) provided scholarship opportunities to 60 students from 58 countries, and expanded its network to 89 countries. We also ensured the continuity of the alumni network through training in Japan and regional meetings.

Under Ocean Professional Development, we tested practical methods of ocean science communication and accumulated related know-how through ocean observation, research support, and outreach activities aboard a Norwegian-flagged sailing vessel. We also conducted international exchanges through the ECOP (Early Career Ocean Professionals) network, promoting collaboration among early-career professionals and the international sharing of knowledge.

These initiatives helped build a pool of professionals who will support the ocean policy community of the future.



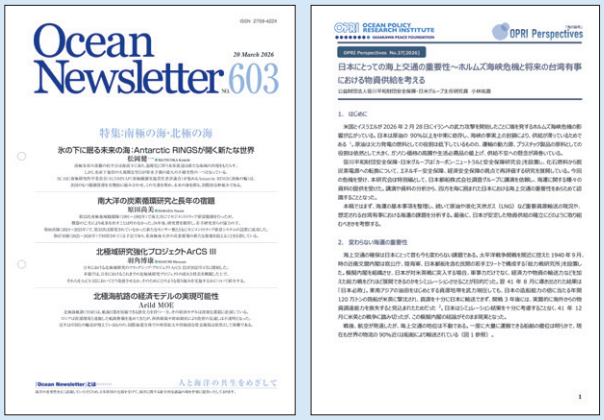
In August 2025, SPF co-hosted the AMEA with ECOPs Ocean Literacy Conference 2025 Japan with the Asia Marine Educators Association (AMEA).

Sharing Information on the Ocean

In information sharing, we made research findings and policy proposals more visible and strengthened their international reach.

Through our Ocean Newsletter, we published a total of 68 articles in Japanese and English, and established new networks with 49 external experts. In addition, by publishing OPRI Perspectives and holding the Ocean Forum, we systematically shared research findings and policy proposals.

By providing knowledge to policymakers and researchers in Japan and abroad, these communications helped shape discussions and influence decision-making on ocean policy.



Left: Ocean Newsletter No. 603 (March 2026)
Right: OPRI Perspectives No. 36 (December 2025)

Across this series of activities, we integrated scientific research, policy proposals, practical implementation, capacity building, and information sharing, systematically strengthening the knowledge base in the ocean field. In particular, international standard-setting, the incorporation of policy proposals into government policy, and practical implementation of regional models have reinforced one another, producing concrete impact on policymaking. The international networks built through these efforts also serve as a durable foundation for cooperation, helping enhance Japan's international presence and intellectual influence in ocean policy.

TICAD9 Official Side Event Held

Promoting Sustainable Food Systems and the Blue Economy in Africa

In August 2025, SPF held the TICAD9 official side event “The Future of Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Food Systems and Local Economies in Africa.” The event was held in collaboration with the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) and featured discussions on food security, agriculture, fisheries, and the development of the blue economy in Africa. It also provided an opportunity to share with stakeholders in Japan and abroad the 28 policy recommendations across 7 areas compiled by SPF through the Eminent Persons Meeting on Sustainable Development and International Partnerships for Africa.

The event was attended by high-level leaders from across Africa, including President William Ruto of Kenya, Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva of Cabo Verde, and Prime Minister Elijah Ngurare of Namibia, and featured special remarks by then Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.

The panel discussion addressed capacity building and international collaboration to advance sustainable blue economies and agriculture. SAA and the African Union Commission (AUC) also signed an MOU, marking a new step toward closer cooperation.

Using TICAD9 as an opportunity, SPF contributed to making Japan–Africa cooperation in food security and the blue economy more concrete, and to deepening policy dialogue.



Speakers at the TICAD9 high-level thematic event



Then Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba delivering remarks

2 Island Nations Projects

Against a backdrop of intensifying geopolitical competition, island nations and regions are being called on to address a complex set of challenges, including climate change, vulnerable economic structures, and ocean resource management. In the Pacific Islands region in particular, there is a growing need for effective frameworks for cooperation that can achieve both regional autonomy and sustainable development. Against this backdrop, in FY 2025 SPF implemented a total of five projects across two categories — Pacific Island Nations and Global Synergy — focusing on building multilayered relationships between Japan and island nations and promoting practical cooperation to address regional challenges.

Strengthening Relations Between Pacific Island Nations and Japan

We promoted multilayered relationship-building spanning policy and practitioner levels, local communities, and future generations.

Recognizing the importance of maritime security, SPF has been providing support since 2016 in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the government of Palau and The Nippon Foundation on “Support to Enhance Coast Guard Capabilities and Promote Eco-conscious Tourism” in Palau. Under the Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region III project, SPF maintained Palau’s maritime law enforcement capabilities by funding the salaries of approximately 15 Marine Law Enforcement officers. We also dispatched the Japan Coast Guard Mobile Cooperation Team (MCT) to Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands to provide law-enforcement and search-and-rescue training to approximately 20 local maritime police officers. The training in the Federated States of Micronesia also brought officers from all three countries together, advancing practitioner-level cooperation and dialogue among Japan, the United States, Australia, and the Micronesian countries.



Certificate presentation following a series of training sessions conducted by Japan Coast Guard personnel in February 2026.

SPF has also been strongly committed to promoting sustainable tourism since 2015. Under the Economic Revitalization in Pacific Island Communities By Boosting Community Based Tourism project, we promoted the introduction and spread of the “Community Based Ecotourism Sasakawa Model,” making progress toward establishing independently operated tours at the state level in Palau. In addition, five tourism officials from Palau, the Solomon Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia took part in internship training in Toba, while presentations at the Pacific Tourism Organisation ministerial meeting and other forums and workshops in various countries raised awareness of the model. These efforts helped translate sustainable tourism policy into practice and strengthen the self-reliance of local economies.



In October 2025, SPF presented the Community Based Ecotourism Sasakawa Model in Tonga.

Under the Building a Foundation of Human Relationships Between Pacific Islands and Japan for Future Generation project, we held a dialogue bringing together 16 students from Pacific island countries and Japan, in conjunction with Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, and the fourth Pacific Islands Young Professionals Forum, attended by 27 participants. In Palau, a filmmaking workshop involving 20 young people and screenings at an international film festival also promoted cultural outreach and mutual understanding among the next generation. These initiatives advanced the formation of networks among people who will shape the future and strengthened the foundation for sustained relationships.




In November 2025, SPF held a filmmaking workshop in Palau for young people involved in film production.

Under the Creation of a New Regional Order Layer in the Pacific Islands Region project, SPF invited 20 practitioners from Pacific island countries, 11 international students in Japan, and 10 experts to the inaugural FLOWERS meeting. FLOWERS stands for Freely Linked Opportunities With Efforts and Results, meaning “a place where efforts and results can connect freely.” The meeting serves as a platform connecting actors from industry, government, academia, and the private sector, and linking policymaking with challenges on the ground. It is positioned as a private-sector framework that complements the government-led Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM). Across areas including trade and investment, tourism, protection of traditional culture, waste management, and disaster management, participants identified practical challenges and explored solutions, helping build a collaborative foundation linking policymaking with implementation.



In March 2026, SPF invited practitioners from Pacific island countries to the inaugural FLOWERS meeting.

Promoting Global Synergies

We promoted problem-solving and value creation by strengthening collaboration among Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Under the Vulnerability Reduction and Value Creation in Island Areas project, we conducted field research on local challenges and built networks in Caribbean island countries such as Saint Lucia, and Indian Ocean island countries such as Mauritius, while strengthening academic collaboration through support for the Pacific Academy of Sciences conference. This advanced analysis of challenges based on regional characteristics and the accumulation of knowledge.

As part of interregional collaboration, we also held dialogues in the Caribbean, Pacific, Northeast Indian Ocean, and Western Indian Ocean/Africa regions, each attended by approximately 40 participants. Approximately 60 participants also attended the inaugural Island Nations Global Synergy Meeting.



Participants in a regional dialogue held in Mauritius in February 2026.



In March 2026, SPF held the inaugural Island Nations Global Synergy Meeting.

Through these dialogues, participants discussed cross-cutting issues including sustainable tourism, ocean management, disaster management, and waste management, helping clarify common challenges and differences among SIDS. This provided a new analytical perspective that moves beyond the conventional tendency to view island nations through a single framework, while also contributing to international policy discussions and the expansion of people-to-people networks.

Across this series of activities, we brought together efforts to strengthen relations with Pacific island countries and global collaboration among island nations in a mutually reinforcing way, building a multilayered cooperation network that links policy dialogue, practical cooperation, and capacity building. In particular, the frameworks created through the FLOWERS meeting and regional dialogues complement intergovernmental processes while providing a foundation for substantive engagement in policy discussions. This contributes to enhancing Japan’s presence and intellectual influence in international discussions on island nations.

Fostering International Leaders From Japan



Junko Chano

Executive Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Ms. Chano studied at Hitotsubashi University and worked at the Japan Foundation before joining the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in 1991. She worked on projects related to Pacific island countries and earned a Master of Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania. After working at the Ford Foundation in the United States for seven years, she returned to Japan and, as executive director, helped launch and manage initiatives including Japan–U.S. programs, Middle East exchange programs, and the Security Studies Program. She currently focuses on advancing the Sasakawa Scholarship Program, launched in 2022.

Fostering International Leaders From Japan: Bringing Our Mission to Life

Since its establishment in 1986, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation has supported contributions by Japanese individuals and organizations to the international community by promoting international exchange and cooperation. Over the past 40 years, one of the foundation's defining characteristics has been its evolution into a comprehensive foundation with think tank capabilities. Beyond reviewing its program areas in response to changing times, SPF has actively expanded its own initiatives to tackle international challenges directly. One such initiative is the Sasakawa Scholarship Program, launched in 2022.

The priority goal of the Sasakawa Scholarship Program can be seen as an embodiment of SPF's ultimate mission of "promoting contributions by Japanese people to the international community," a mission pursued through numerous projects and research activities since the foundation's establishment. In particular, as COVID-19 spread globally in 2020 and had a profound impact on the international community, SPF discussed the importance of cultivating the younger generation as international leaders with an eye toward the post-pandemic world. Because providing scholarships requires substantial funding, donations from the Nippon Future Project race series, made possible through the generous support of the National Association of Motorboat Racing Organizers, are used to fund student scholarships, while SPF administers the program.

The Past Year: A Growing Sasakawa Scholarship Community

Since 35 students in the first cohort entered universities in the United States and United Kingdom in 2023, outstanding young people from Japan have gone on each year to pursue bachelor's degrees, studying and honing their skills alongside students from around the world. Recruitment for the fourth cohort was conducted twice, in July 2025 and the spring of 2026, and 19 outstanding students were selected by April 2026. The Sasakawa Scholarship Program now has a total of 102 scholars across the first through fourth cohorts. The pre-departure study camp for the fourth cohort, held in late June 2026, also drew active participation from members of the first 3 cohorts, bringing together a total of 65 scholars. We are very pleased to see the scholarship community steadily growing.

At the request of high schools across Japan, we also hold school information sessions throughout the year and have visited well over 150 schools since the scholarship program began.

Welcoming Our First Graduates and Further Strengthening the Community

In just the few years since the Sasakawa Scholarship Program was launched in 2022, the international community has seen the post-Cold War international order face serious challenges amid armed conflicts and intensifying geopolitical confrontation around the world. Global challenges have also grown more severe, extending beyond global health to climate change and large-scale disasters, while the range of global risks has expanded to encompass issues related to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, terrorism, and new risks arising from advances in AI technology. Even in advanced economies, particularly in Europe and North America, widening economic disparities and migration issues are deepening social divisions and undermining trust in democracy.

As the world faces the dual challenge of an increasingly unstable international order and increasingly complex and multilayered social issues, Sasakawa scholars are keenly aware of the changing global environment. They are responding to the demands of our time by using their overseas studies to pursue academic inquiry, deepen international understanding, and contribute to solving these challenges.

The Sasakawa Scholarship Program will welcome its first graduates in FY 2026. We will place even greater emphasis on enriching the Sasakawa Scholarship community so that we can support their future endeavors and achieve further growth and development together.

1 Sasakawa Scholarship Program

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation supports the endeavors of Japanese individuals and organizations working in the international community to address global issues and challenges. Launched in FY 2022, the Sasakawa Scholarship Program helps Japanese young people from across Japan to broaden their horizons, develop an international outlook, and acquire skills and knowledge for the future by providing financial support to study at universities in the United States and United Kingdom. The program also seeks to create a supportive community for future endeavors that will support the development of Japanese leaders with an international perspective.

Scholarship Payments and Overseas Study Support

In FY 2025, the program provided stable scholarship support to a total of 84 Japanese students across 3 cohorts pursuing bachelor's degrees at universities in the United Kingdom and United States. The scholarship, which includes tuition fees, room and board, and a fixed stipend, is generously funded by the National Association of Motorboat Racing Organizers using part of the revenue from the Nippon Future Project race series. The scholarship is provided to students as a grant.

With careful fund management, SPF makes scholarship payments appropriately and without delay. Through individual meetings and close communication with each scholar, we monitor their circumstances, respond to requests for advice, and help create a supportive environment in which students can focus on their studies with peace of mind.

Program Administration and Infrastructure Strengthening

SPF also undertakes a range of activities funded from its own operating budget to further enhance the scholarship program.

<Seeking Out Untapped Potential>

To identify a broad range of students interested in studying abroad and expand the potential candidate pool, SPF held information sessions at high schools across Japan, participated in overseas study fairs, and organized online roundtable discussions with Sasakawa scholars. Through these activities, we worked to raise awareness of the scholarship and encourage interest in overseas study, while helping participants deepen their understanding of differences between the U.S. and U.K. systems. We also organized a tour of U.S. university campuses for high school students from regional areas, giving them an opportunity to understand the distinctive features and selection processes of different universities, and experience their educational environments firsthand. After returning to Japan, participants shared information with their schools and local communities through report sessions and other activities.



SPF is working to promote the Sasakawa Scholarship Program and encourage interest in overseas study by holding information sessions and having a presence at overseas study fairs.



A U.S. university campus tour for high school students from regional areas.

We also expanded support for teachers, including training for high school teachers in regional areas on advising students applying to overseas universities, and guidance for teachers of successful applicants on writing recommendation letters in English.

<Fair and Equitable Selection Process>

The selection of scholars for study abroad in fiscal year 2026 was conducted in two rounds. The first round took place in the autumn, before students began applying to colleges and universities, while the second round was held in the spring, after applicants had received admission offers from institutions on our designated list. In total, we received more than 430 applications. Each round involved rigorous document screening and interviews conducted by a committee of external advisors. Nineteen students were ultimately selected for the program's fourth cohort.

On the program administration side, we developed a new management system and introduced key functions beginning with the application process. This enhanced the efficiency of application and selection procedures while providing a clearer and more seamless transition from successful applicant to scholarship recipient. As a result, the program's operational reliability and effectiveness were significantly strengthened.

<Community-Building To Support the Future Endeavors of Alumni>

To enhance collaboration among our scholars and strengthen connections that will support their post-graduation endeavors, SPF held online pre-departure training sessions and a study camp. With 18 scholars from the first and second cohorts participating in the camp, we fostered a sense of community across cohorts and laid the foundation for a strong and enduring Sasakawa Scholars network.

FY 2026 will finally see the program's first graduates. SPF will continue to support and follow the progress of the Sasakawa scholars.



Pre-departure study camp for the third cohort, June 2025. Members of the first and second cohorts joined partway through, enabling scholars across cohorts to share their experiences.

By introducing a new integrated management system, the Sasakawa Scholarship Program streamlined key administrative functions, from application processing and scholar management to scholarship disbursements. Additionally, using the expertise accumulated within SPF since the Sasakawa Scholarship Program began, as well as our networks with universities in the United States and United Kingdom, we provide information not only to scholars but also to high school students and teachers interested in overseas study. In recent years, the program has been affected by factors such as rising tuition fees at U.S. and U.K. universities, a weaker yen, and U.S. government policies. We will continue to monitor these developments, operate and enhance the scholarship program appropriately, and support young people studying abroad as they prepare to become future leaders.

Promoting the Sasakawa Scholarship Program

Website



https://scholarship.spf.org
The website has details of the scholarship program including the application process, interviews with scholars, and in-school information sessions, along with inquiry and application forms.

Social Media (LINE)



ID: @sasakawa_ryugaku
Register via LINE for real-time notifications whenever our official website is updated.

"Overseas Study Starter Book"



44-page booklet containing information on topics such as choosing universities to apply to and preparing applications (second edition published April 2025).

Program Overview

1. Main Universities Selected in the First to Fourth Cohorts

United States: Universities

Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Northwestern University
Princeton University
Rice University
Stanford University
The University of Chicago
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
University of Pennsylvania
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University

United States: Liberal Arts Colleges

Carleton College
Grinnell College
Hamilton College
Middlebury College
Pomona College
Swarthmore College
Wellesley College

United Kingdom

Imperial College London
University College London
University of Cambridge
University of Oxford

2. Applicants

Applications
FY 2025: Autumn = 221, Spring = 211
FY 2024: Autumn = 270, Spring = 188
Acceptance rate
5.15% (overall acceptance rate, FY 2022–FY 2025)

3. Scholars

Number of scholars (successful applicants)
105 (35 in the first cohort, 28 in the second cohort, 23 in the third cohort, 19 in the fourth cohort)

4. Disbursements

Annual payment (per recipient)
Maximum JPY 17 million (USD 110,000 approx.)

Note: Scholarship payment covers actual tuition fees, accommodation (including meals), health insurance, an initial lump-sum scholarship payment, and regular fixed payments.
Converted at USD 1 = JPY 150
Scholarship payments are made in either USD or GBP.

Regional Cross-Cutting Projects

While developing specialized projects in pursuit of its five priority goals, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation also promotes cross-cutting activities to address increasingly complex international challenges. By combining issue-specific expertise with deep knowledge about individual countries and regions, we can conduct multifaceted analysis and propose new approaches. Below are some of our key initiatives from FY 2025.

Establishment of the Center for Mediation Support

Conflicts and divisions around the world are becoming increasingly complex and severe, creating growing expectations for Japan to contribute to solutions by drawing on its historical experience, values, and unique position.

As a private organization based in Asia, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation established a new Center for Mediation Support within the foundation on April 1, 2026, dedicated to peace mediation and support for mediation efforts. Building on the experience and knowledge SPF has accumulated through peacebuilding support in countries across Asia since 2009, the center seeks to harness the agility, neutrality, and networks unique to a private foundation based in Japan to identify new and creative solutions grounded in local realities.

Focusing primarily on Southeast Asia, South Asia, and West Asia (the region extending westward from Afghanistan and including Türkiye, Iran, and the Arabian Peninsula), the Center for Mediation Support will pursue activities along the following three pillars.

(1) Building Research Networks

Serving as a hub connecting the expertise of regional studies researchers in Japan, the center will build a network of specialists studying conflict-affected areas and surrounding regions. Through academic analysis, we will deepen our understanding of the structures and contexts of conflicts and apply these insights to peace mediation.

(2) Promoting International Collaboration

We will deepen collaboration with stakeholders involved in peace mediation around the world and share Japan's knowledge and experience with the international community. Through network-building and knowledge sharing, we will contribute to international discussions.

(3) Peace Mediation in the Field

In regions affected by ongoing conflict, we will provide practical support for dialogue and confidence-building. Attentive to local conditions and the needs of stakeholders, we will work to create an environment conducive to peace.

Seeking to earn the trust of parties facing conflict and confrontation and support the first steps toward dialogue, we will continue building the foundations needed to strengthen our mediation support capabilities.



Press conference to launch the Center for Mediation Support (April 2026)

Dialogue With Visionary Leaders and Changemakers in Asia

On March 24, SPF held "Harmony by Design: Asia Dialogue" as a forum for discussing peace from multiple perspectives. We invited four former heads of state and prominent leaders representing Asia, including former Thai Prime Minister Mr. Chuan Leekpai, former Chief Adviser of Bangladesh's interim government Professor Muhammad Yunus, and former Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Hassan Wirajuda. Participants shared insights on peacebuilding in Asia and discussed the roles of Japan and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

At this closed-door meeting, participants exchanged candid views on sensitive issues facing Asia and shared an understanding of the importance of dialogue in building trust, particularly the need to invigorate dialogue between younger generations and those responsible for policymaking. SPF researchers, fellows, and experts from various fields also held individual dialogues with the invited eminent persons and organized roundtable discussions with external experts. These exchanges provided opportunities to share and discuss the senior leaders' knowledge and perspectives from multiple angles.

SPF staff also actively drew on the insights of the Asian leaders to deepen the foundation's projects and gain new perspectives, while building and strengthening relationships with them.

The following day, March 25, SPF co-hosted the Next Generation Asia Peacebuilding Forum with Katawara, a general incorporated association, bringing together Professor Yunus and Dr. Wirajuda with 60 young people engaged in peace-related activities in Japan. Through direct dialogue between young participants and the invited senior leaders, the forum deepened discussion on how younger generations can contribute to peacebuilding in Asia and provided a meaningful opportunity to consider the future of peace-related activities together.

This initiative introduced a new conference format in which multiple forums for multilayered, intergenerational dialogue were held concurrently, helping establish a foundation for sustained dialogue with leaders in Asia.



Participants in "Harmony by Design: Asia Dialogue," held on March 24.





Professor Yunus (left) and Dr. Wirajuda (right) in dialogue with young participants at the Next Generation Asia Peacebuilding Forum (March 25, 2026)

Co-hosting With Suikokai

By bringing together practitioners with hands-on experience and researchers to discuss the same theme, we sought to deepen discussion across areas of specialization.

On December 22, 2025, SPF co-hosted the 12th Maritime Security Symposium, "How Unmanned Systems and AI Are Changing Warfare," with Suikokai. The symposium brought together Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel, Suikokai members, SPF experts, and researchers specializing in maritime security to discuss a common theme.

Participants examined how advances in AI and unmanned systems are changing the nature of combat from technological, operational, policy, and ethical perspectives. The discussion highlighted changes in the sequence from detection through attack and their impact on decision-making, as well as the need to develop institutional frameworks and international rules and to introduce technologies through public–private collaboration.

The initiative served as a forum connecting practical insights grounded in operational experience with policy analysis and, through discussion among experts from different perspectives, contributed to cross-disciplinary knowledge sharing and deeper debate.



Organizers and speakers at the maritime security symposium, "How Unmanned Systems and AI Are Changing Warfare," held in December 2025.

In this way, combining the knowledge and people-to-people networks developed across the individual priority areas has enabled the development of initiatives extending beyond individual fields. In particular, efforts to build foundations for mediation support, establish multilayered dialogue networks, and connect practice with research are all being advanced across different fields.

These outcomes are strengthening the foundation for linking and building on knowledge from existing projects, while also helping generate new projects through cross-cutting collaboration.

FY 2025 Projects (Actual Cost)

Stabilizing the International Community and Strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
Reinforcing Japan's Security Capacity	Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges Between Japan and Asian Countries IV	56,783,247	3/3
	Future Fellowship for Okinawa III	18,018,478	3/3
	Japan-U.S. Congressional Strategic Network	38,894,188	3/3
	Security Strategy Studies	28,682,895	2/2
The Changing Global Order and Japan-U.S. Relations	Information Provision of International Situation and Security III	25,704,989	4/5
	Insights Into Japan-U.S. Relations II	31,906,931	3/3
	Japan-U.S. Network of Policy Research and Dialogue	74,138,797	3/3
	Cooperation Between European and Indo-Pacific Powers in the U.S. Alliance System	19,146,438	2/3
	China's Nuclear Buildup and Japan-U.S. Deterrence Response	3,203,574	1/2
	Research on Carbon Neutrality Policy Compatible with National Security	7,960,274	1/2
	Project for Elucidating China's Nuclear Warhead Production Cycle	6,319,275	1/1
China in the Context of World Affairs	U.S.-China Relations and Japan's Security	60,965,084	2/3
	Experts' Dialogues on Russia	21,387,952	2/2
	Japan-India Policy Dialogue	14,113,504	1/3
	Enhancing National Cyber Security III	13,297,503	1/3
	Future of International Peace Operation II	6,676,118	1/2

Strengthening Strategic Relations Between Asia and Japan

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
Strengthening Dialogue and Capacity Building in Asia	Asian Statespersons' Forum (ASF)	36,223,061	3/5
	Developing the Next Generation of Human Resources for Peace in Asia	8,084,708	2/3
	Enhancing Japan-India Strategic Network	14,516,696	2/3
	Multilayered Dialogue with Northeast India	33,124,526	1/3
	Asia Inclusive and Innovative Leadership Program	42,895,688	1/3
Programs, Reports, and Recommendations in Asia	Co-creating Impact through Inclusive Economic Activities	29,896,412	1/4
	Reconciliation and Religious Education in Post-conflict Areas in Indonesia	15,978,691	1/3
	Contexualized Initiatives for WPS Agenda	111,647,695	1/1
	Violent Extremism and De-radicalization	37,869,969	1/1
Establishing Enduring Networks and Information Sharing Between Japan and China	Network Construction Between Japanese and Chinese Young Leaders	10,862,526	4/5
	Training for Japanese Teachers in Border Areas of China	31,670,613	4/5
	Enhancing Dissemination of Information Relating to China in Japan	13,706,013	4/5
	Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program II	6,929,349	3/5
	Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application III	11,255,868	3/5
	Building Networks With Chinese Studies Institutes	22,651,116	3/3
	Invitation Program for Chinese Opinion Leaders II	5,201,308	3/3
	Cooperation on Information Dissemination with People's Daily Online	9,478,783	2/5
	The Past, Present, and Future of Japan-China Exchange	11,979,550	2/3
	Exchange Project for Japan-China Experts in Regional Revitalization	10,769,756	2/3
	Japan-China Book Translation and Publication Exchange Program	14,554,894	1/5
	Exchange Project for Japan-China Experts in Tradional Arts and Crafts III	8,144,975	1/3
	Japan-China Experts Interaction on Disaster Management	822,385	1/2

Deepening Understanding of and Strengthening Relations With Islamic Countries

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
West Asia	Building Strategic Japan-Iran Ties	22,532,064	2/4
	Promote Understanding and Dialogue Between the Middle East and Japan	17,521,593	1/3
Regional Issues	Building Models Towards Inclusive Society in Asia	20,341,814	4/5
	Climate-induced Displacement and Responses	9,572,569	3/3
	The Project on Education Support for Migrant Children Through Mutual Learning Between Thailand and Japan	23,622,533	2/4
	Building an Inclusive Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Cambodia	18,430,206	2/4

Realization of a Peaceful World Through the Ocean

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
Ocean Projects	Public Relations for Ocean Policy	13,250,863	4/5
	Ocean Education Pioneer School Program	156,111,383	4/4
	Oceanshot Research Grant	666,737,869	3/5
	Next Generation Ocean Policy in the Polar Regions	270,860,840	3/5
	Demonstrating the Benefit of Satellite VDES	201,079,107	3/4
	New Sustainable Ocean Governance Methodology	92,626,454	3/3
	Development of Automatic Recognition Technology for Underwater Sound Sources	2,500,000	2/5
	Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields	398,203,817	2/3
	Ocean Professional Development	34,695,375	1/5
	Ocean Innovation from Asia	201,182,396	1/3
	Organizing and Dissemination of Information on Island Studies	9,207,663	1/1
	Policy Research on UN Decade of Ocean Science	1,479,536	1/1
	Project Related to Marine Litter Control	2,390,000	1/1
Island Nations Projects	Economic Revitalization in Pacific Island Communities by Boosting Community Based Tourism	30,192,127	4/5
	Building a Foundation of Human Relationships Between Pacific Islands and Japan for Future Generation	27,953,606	4/5
	Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region III	89,220,965	4/5
	Vulnerability Reduction and Value Creation in Island Areas	273,350,891	3/4
	Creation of a New Regional Order Layer in the Pacific Islands Region	16,612,041	2/3

Fostering International Leaders From Japan

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
Sasakawa Scholarship Program	Sasakawa Scholarship	1,232,196,156	1/1
	Development and Management of Sasakawa Scholarship	77,197,075	1/1

FY 2026 Projects (Budget)

Stabilizing the International Community and Strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
Reinforcing Japan's Security Capacity	Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges Between Japan and Asian Countries V	60,000,000	1/5
	Shared Security Perspectives in Japan and Southeast Asia Through Historical Archive Research	6,000,000	1/3
	Japan-U.S. Congressional Strategic Network II	60,000,000	1/3
	Future Fellowship for Okinawa IV	19,000,000	1/3
	Security Strategy Studies II	39,000,000	1/1
The Changing Global Order and Japan-U.S. Relations	Information Provision of International Situation and Security III	29,000,000	5/5
	Cooperation Between European and Indo-Pacific Powers in the U.S. Alliance System	26,000,000	3/3
	China's Nuclear Buildup and Japan-U.S. Deterrence Response	8,000,000	2/2
	Research on Carbon Neutrality Policy Compatible with National Security	8,000,000	2/2
	Japan-U.S. Network on Policy Research	42,000,000	1/3
	Japan-U.S. Track 2 Policy Dialogue	44,000,000	1/3
	Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations III	43,000,000	1/3
	The Future of Nuclear Technology and Non-Proliferation	8,000,000	1/2
	Reseach Project on Comprehensive Nuclear Policy	10,000,000	1/2
China in the Context of World Affairs	U.S.-China Relations and Japan's Security	70,000,000	3/3
	Enhancing Japan-India Strategic Network	18,900,000	2/3
	Enhancing National Cyber Security III	16,000,000	2/3
	Future of International Peace Operation II	8,000,000	2/2
	Grand Strategy for the Maritime Nation	3,000,000	1/2
	Study on Enhancing Whole-of-Society Resilience	9,000,000	1/2
	Experts' Dialogues on Russia II	26,000,000	1/2
	Symposium on Maritime Rule of Law and Enforcement	10,000,000	1/1

Strengthening Strategic Relations Between Asia and Japan

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
Strengthening Dialogue and Capacity Building in Asia	Asian Statespersons' Forum (ASF)	39,400,000	4/5
	Developing the Next Generation of Human Resources for Peace in Asia	9,000,000	3/3
	Enhancing Japan-India Strategic Network	31,500,000	3/3
	Multilayered Dialogue With Northeast India	41,500,000	2/3
	Asia Inclusive and Innovative Leadership Program	50,740,000	2/3
Programs, Reports, and Recommendations in Asia	Co-creating Impact Through Inclusive Economic Activities	40,000,000	2/4
	Reconciliation and Religious Education in Post-conflict Areas in Indonesia	22,000,000	2/3
	Stability in Conflict-Affected Areas and Community Mediation	28,000,000	1/3
	Role of Parliamentarians for Advancement of WPS Agenda	55,000,000	1/3
	Violent Extremism and De-radicalization	30,000,000	1/1
	Trauma of Violence Under Conflict and Gender	40,000,000	1/1
Establishing Enduring Networks and Information Sharing Between Japan and China	Network Construction Between Japanese and Chinese Young Leaders	11,000,000	5/5
	Training for Japanese Teachers in Border Areas of China	37,000,000	5/5
	Enhancing Dissemination of Information Relating to China in Japan	20,000,000	5/5
	Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program II	19,000,000	4/5
	Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application III	12,000,000	4/5
	Cooperation on Information Dissemination with People's Daily Online	12,000,000	3/5
	The Past, Present, and Future of Japan-China Exchange	12,000,000	3/3
	Exchange Project for Japan-China Experts in Regional Revitalization	15,000,000	3/3
	Japan-China Book Translation and Publication Exchange Program	18,000,000	2/5
	Exchange Project for Japan-China Experts in Traditional Arts and Crafts III	12,000,000	2/3
	Building Networks With Chinese Studies Institutions II	21,000,000	1/3
	Japan–China Anime & Game Professionals Exchange Program	7,000,000	1/3

Deepening Understanding of and Strengthening Relations With Islamic Countries

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
West Asia	Building Strategic Japan-Iran Ties	24,000,000	3/4
	Promote Understanding and Dialogue Between the Middle East and Japan	25,000,000	2/3
	Comprehensive, Future-Oriented Engagement with the Arab World	23,000,000	1/4
Regional Issues	Building Models Towards Inclusive Society in Asia	26,000,000	5/5
	The Project on Education Support for Migrant Children Through Mutual Learning Between Thailand and Japan	29,500,000	3/4
	Building an Inclusive Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Cambodia	20,000,000	3/4

Realization of a Peaceful World Through the Ocean

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
Ocean Projects	Public Relations for Ocean Policy	14,780,000	5/5
	Next Generation Ocean Policy in the Polar Regions	439,150,000	4/5
	Demonstrating the Benefit of Satellite VDES	223,000,000	4/4
	Development of Automatic Recognition Technology for Underwater Sound Sources	3,300,000	3/5
	Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields	440,711,250	3/3
	Ocean Innovation from Asia	189,900,000	2/3
	Oceanshot Research Grant	926,920,000	1/5
	Establishment of Sustainable Ocean Management	151,000,000	1/5
	Enhancing Ocean Intelligence	70,100,000	1/3
	Organizing and Dissemination of Information on Islands Studies	9,960,000	1/2
	Study on Advancing Ocean Science-Policy-Society Nexus	94,300,000	1/2
	Ocean Education Pioneer School Program IV	69,870,000	1/1
Island Nations Projects	Economic Revitalization in Pacific Island Communities by Boosting Community Based Tourism	81,070,000	5/5
	Building a Foundation of Human Relationships Between Pacific Islands and Japan for Future Generation	51,200,000	5/5
	Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region III	154,770,000	5/5
	Vulnerability Reduction and Value Creation in Island Areas	375,700,000	4/4
	Creation of a New Regional Order Layer in the Pacific Islands Region	20,000,000	3/3

Fostering International Leaders From Japan

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
Sasakawa Scholarship Program	Sasakawa Scholarship	2,082,190,000	1/1
	Development and Management of Sasakawa Scholarship	97,500,000	1/1

Center for Mediation Support

	Project Name	A/C (Yen)	Year
	Establishment of the Center for Mediation Support	350,000,000	1/1

Governance Framework

Supporting Our Mission: Building an Even Stronger Management Foundation



Eiji Sakai

Executive Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Joined the Ship & Ocean Foundation in 1994 and worked as a researcher on ocean policy and maritime affairs, as well as on international cooperation projects. Following the merger with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in 2015, served as director of the Ocean Policy Planning and Management Department and vice president of the Ocean Policy Research Institute. After serving as director of the General Affairs Department, he was appointed executive director at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in 2023. Currently oversees the foundation's organizational management. He graduated from the College of Law at Nihon University.

In pursuit of its three missions — "encourage the realization of world peace and security," "work toward establishing new ocean governance," and "promote solutions for the diverse problems of the planet" — the Sasakawa Peace Foundation develops projects by organically combining its three approaches: operating as a Think and Do Tank, engaging in "Sasakawa-style" public diplomacy, and nurturing the leaders of the future. A strong organizational foundation is indispensable to advancing these activities in a stable and sustained manner and continuing to generate results. Our management departments support the foundation by keeping four management resources — human resources, finances, infrastructure, and information — in optimal condition while establishing a sound governance framework. Based on the Medium-Term Management Plan (FY 2025–FY 2029), we are currently working to further strengthen our governance framework in each of these areas.

1. Human Resources: Diverse Specialist Talent Supporting SPF's Activities

One of the defining characteristics of SPF is the diversity of its people. SPF currently has 145 employees representing 11 nationalities. For a foundation expected to contribute to the international community, diverse talent is an important management resource, and one of SPF's strengths is an environment where people can demonstrate their abilities irrespective of nationality, religion, sex, or disability status.

Our programs include researchers and program officers who possess specialist expertise in their respective fields, research and analytical capabilities, and strong communication skills, as well as a deep understanding of the languages, politics, societies, economies, cultures, histories, religions, and customs of the countries and regions in which they work. They advance a wide range of initiatives toward achieving SPF's mission. Our management departments, meanwhile, include professionals well versed in areas such as asset management, human resources, facilities management, information systems, information security, public relations, and auditing, who help underpin SPF's governance framework.

We are pursuing strategic recruitment and professional development, together with initiatives to enhance employee engagement, while working to create an environment in which every individual can perform to their full potential.

2. Finance:
Ensuring Stability and Neutrality Through Independent Financial Resources

Another defining characteristic of SPF is its stable project operations and high degree of neutrality, made possible by its independent financial resources. Asset management, which underpins this financial foundation, is a core function of our management departments. Under an asset management framework combining a high level of expertise with objectivity, we work each day to secure stable investment income capable of keeping pace with inflation (see pages 50–51 for details).

3. Infrastructure:
Creating a Hub Where People and Information Come Together

SPF is located in Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo, close to government ministries and agencies, foreign embassies, and other domestic and international organizations. This environment, frequented by dignitaries and experts from around the world, is an extremely important management resource that facilitates policy dialogue, international conferences, and the formation of people-to-people networks. For SPF, which combines the knowledge-sharing function of a think tank with the practical function of public diplomacy, this location is more than simply an office: it serves as a foundation for creating new value. We are strengthening its function as a hub through improvements to both facilities and operational capabilities, including improvements to international conference and seminar facilities, more sophisticated communications tools, and the promotion of digital transformation (DX) using the latest IT. The building also serves as a facility for people unable to return home in the event of a disaster, and we are working to further enhance its disaster-preparedness and safety functions.

4. Information:
Balancing Digital Transformation (DX) and Information Security

To reform our operations and improve productivity, SPF is actively promoting DX through initiatives including redesigning business processes, rebuilding core systems, continuously updating hardware and software, and providing education and training for executives and staff. At the same time, ensuring information security is a critical management issue in advancing DX. We support DX across the organization by implementing administrative, physical, and technological safeguards and building a secure and flexible information infrastructure based on the principles of zero-trust security.

5. Governance:
Autonomous and Transparent Organizational Management

In recent years, amendments to Japan's Public Interest Corporation Act have increased expectations for public interest corporations to strengthen autonomous governance.

Ahead of these legal amendments, SPF conducted risk assessments with external specialist organizations and has worked to identify management risks and strengthen internal controls. We also established a new Audit Department reporting directly to the president, creating a system for identifying and addressing organizational management issues at an early stage.

We will continue to pursue organizational management that earns the trust of society through governance emphasizing transparency and accountability (see pages 48–49 for details).

SPF's ability to fulfill its mission is supported by a strong management foundation comprising human resources, finances, infrastructure, information, and governance. Our management departments will continue to strengthen these foundations and, through collaboration with our programs, support value creation across SPF and the achievement of our social mission.

Governance

As a nonprofit foundation, we are highly cognizant of the importance of our social mission and remain committed to the highest standards of governance through transparency and accountability. To this end, we strive to create an organizational culture of compliance predicated on ethical behavior and respect for the law, where all employees are acting in accordance with a united sense of mission, with the aim of maintaining public trust in our operations.

Corporate Governance

As per Article 3 of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation Articles of Incorporation, the foundation aims to promote the sound and sustainable development of our increasingly complex and multifaceted human society by addressing the changes in the natural and social environments brought about by human activity. Leveraging our flexibility in thought and methodology as a private organization, we seek to advance research, develop policy proposals, and support international collaboration and exchange. Through these efforts, we strive to establish a new governance model for human society, encompassing both land and the ocean, thereby contributing to human welfare and the sound development of our global society. In the pursuit of this most important social mission, and as a nonprofit foundation, we are committed to the procedures and systems of sound management practices and transparency. Through appropriate information disclosure and ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, we aim to enhance transparency through an autonomous governance structure.

Board of Trustees

The board comprises six executive directors and two trustees for a total of eight trustees, who bring a diverse range of experience and expertise. The board makes strategic decisions designed to maintain the organization on a trajectory of sustainable operation while preserving our independence and nonprofit status.

The president of the Board of Trustees, as the representative of the organization, has responsibility for executing the decisions of the board in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and applicable legislation and regulations. The executive directors support the president, in their respective roles, to enable informed and efficient decision-making. The board meets regularly to discuss the work of the foundation and associated issues and challenges. Ad-hoc meetings are also convened on an as-needs basis to allow for flexible and agile decision-making where required.

Committees

The Asset Management Committee is an advisory body of four external experts who provide the president with opinions, advice, and recommendations from a specialist and objective perspective, with the aim of ensuring that the organization is run properly and with optimal transparency.

The Program Advisory Committee is set up on an as-needs basis.

Auditors and Auditing System

There are two statutory auditors, one of whom is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). SPF is audited by an external auditor in order to maintain appropriate standards of disclosure as per Article 5, Paragraph 2 of the Act on Authorization of Public Interest Incorporated Associations and Public Interest Incorporated Foundations. There is also an Audit Department, which reports directly to the president and, based on risk assessments conducted by external experts, conducts risk-based internal audits and audits of grant projects.

Internal audit resources are allocated preferentially to high-risk areas according to the materiality of the risks involved, ensuring the effectiveness of audits while enabling the early identification and correction of internal-control issues. The Statutory Auditors, External Auditor, and Audit Department collaborate through regular meetings and communication to improve audit quality and depth.

Through appropriate information disclosure and ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, we aim to enhance transparency through an autonomous governance structure.

Compliance

Compliance Policy

The Compliance Policy introduced in April 2025 sets out a code of conduct designed to ensure that executives and staff act in accordance with the social mission of the foundation. The policy comprises seven principles: operating with fairness and integrity; the ideal of and desire for world peace; independence as a nongovernmental body; respect for diversity; leveraging knowledge and specialist expertise; a long-term commitment to challenges; and utilizing trusted networks. SPF fosters an organizational culture in which all employees are encouraged to be self-aware and display initiative.

Program Evaluation Initiatives

As part of its governance framework, SPF continuously works to enhance program evaluation in order to ensure the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of its activities. Since the 1990s, we have established an evaluation cycle covering the planning, implementation, and post-project stages and have pursued continuous improvement.

In recent years, as SPF's activities have become more diverse through initiatives such as strengthening our think tank functions and developing talent through the Sasakawa Scholarship Program, we have been examining how program evaluation can better support project development and implementation, drawing also on the views of external experts.

Through these initiatives, we are strengthening the evaluation framework that supports improvements in the quality of our public interest activities.

Prohibiting Involvement With Organized Crime Groups

SPF recognizes that preventing ties with organized crime groups and implementing measures against terrorist financing are part of its social responsibility as a public interest foundation. To this end, the General Affairs Department serves as the responsible department, with designated managers and officers assigned to handle matters involving organized crime groups, and an organizational framework in place to ensure an appropriate response.

Specific measures include incorporating contractual provisions that prohibit ties with criminal or terrorist organizations, centrally managing information and other materials concerning organized crime groups, and fostering an appropriate organizational culture through meetings, online training, and other activities.

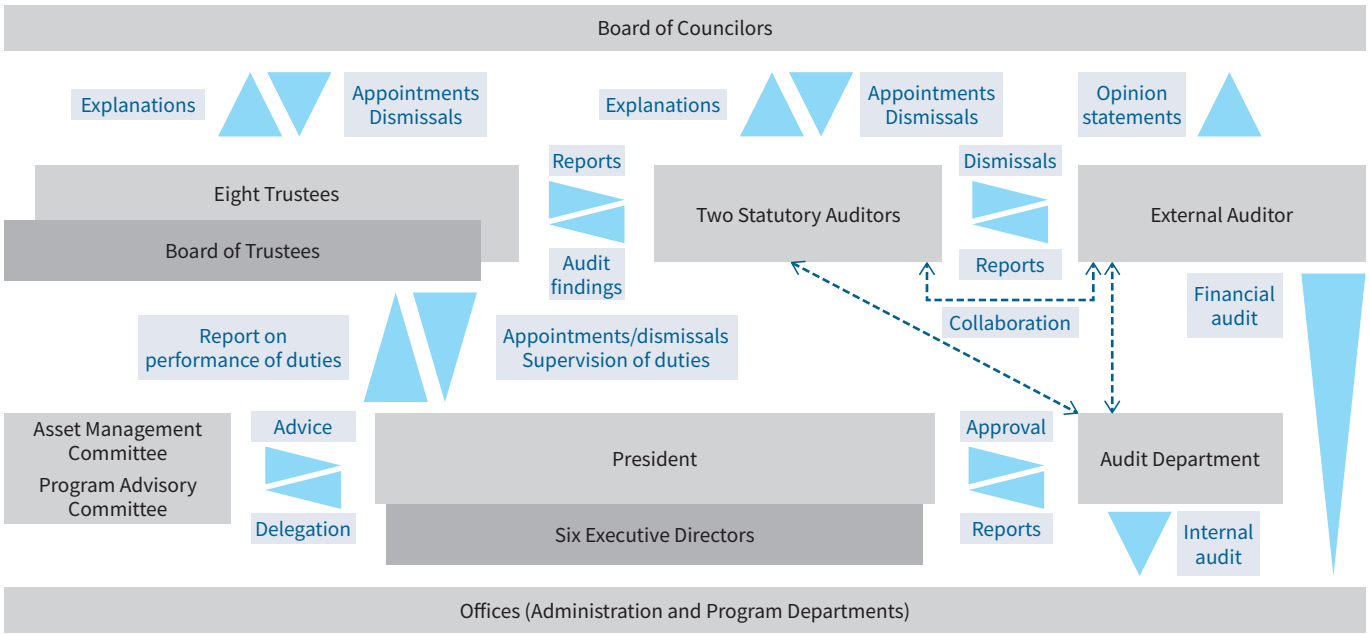
With regard to measures against terrorist financing, we continue to develop our management framework while taking into account information published by relevant authorities and other sources.

External Consultation Desk

An external consultation desk was introduced in July 2024 to help prevent harassment and drive continuous improvement in the workplace environment. The consultation desk incorporates an anonymous consultation system, allowing employees to seek advice either under their real names or anonymously.

SPF also provides executives and staff with ongoing training on harassment prevention and associated awareness initiatives, and runs whole-of-organization educational campaigns on the issue.

Corporate Governance System (as of April 1, 2026)



Asset Management

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation conducts a wide range of activities, including research, policy studies, dialogue facilitation, and human resource development, to address increasingly complex social challenges on a global scale. A stable source of independent funding is essential if we are to continue advancing these activities on a sustained basis while maintaining our independence. Through long-term asset management, SPF generates funding for its projects and works to build a management foundation that enables it to continue creating value for society.

Asset Management Based on a Long-term Perspective

The objective of our asset management is to make effective use of financial assets and secure stable income to support our project activities. By using investment returns to fund projects without drawing down its principal assets, SPF achieves sustainable operations while seeking to strengthen its financial foundation for the future.

SPF has established asset-management regulations and operates under an organizational management framework. We exclude speculative investment aimed solely at generating short-term trading gains. Instead, diversification forms the basis of our approach as we seek to enhance returns while maintaining an appropriate balance between dividend and interest income and growth in asset value. Non-financial assets are also managed in consideration of their respective objectives, investment horizons, and the nature of the funds involved.

In response to changes in the economic environment and market conditions, we periodically review our investment policy and portfolio and continuously verify their alignment with our investment objectives.

An Asset Management Framework Grounded in Governance and Expertise

To ensure appropriate risk management and transparent decision-making in asset management, SPF has established a governance structure with a clear separation between execution and oversight.

Specifically, with authorization from the Board of Trustees, a Chief Investment Officer is appointed with clearly defined responsibilities and authority. SPF has also established an Investment Committee composed of external experts to consider major asset-management matters, including new investments, from multiple perspectives such as social and economic conditions, monetary policy, market conditions, profitability, asset preservation, and alignment with programmatic priorities. The committee deliberates from a specialist perspective, and the Board of Trustees makes final decisions based on the results of those deliberations.

In addition, SPF employs professionals with a range of expertise, including staff with practical experience in the financial industry, and makes use of external consultants for advice and assessments where necessary in order to ensure objectivity, transparency, and expertise.



Steady Growth in Investment Performance

Following the Bank of Japan's introduction of its negative interest rate policy in January 2016, SPF reviewed its previous investment approach centered on yen-denominated bonds and shifted to an approach incorporating diversification, with Japanese and U.S. high-dividend equity mutual funds as its principal investments. We also make regular investments in these assets, seeking to achieve both stable income and mid- to long-term asset growth.

As a result, both investment income and assets under management have grown steadily. Investment income, which provides funding for SPF's project activities, increased from approximately 2.4 billion yen in FY 2015 to approximately 6.7 billion yen in FY 2025, representing an average annual growth rate of approximately 10.5% over the 10-year period. This growth exceeded the global average inflation rate of approximately 4.6% over the same period (calculated based on the IMF's World Economic Outlook), strengthening the financial base supporting the foundation's activities. The market value of assets under management also increased from approximately 124.0 billion yen at the end of FY 2015 to approximately 211.7 billion yen at the end of FY 2025.

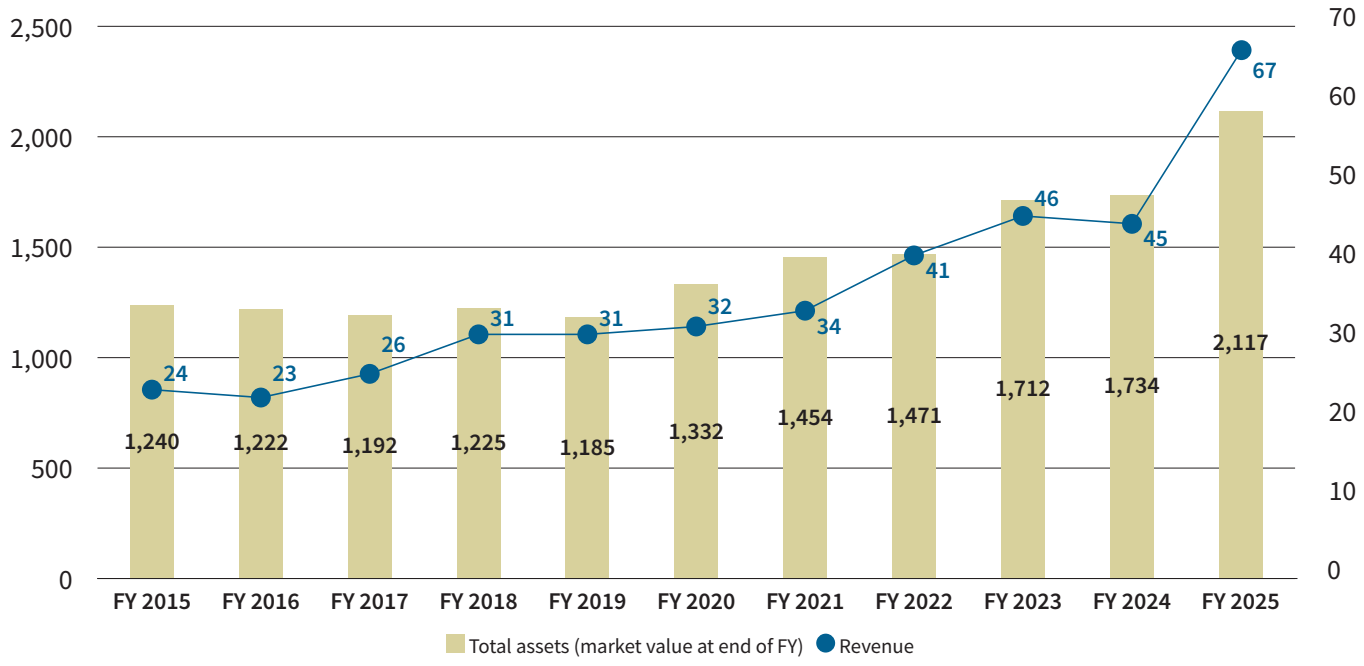
Contribution to Society Through Asset Management

A portion of our investment portfolio is directed toward funds intentionally designed to contribute to addressing social challenges. Investment decisions for these funds take into account not only risk and returns but also their contribution to social and environmental outcomes. One example is an investment in a housing finance provider in India that offers housing loans primarily to women from low-income households. A survey conducted by the company among its customers found that respondents reported improved financial literacy and enhanced wellbeing in the short term and, over the longer term, expanded educational opportunities for their children and strengthened social cohesion.

Through long-term, stable asset management, we will continue to generate independent financial resources that support the foundation's independence and sustainable operations, thereby contributing to the advancement of initiatives that address pressing social challenges.

Asset Value and Revenue FY 2015–FY 2025

(Unit: 100 million yen)



Financial Position (From April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026)

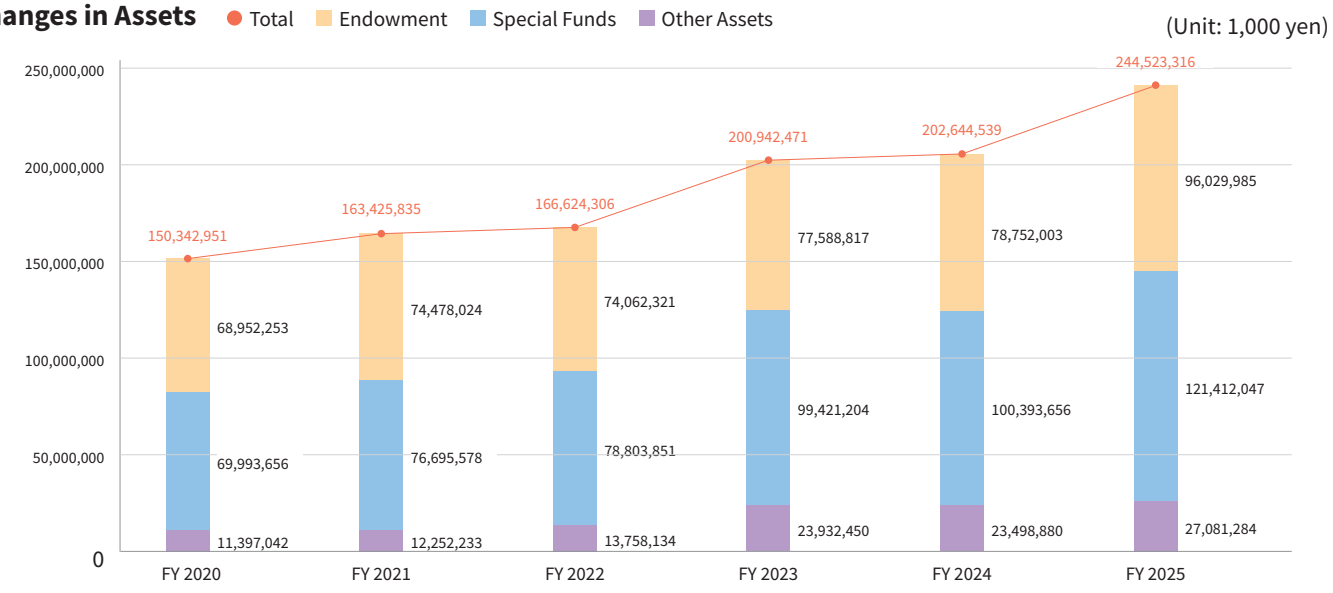
Statement of Income and Expenses

(Unit: 1,000 yen)

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
I. Operating Activities						
1. Income						
From endowment	1,802,582	1,725,827	3,760,858	11,689,939	1,951,589	3,217,046
From special funds	1,709,678	1,793,095	4,175,585	11,565,310	2,521,102	3,764,407
Other income	131,346	231,584	230,472	1,203,244	309,553	595,651
Contributions / grants	602,944	1,353,809	1,775,170	6,172,739	2,058,002	4,235,280
Total income from operating activities	4,246,550	5,104,315	9,942,084	30,631,233	6,840,246	11,812,384
2. Expenses						
Program	2,342,480	2,729,060	4,128,823	5,055,678	6,671,751	7,627,100
General and administrative	314,783	324,076	425,139	455,770	504,816	510,189
Total expenses from operating activities	2,657,263	3,053,136	4,553,962	5,511,448	7,176,567	8,137,289
Net income from operating activities	1,589,287	2,051,179	5,388,122	25,119,785	△ 336,320	3,675,095
II. Investing Activities						
1. Income						
Proceeds from sales of investments	177,197	306,409	659,584	1,407,772	2,653,659	2,962,409
Deposits return income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sale of property	0	0	0	0	2,445	0
Total income from investing activities	177,197	306,409	659,584	1,407,772	2,656,104	2,962,409
2. Expenses						
Purchase of endowment	0	0	0	0	0	4,500
Purchase of investments	1,039,269	1,963,819	5,516,178	24,238,107	1,600,194	5,283,847
Purchase of property	53,892	25,366	46,142	32,697	530,102	284,274
Long-term prepaid expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total expenses from investing activities	1,093,161	1,989,185	5,562,320	24,270,804	2,130,296	5,572,621
Net income from investing activities	△ 915,964	△ 1,682,776	△ 4,902,736	△ 22,863,032	525,807	△ 2,610,212
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	673,323	368,403	485,386	2,256,753	189,487	1,064,883
Net income, beginning of year	3,054,262	3,727,585	4,095,988	4,581,374	6,838,127	7,027,614
Net income, end of year	3,727,585	4,095,988	4,581,374	6,838,127	7,027,614	8,092,497

Changes in Assets

(Unit: 1,000 yen)



Statement of Changes in Net Assets

(Unit: 1,000 yen)

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
I. Net Assets — Unrestricted						
1. Recurring Revenues and Expenses						
(1) Recurring Revenues	4,014,039	4,423,802	5,243,970	7,299,393	7,375,173	10,958,135
(2) Recurring Expenses	2,874,557	3,277,034	4,745,518	5,673,618	7,347,041	8,399,699
Net Assets from Recurring Activities Before Valuation	1,139,482	1,146,768	498,452	1,625,775	28,132	2,558,437
Profit and Loss on Appraisal in Basic Assets	2,336,615	1,954,503	3,539,069	22,209,536	101,430	9,434,896
Net Assets from Recurring Activities	3,476,097	3,101,271	4,037,522	23,835,310	129,562	11,993,333
2. Non-Recurring Revenues and Expenses						
(1) Non-Recurring Revenues	1,031	0	814	0	2,445	489
(2) Non-Recurring Expenses	0	0	0	11	17,843	0
Net Assets from Non-Recurring Activities	1,031	0	814	△ 11	△ 15,398	489
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	3,477,128	3,101,271	4,038,335	23,835,300	114,164	11,993,821
Net Assets — Unrestricted, Beginning of Year	32,210,044	35,687,172	38,788,443	42,826,778	66,662,078	66,776,242
Net Assets — Unrestricted, End of Year	35,687,172	38,788,443	42,826,778	66,662,078	66,776,242	78,770,064
II. Net Assets — Temporarily Restricted						
Change in Net Assets — Temporarily Restricted	11,516,710	9,840,084	△ 722,929	10,383,722	1,495,130	29,738,102
Net Assets — Temporarily Restricted, Beginning of Year	102,288,206	113,804,916	123,645,000	122,922,071	133,305,793	134,800,923
Net Assets — Temporarily Restricted, End of Year	113,804,916	123,645,000	122,922,071	133,305,793	134,800,923	164,539,025
III. Total Net Assets, End of Year	149,492,088	162,433,443	165,748,850	199,967,871	201,577,165	243,309,088

Balance Sheet

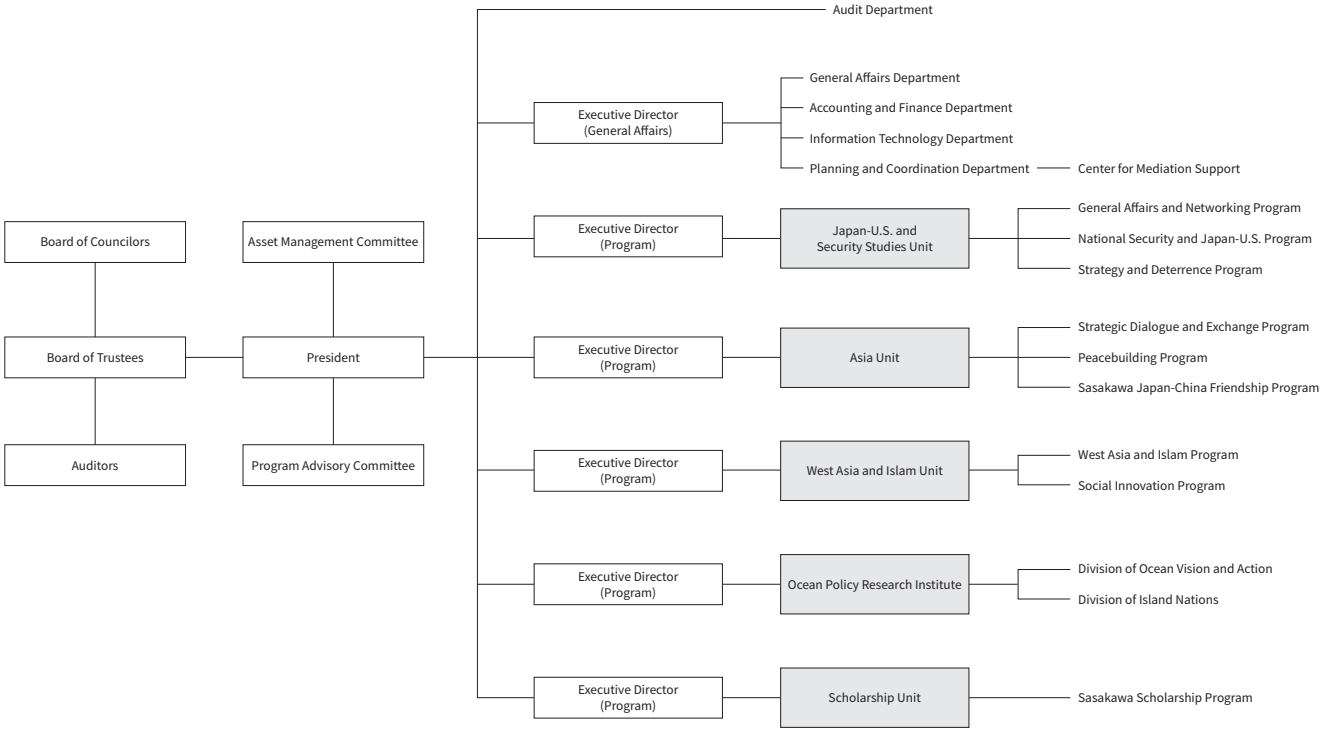
(Unit: 1,000 yen)

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
I. Assets						
1. Current Assets						
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,059,024	4,477,491	4,933,830	7,128,060	4,907,880	5,629,569
Investments	0	0	0	0	2,579,534	3,009,396
Other Current Assets	230,499	302,471	179,803	378,097	307,501	271,254
Total Current Assets	4,289,523	4,779,962	5,113,633	7,506,157	7,794,916	8,910,220
2. Fixed Assets						
Endowment	68,952,253	74,478,024	74,062,321	77,588,817	78,752,003	96,029,985
Special Funds (Special Assets)	69,993,656	76,695,578	78,803,851	99,421,204	100,393,656	121,412,047
Other Special Assets	2,570,407	3,132,359	4,434,146	12,377,118	11,329,633	13,692,850
Other Fixed Assets	4,537,112	4,339,912	4,210,355	4,049,174	4,374,331	4,478,215
Total Fixed Assets	146,053,428	158,645,873	161,510,673	193,436,313	194,849,623	235,613,097
Total Assets	150,342,951	163,425,835	166,624,306	200,942,471	202,644,539	244,523,316
II. Liabilities						
Current Liabilities	497,731	632,939	511,417	647,815	754,445	822,206
Long-Term Liabilities	353,132	359,453	364,039	326,785	312,929	392,022
Total Liabilities	850,863	992,392	875,456	974,600	1,067,374	1,214,228
III. Net Assets						
1. Net Assets — Temporarily Restricted	113,804,916	123,645,000	122,922,071	133,305,793	134,800,923	164,539,025
To Endowment	(62,547,178)	(67,650,150)	(67,403,601)	(70,406,739)	(71,361,149)	(86,939,936)
To Special Assets	(51,257,738)	(55,994,850)	(55,518,471)	(62,899,054)	(63,439,774)	(77,599,088)
2. Net Assets — Unrestricted	35,687,172	38,788,443	42,826,778	66,662,078	66,776,242	78,770,064
To Endowment	(6,405,076)	(6,827,874)	(6,658,720)	(7,182,079)	(7,390,854)	(9,090,048)
To Special Assets	(20,974,924)	(23,489,648)	(27,395,475)	(48,608,318)	(47,999,318)	(57,164,983)
Total Net Assets	149,492,088	162,433,443	165,748,850	199,967,871	201,577,165	243,309,088
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	150,342,951	163,425,835	166,624,306	200,942,471	202,644,539	244,523,316

Foundation Profile

Name	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
Date of Establishment	September 1, 1986 October 2011: Transitioned to Public Interest Incorporated Foundation April 1, 2015: Merged with the Ship & Ocean Foundation
Objective	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation is dedicated to responding to changes in the world's natural and social environments caused by human activity. We are also committed to working toward ensuring the healthy and sustainable development of the increasingly stratified and complex societies around the world. We aim to contribute to the welfare of humankind by leveraging the unique freedoms afforded to us as a private organization to pursue innovative ideas and methods for conducting research, presenting policy recommendations, advocating for international cooperation and exchange, and formulating a new governance system for humanity that encompasses all the world's oceans and lands.
Description of Activities	In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, SPF directly engages in or provides assistance to parties who carry out the following initiatives: (1) Research and 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.
Endowment	96,029,984,725 yen (as of March 31, 2026)
Special Assets	121,412,046,615 yen (as of March 31, 2026)
FY 2026 Budget for Operating Expenses	9,876,120,000 yen (as of March 31, 2026)

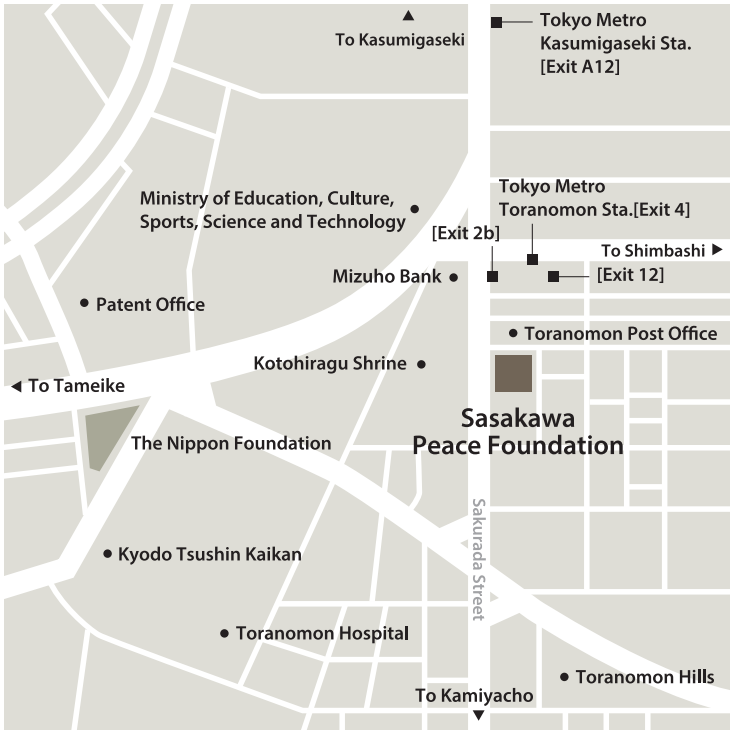
Organization Chart (As of April 1, 2026)



Board Members (As of April 1, 2026)

Councilors	Kiyotaka Akasaka	Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
	Takeju Ogata	Chairman, The Nippon Foundation
	Izumi Kadono	Former President, Seisen University
	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
Trustees		
President	Atsushi Sunami	Sasakawa Peace Foundation
Executive Directors	Eiji Sakai	General Affairs
	Junko Chano	Program
	Itsu Adachi	Program
	Nobukatsu Kanehara	Program
	Nobuko Kayashima	Program
Trustees	Akio Takahara	Distinguished Visiting Professor, Tokyo Woman's Christian University
	Kaoru Hattori	Attorney at Law
Auditors	Satoshi Sugawara	Executive Director, B&G Foundation
	Sadahiko Yoshimura	Certified Public Accountant
Honorary Chair	Yohei Sasakawa	Honorary Chair, The Nippon Foundation

Contact and Access



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

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.

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