



# Annual Report 2020



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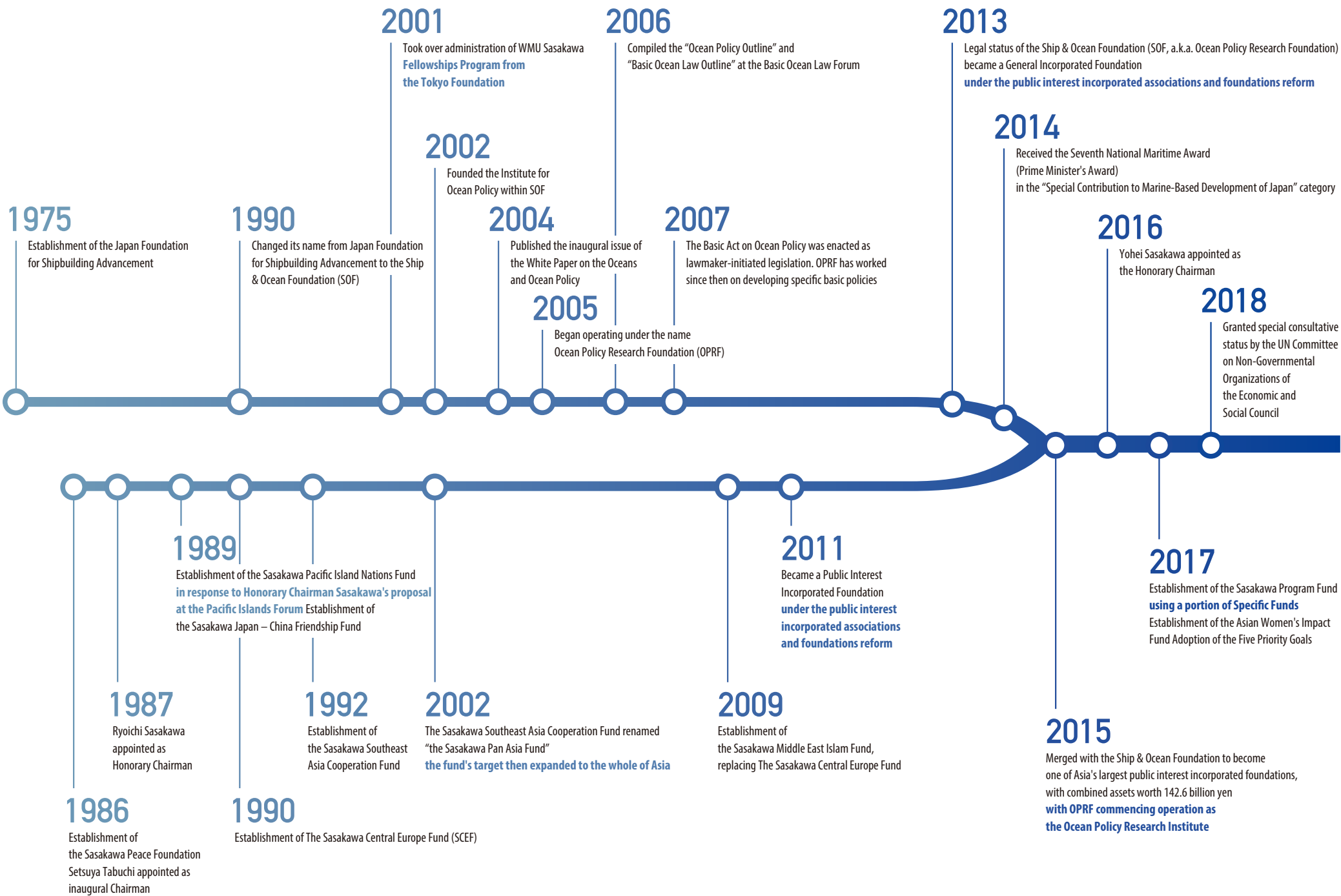
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The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), established in 1986 through endowments from The Nippon Foundation and the Japan motorboat racing industry, has worked since its inception to advance international exchange and cooperation. We leverage the unique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

History of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation



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## “Embracing Diversity to Live in **Harmony**”

President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation  
**Atsushi Sunami**

### Focusing on Life With/After the Corona-virus

Though the drive to inoculate against COVID-19 with vaccines is proceeding in full swing, the global spread of the coronavirus continues to put people's livelihoods and health at risk while also causing great political, economic, and societal upheaval. Meanwhile, efforts to create a new world order and framework for international cooperation are ongoing. In order to overcome this crisis, humanity must collaborate across borders in search of novel solutions.

In these times of hardship, Japan is increasingly called upon to take leadership and strive to foster peace, security, and prosperity on both a global and regional level. I strongly believe there has never been a greater need for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), an international institution with extensive, diverse networks and a commitment to promoting global partnerships, to work hand in hand with affected countries and regions and play a meaningful role in addressing issues that affect the world at large.

### Our Features and Strengths

Our work at SPF centers around our three missions and five priority goals. As always, we constructed our project

plan for FY 2020 upon a foundation of creative proposals with long-term perspectives to work toward achieving these five goals. However, the coronavirus pandemic undeniably affected almost every aspect of our work, forcing us to bring conferences, research, and presentations online and cancel more than a few of our activities.

Nevertheless, we still found creative ways to conduct research and share insights related to the effects of the pandemic as well as incorporate work to prepare for life after the coronavirus into our programs. Despite the challenges, the crucible of this pandemic has inspired a plethora of fresh ideas at SPF.

SPF distinguishes itself as one of the world's leading private foundations with a special and unique focus on international efforts, a concept encapsulated in the 'Peace' our name bears. But what does it mean for the world to be without that peace? Much like with conflicts stemming from differences in religions, worldviews, race, or territorial disputes, this situation essentially signifies a failure to find harmony. We at SPF aim to live up to our name and realize a world which embraces a diversity of life and peoples that live and thrive together.

A deep appreciation for diversity runs through the bedrock of our three missions, five goals, and each of our programs. Supporting biodiversity in our oceans is one prominent example. It is my conviction that SPF has a vital

## Pursuing the Sasakawa Peace Foundation's Missions through our Priority Goals

### Our 3 Missions



### Our 5 Priority Goals

- ① Further strengthening the Japan–U.S. relationship
- ② Expanding Japan's presence in Asia
- ③ Enhancing understanding of and relationships with Islamic countries
- ④ Establishing ocean governance
- ⑤ Empowering women

duty to promote widespread acceptance of the outstanding diversity of life on earth and help people live in peace and security alongside it.

This is a challenge only a private, international foundation is equipped to undertake. As a public interest incorporated foundation, SPF is not swayed by economic interests and acts independently of government programs. This freedom allows us to explore unique ideas and develop a variety of creative initiatives as only an independent organization can. Furthermore, we continuously nurture the strong networks connecting governmental representatives from many different countries, experts, and other related parties, which have been established through the work we have devoted ourselves to in the many years since our inception in 1986.

SPF also boasts a cohort of extraordinary and talented employees, each with expert knowledge and awareness of issues in their respective fields.

These features define us as an organization and are also our greatest strengths.

### Inspiring Innovation

Divisions among the international community may only grow more prominent during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. With an eye toward the future shaped by this

pandemic, SPF aims to play an active role in solving global issues and meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Going forward, we will continue to devote ourselves to upholding our foundation's legacy as a hub for innovation by maintaining a clear grasp of the global situation almost certain to undergo drastic changes for the foreseeable future and by collaborating with people the world over who share our concern for the issues facing us all. To that end, we remain dedicated to operating the foundation in a manner which allows us to develop impactful projects that can be deployed with speed and flexibility.

We at SPF also intend to further reinforce our cooperative relationships with The Nippon Foundation and other related institutions. SPF works with actors all over the globe. As such, we must redouble our efforts to share with the world and publicize information regarding our programs in English as well.

We sincerely appreciate your sustained support as we continue to build on our strengths, fully embrace the unique advantages we have as a foundation, and incorporate fresh strategies and ideas into our work as we move forward.



## The Ocean Policy Research Institute Creating New Value to Lead the World into Sustainability — Blue Economy Initiatives —

The Blue Economy Project embodies our think tank's mission to "Create One from Zero." We interviewed the director of OPRI's Policy Research Department Tomonari Akamatsu and senior research fellows Atsushi Watanabe and Masanori Kobayashi about the significance, content, and results of this initiative.

### Blue Carbon — The Key to Going Carbon Free

— What were the most noteworthy aspects of OPRI's work in FY 2020?

**Director Akamatsu:** I would have to say the blue economy — this topic is fueling momentum for many research subjects related to ocean issues. The term "blue economy" first gained widespread use at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (or Rio+20). It has appeared on international agendas ever since then, though the idea has only recently taken root in Japan.

An ideal economy is one that prioritizes and values the betterment of society. The blue economy, then, can be described as a system that creates and distributes value pertaining to the ocean.

Our daily lives depend heavily on the ocean. Seafood, for example, is a regular staple in many households, and as a maritime nation, Japan relies on oceanic shipping for over 99% of its trade by weight. Logistical ocean infrastructure is a key pillar supporting the Japanese economy. Recent examples include offshore wind power generation, which has acquired steam and support as a source of renewable energy. The construction of large-scale wind farms will soon begin in earnest. A wide variety of other industries, such as seabed mining and tourism, also reap benefits from the ocean. Every financial undertaking in any way related to the ocean plays a part in the blue economy.

The push to achieve carbon neutrality, in other words the pursuit of a society that produces net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, has served as one recent catalyst bringing attention to blue economy initiatives. In an extraordinary session of the Diet in October 2020, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared that Japan would aim to reach this goal by the year 2050. Japan is far from alone in this endeavor. Decarbonization has become a major global trend as countries, large corporations, and municipalities all over the world are setting similar goals to be achieved by 2050 or 2030.

— How are greenhouse gases and the ocean related?

**Director Akamatsu:** Thus far throughout human history, we have essentially treated the ocean as an enormous dumping ground. The global environment has only managed to survive this long because the ocean has taken in the plastic garbage, heat, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and other unwanted byproducts of the human world. Seagrasses, marine algae, and other coastal plants serve as



A carbon-trapping ecosystem of seagrass and marine algae. Photo depicts the red algae field next to the Yokohama Bayside Marina. The black area in the foreground is a dense growth of red algae. (Photo credit: Senior Research Fellow Dr. Watanabe, January 20, 2021)

powerful CO<sub>2</sub> sinks that capture and store immense amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. In 2009, the United Nations Environment Programme dubbed the carbon absorbed and sequestered through this process "blue carbon."

If we can calculate how much blue carbon is stored in a particular area, we can incorporate it into an emissions rights trading system and sell it as credits. Corporations would then have the ability to offset emissions they cannot reduce by purchasing these credits. At the same time, those proceeds would then provide crucial funds which would empower emissions credit generators, such as nonprofit organizations (NPOs) that engage in the conservation of carbon-absorbing ecosystems, to continue and expand their operations. OPRI Senior Research Fellow Dr. Atsushi Watanabe is involved in efforts to shape and test the feasibility of this blue carbon offset system, which aims to assess and sell units of value found in the ocean and environment. Blue carbon is only just beginning to make its way into the blue economy.

### Incorporating the Value of the Environment into Economic Systems

— Could you talk about OPRI's specific initiatives?

**Dr. Watanabe:** In July 2020, the Japan Blue Economy Association (JBE), a nationally accredited organization under the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, was established. In addition to serving as the administrative body for the Blue Carbon Credit system, the JBE develops tests and methodologies to support initiatives that aim to combat climate change by utilizing the ocean.

Researchers who have studied blue carbon for over a decade, NPOs dedicated to conservation and restoration of seagrasses, marine algae, and other aquatic plants, and other related organizations have made it possible to quantify the value stored in the ocean and environment. They have also doggedly worked to create a system to support the conservation and restoration of these ecosystems, as well as raise the funds for these initiatives. I think the establishment of the JBE represents the culmination of these efforts.

We focused our work in 2020 on crafting this kind of emissions offset system, since implementing these ideas in the real world is what makes them meaningful. In parallel to this, we also published and distributed materials regarding the mission that led to the JBE's establishment and the vital importance of the blue economy. As part of this, OPRI hosted and livestreamed its 174th

Ocean Forum entitled "Toward the Sustainable Use of the Environmental Value of Blue Carbon Ecosystems" on September 10, 2020.

Additionally, we participated in The Nikkei's "Regional Development—New Realities Post-COVID 19" forum, during which we hosted a session entitled, "Realizing Rural Development through Blue Carbon." In this session, representatives from Yokohama (Kanagawa Prefecture), Hannan (Osaka Prefecture), and Bizen (Okayama Prefecture) gave presentations on the community development initiatives their respective cities implemented using blue carbon. The JBE's board members also took the opportunity to express their goals and expectations for the association going forward.

On the heels of this forum, the JBE and the national government collaborated in February 2021 to issue "J Blue Credits" for the CO<sub>2</sub> captured and sequestered by seabed conservation initiatives in Yokohama City, Kanagawa. Credit generators as well as corporate purchasers then gathered at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation Building on March 18, 2021, for a ceremony to issue the certificates. While still quite small in scale, these credits represent the first major step for this carbon offset system.

Currently, only conservation efforts conducted in ports and harbors qualify as credit generators. Our goal for FY 2021 is to broaden that definition to include initiatives taking place in more general ocean areas and expand the credit system to cover a wider variety of activities.

### Creating "One" to Lead the World to Sustainability

**Director Akamatsu:** Dr. Watanabe, OPRI senior research fellow, helped craft a value scheme that had never before gained official accreditation and develop a new mechanism for putting a price on that value. This is what independent think tanks do as organizations: "Create One from Zero." Our mission is to design and propose new avenues for the betterment of society, which are grounded in a perspective that consistently seeks to make our world sustainable.

**Dr. Watanabe:** The researchers at OPRI attach great importance to ensuring the results of our studies can be utilized to develop and support the cases for real-world implementation of related initiatives. I hope to see these blue carbon initiatives act as a forerunner to a market mechanism that fully and accurately appreciates the value in the ocean and environment.

**Director Akamatsu:** Going forward, the blue economy will become a "hub" connecting our research projects at OPRI. Our blue carbon initiatives, for example, will call for expertise in measuring blue carbon, calculating its economic value, building international consensus around the concept, addressing legal and governance issues, and developing mechanisms for regional cooperation. Our projects can fulfill all of these requirements. The "Promotion on Ocean Digital Society" project for example, which utilizes technology to visualize the ocean below water and appraises the value of resources found there, is perfectly suited to support the Blue Carbon Initiative's observational and measurement needs. Very shortly after the term "blue carbon" first came into use in 2009, our "Building Sustainable Ocean for the Future" project also began promoting the importance of blue carbon and presenting Japan's related initiatives at the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-UNFCCC) and the UN Ocean Conference. OPRI's blue carbon initiatives will also depend on bilateral and multilateral international negotiations surrounding the high seas and the deep-sea floor, neither of which fall



Launching of the carbon offset system (J-Blue Credit Certificate Issuance Ceremony, March 18, 2021).

under the jurisdiction of any individual country. Through OPRI's "Ocean Policy Dialogues and Strengthening Networks" project, we have participated in such international discussions, identified problematic issues, worked to inform society at large, and built up an extensive body of research. Ensuring the security of the ocean, a topic addressed in our "Innovative Development on Ocean Governance" project, is also indispensable for establishing a sustainable blue economy. Furthermore, our "Action Research on Sustainable Blue Economy" project works to formulate an economic model which incorporates integral factors such as disaster risks into its calculations to assess the value of ocean-related industries. I strongly believe the majority of our projects going forward will revolve around not only blue carbon but also the greater blue economy initiatives as well.

— Where do you see the blue economy going from here?

**Dr. Watanabe:** We need to draw a road map outlining our vision for what we would like to have accomplished in terms of the blue economy 10-30 years down the road, the future for which our generation should take responsibility. As just one example, I expect many more wind turbines will go up in the next 10 years, significantly altering our coastal landscapes. However, that will be far from the future we want to create if local communities do not welcome that change. We must design plans that will bring us to a future where local residents see the value in, for instance, the habitats offshore wind turbines will provide for marine algae, or the energy they will generate that can be used for onshore aquaculture. Now is the only time we have to act on this.

We are also looking at how to share Japanese perspectives, technologies, and experience-informed knowledge related to the blue economy. Some countries view the natural world as an object to be controlled, others aim to develop it for short-term socioeconomic gain, and yet others prioritize blanket conservation over using any ocean resources. In Japan, however, we believe the true definition of a blue economy is one that develops sustainable economies and society as a whole by holding space for humans to exist within nature and simultaneously exploit and protect the ocean along with its plentiful resources.

Our country also boasts diverse ecosystems from its northernmost tip to its southernmost end, and we have a rich variety of excellent examples of community-building as well as problem-solving.

#### Dr. Tomonari Akamatsu

Ocean Policy Research Institute  
Director, Policy Research Department (January 2020-present) / Senior Research Fellow  
Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University (Doctorate in Agriculture)

##### Prior Experience

— Senior Researcher, National Research Institute of Fisheries Engineering, Fisheries Research Agency  
— Senior Researcher, National Research Institute of Fisheries Science, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency



#### Dr. Atsushi Watanabe

Ocean Policy Research Institute  
Senior Research Fellow, Policy Research Department  
(April 2018-present)  
— Director, Japan Blue Economy Association (JBE) (July 2020-present)

##### Education and Prior Experience

— Doctorate of Science, School of Science, University of Tokyo  
— Postdoctoral Fellow, Nagoya University, Graduate School of Environmental Studies  
— Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Information Science and Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology





ing initiatives to share with the world.

Unfortunately, Japan is also confronting almost every ocean-related challenge imaginable and is one of the countries on the frontlines of the negative impacts global warming has on the ocean and coastal areas. Through our past and present efforts to combat these unprecedented challenges, we have accumulated a vast trove of knowledge we can contribute. Japan could additionally provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) through the OECD to countries that hold similar views of the blue economy

and supply information about Japanese technologies, approaches, and social system structures they may need.

**Director Akamatsu:** Among all of the issues related to the ocean, the blue economy is one of the most closely linked to our daily lives. Methods to make it a reality are incrementally improving amid the growing global consensus that we must at all costs achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. This is a meaningful field to pursue, and I have made it my mission to continue contributing to these initiatives.

## ■ In Pursuit of Making the Blue Economy a Reality — Regional Development in Asia, Communication of Information, and Policy Discussions

### ● Policy Dialogues with Key Figures Around the World

From July to September 2020, The Nippon Foundation, the Economist Group, and SPF jointly hosted a series of three webinars entitled “The Blue Recovery (Economic Recovery Founded in the Ocean) Series.”

I believe it was very significant that, just as effects from the spread of the COVID pandemic pushed much of life online, prominent political leaders, researchers, and entrepreneurs from the Asia Pacific region engaged in dialogue about ocean policy issues with the international media outlet The Economist.

In the first event of the series, “Ensuring a Robust ‘Blue’ Recovery in Asia and the Pacific” (held July 23), H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., then president of the Republic of Palau; Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of The Nippon Foundation and honorary chairman of SPF; Dr. Atsushi Sunami, president of SPF and then director of OPRI; and other honored guests discussed core issues related to ocean policy with a focus on science, innovation, and finance. At the second event, “Science, Innovation, and the Blue Recovery” (held August 26), and third event, “The Blue Recovery and the Delayed ‘Super’ Year” (held September 3), Mr. Shinjiro Koizumi, then Minister of Environment, and Mr. Seichi Eto, then Minister of State for Ocean Policy, respectively, gave keynote speeches detailing the Japanese government’s policies.

Then, with the assistance of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the embassies of the Republic of Palau and Norway in Japan, OPRI co-organized a webinar on December 3, 2020 called the “High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy\* — The Ocean Panel’s policy Recommendations: Promoting Sustainable Ocean Economies and International Partnership.” Then Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared the Japanese government’s goal to realize a carbon-neutral society by 2050 and its commitment to ambitiously pursue offshore wind power generation among other initiatives aiming to conserve the ocean under the country’s jurisdiction. H.E. Mr. Tommy Remengesau, Jr., then president of the Republic of Palau; H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, prime minister of Norway; as well as international and domestic private sector representatives and experts took to the stage to discuss how to build international partnerships to facilitate implementation of the Ocean Panel’s recommendations.

\* The High Level Panel (also known as the Ocean Panel) is a forum established in 2018 at the initiative of the Norwegian government to put marine resource conservation and sustainable production at the heart of ocean management. Heads of state from 14 countries, including Japan, participated in the panel.



Screenshot from the webinar “High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy — The Ocean Panel’s Policy Recommendations” where former Prime Minister Suga declared Japan’s plans for ocean conservation.



Dr. Sunami, president of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and then President of the OPRI (left); H.E. Remengesau, then president of the Republic of Palau (center); and H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, prime minister of Norway; and other dignitaries gave presentations at the High Level Panel session.



Mr. Kobayashi, Senior Research Fellow, moderated a panel discussion based on the High-Level Session.

**Masanori Kobayashi** Ocean Policy Research Institute, Senior Research Fellow, Policy Research Department (2016-present)  
**Education and Prior Experience**  
– Joined Ocean Policy Research Foundation (precursor to OPRI) in 2014  
– Doctoral course completed without degree, University of Tokyo Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
– Specialized Researcher, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations in New York  
– Program Officer, United Nations in Bonn and Geneva  
– Principal Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies  
– Associate Professor, Yokohama National University Graduate School of Environment and Information Sciences

### ● International Workshops

OPRI, in cooperation with Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), also hosted an international workshop from February 22-24, 2021, which focused on resolving challenges facing the world’s oceans. Established in 2009, KAUST is home to renowned researchers from all over the globe who are involved in developing solutions to the problems afflicting the ocean. The workshop leveraged knowledge and networks from both institutions to hold discussions on the blue economy, blue carbon, IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated) fishing, initiatives to tackle marine plastic, and Marine Protected Area management.

### ● Approaching Issues Through Both Dialogues and Pragmatic Research

OPRI also participated in additional international forums to discuss ocean policies and disseminate its findings and research. At one such forum, a High Level Side Event entitled “Biodiversity: The Ocean’s Role” held on September 30 on the margins of the UN Biodiversity Summit, SPF President Dr. Atsushi Sunami, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, and H.E. Danny Faure, President of Seychelles, discussed marine biodiversity with experts from around the world.

OPRI conducts practical research in conjunction with policy discussions to promote effective implementation of the blue economy. We engage in pragmatic studies which pave the way for sustainable development and share knowledge crucial for creating policy and institutional frameworks that can then support such research. Through these initiatives, we can play a leading role in practical policy research and implementation with a specific focus on the Asia Pacific region, home to rich diversity and singular, region-specific traits. Our commitment to this role is one reason OPRI continues to devote itself to our research activities and international cooperation efforts.

## Asia Peace Initiatives Department Elevating Minority Voices in Asian Countries

### — Leveraging the Benefits of Online Connections Through Two Different Initiatives —

While the COVID-19 pandemic severely limited travel during FY 2020, we explored several avenues to keep our work going online. To that end, we hosted virtual study groups attended by experts and other community members from Asian countries, held online public seminars, and live-streamed films. Below, we discuss two of these initiatives: one dedicated to preserving and sharing with future generations the identities of the multitude of people living in northeastern India, and the other which conducts research on transnational migrant workers in Southeast and East Asian countries.

### ■ Broadcasting Documentaries on Northeast India to the World

As a crucial junction between South and Southeast Asia, the Northeast region of India holds an extremely important geopolitical position. Recently, it has garnered attention as an area vital to the Indian government’s Act East Policy and Japan’s Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy. At the same time, the region also suffers from longstanding issues stemming from the legacy of its complex history that has left it alienated from other areas of India and a target of stereotyping. Divisions and conflicts among local communities have also plagued the area for many years.

SPF Senior Program Officer Yui Nakamura has dedicated her career to reducing stigma against the region and its people as well as promoting mutual understanding by serving as an intermediary and shining a spotlight on the diverse cultures and histories unique to the region. As part of her work in pursuit of this goal, she has published a special collection of selected works by women writers of the region, provided entrepreneurial support to young researchers and artists, organized literary and artistic events, and established a video archive.

In FY 2019, she arranged for 16 documentary films depicting the current state of the region to be shown at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival (YIDFF) and invited four of the entries’ prominent directors hailing from Northeast India to attend. In response to the positive feedback the collection garnered, YIDFF and SPF organized an additional special screening of the films at the “Yamagata in Tokyo 2020” festival to be held the following year in the nation’s capital. However, after the rapid spread of COVID-19 forced us to abandon the in-theater screening plan, we quickly moved the festival online and gave audiences the opportunity to view the films for free.



Approximately 44 million people live in this region that borders China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Bhutan. Many descend from immigrants from Tibet, Myanmar, Thailand, and other countries. The area is home to over one hundred individual tribes and several hundred languages.

### Reaching Hearts and Minds, Courtesy of the Pandemic

We sat down to talk about this project with Senior Program Officer Yui Nakamura and film director Tarun Bharitya, who serves as an advisor to this work.

You helped arrange for the special film collection “Rustle of

Spring, Whiff of Gunpowder: Documentaries from Northeast India” to be shown from November 7-December 11. Can you tell us more about this process?

**Ms. Nakamura:** We worked on this project in the thick of the pandemic when no one really knew what would happen next, all the while trying to figure out how to have this showing in a way that could make everyone happy. The great thing about watching a film in the theater is that you can enjoy a sense of community with the rest of the audience, something you can’t experience in the same way online. However, word about the festival gradually spread on social media while it was ongoing, and eventually about 12,000 people in total from not only Japan but India and other countries took the time to watch the films.\* I think the pandemic brought the power of these documentaries into even more striking relief and touched the hearts of many more people than would have otherwise been possible. Since then, I’ve heard there are growing calls for rescreenings of the collection and that the films have inspired young filmmakers and others in the region to begin to reach across state lines for collaborative endeavors.



### Yui Nakamura

Senior Program Officer, Sasakawa Peace Foundation Asia Peace Initiatives Department (September, 2015-present)

#### Prior Experience

A Tokyo native, Ms. Nakamura has focused on issues surrounding India and neighboring countries through her work at a major newspaper in Thailand, the Japan Foundation in Bangkok, a private foundation in Tokyo, think tanks, and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

### — What kind of responses did the festival receive?

**Mr. Bharitya:** There are some within India who subscribe to prejudiced ideas that paint the Northeast as a backwards, impoverished region filled with other cultures. But I think sharing this collection of diverse, high-quality films created by directors of all ages, from veterans to newcomers, has proved to the world that the region is overflowing with extremely talented, creative individuals. I would love for as many people as possible to visit the area for themselves once the pandemic is over.



### Tarun Bharitya

Film Director  
Hometown: Shillong, Meghalaya State, Northeast India  
Works include: “When the Hens Crow the Hens Crow / Haha Kynih Ka Syiar” (Produced: Meghalaya, India, 2012; Language: Khasi; Running time: 54 minutes) and “Not Allowed (Not Allowed/La Mana)” (Produced: Meghalaya, India, 2018; Language: Khasi; Running time: 40 minutes).

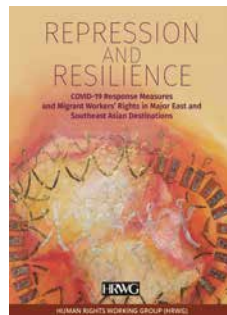
\* All 14 films were streamed online. The documentary with the most views was “The Broken Song/Sabin Alun,” directed by Altaf Mazid.



## ■ Migrant Workers and the Impacts of Coronavirus — Fact-Finding Studies in Asia and Webinars

In recent years, demographic changes and disparity within Asia as well as an ever more connected world have sparked an increase in labor migration and the issues that accompany it. The pandemic has intensified the particularly vulnerable positions these migrant workers\* often find themselves in.

In 2018, the Asia Peace Initiatives Department added migrant labor issues as a point of focus. Since then, we have collaborated with the Human Rights Working Group based in Indonesia and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), experts, and the media to carry out studies, publicize and share information, and engage in various dialogues, among other activities. Leveraging this extensive network, we conducted a fact-finding survey beginning in April 2020 across seven major destinations (Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan) to identify the challenges migrant workers face due to the pandemic, assess how measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 have affected them, and evaluate responses from both public and private sectors. We later published our findings in December of the same year.



Report: "Repression and Resilience: COVID-19 Response Measures and Migrant Workers in Major East and Southeast Asian Destinations"

\* A migrant worker is defined as any person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a national (Article 2, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families).

### Disseminating the Findings to Domestic and International Stakeholders

To learn more about the fact-finding study and efforts to share those results, we spoke with Fumiko Okamoto, Senior Program Officer in charge of international migration issues, Mariko Hayashi, the project's research coordinator, and project leader Daniel Awigra.

— **Though the pandemic restricted your activities, you still collected the voices from people on the ground to identify key issues and then published your findings in a report. Could you tell us about the initiatives the department has taken to resolve these migrant labor issues?**

**Ms. Okamoto:** Our research found that many migrant workers in Asia tended to struggle financially due to lost income or jobs; had a difficult time accessing information, medical services, or personal protective equipment (PPE); and were often excluded from governmental assistance measures even as countries tightened immigration control. Migrant workers already inhabit a vulnerable position in society due to systematic overcharging for recruitment-related costs and fees, unstable employment, and poor living conditions, and the pandemic only added insult to injury. The

results of our study in hand, we organized three webinars across Asia beginning in December 2020 to share our findings with private and public sector stakeholders and discuss countermeasures.\*\* In January 2021, we collaborated with Hurights Osaka and HRWG to host an urgent webinar entitled "Webinar to Consider Support for Migrants under the State of Emergency." We welcomed representatives of the Japanese government, international organizations, corporations, non-profit organizations (NPOs) and NGOs, the media, and researchers, including infectious disease experts, among others. Many of the participants told us that they wanted to discuss support measures they could implement within their own communities and share their desires to find a way to personally help.

**Ms. Hayashi:** The biggest challenge we faced in conducting the survey was figuring out how to hear from migrant workers directly under the pandemic. Thankfully, we were able to take advantage of the civil society network we'd built up in the region and get closer to the real-life experiences behind the statistical data.

We also came across many great examples of governments, businesses, and migrant communities themselves reaching out in support. These initiatives emphasized how important it is to encourage such efforts and include migrant workers in measures to contain infection, provide support services, and carry out vaccination campaigns in order to create resilient societies resistant to disaster and disease. The study also revealed the limits of bilateral frameworks between sending and receiving countries to protect migrant rights, as labor migration has become increasingly multinational. The entire region needs to come together to have more in-depth discussions about the challenges migrant workers face, the systemic issues that exacerbate them, and measures to improve the situation.

**Mr. Awigra:** When it comes to international labor migration, both sending and receiving countries have prioritized national interests and economic concerns at the expense of migrant workers' human rights, a fact made all the more conspicuous due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While it is deeply troubling, the pandemic is also providing an opportunity to enact significant changes to systemic problems or ways of thinking. In addition to the webinar, we also presented the results of our studies to government officials and members of migrant communities on December 18 in honor of International Migration Day. We had the chance to discuss the topic with many people at multiple venues and received very meaningful feedback. Going forward, we'll continue to use our website and social media accounts to promote further discourse on this topic throughout the entire region.

\*\* A recording of "Webinar to Consider Support for Migrants under the State of Emergency" can be found at [URL] <https://www.spf.org/asia-peace/news/20210427.html>



**Fumiko Okamoto**  
Senior Program Officer, Sasakawa Peace Foundation Asia Peace Initiatives

Ms. Okamoto joined SPF after working for the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She oversees non-profit sector support, disasters, infectious diseases, and since 2011 has focused on international migration and social integration issues including refugee resettlement in Japan and migrant labor in Asia.



**Mariko Hayashi**  
Executive Director, Southeast and East Asia Centre (SEAC), Coordinator for fact-finding study.

The research coordinator of this project. Prior to the current role based in London, she worked for several NGOs involved in migrants' rights advocacy, research and community organizing, including at SPF where she focused on Asian programs between 2014 and 2019. Awarded MSc in Global Migration from University College London in 2011.



**Daniel Awigra**  
Deputy Director, Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), fact-finding study project leader.

He is a Project Leader of this project. He holds an MSc in International Relations from the University of Indonesia. Prior to HRWG, he was one of the founders of the Journalist Association for Diversity Issues (SEJUK). In his current position, he leads research and advocacy projects on human rights issues across ASEAN.

## ■ Working Toward an Inclusive Society Where All Can Live Safely

We asked Itsu Adachi, executive director in charge of the Asia Peace Initiatives Department, about the impact the coronavirus crisis has had on the program, countermeasures taken in response, and the group's plans for expansion going forward.

### Showing Strength Amid Adversity

Ever since the spread of COVID-19 ramped up in the spring of 2020, the pandemic has had an undeniably significant impact on our activities. Up until then, our staff traveled to the countries we work with to personally build networks with key actors such as government officials, experts, and specialists. We have also for many years invited dignitaries from various countries to visit Japan and arranged opportunities for them to meet with Japanese experts and scholars. This was especially true for sensitive projects where we needed to strengthen existing partnerships or forge new relationships. In these cases, we strove to build trust by organizing meetings where only those directly involved in the matter could have candid discussions, sharing food and lodging to encourage heart-to-heart conversations, and other activities. Unfortunately, this work became quite difficult to continue due to travel restrictions enacted in response to the pandemic, leaving us with no choice but to revise some projects and suspend others entirely.

However, our staff at SPF have what it takes to thrive in the midst of adversity. With persistence and ingenuity, they found creative solutions around these roadblocks such as holding international conferences online and asking local partners to take over data collection. In the end, those projects had a far bigger impact than originally planned and received glowing reviews. We learned much this year about the ins and outs of connecting and having discussions with people thousands of miles away and gained new appreciation for conducting business online. I expect a hybrid working style incorporating aspects of our original methods and this new approach will become the norm for us in a post-COVID world. What is most important is that we do not limit ourselves to conventional practices. Instead, we must make use of the most effective and amicable approaches that best suit our goals and partners.

### Asia Today and the Role SPF Can Play

The global economic outlook remains uncertain due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and many countries in Asia are still struggling to balance measures to contain infection and rebuild livelihoods and their economies. However, despite the temporary setbacks due to the pandemic, we nevertheless forecast the Asian region will take a leading role in the global economy over the long term.

On the other hand, various challenges in terms of social affluence stubbornly continue to plague Asian countries. For example, the pandemic has made income disparities in the region glaringly apparent. Challenges surrounding foreign and migrant workers have intensified along with economic development, a reality with which Japan must also contend. Women, minorities, and other socially vulnerable groups continue to suffer from discrimination in communities where traditional values still hold sway as well.

With forecasts projecting even greater growth in Asia, it is even more important for Japan to work toward resolving the various social challenges facing countries in the region through



**Itsu Adachi** Executive Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

After graduating from Sophia University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, he worked for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for 35 years on international cooperation projects in developing countries. He has specialized in Southeast Asia and in particular Cambodia, where he was deeply involved in reconstruction and development assistance efforts after the peace process. Since joining SPF in June 2020, he has supervised projects focused on supporting peacebuilding in Asia, labor migration issues, the realization of diverse and multiethnic societies, exchanges between Japan and China, gender equality, and economically empowering women through the creation of an ecosystem for gender lens investment and entrepreneurial support.

an approach grounded in a common, region-wide understanding. We must strive to not only achieve material wealth through economic development, but to realize an inclusive society where everyone can live in peace and safety.

However, though private-sector business partnerships between the people of Japan and other Asian countries have proliferated in recent years, diplomatic and academic connections continue to dwindle. We at SPF pride ourselves on our dynamic and flexible intellectual resources and our expertise in reaching out with an open, creative mind to a wide range of stakeholders. We are committed to proactively creating opportunities for collaboration on common issues Japan and other Asian countries share.

### Connecting the Movers

The Asia Peace Initiatives Department will continue to develop our activities around the three pillars of our work: "Peacebuilding, Disengagement from Violence, and Reconciliation," "Realizing an Inclusive Society," and "Rebuilding partnerships and Collaboration between Japan and Asia." Regarding the first, we will keep our focus on the role women can play in resolving conflict and endeavor to promote deeper discussions on disengagement from violence. In keeping with the inclusive society pillar, we continue to advance the conversation on issues raised by international and migrant labor, including the responsibilities of employers. Under the final pillar, we will create opportunities for dialogue with opinion leaders leading the charge for social innovation in Asian countries. Our goal is to learn from each other in these discussions and, in doing so, strengthen these key relationships.

We at SPF cannot succeed in any of these initiatives on our own. However, I have faith that we can provide valuable assistance toward achieving them by leaning on the wisdom and strength of third parties to create meaningful connections between the dedicated people in Asia who are striving to improve their societies.

# Supporting stability in the international community and strengthening Japan–U.S. relations

## ● Japan–U.S. Program

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen)*	Year
Creating Strategic Network Between Japanese and American Policy Communities	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	26,205,042	1/3
Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,044,727	1/3
The German Marshall Fund's Young Strategists Forum	German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States	USA	Grant	0	3/3
Enriching U.S.-Japan Congressional Exchanges	Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA	USA	Grant	10,047,512	1/1
Strengthening the U.S.-Japan Relationship from U.S. Perspectives 2020	Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA	USA	Grant	132,301,766	1/1

## ● International Peace and Security Department

Japan's Defense Diplomacy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,021,490	2/3
Enhancing National Cyber Security	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,561,089	2/3
Security in the Indo-Pacific Region	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,639,226	2/2
Information Provision of International Situation and Security II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,564,117	2/3
Japan-U.S. Alliance Study II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,701,000	2/5
Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	399,946	1/3
Study of Lessons Learned from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	431,870	1/1
Research for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	2,374,368	1/1
Table Top Exercise II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	2,699,449	1/1
Shaping the Effective Strategy Toward China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,491,543	1/2
The Study of Contemporary China II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	10,194,104	1/3
The Japan-India-Russia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	424,390	1/2
International Conference: Securing Indo-Pacific - Expanding Cooperation between Asia and Europe	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	324,823	1/2
Future Fellowship for Okinawa	Research Institute for Peace and Security	Japan	Grant	8,636,479	1/1

## ● Pacific Island Nations Program

Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	39,133,209	2/3
Promotion of Palau Sustainable Tourism Model	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	0	2/2
Strengthening the Genuine Partnership between the Pacific Island Countries and Japan	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	0	2/3

\* Activities involving the movement of people and conducting large-scale international conferences were cancelled or postponed and conducted online as much as possible. As a result, the final operating expenses for some projects were reduced.

# Japan U.S. Program

This year, the Japan-U.S. Program launched two projects: “Creating Strategic Network Between Japanese and American Policy Communities,” and “Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations.” Through these projects, we aim to maintain and develop people-to-people networks between the Japanese and American policy communities, leverage their expertise to garner new knowledge and information, strengthen the bonds between Japan and the U.S., and contribute to this bilateral collaboration in an ever-changing world. Also, two grants projects were funded for Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA and they assisted these goals. Despite COVID-related travel limitations, we called on the connections we have cultivated over the years by working together with experts, sharing information, and conducting research projects. Through these shared efforts, we strove to nurture existing networks and deepen relationships among them. We also widely publicized news about our results and shared our insights.

## Maintaining Networks in the Face of COVID-19

Through our "Creating Strategic Network Between Japanese and American Policy Communities" project, the program aims to expand and bolster a close network connecting the Japan-U.S. policy expert community at the individual and organizational level. In deepening these ties, we hope to facilitate discourse examining what new roles the Japan-U.S. relationship and collaboration should take in this time of great worldwide change. Although the spread of the coronavirus made travel to and from each country challenging, we moved our events online and continued with our efforts to foster and develop this network.

The program worked with the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS) to organize a nine-part web seminar series entitled “Geostrategy in the Grassroots.” Hosted by local Japan-America Societies in the U.S., the events featured online discussions between Japanese and American experts. Not only did the series create new connections among these specialists, it also provided the opportunity for over 1,000 people in both countries to learn more about the latest developments in the East

Asian security environment.

The program worked with the RAND Corporation for a research project on Japan-Europe security cooperation. On March 30, 2021, the program hosted a webinar to discuss the research report, “Allies Growing Closer: Japan–Europe Security Ties in the Age of Strategic Competition,” inviting its author Dr. Jeffrey Hornung, political scientist at the RAND Corporation, and collaborator Dr. Michito Tsuruoka, associate professor at Keio University who cooperated on this research, to speak. During the webinar they had a frank discussion on the current state of Japan-Europe cooperation, issues to be addressed for those efforts going forward, and the U.S. perspective on Japan-Europe relations.

In 2019, the program dispatched Dr. Nobuhiro Aizawa, associate professor of Kyushu University, to Washington, DC as a Woodrow Wilson Center Japan Scholar. Though lockdowns induced by the pandemic and other measures restricted his research activities, Dr. Aizawa wrote a series of five essays for Japanese readers in 2020 as a special project reporting and analyzing the American society under COVID-19. Essays were published on our program’s satellite website.



In the “Geostrategy in the Grassroots” seminar series, nine local Japan-America Societies from all over the United States hosted prominent experts from Japan and the U.S. to discuss the U.S.-Japan alliance as well as diplomacy and security issues in East Asia. (Screenshot from the webinar hosted by the Japan Society of New Orleans on March 5, 2021 featuring Mr. Richard Fontaine (Chief Executive Officer, Center for a New American Security, top right) and Dr. Tomohiko Satake (Senior Fellow, Defense Policy Division, Policy Studies Department, The National Institute for Defense Studies, bottom).



“Allies Growing Closer: Japan-Europe Security Ties in the Age of Strategic Competition” by Dr. Jeffrey Hornung, published January 2021.





Screenshot from the webinar “Analyzing Japan-Europe Security Cooperation from U.S. Perspectives” with political scientist Dr. Jeffrey Hornung (top right) and Professor Michito Tsuruoka (bottom right) held on March 30, 2021.

## Research Projects and Information Outreach

The “Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations” project seeks to collaborate on different studies with young and mid-career experts from both the U.S. and Japan who belong to our established people-to-people network. We then take the ideas and approaches they develop based on mid- to long-term perspectives along with their research results and publicize them in an endeavor to reach as wide an audience as possible. Even as the coronavirus spread with alarming speed, we continued our research projects and study group activities online and poured our energy into spreading these insights via our website and other channels.

## Deepening Our Understanding of the U.S.

In line with our goal to promote greater understanding of the U.S. among the Japanese public, we published 30 essays and opinion pieces through the “SPF America Genjo Monitor” project on our website in FY 2020. In these essays, experts from Japan provided real-time analysis and insights on political and societal shifts in the U.S., notably those relating to the presidential election held in November 2020.

Furthermore, though the pandemic forced us to scrap plans to continue our program in which we invite Asian American state legislators to visit Japan, we worked together with the U.S.-Japan Council, a co-organizer of this project, and produced videos interviewing 10 former participants who had previously come to Japan. To reach a wider audience, we released both English and Japanese versions of the interviews, which touched on a variety of important topics including the realities on the ground in local government in the wake of the pandemic and the progress of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement.

## Examining the Changing World and Relations with the U.S.

The program launched a research group of Japanese experts entitled “Future of American Foreign Policies and Options for Japan,” where participants discussed topics such as diplomacy, security, and international relations in the Indo-Pacific; shifts in American foreign affairs; and the future of the Japan-U.S. relationship. They also had closed discussions with American think tanks on these issues.

Additionally, six papers resulting from the Japan-U.S. Program’s “Worldviews on the United States, Alliances, and International Order” project were accepted by the journal *Contemporary Politics* and published as a special issue. This comparative study project ran from 2017 to 2019 in cooperation with young researchers from Asia and Europe.

The program also published the Asia Strategy Initiative (ASI)’s biannual memorandums and other projects’ papers on the program’s satellite website to provide policy experts in both Japan and the U.S. with insightful material that can help them broaden their perspectives. These publications critically examine how the Japan-U.S. alliance should function in an era of discord between the U.S. and China and delve into issues including different approaches Japan, Europe, and Asian countries take in their relations with the U.S.



The Japan-U.S. Program Website.



The ten-part video series featuring interviews with Asian-American members of U.S. state legislatures were available at the program’s satellite website (Photo from the interview with Texas House of Representatives member Gene Wu, right).

## Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA) Initiatives

Through grants projects, SPF-USA worked to convey the vital importance of the Japan-U.S. relationship to a diverse community of American policymakers, business leaders, and Congress members. They also endeavored to help foster greater understanding and bolster cooperation between the two countries.

Amidst the lockdowns and other restrictive measures put in place in the U.S. during FY 2020, the program shifted operations online to continue our initiatives to publicize and circulate materials within America regarding Japan-U.S. bilateral relations. In addition to publishing various articles on those relations, they also hosted a number of small- and medium-sized webinars with Japanese politicians and other guest speakers, which provided opportunities for U.S. audiences and Japanese experts to connect.

## Enriching U.S.-Japan Congressional Exchanges

While we unfortunately had to cancel plans to invite this fiscal year’s congressional and chief of staff delegations to Japan, our partners, the Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ) and SPF-USA, collaborated to host a multitude of webinars on topics including the presidential election and establishment of new administrations in both our countries. Co-chairs of the CSGJ Congresswoman Diana DeGette and Congressman Larry Bucshon, current and retired U.S. Congressional representatives, and then Minister of Defense Taro Kono joined these events, which served to facilitate high-level policy discussions between Japan and the United States. Updated information of each country was shared widely through those events.

■ Disseminating Information on satellite site “Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations”

SPF 日米関係インサイト  
SPF Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations

On this site, we published and shared the program’s research and study results including the “SPF America Genjo Monitor” essay series focusing on American politics, diplomacy, and society, as well as the Asia Strategy Initiative’s proposals on the future of the alliance. This year we added two new sections: “Views from Inside America” and “Ideas and Analysis.”

Views from Inside America

This page features essays by Japanese researchers and experts living in the U.S. as well as video interviews of American leaders from various cities across the country to provide a closer look at realities on the ground and real time public discourse.

Ideas and Analysis

This page introduces reports and analyses authored by American and Japanese experts who have collaborated with the SPF Japan-U.S. Program on our various programs over the years. The page also includes essays written by our staff and researchers.

The Asia Strategy Initiative (ASI)

This project brings together accomplished mid-career experts from both Japan and the U.S. to engage in focused, in-depth discussions, develop specific and actionable policy recommendations on important topics related to the Japan-U.S. alliance such as deterrence and relations with China, and publish memorandums to share these proposals.

The SPF America Genjo Monitor

This project publishes essays and opinion pieces by Japanese researchers specializing in fields such as American politics and foreign policy. Each piece analyzes or “monitors” the current state of topics like shifts in U.S. politics, society, and diplomacy, as well as the ripple effects those changes have in various arenas.

Worldviews on the United States, Alliances, and International Order

This project organized a series of dialogues with young and mid-career scholars of international politics and foreign policy researchers from American-allied or partnered nations to expound on their respective countries’ perceptions, strategy, and management style surrounding their relations with the U.S. The six papers were accepted and published by the British journal *Contemporary Politics* as a special issue. Papers are available on this page.



# International Peace and Security Department

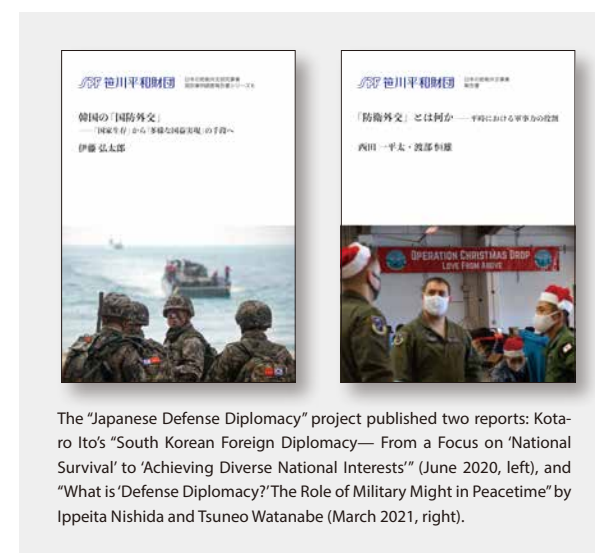
This department engages in research projects centered on Japan and the Indo-Pacific region, through which we aim to contribute to global peace and stability. Topics of focus include more traditional themes such as policies and strategies relating to the Japan-U.S. alliance, and cooperation and collaboration among countries tied to the Indo-Pacific region. We also research strategic and systemic issues related to newer fields like cybersecurity and proactively share our findings through policy proposals and other outreach initiatives.

## Challenges Facing Japan's Search for Peace and Security and the Japan-U.S. Alliance

In our "Japan-U.S. Alliance Study II" project, we partnered with the U.S. Heritage Foundation to conduct research in pursuit of the project's main objective: finding solutions that can adequately suit the needs of the new international security environment. The Heritage Foundation also assisted us on our "Table Top Exercise II" project in which we worked on scenario-based "Table Top Exercises" (TTX) to respond to cyberattacks through simulated emergencies. These provided invaluable insights including identification of differences in how Japan and the U.S. conceive of cooperation in these situations and new issues raised by the transition to the new U.S. administration.

This year, our "Shaping the Effective Strategy Toward China" project focused on laying the groundwork to enable discussions between Japanese and U.S. experts aimed at building effective strategies toward China, finalized the roster of project members, and shared the project's objectives with them. We also continued with our "Japan's Defense Diplomacy" project by preparing and editing a manuscript to be published in FY 2021 and releasing two

reports: one focused on examining defense diplomacy itself, and another featuring a case study of South Korea.



The "Japanese Defense Diplomacy" project published two reports: Kotaro Ito's "South Korean Foreign Diplomacy— From a Focus on 'National Survival' to 'Achieving Diverse National Interests'" (June 2020, left), and "What is 'Defense Diplomacy'? The Role of Military Might in Peacetime" by Ippeita Nishida and Tsuneo Watanabe (March 2021, right).

## Issues Facing the Indo-Pacific Region

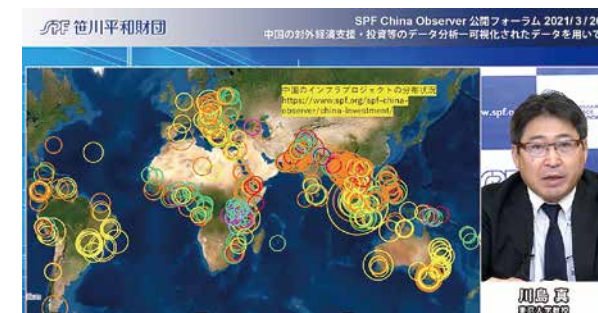
The department conducted multifaceted analyses of China's rise to prominence and increasing influence in the



The "Japan-U.S. Alliance Study II" project hosted two online forums. Depicted above is the second, entitled "Problems with China's 'Coast Guard Law' and Japan's Response" (March 22, 2021). From left to right: Masahiro Kurosaki, Associate Professor at the National Defense Academy of Japan; Retired Admiral Tomohisa Takei, former Chief of Staff, Maritime Self Defense Force; Bonji Ohara, Senior Fellow at the International Peace and Security Department. The first forum held on March 8 discussed "Integrated Air Defense and Missile Defense Alternatives to Aegis Ashore" and featured Senior Fellow Ohara; Retired Vice Admiral Tokuhiko Ikeda, former Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Kure District Commander; and Akihisa Nagashima, member of the Japanese House of Representatives.



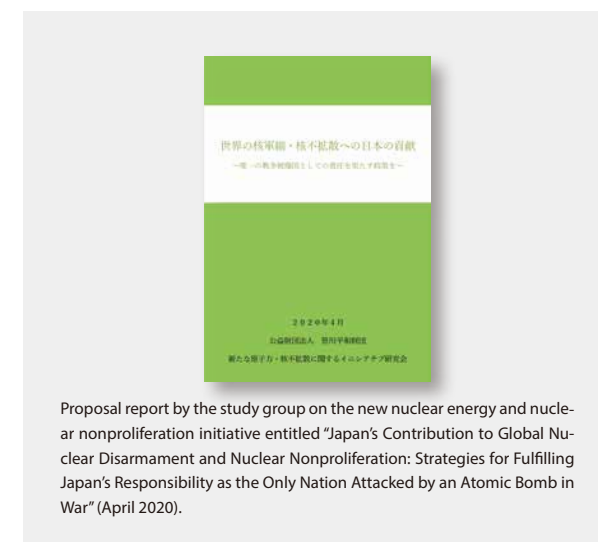
In the four-part online forum "Background on China's Foreign Policy Stances and Its Repercussions on International Order: What's Changed in the Coronavirus Pandemic?," supervisors of the SPF China Observer Akio Takahara, professor at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Public Policy and Graduate School of Law and Politics, and Senior Fellow Ohara analyzed and discussed the state of Chinese politics, economy, society, diplomacy, and security. (Photo taken from the third forum held on November 30, 2020 featuring a presentation by Naoko Eto, then associate senior research fellow, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO.



Online forum to discuss analyses of Chinese foreign assistance and investment activities held on March 26, 2021 to mark the newly published map tool, which helps visualize data garnered from the "Analysis of the Implications of China's Economic Operations" project (Photo of Dr. Shin Kawashima, professor at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Tokyo University).

international community, as well as its strategies and maneuvers in response to the spread of COVID-19. Both reports were published on the department's website, "SPF China Observer." Additionally, the department held a series of four lectures entitled "Background on China's Foreign Policy Stances and Its Repercussions on International Order: What's Changed During the COVID-19 Pandemic?" We also added a map feature to our website to help visualize the database developed through a prior project called "Analysis of the Implications of China's Economic Operations," and with its launch took the opportunity to hold an online forum to promote awareness of the insights from that analysis.

Furthermore, the department conducted extensive research on the island nations in the Indian Ocean through a project entitled "Security in the Indo-Pacific Region." This undertaking represents one aspect of our initiatives in support of improving Japan's cooperative relationships with India, Australia, and other countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Researchers in our "Japan-India-Russia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue" project also explored ways to collaborate with Russia and India and contribute to the stability



Proposal report by the study group on the new nuclear energy and nuclear nonproliferation initiative entitled "Japan's Contribution to Global Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Nonproliferation: Strategies for Fulfilling Japan's Responsibility as the Only Nation Attacked by an Atomic Bomb in War" (April 2020).

of the region. Due to the spread of COVID-19, we launched our "International Conference: Securing the Indo-Pacific" project online, holding three public seminars and closed-door expert meetings during which we proactively shared our insights on issues related to collaboration with Europe in the Indo-Pacific and an Asian perspective on regional security.

Through our "Study of Lessons Learned from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster" and "Research for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology II" projects, we examined the nuclear energy sector in Japan, which changed drastically after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster, and conducted research on nuclear nonproliferation. The research enabled us to recommend ways in which Japan can help promote global nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation by suggesting the role it should play in international efforts to properly manage nuclear materials amid China and Russia's meteoric rise in the nuclear energy market.

## Emerging Fields in Peace and Security

As part of the department's "Enhancing National Cyber Security" project, we organized a group of researchers who studied cyberattacks involving information manipulation and how to best handle and share threats of cyberattacks. The study focused on major countries in Europe and the U.S. We then organized another group that mainly looked at cyberattacks and reactions of the governments in Asia. We held two online seminars entitled "State-sponsored Cyber Attacks and Takeaways for Sporting Events" and "How Fake News Changed the U.S. Presidential Election — Disinformation and Democracy: Cases and Countermeasures," each of which attracted more than 300 total attendees.



Public seminar "How Fake News Changed the U.S. Presidential Election: Disinformation and Democracy: Cases and Countermeasures" held on March 22, 2021. Panelists included Hidetoshi Azuma, president of Resilience Japan, LLC; Dr. Motohiro Tsuchiya, professor and then Director of Keio University's Faculty of Policy Management; and Harumichi Yuasa, then assistant director and professor at the Faculty of Information Security, Institute of Information Security. We invited Satoshi Ogawa, former Yomiuri Shimbun Washington, DC bureau chief to provide commentary, and members of the "Cyber Fake News Study Group" (right) to join in the discourse.



This program has worked to contribute to the stability of the Pacific region and prosperity of its island nations through exchanges, talent development, and related initiatives ever since the establishment of the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund in 1989. In recent years, it has focused heavily on supporting the Micronesia region, and in particular the Republic of Palau, given its intimate geographic and historical ties to Japan. Based on the memorandum of understanding SPF and The Nippon Foundation signed with the Republic of Palau in February 2016, this program provides assistance to enhance the country’s maritime security capabilities and promote implementation of environmentally friendly tourism policies. In light of the Pacific island nations’ growing presence in the international arena, this program also endeavors to address emerging concerns facing the region and strengthen relationships founded on trust between these nations and Japan.

Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region II

In continuation of an initiative begun in previous years, the program provided coast guard officers of the Republic of Palau with support to ensure they maintain the skills to effectively operate the small patrol boats and 40-meter patrol vessel provided by The Nippon Foundation.

The Pacific Island Nations Program also conducted online coast guard personnel development training sessions in collaboration with the Republic of Palau’s Division of Maritime Law Enforcement, the Japan Coast Guard Mobile Cooperation Team (MCT), and The Japan Association of Marine Safety (March 2021). The sessions provided training in practical maritime rescue and arrest techniques and gave participants the chance to exchange stories and thoughts about their respective experiences implementing countermeasures against COVID-19 during on-site inspections, among other topics. We also shared the content of these sessions with the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.



A training session for maritime law enforcement officers conducted in March 2021. By hosting the session online, we managed to carry out some aspects of our original plans without visiting the site in person.

Promotion of Palau Sustainable Tourism Model

The Republic of Palau closed its borders to tourists in response to the global spread of COVID-19. As such, we focused our efforts on connecting online with local communities to help them prepare to welcome visitors once again after the pandemic. We also circulated information online to interested organizations in Japan and abroad about our efforts to promote the implementation of en-

vironmentally conscious tourism policies through tourist destination management methods we developed based on a community-centered approach and environmental carrying capacity studies.

Strengthening the Genuine Partnership Between the Pacific Island Countries and Japan

Despite the constraints on our work imposed by the pandemic, we continued to gather information and share our insights on the ever-changing regional situation with the embassies of Pacific Island countries in Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Pacific Islands Centre, domestic experts, and the East-West Center in the United States.

Additional Initiatives

The department launched a “Breaking News from the Pacific Islands” column on SPF’s website to spread accurate awareness within Japan of the rapidly changing Pacific island region. For the column, we translate and post noteworthy articles from PACNEWS, the Pacific Islands news digest distributed by the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), with additional commentary.



Through “Breaking News from the Pacific Islands,” the program regularly provides political, social, and economic news from the Pacific Islands for people with a broad interest in the region.  
[URL]  
[https://www.spf.org/pacific-islands/breaking\\_news/](https://www.spf.org/pacific-islands/breaking_news/)

Sharing Insights and Other Initiatives

Our “Information Provision of International Situation and Security II” project examines security issues organized by major regions of the world and by topics such as the cyber and outer space. We then publish analyses on the project’s dedicated website, International Information Network Analysis (IINA).

The department’s “Future Fellowship for Okinawa” project established a fellowship program for Okinawans to cultivate future leaders in the peace and security field. It additionally organized a related symposium.

After taking the devastating impacts of the spread

■ Sharing Information on Our Two Satellite Sites

“The International Information Network Analysis (IINA)”

International Information Network Analysis (IINA) Japanese site.  
[URL]  
<https://www.spf.org/iina/>

“SPF China Observer”

China Observer (Japanese site)  
[URL]  
<https://www.spf.org/spf-china-observer/>

The International Information Network Analysis (IINA) (available in Japanese and English) provides analyses of security issues carefully selected in terms of objectivity, accuracy, timeliness, and importance to Japan. These are published as articles organized by major regions of the world and by topic, such as cyber and space.

Through the “SPF China Observer,” Japanese experts specializing in China regularly offer insights which draw from observational studies on topics including domestic policies, economy, international relations, and security. We also host online forums with the editor and contributing experts as well as renowned academics from within Japan and abroad. The videos from these forums are available for viewing on our website.



## Expanding Japan’s presence in Asia

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen)*	Year
● Asia Peace Initiatives Department					
Asia Impact Dialogue	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	20,827,229	3/3
Proposing New Roles for Men in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,206,343	3/3
Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of North East India	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	24,500,445	2/3
Building Migration Resource Platform for Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,134,187	2/3
Toward Constructive Journalism in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,074,993	2/3
Women and Peacebuilding	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	22,199,563	1/3
Analysis of Pre-Peace Talk Initiatives in Peacebuilding II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	10,233,647	1/1
Engaging Northeast India in ActEast	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	0	1/3
Imphal Peace Museum Project II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	11,751,390	1/2
Enhancing Responsible Business Conduct	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	10,965,821	1/3

## ● Gender Investment and Innovation Department

Ecosystem Building for SDGs Financing	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,447,983	3/3
Addressing Gender Issues in Asia Through Entrepreneurship	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	15,416,750	2/5
Gender Lens Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (GLEE) Development in Southeast Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	18,611,519	1/3
Gender Nexus to Environment	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	5,940,000	1/1

## ● Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund

Invitation Program for Chinese Journalists	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	334,463	5/5
Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	0	3/5
Website for Dissemination of Information Phase III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,000,000	2/5
Exchange Project for Japan-China Experts in Traditional Arts and Crafts	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,065,873	2/3
Invitation Program for Chinese Opinion Leaders	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,429,328	1/3
Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,015,034	1/3

\* Activities involving the movement of people and conducting large-scale international conferences were cancelled or postponed and conducted online as much as possible. As a result, the final operating expenses for some projects were reduced.

# Asia Peace Initiatives Department

Focusing mainly on Southeast and South Asia, this department is devoted to shining a light on the shared history and rich diversity of this region and supporting the development of inclusive societies where the most marginalized regions, minorities, and vulnerable populations are heard and valued. The global pandemic necessitated that we make various adjustments this year to our program activities described below, such as canceling exchange and dispatch projects, conducting operations online, and shifting beneficiary groups and themes.

## Resolving Conflict in Thailand’s Deep South and Building Peace

### Analysis of Pre-Peace Talk Initiatives in Peacebuilding II

The Asia Peace Initiatives department collaborated on a special issue of *Accord*, a journal dedicated to peacebuilding. The issue, published in the journal’s 29<sup>th</sup> volume and entitled “Pioneering Peace Pathways,” focused on the pre-talk phase, which precedes full-scale peace negotiations. This fiscal year, we also hosted five webinars to inform policy makers in New York, Europe, Asia, and Tokyo about the insights covered in the issue.

In the first webinar held in Tokyo in October 2020, the department gave an overview of SPF’s 10-year involvement in the conflict in Thailand’s Deep South in addition to a presentation on the results of a study conducted the previous year surveying Japanese perceptions of peacebuilding activities. We organized another session for Asian policymakers and experts in December of the same year, in which we elaborated on specific examples of our work including peacebuilding initiatives in Kachin State, Myanmar. In another webinar held in collaboration with the United States Institute of Peace in January 2021, representatives of UN agencies, government officials, researchers, and others gathered to discuss the stances armed groups have toward autonomy.

In addition to a policy workshop in September 2020 that brought together government agencies from across Europe, the department hosted a webinar in February 2021 in collaboration with the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Swisspeace, the European Institute of Peace, and Conciliation Resources (UK). One hundred seventy-six people attended the latter, which focused discussions on the limitations of project-based support for peace mediation activities and provided an opportunity for the department to present our approach to long-term engagement in select conflict areas.

## Women and Peacebuilding

The department and the Peace Research Collaborative, a Bangkok-based think tank, joined forces to survey attitudes held among young people under the age of 25 toward the conflict in Thailand’s Deep South. Our results revealed women tended to hold more positive opinions about conflict resolution through dialogue than men.

We also supported the Southeast Asian Women Peacebuilders Network and its secretariat Malaysia’s IMAN Research in its mission of consolidating women peacebuilders who work in the region. The network conducted a total of 14 webinars throughout the fiscal year and in February 2021 held a two-day online conference.

Furthermore, we organized leadership trainings and public forums to assist the efforts of grassroots women’s organizations in Thailand’s Deep South. Approximately 1,000 women participated in these events.

## Sharing Insights and Preserving Records of Northeast India

### Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of Northeast India

In collaboration with Zubaan Books (India), the department sponsored fellowships for young local researchers, journalists, and grassroots women’s organizations. We also held online training sessions on writing and research methodology. In addition, we published two anthologies featuring pieces by select women writers and hosted on-line photo exhibitions and workshops.

The department collaborated with Innovative Change Collaborative Services Private Limited (ICCSPL) to establish fellowships aimed at creating employment opportunities for residents of the Bodoland region of Assam, one of the areas of Northeast India most deeply scarred by the aftermath of conflict. These fellowships provide training for twelve young entrepreneurs recently returned from migrant work in larger cities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We supported St. Anthony’s College in India to add a



St. Anthony's College hosted a traveling exhibition of the Northeast India Audio Visual Archive (January 2021). SPF provided assistance to the college to establish a special website dedicated to documenting and preserving experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

special page on the Northeast India AV Archive's website to record and preserve memories of the COVID-19 pandemic. Media entries include vignettes and stories from the lockdown and government announcements.

The department also arranged for online distribution of a collection of documentaries from Northeast India to coincide with "Yamagata in Tokyo 2020," a film event which rescreens in Tokyo movie theaters a selection of representative films from the previous year's Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival. We set up a special website through which to stream the films and held four related side events. (See page 9 for more information.)

## Imphal Peace Museum Project II

Through this project, the department collects and records oral histories of the Imphal Operation and maintains related exhibition materials. This fiscal year, we continued this mission by translating "The Imphal Operation: The Defense of Burma" (Center for Military History, National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense, 1968).



We organized an online ceremony on June 22, 2020 to commemorate the first anniversary of the opening of the Imphal Peace Museum. The livestream event brought local residents and people in Japan and other countries together for the occasion.



The traveling exhibition featured scenes and stories from the lockdown.

## Empowering Minorities and Vulnerable Populations, Securing Social Justice, and Respecting Human Rights

### Building Migration Resource Platform for Asia

In light of the devastating impacts the pandemic has inflicted on migrants, the department collaborated with the Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) in Indonesia and Associate Professor Wako Asato of Kyoto University to assess and analyze topics such as the challenges migrants had to endure. We also evaluated responses to these situations from the public and private sectors in seven countries and regions within Asia, including Japan. Furthermore, we worked with experts to examine the experiences and difficulties encountered in Indonesia, South Korea, and Japan through the lens of refugee social integration.

We then held webinars for Southeast and East Asian governments and peoples so as to discuss the results of our studies. (See page 10 for related information.)

### Proposing New Roles for Men in Asia

As part of this project, we analyzed the results of surveys taken in FY 2020 on the attitudes of 3,922 men and women in four European and American cities (New York, Rome, Berlin, and Norway) and compiled our findings into a report. Our research revealed men in these four cities and men in East Asia shared a similar tendency to "perform household chores more frequently when their view of women in the workplace is discriminatory."

This project also supported the Japan Men's Consultation Forum to launch "Otokokoro Net," a portal site providing information and resources related to consultation services for men.

On March 5, 2021, the department hosted an online conference on rehabilitating perpetrators of domestic vi-

olence. During the conference, government officials and practitioners in the private sector from Japan, Taiwan, and Korea shared their experiences in this field.

## Rebuilding Japan's Partnerships in Asia

### Enhancing Responsible Business Conduct

Through this project, the Asia Peace Initiatives Department supported the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre in London to translate Japan-related articles into English and English literature on international trends into Japanese, then post them on the Centre's website.

We also studied the feasibility of grievance mechanisms and researched human rights risks related to international corporate activities in Southeast Asia. In keeping with this theme, SPF and three organizations including Global Compact Network Japan (GCNJ) jointly hosted "The Engagement and Remedy Forum for Responsible Business Conduct 2021." Professor John Ruggie of Harvard University gave the keynote speech of the forum, held online on February 26, 2021.

Furthermore, we conducted a study on potential risks to human rights posed by Japanese corporations' operations in Southeast Asia and compiled the results into reports focusing on Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, and other countries in the region.

### Asia Impact Dialogue

From September to October 2020, the department worked in concert with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) to conduct six webinars on the theme of "Promoting Responsible Corporate Behavior in Southeast Asia."

We enlisted the Institute for Women's Empowerment in Selangor, Malaysia to conduct bimonthly online lecture-based training sessions for 28 women in Southeast



Professor Ruggie delivers the keynote speech at the high-level session entitled "The Role of Grievance Mechanisms -Towards the Implementation of Engagement and Remedy Guidelines" at the Engagement and Remedy Forum for Responsible Business Conduct 2021 (February 26, 2021).

Asia and Mongolia. Furthermore, we collaborated with the Academy for Gender Parity to conduct a series of virtual instructive sessions for 17 Japanese women who aspire to hold political office. As part of this program, we invited Maria Chin Abdulla, a Malaysian human rights activist-turned-parliamentarian, to give a lecture online.

In addition, the department tapped the Southeast Asia Public Interest Lawyers group (SEAPIL) to perform a monitoring survey of human rights violations in nine Asian countries and to host four online seminars. This project also benefited from the participation of Japanese lawyers.

The department also collaborated with the Habibie Center to examine trends in violent extremism in Indonesia in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. Results from this study were published in an English-language report. We then held two webinars on February 22, 2021 and March 8, 2021 — garnering around 570 participants — during which we presented these results and discussed deradicalization in Indonesia and lessons learned from the Aum Shinrikyo terrorist attack in Japan.

Lastly, the department supported telephone counseling sessions offered through the Anti-Poverty Network Saitama for people who experienced financial hardship due to the pandemic. We then analyzed the labor, poverty, and welfare issues drawn from the contents of those sessions and hosted an online dialogue between activists working on labor and poverty issues in Japan and Indonesia. These webinars, held on the March 3 and 12, were open to the public and attracted 192 attendees.



Scene from a leadership development workshop for women in Asia (March 2021).



# Gender Investment and Innovation Department

SPF is continuously developing our work with the Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF),\* which was established to promote gender lens investing (GLI) and economically empower women through entrepreneurship in Asia. This fiscal year, we looked back over AWIF's work over the three years since its inception, refined our mid- to long-term operational policies as well as the direction in which we wish to take the fund, and secured approval for the third round of investment. Through our varied initiatives, we worked in partnership with international organizations and networks as well as entrepreneurial support organizations (ESOs) in Asian countries that provide support to women-focused businesses. Together we conducted research, developed new tools, and implemented planned projects, then presented the fruits of these initiatives at conferences in and outside of Asia.

\* Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF): AWIF envisions a future where all women in Asia are empowered to reach their full potential. The Fund aims to realize this vision by investing up to 100 million USD to help achieve gender equality across Asia and economically empower women in Southeast Asia.

## Promoting Financing to Achieve SDGs on Gender Equality

Our “Ecosystem Building for SDGs Financing” project promotes impact investing in Asia, especially through gender lens investing, and supports the operation of AWIF.

More specifically, this year we conducted a landscape study of gender lens investing in Asia and in July 2020 published the English-language report, “Gender Lens Investing Landscape – East and Southeast Asia.” Shortly thereafter, we also released versions of the report in Japanese and Chinese.

The Gender Investment and Innovation Department also embarked on an Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) initiative through AWIF. Through a survey conducted on 400 clients of two microfinance institutions in Myanmar under the portfolio of JAWEF (Japan ASEAN Women's Empowerment Fund), we studied the effectiveness and usage of our investment in JAWEF. Furthermore, we designed a session entitled, “Microfinance and Impact Measurements with a gender lens” at the online international conference hosted by the Social Impact Management Initiative (SIMI) on its Social Impact Day.



An entrepreneur who established a vegetable processing business in Jakarta, Indonesia. Her company aims to help make vegetables more palatable for children by developing kale chips and other products.

In June 2020, we participated as a Knowledge Partner in the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN)'s Global Summit, Asia's largest international conference on social investment and strategic philanthropy, where we hosted two sessions on the potential and challenges of gender lens investing. In November of the same year, SPF and OPRI co-hosted a session on promoting the blue economy with a gender lens at the Reykjavik Global Forum co-organized by Women Political Leaders (WPL), a global network of female politicians, and the Icelandic government.

In addition, we supported operations of AWIF to obtain approval to proceed with our third investment, the Beacon Fund. This fund provides loans in an effort to fill a financing gap for women entrepreneurs in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam, and enable them to achieve greater levels of success. Our move to invest USD 5 million in one of the region's leading gender investment projects will help AWIF strengthen its voice and influence as a GLI practitioner and bring more awareness to gender lens investing.

## Addressing Gender Issues in Asia Through Entrepreneurship

Under our “Addressing Gender Issues in Asia Through Entrepreneurship” project, the department conducted a study examining the existing gender gaps that women experience in Myanmar to flesh out the concept behind our “Gender Equality Myanmar” (GEM) pilot initiative. We also wrote and published a report entitled “The Role of Entrepreneurship in Closing Gender Gaps in Myanmar” based on our findings. At the online launch event where we presented these results, we, alongside our local partner, EME (Emerging Market Entrepreneurs), selected three enterprises working to leverage their entrepreneurial ventures toward solving these gender gaps to be GEM pilot project partners and presented them with a grant funded



The president and staff member of Instellar, a social enterprise support company which uses the GLIA Toolkit developed by SPF to assist women entrepreneurs.

through this initiative.

## Gender Lens Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (GLEE) Development in Southeast Asia

Building on our prior “Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in Asia” project, the new “Gender Lens Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (GLEE) Development in Southeast Asia” initiative the department launched will continue to work through entrepreneurial support organizations (ESOs) to assist women-focused entrepreneurs in Asia. We also revised and updated the Gender Lens Incubation and Acceleration (GLIA) Toolkit developed in the previous fiscal year. In addition to all the resources from the original Toolkit aimed at helping ESOs improve their capabilities to design policies more inclusive of all genders, this new version 2.0, which we unveiled online in March 2021, contains new contents and frameworks for setting indicators of success to monitor outcomes.

We also conducted an investor behavior simulation test with investors, including angel and early-stage investors, in Southeast Asia to determine which strategies have proved effective in improving outcomes for women-led startups. The study is part of a global investor behavior research initiative conducted by a consortium led by Village Capital, the World Bank Group, the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), and research institutions.

## Gender Nexus to Environment

As part of the “Gender Nexus to Environment” project, we undertook the following initiatives to promote gender diversity by encouraging companies to disclose gender-related data and policy details in their workforce.

Together with Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF), the research arm of the major financial media organization Bloomberg, we examined the correlation



Employees of an entrepreneurial, woman-run processed vegetable manufacturing company in Indonesia.

between the state of gender diversity among listed companies and their propensity for climate action and innovation. The study included a quantitative analysis based on Bloomberg's database of more than 11,700 companies around the world, as well as a qualitative analysis of four case studies, and compiled the results in a report entitled “Gender Diversity and Climate Innovation.”

We presented the results from our report at the Japanese government-led international conference, “Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (ICEF),” which was attended by more than 1,300 participants representing governments, international organizations, companies, and academic societies in over 80 countries and regions. We also shared these findings at the 2020 BNEF Summit in Shanghai and the CFA Society Japan's “Women in Investment Management” conference.

## Additional Activities

The department also devoted its efforts to ① implementing pilot projects to pave the way for new ventures, ② enhancing our public relations practices, and ③ collaborating on initiatives run by external organizations in emerging fields related to our existing projects.



# Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund

The Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund builds upon its foundations as one of the largest private funds in the world, which was originally established in 1989 with a philosophy of “promoting understanding, nurturing talent, and furthering cooperation to shape the future.” Since then, it has been dedicated to encouraging greater understanding between the citizens of Japan and China in addition to creating an environment for constructive cooperation. This program cultivates these efforts while focusing on how best to facilitate people-to-people exchanges and dialogues, provide educational resources and foster an environment conducive to enhancing mutual understanding, and stimulate socioeconomic development in both countries by sharing lessons learned and strengthening bilateral cooperation.

## People-to-People Exchanges and Dialogues

In past years, the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund has centered its projects around inviting to Japan and dispatching to China individuals who show great promise as proactive players in promoting mutual understanding between the peoples of Japan and China. However, the spread of COVID-19 in FY 2020 rendered our originally planned face-to-face exchange initiatives impossible. Nevertheless, we adjusted our initial agenda, which hinged on personnel exchanges and dialogues, to carry out the following activities.

① Though we suspended visits to and from Japan between Self-Defense Forces and the People's Liberation Army of China organized through the “Japan–China Field Officer Exchange Program,” we maintained the open communication channel connecting the Japanese Ministry of Defense and the China Institute for International Strategic Studies of the Chinese Ministry of National Defense. We shared information and stances on topics such as future COVID-19 countermeasures to prepare for resuming our original exchanges after the pandemic has been contained.

② The global health situation necessitated that we also cancel plans to invite Chinese media representatives to Japan through the “Invitation Program for Chinese Journalists” project, which normally provides for three such visits per year. In light of this, we turned our attention to making progress translating into Japanese a selection of Chinese articles by former invitees over the last four years and prepared to publish them for domestic audiences.

In addition, “Thirteen Invitations,” a Chinese online program by 2018 invitee Xu Zhiyuan which touches on modern and contemporary Japanese history, society, and culture, aired 19 times from March to July 2020. After conceiving the series, Xu Zhiyuan produced it in Japan in 2018, the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration. This project, one SPF had a hand in since its earliest planning

stages, garnered a total of 42.57 million viewers. Notably, 2.59 million people watched the 16th installment, “How Japan Succeeded When Faced with the Crisis of Western Intervention,” when it aired on July 15, 2020.

③ We unfortunately had no other recourse but to cancel the Exchange Project for Japanese and Chinese Experts in Traditional Arts and Crafts as well. Instead, bearing in mind the upcoming 50th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Japan and China in 2022, we brought the Japan Kōgei Association, the Shanghai Eon Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Foundation, and the Kyoto Culture Association (NPO) on board and took preparatory steps to publish a Chinese-language book featuring Preservers of Important Intangible Cultural Properties, otherwise known as Living National Treasures, who represent the epitome of traditional Japanese artistry. We will also create a guidebook in Chinese introducing quintessential craft pieces made using traditional Japanese techniques.

## Providing Educational Resources and Fostering an Environment Conducive to Enhancing Mutual Understanding

The fund carried out the following activities to cultivate an environment for publishing objective news in both countries which can serve as a vehicle to promote deeper mutual understanding among Japanese and Chinese citizens.

① Under the “Invitation Program for Chinese Opinion Leaders” project, we originally planned to invite influential Chinese opinion leaders in various fields to meet with Japanese academics and media representatives. However, we had to indefinitely postpone these trips due to travel complications caused by the pandemic. As a result, the Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund teamed up with SPF’s Public Relations Division to organize an online study session be-



On December 23, 2020, we held an online study session on “The New U.S. Administration and U.S.-China Relations” with invited lecturers Dr. Shi Yinhong of the School of International Studies, Renmin University of China and Professor Zhang Baijia, Academic Committee Member of the Center for International Security and Strategy, Tsinghua University.

tween the aforementioned targets of the project.

The fund also invited experts in Chinese security issues and maritime law to speak in December 2020 and March 2021 on the themes of “The New American Administration and U.S.-China Relations,” and “Enforcement of the Coast Guard Law of the People's Republic of China: Japan's Suspicions, China's Claims,” respectively. Participants at both events engaged in vigorous dialogue exchanging their opinions on these topics.

② In an effort to encourage understanding about Japan among mobile users in China and the greater China region, the fund continued to publish articles covering Japanese history, society, culture, and traditions on the Chinese social media application WeChat. These pieces, written by Chinese writers well-versed in Japan, are posted to SPF's increasingly popular account.

③ Additionally, the fund has continued utilizing its dedicated page on the “People's Daily Online,” an influential Chinese news website with a wide reach among Chinese internet users, to share information regarding SPF and affiliates' China-focused activities, pieces on the fund's unique projects in Japan, event reports, and interviews.

## Strengthening Cooperation to Advance Socioeconomic Development

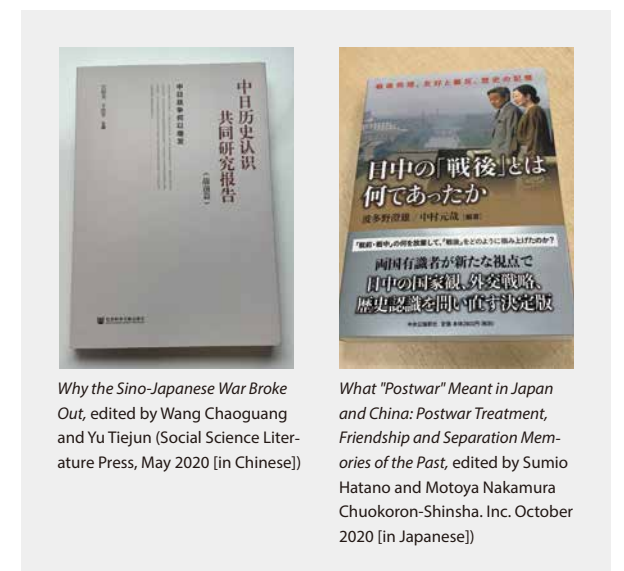
We had planned this fiscal year to launch a project to facilitate sharing of information and experiences around challenges faced by both Japanese and Chinese society, including topics such as the environment, aging populations, social security, and rural economic development.



On March 30, 2021, the fund invited Zhu Feng executive director, China Center for Collaborative Studies of the South China Sea, Nanjing University, and Jin Yongming, professor at the Ocean University of China, School of International Affairs and Public Administration to speak at a study group on the theme of “Enforcement of the Coast Guard Law of the People's Republic of China: Japan's Suspicions, China's Claims.”

Unfortunately, we had to defer these plans since the pandemic posed insurmountable obstacles to conducting the necessary field studies. We instead refocused our efforts on establishing connections between rural Chinese government representatives and collaborators from both countries, gathering fundamental data about candidate research sites, and preparing to resume these exchanges after the pandemic has been brought under control.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, we also published two books summarizing outcomes from previous projects: *Why the Sino-Japanese War Broke Out*, edited by Wang Chaoguang and Yu Tiejun (Social Science Literature Press, May 2020 [in Chinese]) and *What 'Postwar' Meant in Japan and China: Postwar Conduct, Friendship and Separation, and Memories of the Past*, edited by Sumio Hatano and Motoya Nakamura (Chuokoron-Shinsha, Inc., October 2020 [in Japanese]).



*Why the Sino-Japanese War Broke Out*, edited by Wang Chaoguang and Yu Tiejun (Social Science Literature Press, May 2020 [in Chinese])

*What "Postwar" Meant in Japan and China: Postwar Treatment, Friendship and Separation Memories of the Past*, edited by Sumio Hatano and Motoya Nakamura (Chuokoron-Shinsha, Inc. October 2020 [in Japanese])



## Enhancing understanding of and relationships with Islamic countries

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen)*	Year
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### ● Middle East and Islam Program Department

Women's Empowerment in Iran and Japan	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,609,237	2/3
Human Exchanges between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	694,651	2/3
Muslim within Japanese Society	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	797,134	1/1
UK-Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East Phase II	Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford	U.K.	Grant	7,091,276	3/3

\* Activities involving the movement of people and conducting large-scale international conferences were cancelled or postponed and conducted online as much as possible. As a result, the final operating expenses for some projects were reduced.

## Middle East and Islam Program Department

The Middle East and Islam Program Department is dedicated to furthering mutual understanding between Islamic countries in the Middle East and Japan on political, economic, social, and other themes, nurturing talented Middle-Eastern researchers, building a global network with them, and promoting better understanding of Islam. In FY 2020, we continued work on our “Human Exchanges between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries,” “Women’s Empowerment in Iran and Japan,” and “U.K.-Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East Phase II” projects. Additionally, we launched a new, single-year project called “Muslim within Japanese Society” which built off the results of our FY 2019 initiative, “Promoting the Understanding of Islam in Japan.”

### People-to-People Exchanges

The “Human Exchanges between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries” project aims to strengthen interpersonal networks and promote exchanges on a variety of levels while exploring the role Japan can play in contributing to stability in the Middle East. This project is built around people-to-people exchanges and was therefore severely constrained by the spread of COVID-19. We replaced scheduled in-person activities with online events. These included our roundtable discussion with the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the exchange program which invites to Japan 10 candidates for diplomatic positions and their professors from the School of International Relations (SIR) as well as the short-term study abroad exchange program in Iran for seven Japanese university students majoring in the Middle East and international relations.

We held the restructured online roundtable dialogue with the IPIS in January 2021 on the theme of “West Asia, the Iran Nuclear Agreement, and the New U.S. Administration,” in which experts from both countries discussed the Middle East and international affairs.

Similarly, we converted the exchange program for Iranian diplomatic candidates and the short-term study abroad program for Japanese university students to a series of online lectures. SIR in Iran and SPF in Japan each designated speakers for these sessions and held lectures and Q&A sessions on the topics of Japanese-Iranian relations and international affairs.

Additionally, as an alternative to the usual invitations to visit Japan we extend to experts, we arranged for Berlin-based Dr. Cinzia Bianco, Gulf Research Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, to join us for a webinar entitled “Iran - GCC Relations: From the Perspective of the GCC Countries.” Dr. Bianco provided historical background and timely updates on recent developments in the region, then continued to have a lively discourse mainly with Japanese audience members.

We also tested new ground, holding an online con-



The department hosted an online conference between students from TOBB University of Economics and Technology in Turkey and the University of Tokyo (September 30, 2020).

ference between students at Turkey’s TOBB University of Economics and Technology and at the University of Tokyo to discuss progress on gender equality among universities in both countries and the issues they have yet to resolve.

### Women’s Empowerment in Iran and Japan

The “Women’s Empowerment in Iran and Japan” project seeks to unlock the full potential power women in Iran have to contribute to their economy and to encourage the realization of a socially and economically equal and fair society. More specifically, Japanese and Iranian experts share their expertise and conduct joint research on women’s economic empowerment aided by information and communication technology (ICT) as well as the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women’s employment and possible countermeasures.

This fiscal year, experts in Japan and Iran examined how women entrepreneurs and business owners in both countries currently utilize ICT and the challenges which remain toward greater adoption of these tools, then compiled their findings into a report. In March 2021, we held an online event to present these findings. Dignitaries including H.E. Dr. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice President of Women and Family Affairs of Iran, and other high-ranking officials from the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Vice President participated in the event through which we prepared to embark on the next phase of this project in FY 2021.



We compiled a report on the utilization of ICT among women entrepreneurs and business managers through our “Women’s Empowerment in Iran and Japan” project and held a briefing session to present our research results. H.E. Dr. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice President of Women and Family Affairs of Iran (top right), and other dignitaries participated in the event (March 9, 2021).

### Advocacy for International Collaboration on Middle Eastern Research

The department’s “UK-Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East Phase II” project was established to support Japanese researchers specializing in the Middle East and encourage them to adopt interdisciplinary perspectives. Implemented through the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies in the U.K., the project entered its third and final year in FY 2020.

Through this program, fellows Dr. Shun Watanabe and Dr. Susann Kassem focused on writing up their findings on Jordan and Lebanon based on research results compiled in 2019. Though Dr. Watanabe was forced to temporarily return to Japan in April 2020 due to the lockdown in the U.K., he later returned to Oxford and actively presented his findings at conferences and meetings held mainly online. Subsequently, both fellows presented their findings at two online events, the first hosted by Ritsumeikan University on January 26, 2021, and the second at University of Oxford February 23-25. These presentations attracted many researchers from Europe, the United States, and Japan, and contributed to the department’s efforts to bolster a network between researchers around the world who study the Middle East and their Japanese counterparts.

### Building a Harmonious Society with the Muslim Community

The “Muslim within Japanese Society” project was designed in response to the growing population of Muslims living in Japan with the aim to identify elements involved in ensuring a harmonious society, determine what kinds of initiatives will be necessary going forward, and bring other relevant issues to light.

As part of the fact-finding “Survey on Efforts to Interact and Build Relationships with Mosques in Local Communities” conducted online through this project, we interviewed



SPF Fellows Dr. Kassem (upper left) and Dr. Watanabe (center left) presented their research results online at an event hosted by Ritsumeikan University (January 26, 2021).

representatives of three local governments (Taito Ward, Tokyo; Sano City, Tochigi Prefecture; Tatebayashi City, Gunma Prefecture) whose jurisdictions are home to mosques and implement policies related to Muslim residents. The survey determined the following factors for local governments to consider regarding the implementation of policies related to Muslim residents or construction of stronger ties with the Muslim community: ① governmental engagement with the Muslim community profits both parties, namely in the form of harmonious relationships within these local districts, and benefits from increased international visitors or immigrants; and ② the Muslim community is further comprised of more collective identities aside from religion such as organizational affiliation or ethnicity.

The department also hosted five online sessions of a study group focused on supporting the construction of a society welcoming to Islamic peoples and cultures. In addition to researchers on Muslims in Japan, the study group consisted of experts in the sociology of religion and multicultural conviviality. Together, these specialists shared their expertise and opinions on promoting understanding of Islam and including Muslims in Japanese society from a wide variety of perspectives.

Through the above-mentioned survey and study group, we found mutually cooperative relationships between local governments and Muslim communities organized mostly around mosque congregations in addition to non-religious sources of identity such as ethnicity, which play a part in these communities. The department then hosted an online workshop called “Coexistence with Muslims in Japan: Where We Are and Where We Can Be,” during which we shared our insights with experts and staff belonging to international exchange associations.

We also held additional workshops on Egypt and Turkey, two Middle Eastern countries as equally high in priority as Iran, to understand their current realities and develop initiatives in the next fiscal year and beyond.

## Establishing ocean governance

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen)*	Year
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### ● The Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI)

#### Ocean Policy Planning and Management Department

Collection and Dissemination of Information on Island Studies	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,199,498	3/3
Ocean Education Pioneer School Program	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	85,755,589	2/3
Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	219,948,137	2/2
Public Relations for Ocean Policy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	63,136,555	2/2

#### Policy Research Department

Establishment of Global Ocean Governance	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	30,517,126	2/3
Policy Research on Future Ocean	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	248,285,090	2/3
Platform for a New Ocean Paradigm	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	23,423,854	2/3
Innovative Research on Future Ocean	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	23,411,812	2/3
Promotion on Ocean Visualization	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	22,410,286	1/3
Research Towards Developing an Ocean Science Platform	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,618,681	1/2
Collaboration Between Space and Maritime Domain in the Digital Age	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,339,490	1/2

\* Activities involving the movement of people and conducting large-scale international conferences were cancelled or postponed and conducted online as much as possible. As a result, the final operating expenses for some projects were reduced.



# Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI)

The Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) is the only think tank in Japan that comprehensively approaches a wide range of ocean issues. At the institute, we gather information on a diverse multitude of ocean-related topics, examine and analyze these data from various perspectives, and compile and propose concrete solutions in reference materials which we publish and distribute for use in the policy-making process. SPF has developed original ocean-related projects founded on four pillars: “Ocean Governance,” “Ocean Science,” “Ocean Education and Capacity Building,” and “Sharing the Depths of our Knowledge.” SPF also provided grants to fund initiatives based on two additional pillars, “Oceans and the Economy” and “Oceans and the Environment.” In FY 2020, we proceeded to center all our work around these six core themes.

## Ocean Related Projects

We implemented the following projects grounded in the four pillars of **1 Ocean Governance**, **2 Ocean Science**, **3 Ocean Education and Capacity Building**, and **4 Sharing the Depths of Our Knowledge**.

### 1 Ocean Governance

#### ■ Platform for a New Ocean Paradigm

OPRI conducted research and published papers on the implications of the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” vision for global and regional ocean governance as well as countermeasures to address IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) fishing.

We also held another Maritime Security Symposium in collaboration with the Suikoukai Foundation, released Volumes 14 and 15 of the Ocean Policy Research series, and presented findings from a study conducted on legal policies related to the summer 2020 stranding of a Japanese cargo ship off the coast of Mauritius. Furthermore, we published English and Japanese editions of reports culminating from OPRI research in the “OPRI Perspectives” section of our website and shared maritime security insights related to COVID-19 on our website via seasonal, quarterly, and special reports.



On September 24, 2020, we held the 7th Symposium on Maritime Security entitled “New Roles for Maritime Defense Capabilities in Establishing Ocean Governance” online. From left to right, Dr. Kazumine Akimoto, OPRI Senior Research Fellow; Vice Admiral Yoshihisa Inui, President of the Command and Staff College (JMSDF); Susumu Nakamura, Senior Visiting Fellow at SPF’s International Peace and Security Department; Retired Vice Admiral Tokuhiro Ikeda, Suikoukai research committee member and former Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Sasebo and Kure Districts Commander; and Dr. Teruaki Aizawa, Senior OPRI Program Advisor.



### 2 Ocean Education

#### ■ “Promotion on Ocean Visualization” Project

Through this project, we identified ocean activities and phenomena which must be measured to solve maritime issues and examined the sensors and platforms mostly within Japan’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that serve to create visual representations of these parameters. Based on the results of this survey, we then constructed a system to provide a comprehensive overview classified by function and target of the capabilities Japan wields to measure the ocean. This system collates the undersea and satellite sensors surveyed in the study and the platforms on which they run, then automatically organizes them into a list catalogued by observation target. It also routinely reads the data available through the sensors on the list and displays fluctuations in coastal water temperatures in quasi-real time.

#### ■ “Research towards Developing an Ocean Science Platform” Project

OPRI conducted a joint research study on the Philippines in order to better grasp the vulnerabilities (societal and environmental risks) coastal communities such as theirs face. Working in partnership with local De La Salle University, we quantitatively compared and evaluated issues affecting urban and rural societies in the country, then compiled our initial findings. In terms of environmental considerations related to the exploration and exploitation of sea-

bed resources, the department published academic articles and engaged in similar activities to share the results of our research on relevant regulations and guidelines developed by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) as well as related laws in Japan. We furthermore disseminated our findings on the problem of microplastics in the Arctic.

The department also supported the International Biology Olympiad 2020 Remote Challenge from its earliest planning stages. The competition for youth all around the world took place between August and October 2020 and garnered the participation of 450 people from 53 countries. Through deepening discussions on themes such as marine biodiversity, we helped to spread awareness of issues in the ocean and coastal areas.

### 3 Ocean Education and Capacity-Building

#### ■ The Ocean Education Pioneer School Program

OPRI granted subsidies to educational committees as well as national, public, and private elementary, junior high, and high schools, etc., that provide ocean education to help cover the cost of their activities. This program divided recipients into two categories. Through the first, the Regional Development and Unit Development Category for municipalities and educational committees, we supported 95 schools in 9 prefectures and 10 municipalities. In the second Unit Development Category for national, public, and private elementary, junior high, and high schools, etc., our subsidies assisted 136 schools in 38 prefectures. In total, 231 schools from 43 prefectures benefited from the program.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many educational institutions have come under pressure to shift from traditional teaching styles to conducting their lessons online and utilizing information and communication technology (ICT). Through the program co-host, the University of Tokyo’s Center for Ocean Literacy and Education, we provided financial support and advice to these institutions.



The 179th Ocean Forum “Toward Solving the Problem of Marine Litter in the Seto Inland Sea: Junior High and High School Students Up to the Challenge” held on March 24, 2021. Students at the Sanyou Gakuen Junior and Senior High School Geography Club and their advisor Mr. Takashi Inoue (top right) gave a lecture on the club’s initiatives to help solve the problems of marine plastics and seabed litter in the Seto Inland Sea by collecting garbage and raising public awareness.

### 4 Sharing the Depths of our Knowledge on the Oceans

#### ■ Collection and Dissemination of Information on Island Studies

We collected and organized highly reliable primary data that can be used as reference for solving various problems afflicting islands, analyzed them from an international law perspective, and disseminated the results to the international community. As part of our work toward creating a hub for island-related information, OPRI conducted bibliographic research and proceeded converting island-related information into digital files, expanded the Center for Island Studies’ database, and released pieces in the academic publication, the Journal of Island Studies.



## Grant-Funded Projects

Through a grant provided by The Nippon Foundation and with a view toward real-world implementation in mind, OPRI conducted the projects below based on the following six pillars: **1 Oceans and the Economy**, **2 Oceans and the Environment**, **3 Oceans and Governance**, **4 Ocean Science**, **5 Oceans Education and Capacity Building**, and **6 Sharing the Depths of Our Knowledge**.

### 1 The Oceans and the Economy

#### ■ Platform for a New Ocean Paradigm

This year, OPRI used domestic environmentally extended input-output tables to research the blue economy, a concept which promotes the economic development of coastal regions while supporting the conservation and sustainable utilization of marine and coastal resources. We assessed the environmental value of coastal areas in terms of blue carbon and conducted a pilot study examining social consensus around sustainable use of these resources and the introduction of financial mechanisms to enable it. Based



on our findings, we developed an international framework to promote blue financing, assessed the impact of investments in renewable energy, and conducted an economic evaluation of the tsunami disaster in Hakodate, Hokkaido in an effort to collaborate with domestic and international stakeholders who share common challenges. (See pages 6-8 for related information.)

## 2 The Oceans and the Environment

### ■ Research Toward the Future of the Oceans

As part of our work in the fields of climate change and maritime security, OPRI teamed up with the Stimson Center in the U.S. to carry out climate change risk analyses in Fiji, the Philippines, and Bangladesh using the Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index (CORVI). We also zeroed in on the concept of “dignified migration,” developing a policy framework and conducting case studies on environmental relocation together with the Environmental Law Institute in the United States and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## 3 Ocean Governance

### ■ “Policy Research on Future Ocean” Project

In order to provide a platform in support of the UN's Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), OPRI established the “Study Group on the Decade of Ocean Science” and a dedicated national committee.

From a global standpoint, we bolstered our international collaboration by participating in the “High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy,” the “Virtual Oceans Action Day 2020,” another conference co-hosted with the UK Economist Group and Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah University of Science in Technology (KAUST), and the “Innovation for Cool Earth Forum” (ICEF) subcommittee. (See page 8 for related information.)

## 4 Ocean Science

### ■ “Collaboration Between Space and Maritime Domain in the Digital Age” Project

This project focused on the potential of VHF (very high frequency) bidirectional satellite communication technology as the future of AIS (Automatic Identification Systems). We established expert groups including the “Committee on Satellite VDES\*,” the “Utilization Working Group,” and the “Technological Working Group,” further strengthening our domestic and international collaboration efforts. These groups seek to secure space transmission channels which effectively collect data from the ocean and send necessary information back to ocean sensors. This year we identified technological and institutional bottlenecks, worked on formulating economically sustainable models, and considered concrete measures for applying space technology to the field of ocean studies.

\*VDES stands for VHF Data Exchange System

## 5 Ocean Education and Capacity-Building

### ■ “Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields”

Through this project, OPRI awards scholarships to 30 masters' degree students at Sweden's World Maritime University (WMU) as part of our efforts to cultivate talented experts on all aspects of the ocean who can foresee future challenges which may arise in international maritime and oceanic fields. Furthermore, we serve as the secretariat of the WMU Friends Association Japan to sustain and encourage active use of the network between scholarship recipients. As secretariat, we maintained the association's dedicated database, sent out newsletters and held online conferences, among other activities, to promote communication between current and former program participants. As of the end of FY 2020, we have supported a total

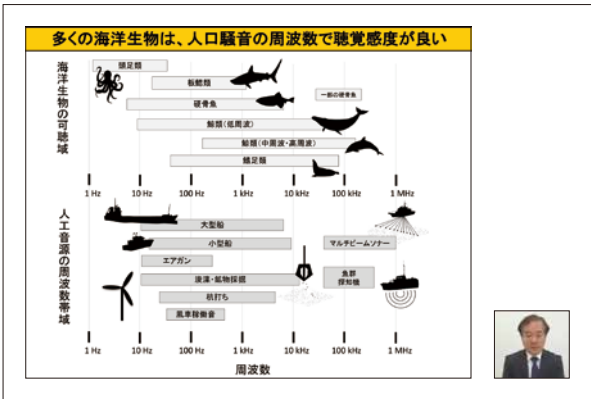
of 699 recipients representing 78 countries.

\*WMU is a graduate university established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1983.

## 6 Sharing the Depths of Our Knowledge

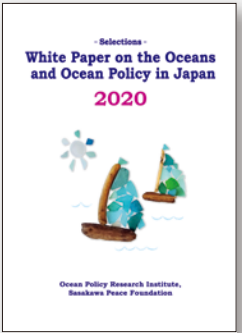
### ■ “Publicizing Information on the Oceans”

In FY 2020, we published Volumes 472-495 of the “Ocean Newsletter,” and Vol. 25 of its English version, “Ocean Newsletter Selected Papers,” on OPRI's website. These newsletters were created to share our latest research findings and proposals drawn from our cross-sectional, comprehensive research studies on the ocean which we conduct from both natural and social science perspectives. They are also intended to help us update the world about the current state of the ocean in Japan and abroad. Additionally, OPRI published the fourth volume in its “Studies on the Human-Ocean Connection” series entitled *Epidemics and the Ocean*, along with the “Ocean White Paper 2020.” We also published an English-language version of the latter entitled “White Paper on the Oceans and Ocean Policy in Japan 2020.”

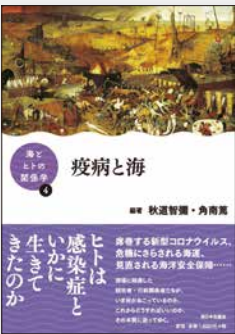


Still from the 170th Ocean Forum “Another Invisible Crisis: Noise Problems in the Sea,” the first such forum to be held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Tomonori Akamatsu, Director of the OPRI's Ocean Policy Research Division, gave a lecture on the emerging problems afflicting the ocean.

pan 2020” which we compiled to add to our international information-sharing endeavors. Furthermore, we hosted and broadcast our Ocean Forum online, enabling a much broader audience to join us without concern for distance.



The “White Paper on the Oceans 2020” (April 2020, left), the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the series first published in 2004, and the English-language summary version “White Paper on the Oceans and Ocean Policy in Japan 2020” (August 2020, right).



*Epidemics and the Ocean*, edited by Tomoya Akimichi and Atsushi Sunami (Nishinippon Publishers, February 2021), the fourth volume of the “Studies on the Human-Ocean Connection” series.



Publication “Ocean Governance: Enactment of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy — Toward Global Ocean Governance” by Hiroshi Terashima (Nishinippon Publishers, May 2020).



OPRI co-hosted a webinar entitled “Ensuring a Robust ‘Blue’ Recovery in Asia” with The Nippon Foundation and the Economist Group on July 23, 2020, in commemoration of Japan's National Ocean Day. Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation and Honorary Chairman of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, gave the keynote speech.



On September 29, 2020, OPRI and the National Academy of Maritime Research (NAMR) in Taiwan jointly held a workshop of science and technology for ocean policy research. The workshop yielded lively discussions on interdisciplinary ocean policy research conducted through a variety of approaches and provided an opportunity for participants from both organizations to gain new insights and perspectives for future innovative research.



From November 10-11, 2020, OPRI hosted an online international conference on the theme of “Blue Economy and Blue Finance,” in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), and Taiwan's Ocean Affairs Council. Experts from Japan, Australia, the U.S., Bangladesh, the Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and other countries took the stage to present their latest findings on these topics. This photo was taken during OPRI's presentation with Nagisa Yoshioka (left), Dr. Masanori Kobayashi, Senior Research Fellow (right) and OPRI researcher Dr. Hajime Tanaka (bottom).

## Satellite Sites of the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI)



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



FROM THE OCEANS  
<https://www.spf.org/oceans/>



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



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





## Financial Position (For Year Ended March 31, 2020)

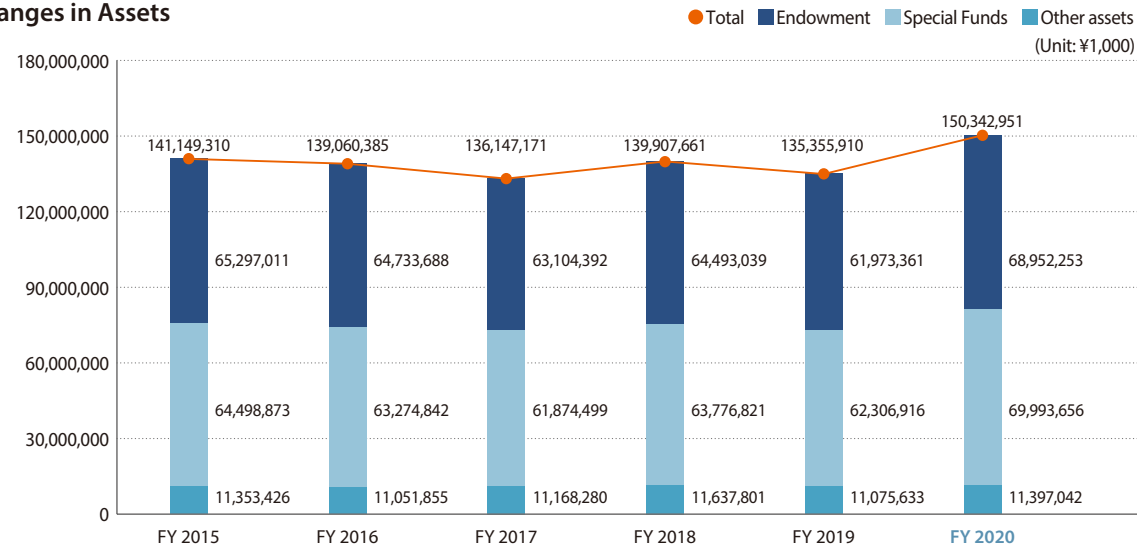
### Statement of Income and Expenses

(Unit: ¥1,000)

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>I. Operating activities</b>						
1. Income						
From endowment	1,094,985	1,085,636	1,327,302	1,625,058	1,721,795	<b>1,802,582</b>
From special funds	1,500,464	1,209,825	1,441,396	1,542,209	1,599,834	<b>1,709,679</b>
Other income	305,454	132,638	110,930	136,948	132,260	<b>131,345</b>
Contributions / grants	393,076	459,551	1,511,561	703,342	638,979	<b>602,944</b>
Total income from operating activities	3,293,979	2,887,650	4,391,189	4,007,557	4,092,868	<b>4,246,550</b>
2. Expenses						
Program	3,259,961	3,019,898	3,431,383	3,098,410	2,993,668	<b>2,342,480</b>
General and administrative	366,254	310,293	306,905	286,067	284,817	<b>314,783</b>
Total expenses from operating activities	3,626,215	3,330,191	3,738,288	3,384,477	3,278,485	<b>2,657,263</b>
<b>Net income from operating activities</b>	<b>△ 332,236</b>	<b>△ 442,541</b>	<b>652,901</b>	<b>623,080</b>	<b>814,383</b>	<b>1,589,287</b>
<b>II. Investing activities</b>						
1. Income						
Proceeds from sales of investments	12,471,754	932,018	64,676,478	460,532	2,384,060	<b>177,197</b>
Deposits return income	90,946	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Sale of property	0	0	0	128	0	<b>0</b>
Total income from investing activities	12,562,700	932,018	64,676,478	460,660	2,384,060	<b>177,197</b>
2. Expenses						
Purchase of investments	10,093,033	29,110	64,834,519	437,415	3,418,329	<b>1,039,269</b>
Purchase of property	1,896,735	96,010	152,112	11,979	74,149	<b>53,892</b>
Long-term prepaid expenses	0	0	0	3,758	0	<b>0</b>
Total expenses from investing activities	11,989,768	125,120	64,986,631	453,152	3,492,478	<b>1,093,161</b>
<b>Net income from investing activities</b>	<b>572,932</b>	<b>806,898</b>	<b>△ 310,153</b>	<b>7,508</b>	<b>△ 1,108,418</b>	<b>△ 915,964</b>
<b>III. Financing activities</b>						
1. Income						
Total income from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
2. Expenses						
Total expenses from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Net income from financing activities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>240,696</b>	<b>364,357</b>	<b>342,748</b>	<b>630,588</b>	<b>△ 294,036</b>	<b>673,323</b>
<b>Net income, beginning of year</b>	<b>1,769,909</b>	<b>2,010,605</b>	<b>2,374,962</b>	<b>2,717,710</b>	<b>3,348,298</b>	<b>3,054,262</b>
<b>Net income, end of year</b>	<b>2,010,605</b>	<b>2,374,962</b>	<b>2,717,710</b>	<b>3,348,298</b>	<b>3,054,262</b>	<b>3,727,585</b>

Note: In 2015, the net income, beginning of year, increased following the merger.

### Changes in Assets



### Statement of Changes in Net Assets

(Unit: ¥1,000)

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>I. Net assets-unrestricted</b>						
1. Recurring revenues and expenses						
(1) Recurring revenues	3,102,399	3,033,864	3,838,618	4,191,251	3,992,254	<b>4,014,039</b>
(2) Recurring expenses	3,764,947	3,600,498	3,968,784	3,673,437	3,496,558	<b>2,874,557</b>
Net assets from recurring activities before valuation	△ 662,548	△ 566,634	△ 130,166	517,814	495,696	<b>1,139,482</b>
Profit and loss on appraisal in basic assets	△ 85,804	△ 162,836	△ 366,321	457,361	△ 933,702	<b>2,336,615</b>
Net assets from recurring activities	△ 748,352	△ 729,470	△ 496,487	975,175	△ 438,006	<b>3,476,097</b>
2. Non-recurring revenues and expenses						
(1) Non-recurring revenues	232,370	0	0	127,870	0	<b>1,031</b>
(2) Non-recurring expenses	35,983	0	3,902	0	0	<b>0</b>
Net assets from non-recurring activities	196,387	0	△ 3,901	128	0	<b>1,031</b>
Change in unrestricted	△ 551,965	△ 729,470	△ 500,388	975,303	△ 438,006	<b>3,477,128</b>
Net assets-unrestricted, beginning of year	33,454,571	32,902,606	32,173,136	31,672,747	32,648,050	<b>32,210,044</b>
Net assets-unrestricted, end of year	32,902,606	32,173,136	31,672,748	32,648,050	32,210,044	<b>35,687,172</b>
<b>II. Net assets-temporarily restricted</b>						
Change in net asset-temporarily restricted	△ 736,762	△ 1,384,269	△ 2,235,567	2,626,770	△ 4,026,748	<b>11,516,710</b>
Net assets-temporarily restricted, beginning of year	108,044,782	107,308,020	105,923,751	103,688,184	106,314,954	<b>102,288,206</b>
Net assets-temporarily restricted, end of year	107,308,020	105,923,751	103,688,184	106,314,954	102,288,206	<b>113,804,916</b>
<b>III. Total net assets, end of year</b>	<b>140,210,626</b>	<b>138,096,887</b>	<b>135,360,932</b>	<b>138,963,004</b>	<b>134,498,250</b>	<b>149,492,088</b>

Note: In 2015, the net assets increased following the merger.

### Balance Sheet

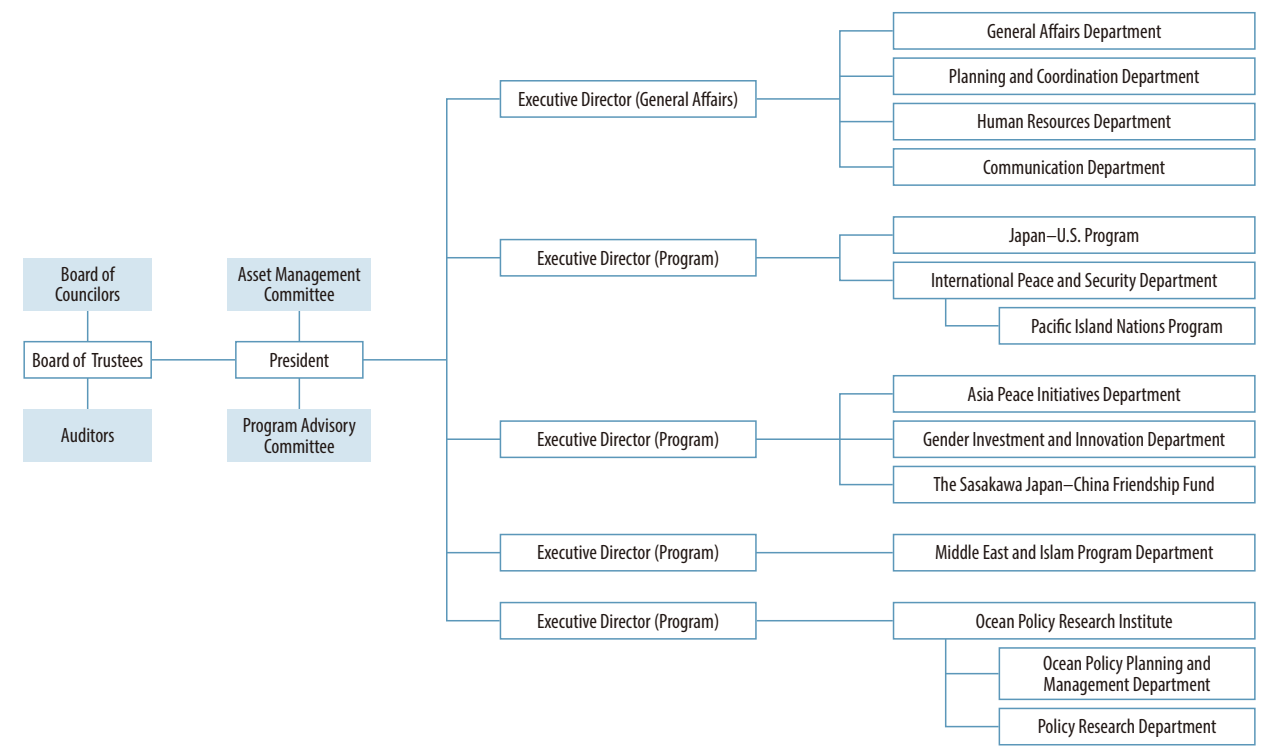
(Unit: ¥1,000)

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>I. Assets</b>						
1. Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	722,051	2,606,496	3,053,744	3,580,763	3,421,916	<b>4,059,024</b>
Investments	1,437,640	168,323	0	225,052	0	<b>0</b>
Other current assets	658,370	468,377	311,664	303,122	253,139	<b>230,499</b>
Total current assets	2,818,061	3,243,196	3,365,408	4,108,937	3,675,055	<b>4,289,523</b>
2. Fixed assets						
Endowment	65,297,011	64,733,688	63,104,392	64,493,039	61,973,361	<b>68,952,253</b>
Special funds (special assets)	64,498,873	63,274,842	61,874,499	63,776,821	62,306,916	<b>69,993,656</b>
Other special assets	3,092,110	2,589,208	2,697,086	2,674,014	2,708,323	<b>2,570,407</b>
Other fixed assets	5,443,255	5,219,451	5,105,786	4,854,850	4,692,255	<b>4,537,112</b>
Total fixed assets	138,331,249	135,817,189	132,781,763	135,798,724	131,680,855	<b>146,053,428</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>141,149,310</b>	<b>139,060,385</b>	<b>136,147,171</b>	<b>139,907,661</b>	<b>135,355,910</b>	<b>150,342,951</b>
<b>II. Liabilities</b>						
Current liabilities	499,114	571,077	419,796	567,891	500,562	<b>497,731</b>
Long-term liabilities	439,570	392,421	366,443	376,765	357,097	<b>353,132</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>938,684</b>	<b>963,498</b>	<b>786,239</b>	<b>944,656</b>	<b>857,659</b>	<b>850,863</b>
<b>III. Net assets</b>						
1. Net assets-temporarily restricted	107,308,020	105,923,752	103,688,185	106,314,955	102,288,206	<b>113,804,916</b>
To endowment	(59,103,549)	(58,552,539)	(57,008,126)	(58,311,679)	(56,268,880)	<b>(62,547,178)</b>
To special assets	(48,204,471)	(47,371,213)	(46,680,059)	(48,003,276)	(46,019,326)	<b>(51,257,738)</b>
2. Net assets-unrestricted	32,902,606	32,173,135	31,672,747	32,648,050	32,210,045	<b>35,687,172</b>
To endowment	(6,193,461)	(6,193,461)	(6,096,266)	(6,181,360)	(5,704,480)	<b>(6,405,076)</b>
To special assets	(18,979,356)	(18,979,356)	(17,563,584)	(18,092,679)	(18,654,236)	<b>(20,974,924)</b>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>140,210,626</b>	<b>138,096,887</b>	<b>135,360,932</b>	<b>138,963,005</b>	<b>134,498,251</b>	<b>149,492,088</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>141,149,310</b>	<b>139,060,385</b>	<b>136,147,171</b>	<b>139,907,661</b>	<b>135,355,910</b>	<b>150,342,951</b>

Foundation Profile

Name	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)
Date of establishment	September 1, 1986 October 2011: Transitioned to Public Interest Incorporated Foundation April 1, 2015: Merged with the Ship & Ocean Foundation
Objectives	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation is dedicated to responding to changes in the world’s natural and social environments caused by human activity. We are also committed to working toward ensuring the healthy and sustainable development of the increasingly stratified and complex societies around the world. We aim to contribute to the welfare of humankind by leveraging the unique freedoms afforded to us as a private organization to pursue innovative ideas and methods for conducting research, presenting policy recommendations, advocating for international cooperation and exchange, and formulating a new governance system for humanity that encompasses all the world’s oceans and lands.
Description of Activities	<p>In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, SPF directly engages in or provides assistance to parties who carry out the following initiatives:</p> <p>(1) Research and public awareness raising campaigns geared toward solving issues facing human society. (2) Provide training resources, create exchange opportunities, and build people-to-people networks to help solve societal issues. (3) Conduct research and publicize recommendations on new governance systems to regulate human society. (4) Carry out innovative research, development efforts, and studies on maritime affairs. (5) Promote international understanding, exchange, and cooperation. (6) Convene conferences and special events related to items (1)-(5) (7) Gather and distribute information and present policy recommendations concerning items (1)-(5). (8) Facility rentals. (9) Other projects required to achieve our objectives.</p>
Endowment	68,952,253,940 yen (as of March 31, 2021)
Special assets	69,993,656,129 yen (as of March 31, 2021)
Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for Operating Expenses	4,396,304,000 yen (as of March 31, 2021)

Organization Chart (As of July 1, 2021)



Board Members (as of June 24, 2021)

Councilors	Kiyotaka Akasaka	Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations	
	Takeju Ogata	President, The Nippon Foundation	
	Hideki Kato	President, Japan Initiative	
	Atsuko Kanehara	Professor, Sophia University President, Japanese Society of International Law	
	Shin Kisugi	Professor Emeritus, Yokohama National University	
	Eiko Kono	Former Chairman, Recruit Co., Ltd	
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	Auditor	Satoshi Sugawara	Executive Director, Blue Sea and Green Land Foundation
		Sadahiko Yoshimura	Certified Public Accountant

Contact and Access



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

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To learn more about the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, please visit our website.  
[www.spf.org/en/](http://www.spf.org/en/)