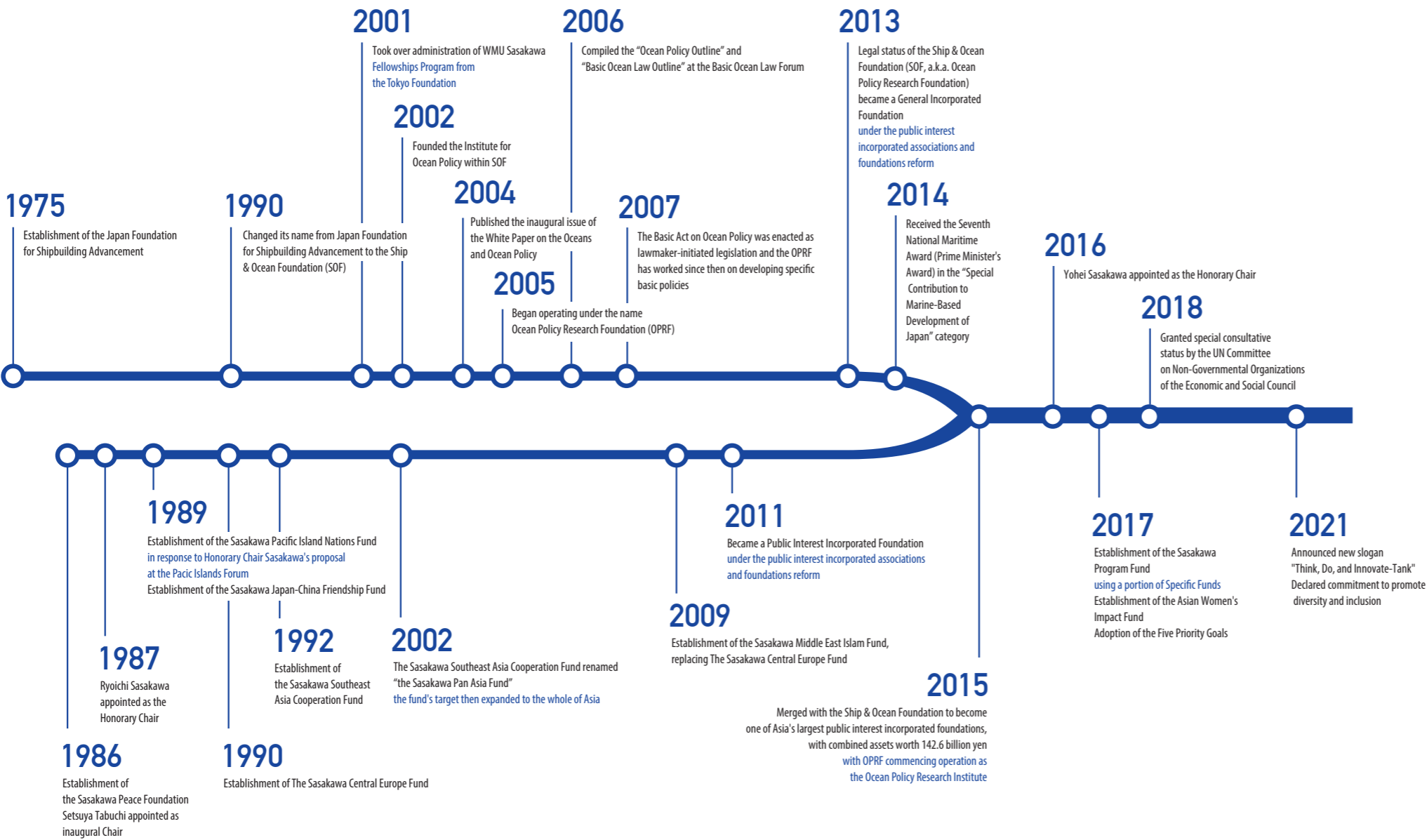




Annual Report 2021

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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New Perspectives on the Work of SPF in a World With /After the Coronavirus

President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Atsushi Sunami

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a prolonged stop to several projects at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), including those which required travel. However, now that the world is moving into a phase of living with and rebuilding after COVID-19, we at SPF have begun planning to recommence these projects.

This pandemic has taught us all the importance of cooperating to overcome adversity. Nevertheless, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has seemingly plunged us back into the depths of the Cold War and is presenting a challenge to the existing international order. U.S.-China relations have further deteriorated in the wake of COVID-19, and the seeds of greater divisions are being sown around the world. At the same time, new strategies for connecting online during the pandemic have now become well-established, and the world, including in the realm of scientific advancement, continues to push forward at a dizzying pace.

As the global community learns to live with the coronavirus and look to a future beyond the pandemic, we at SPF believe that we need to continually consider the role we must play to promote sustainable development and societies where people can live together in harmony. Our three missions and five priority goals are more important than ever during these transformative times.

It is our intention to continue responding to the changing needs of our evolving world by identifying developments

in international relations, responding with flexibility, and leveraging the full force of our wide range of initiatives.

A Multi-Faceted Approach as Our Strength

In our work, SPF takes a two-pronged approach that aims to be prepared for the worst-case scenarios while also working to prevent them from happening.

In the security field, we analyze Japan's security environment and present our findings as policy recommendations and other proposals, while also strengthening people-to-people networks and deepening relations with various countries that are vital to regional stability, especially our allied nation, the U.S.

We also believe it is essential to identify the issues and needs of the region and proactively engage in endeavors through which Japan can contribute to improving these situations. Given Japan's proximity to China, Russia, and North Korea, and in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it is essential for Japan and the U.S. to expand our relationship to include greater dimensions of cooperation and work together to promote peace and stability in Asia and around the world.

From the earliest days of the foundation, SPF has been dedicated to researching the security environment in East Asia, sharing the knowledge drawn from those studies,

and working hand-in-hand with Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA) in Washington, D.C. to develop new paradigms for Japan-U.S. relations. SPF also endeavors to explore avenues for building friendly relations with China. As part of these efforts, we conducted a virtual version of our Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program during the pandemic and have continued efforts to increase the number of young researchers and like-minded individuals.

Regarding peacebuilding, we recently established a new Peacebuilding Program, which works toward the resolution of conflicts across Asia and around the world in pursuit of lasting peace. In times like these, SPF can best leverage perhaps our greatest strength—the ability to engage in conflict resolution as an internationally respected private institution.

While efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are ramping up around the world, we must also take urgent action to address the challenges facing our oceans. We expect that SPF's Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) will continue to play an increasingly important role in global initiatives, including through the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, which began in 2021.

We at SPF do not restrict our initiatives to our five priority goals and are currently applying our flexible approach to developing additional projects in response to global needs. At the start of this fiscal year, we partnered with various organizations to establish a Support Center for Refugees from Ukraine in Tokyo following Russia's



military invasion. We have also created an international scholarship program to develop the talents of young people in Japan who will lead the next generation and help them spread their wings throughout the world.

Innovation That Embraces Diversity

As demonstrated by Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's virtual addresses to the Japanese Diet and U.S. Congress as well as the information warfare being waged through social media, new communication tools are simultaneously connecting and dividing the world. I believe it is necessary for the foundation to stay abreast of developments in new information technologies, cyberspace, and even the metaverse, and prepare to incorporate these innovations as we implement our projects.

In this age defined by COVID-19, we must aim for more than a simple return to normalcy, or our efforts will fall behind in both scale and speed. Amidst the rapid fluctuations in our current international society, we must strive to be an organization consistently on the cutting edge that can carry out our projects and fulfill our missions through constant innovation.

We intend to leverage the experience we've gained during the pandemic to our advantage, and to bring together people from all over the world, embracing their diverse backgrounds and utilizing their myriad strengths to proactively develop our projects.

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

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation has developed a number of projects in FY 2021.

Here we highlight the content, significance, and outcomes of three such projects through interviews with the leaders of each project.

Gender Investment and Innovation Program: Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF) Implementation Project

Envisioning a Society Where Everyone Can Realize Their Full Potential

In addition to making investments at the Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF), we produced two important contributions to build an ecosystem of gender lens investing. We created the AWIF impact measurement and management (IMM) framework and published a report on the progress of gender equality among listed companies in Asia's five developed markets. Through our ecosystem building work, we are sending a strong message to create a more equitable world where both women and men can thrive and work to their full potential.

Ayaka Matsuno, Director of the Gender Investment and Innovation Program

Empowering Women Through Investment

— The end of FY 2021 marks four and a half years since the establishment of the Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF). During this time, the fund has garnered a lot of attention as a gender-focused impact fund created by a foundation in Asia.

Director Matsuno: Women's empowerment became one of SPF's Five Priority Goals in FY 2017. Subsequently, the Gender Investment and Innovation Program was created, and AWIF was established in September of the same year. We have committed to investing up to 10 billion yen into funds that contribute to women's social advancement, economic empowerment, and gender equality in Asia. This type of financing, which seeks to make a social impact while generating economic returns, is called impact investing. AWIF aims to empower women in Asia and help build a society in which women can achieve their full potential while generating sustainable financial returns.

— What has been the progress of the project so far?

Director Matsuno: As the first investment in April 2018, we invested one billion yen in the Blue Orchard Microfinance Fund. In April 2019, we finalized our second investment in the JAPAN ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund (JAWEF) with an agreement to invest up to USD 30 million. These funds provide capital to microfinance institutions. The investment in JAWEF, made in cooperation with organizations such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), is recognized as a successful example of blended finance in which the public and private sectors work together.

In July 2021 and March 2022, we signed the agreements for our third and fourth investments, to invest USD five million in the Beacon Fund and USD three million in Women's World Banking (WWB) Capital Partners II, respectively.

Beacon Fund works primarily with women-led and women-owned small and medium enterprises that have achieved steady growth, yet struggle to raise funds in

Southeast Asia. WWB Capital Partners II provides capital to financial service providers, which disproportionately benefit low-income women in Asia and other regions, and are committed to improve their internal governance to promote gender equality.

In addition to investment management and exploring future investment opportunities, we work toward demonstrating the effectiveness of gender lens investing by assessing our investments in terms of financial returns as well as the social impact our investments make both at the fund level as well as the beneficiaries level. This is where the impact measurement and management (IMM) framework we created to analyze AWIF investments comes into play. We place particular emphasis on how to measure the degree to which ultimate beneficiaries are impacted by the investment and are working to determine the indicators to measure social impact. Currently, we focus on three impact pillars: improved access to finance, increased job opportunities and economic empowerment for women, and gender equality in the workplace.

— What are your plans for the future?

Director Matsuno: We commissioned Equileap, a Dutch organization focused on gender-related data collection and analysis, to conduct research on publicly listed companies in Japan, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand and Hong Kong, then compiled their findings into a report ranking target enterprises on gender equality advancement in the workplace entitled "Gender Equality in Asia-Pacific: Special Report." The English-language full report and Japanese-language digest version were published in June 2022, and a full-length Japanese-language edition will be published in the future.

The study revealed a big gap in advancement of gender equality among these developed markets, with Australia receiving the highest overall score (46% average), and Japan the lowest (28% average).

What is more important than the ranking itself is that the data is disclosed and made public. Since 2017, Equileap has been publishing its corporate gender equality

rankings using proprietary evaluation criteria based on the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEP) by UN Women. Its gender equality scorecard methodology has been used to create different gender lens funds available in public markets. This means that it is in the interest of listed companies to improve their scores in order to gain investment and support from the market.

In June 2022, the government of Japan announced a new policy as part of the implementation of its "New Form of Capitalism" strategy. This policy, which came into force in July, requires companies, listed or unlisted, with 301 or more full-time employees to disclose gender pay gap data. We expect that our report will help companies create more diverse and productive work environments for everyone.

Acting as a Catalyst to Transform Society

— You joined SPF in July of 2019. Did you come hoping to work with AWIF?

Director Matsuno: Yes, that's correct. Women's empowerment issues are very close to my heart, and so when I read an article introducing AWIF, I thought, "Wow, this organization is doing such an innovative initiative!" That's how I first became interested in SPF. It was clear that Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the field of development support was not enough to achieve the SDGs, and I was painfully aware how difficult it could be to secure funding for development issues, so the idea of raising capital from the private sector and advancing women's empowerment through investment felt fresh and new. SPF's impact investing initiative is innovative and acts as a catalyst to accelerate efforts to solve social challenges, and I feel that we are part of creative collective impact, influencing those around us and transforming society.

— Exciting as it may be to work on this innovative initiative, do you feel that you face extra layers of challenges that need to be worked on?

Director Matsuno: In the U.S., private foundations are

required by the IRS to spend 5% or more of the value of their endowment each year on charitable causes. They can count impact investing as part of their 5% requirement as program-related investments (PRI). That is why they can provide risk capital as PRI, investing in social impact investing projects without necessarily requiring a commercial level of financial return. Their investments are highly risk-tolerant because they provide capital with an intention to count it for charitable purposes to begin with. By providing risk capital, those private foundations can leverage their capital to other investors. This is known as "catalytic capital."

In Japan, however, public interest foundations like SPF are not allowed to use investment as public interest projects. As a result, we consider our investment activities only as part of the foundation's asset management, thus, we are not able to take on much risk.

— In other words, your ability to act as a catalyst to mobilize more capital towards impact is limited compared to foundations in Europe and the U.S.

Director Matsuno: The Leaders' Declaration of the G20 Osaka Summit 2019 notes that "other innovative financing mechanisms, including blended finance, can play an important role in upscaling our collective efforts." Moreover, then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated the Japanese government's intention to "lead the international discussion to consider social impact investments, dormant assets schemes, and other diverse and innovative ways of financing in order to secure the necessary funds to solve global issues." I sincerely hope this will come to pass.

— What sort of world do you envision as a result of AWIF's promotion of women's empowerment?

Director Matsuno: I've been using the word "women" since we are discussing AWIF, but our message supports equal participation for everyone. The best way to promote gender equality is to build a society where a comfortable work environment is the norm for all, including men and everyone. Our goal is to create inclusive systems and trends that transcend gender, and which make it possible for everyone to make positive contributions to society.



Director Matsuno at a session during the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN)'s annual Global Conference.

Security Studies Program: Enhancing National Cybersecurity

Presenting Cutting-edge, Highly Effective Policy Alternatives

In February 2022, SPF published a policy proposal entitled “Prepare for Foreign Disinformation Campaigns!” Since then, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and Chinese military actions have brought increased attention to “cognitive warfare” and created pressure to review Japan’s security strategy to take disinformation warfare considerations into account. As such, our proposal anticipated the need for these issues.

Jun Osawa, Security Studies Program Research Fellow, and Tomoko Nagasako, Security Studies Program Research Fellow

Establishing Systems and Organizations

— **What is the current state of cybersecurity?**

Mr. Osawa: The world of cybersecurity is progressing in line with the development of computers and the internet. In the early days of the internet, most cyberattacks were committed for fun. Around 2007, however, the incidence of state-sponsored cyberattacks began to increase when Russia launched an offensive on the Baltic state of Estonia. We now see states imposing their will on other nations by means of intense cyberattacks, as demonstrated in the war in Ukraine.

— **What challenges must Japan overcome in this context?**

Mr. Osawa: We must establish cybersecurity systems and organizations. Japan is very far behind western and other Asian countries in this regard. The Japanese government and most domestic industries generally rely on anti-malware software that prevents or minimizes damage in case of infection for their cybersecurity. In short, they are focused only on defense. However, this tactic is not effective against state-sponsored attacks. It is important to understand the behavior of the states carrying out these attacks, and depending on the situation, to consider implementing countermeasures permissible under international law. This could mean lodging diplomatic protests, pursuing legal action, or launching proportional

countermeasures. However, Japan does not have the necessary bureaucratic systems in place to take such countermeasures.

— **This point was outlined in SPF’s FY 2018 policy proposal entitled “A Cybersecurity Agency for Japan!”**

Mr. Osawa: That’s right. The Security Studies Program launched the “Cybersecurity Study Group” in FY 2016, which has continued discussions on this topic since then. As part of this work, we have raised awareness to the fact that in the event of a cyberattack, Japan does not have the capacity to conduct an investigation to resolve the incident or track down the perpetrators. We have also put together a number of policy proposals to address this issue, including our recommendation that Japan build a response system similar to the Observe-Orient-Decide-Act (OODA) loop used in Europe and the U.S., and that it reframe its basic policy to address cybersecurity as a national responsibility.

— **What has been the response to these proposals?**

Mr. Osawa: They garnered a lot of attention. In addition to the media coverage, it was presented to and received the endorsement of Sanae Takaichi, then head of the LDP Parliamentary League on Cybersecurity Countermeasures and former chairperson of the Policy Research Council. The Parliamentary League then went on to include “the

establishment of a Cybersecurity Agency (provisional name) by 2025” in their “Second Proposal,” which they submitted to then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2019. We place a lot of importance on outreach activities to share our research findings.

Emerging Issues in Security Strategy

— **In FY 2021, you published a policy proposal entitled “Prepare for Foreign Disinformation Campaigns! The Threat Posed by Information Manipulation in Cyberspace.”**

Mr. Osawa: We’ve been convening a “Cyber Fake News Study Group” since 2019. That proposal, which recommends Japan establish systems to respond to disinformation campaigns as part of its cyber defense strategy, is a product of that research group.

Very few people, including American researchers, predicted that Donald Trump would win the 2016 U.S. presidential elections. It was later determined that Russia had launched cyberattacks to spread misinformation and intervene in the democratic process. We anticipated that this would emerge as an important issue for Japan as well, so we set up a research group gathering not only experts, but also journalists and influential social media personalities, and have been examining the issue for more than two years. Additionally, Ms. Nagasako has done a lot of research surveying the state of cybersecurity in countries and regions including Australia, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the Republic of Korea. Her findings, which also examined the relevant systems established in each region, are reflected in the proposal. While we first completed the outline of the proposal by the summer of 2021, the research group then spent the next six months examining the information, refining areas that needed work, and adding depth to make it easier to understand.

After the proposal was published, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and Chinese military actions have drawn attention to so-called “cognitive warfare” and increased the pressure to urgently review Japan’s security strategy through an information warfare lens. Our work, which anticipated these issues, has put us ahead of the game in these discussions.

— **How will you proceed with this project?**

Mr. Osawa: We plan to prepare policy recommendations on the legal issues surrounding countermeasures sanctioned by international law that may be taken against countries and groups that commit cyberattacks as the situation necessitates, a topic we have already been discussing within the research group. We have also created a new research group on the topic of Active Cyber Defense (ACD) to establish a legal and organizational framework for reacting to attacks, identifying perpetrators, and taking technological and political measures.

Moreover, another research group focused on the current state of disinformation cyberattacks in the Indo-Pacific

region, led by Ms. Nagasako and which had been operating under the “Cyber Fake News Research Group,” is now being developed into its own independent study group.

Ms. Nagasako: We began activities as the “Research Group on Disinformation in the Indo-Pacific Region” in FY 2021. Given the vital role the region’s unique characteristics play in this field, we invited security and disinformation experts from Hong Kong University’s Journalism and Media Studies Centre, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and other regional institutions to closely monitor the current situation. We carefully examine specific case studies and countermeasures taken in each individual country, as well as the region as a whole, to get a clear picture of the situation on the ground in the Indo-Pacific. We are beginning to see patterns characteristic of authoritarian states in countries like Thailand and Singapore. I would like to compile these findings into a report looking at the cases in Asia.

While the European Union (EU) monitors cybersecurity issues, particularly those involving Russia, the Asia-Pacific region does not have any institutions with a similar capability. We would like to make SPF a platform for monitoring cybersecurity in the Indo-Pacific region with a focus on China and share our insights within the region as well as more broadly.

— **What are your goals as a researcher?**

Ms. Nagasako: Before becoming involved in this project, I wrote my master’s thesis on information warfare and manipulation through disinformation cyberattacks. I am eager to dive into this topic that is of deep personal interest to me. SPF is the only think tank currently focusing on this, so I hope to leverage that to our advantage as a group and for my own research as well, as I am still currently writing my doctoral dissertation on this issue.

Additionally, improved literacy in these topics provides some of the strongest defense against disinformation, which is spread by micro-targeting and influencing thinking on an individual level. I hope to build on our information sharing efforts to include educational materials for politicians and the general public on this issue.

Mr. Osawa: I have been involved with think tanks in Japan and the U.S. for a long time, and just like my counterparts in the U.S., I have bounced back and forth between think tanks and policymaking. After WWII, young people in Japan left standing among the rubble had to consider how to build up their country. We are now benefiting from the prosperity that they built. I want to consider how we can preserve that prosperity for the next generation while continuing our research from a mid- to long-term perspective, and through policy proposals provide feedback for our society. In Japan, there are very few people who possess both the language skills and the research capabilities to join the debate in the international arena. I believe it’s very important we support the younger generation, including Ms. Nagasako, and prepare them to play a larger role.



Jun Osawa (left)

Graduated Keio University Faculty of Law, where he also completed a master’s course. He worked in the Policy Planning Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and Senior Fellow and Deputy Cabinet Counsellor at the National Security Service before assuming his current post. He is also Senior Research Fellow at Nakasone Peace Institute and a board member of Kajima Peace Institute. He is an expert in international politics (strategic assessment, cybersecurity) and public policy (policy analysis). His recent publications include “Developing New Areas in Anticipation of Future Battles” (*The Seiron*, August 2022 issue), “How to Defend Japan Against the Threat of Cyber Disinformation” (*The Chuokoron*, April, 2022 issue), and “China and the Dream of Techno Hegemony” (*The Mita Hyoron*, September, 2021 issue).

Tomoko Nagasako (right)

Graduated Tokyo University Faculty of Letters with a BA and a master’s degree in Religious Studies and Religious History. She then obtained a master’s in Informatics at the Institute of Information Security, where she is currently enrolled in the doctoral course. She previously served as researcher at the Center for Science Information Analysis of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, before reaching her current position in September 2019. Her recent publications include “Recent Trends in Disinformation and the Latest Cases: The New Sino-Russian Narrative on COVID-19” (*CYBERSPHERE*, March 2022 issue); “Information Warfare is Geopolitical: Unraveling Russia’s Disinformation Strategy” (*Gaiko Forum*, June 2022 issue); and “Global Disinformation Campaigns and Legal Challenges” (*International Cyber Security Law Review*, Vol. 1, October 2020).

Ocean Policy Research Institute: Science and Technology Policy Research Project for the Arctic

The Arctic as the Earth's Mirror

Contributing to Sustainable Development for Humankind

This project focused on policy research cooperation and coordination with the chair of the Arctic Council (AC). Through the co-sponsorship of various international conferences during Iceland's 2019-2021 chairmanship and Russia's 2021-2023 term, OPRI enhanced Japan's presence in this arena and helped deepen mutual understanding. The AC has halted operations due to the crisis in Ukraine, but the region has been united in hopes for the future since the Cold War era. We will continue to monitor developments closely.

Dr. Hiromitsu Kitagawa, Ocean Policy Research Institute Senior Research Fellow, and Sakiko Hataya, Research Fellow

— The Arctic can seem somewhat distant, both physically and conceptually, for Japan and the Japanese people. What prompted your involvement in Arctic research?

Dr. Kitagawa: My interest was sparked in 1972 by an American friend who told me about the Arctic Ocean. While studying abroad in Glasgow University, I also had the opportunity to board an icebreaker on the Baltic Sea, and from there I was driven by curiosity to study more about it. About 10 years later, I was tasked with building an ice tank at the research institute of the Ministry of Transport (now the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) and began my research in earnest. After its completion, I led negotiations for the Agreement Between the Government of Japan and the Government of Canada on Cooperation in Science and Technology, traveling often between the two countries for two years until the agreement's conclusion and signing. At the invitation of the Canadian government, I then spent over a year at a research center in Newfoundland, where I had the opportunity to interact with indigenous peoples of the Arctic, boarded Canadian experimental sea trials, and gained other such invaluable experiences. Later, I was invited to the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (predecessor to OPRI) and began working on projects related to the Arctic Ocean. It was here that Yohei Sasakawa (current Honorary Chair of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation) began to see endless potential in the Northern Sea Route. When Japan, Norway, and Russia began investigating the opening of the Arctic Sea route and the Russian Far East region, Honorary Chair Sasakawa himself served to

represent Japan in these discussions.

Ms. Hataya: For me, it was watching footage of Russia planting their flag on the North Pole seabed when I was a student. At that time, I wondered why Russia was so focused on the Arctic, and that question ended up becoming my life's work.

— What is the current situation in the Arctic?

Ms. Hataya: Climate change is having enormous effects on the Arctic region, where the ice caps continue to melt. With that comes a variety of possibilities. Looking to the sea routes cutting through the formerly ice-bound Arctic and connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, we may soon see the commercialization of the Northern Sea Route (near Russia), as well as future exploration into routes like the Northwest Passage (through Canadian waters) and the Transpolar Route. As oceans warm, increasing numbers of fish species will become harvestable. Greenland in particular is investing in its fisheries. Moreover, a vast amount of mineral resources like liquefied natural gas (LNG) are said to be lying dormant beneath the ice, and their extraction may soon become possible. It is against this background that negotiations between the concerned states regarding profit sharing and maritime boundaries are currently underway.

The Arctic is said to be a distant place from Japan, but that is not necessarily true. Japan, a maritime nation, is located in a region that is susceptible to the effects of climate change in the Arctic via atmospheric and seawater circulation. Moreover, should the Northern Sea Route become economically feasible, it will reduce the distance to Europe to one third of the current southern route and eliminate the threat of piracy

Dr. Hiromitsu Kitagawa

Graduated Yokohama National University's Department of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering in 1959 and went on to join the Ship Technology Research Institute of the then Ministry of Transport, of which he became director. He served as chairman of the Japan Shipbuilding Research Center, taught a snow and ice engineering course as professor at Hokkaido University's Graduate School of Engineering, and was Senior Research Fellow at the Ocean Policy Research Foundation before assuming his current post. He was also visiting researcher at Glasgow University and the Canadian Institute of Marine Engineering and chaired a committee investigating Antarctic transport issues for the Ministry of Education.

Sakiko Hataya

Graduated Tsuda University's Department of International and Cultural Studies and completed her LL.M doctoral course at Kobe University's Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies. She was Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science before assuming her current position in March of 2021. Her co-authored books include "Peoples and Societies of the Arctic - The Possibility of Sustainable Development (Slavic-Eurasian Series 14)" (co-written and edited by Shinichiro Tabata and Masanori Goto, Hokkaido University Press, March 2020.)



along that passage. Furthermore, scientific research in the Arctic will also become possible, and the fruits of those efforts will eventually benefit society as well.

Dr. Kitagawa: The viability of the Northern Sea Route will not bring only positive developments. With the passing of ships come negative environmental consequences. Even with zero emissions, lubrication grease supporting proper rotation will leak from propeller shafts. This is usually only a small amount, but the amount will accumulate at higher rates as traffic continues to increase. The possible impact of this cumulative trend is concerning. There is also no guarantee that pirates will not also appear on the Northern Sea Route.

The North Pole is prone to ionospheric disturbances caused by solar flares, which not only disrupt communications but can even damage satellites. There are currently a number of international projects for laying fiber optic cables on the coastal seabed to bypass this complication, but they have all been suspended due to Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Furthermore, natural disasters and other phenomena have already disconnected some previously installed optical fibers, disrupting communications numerous times. These problems must be resolved, but from the perspective of vessel safety, crew safety, and rescue capability, we must carefully consider whether gaining access to cross the Northern Sea Route at will is truly a good thing.

— How is your project addressing these issues?

Ms. Hataya: We are particularly focusing on policy research cooperation and coordination with the chair of the Arctic Council (AC). The AC is a high-level forum promoting cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic States to address shared challenges in the region. It was established in 1996 by the eight countries that have territories in the Arctic Circle north of latitude 66 degrees north (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, United States). In addition to member states, six Indigenous Peoples' organizations have Permanent Participant status and equal rights to address the meetings. The presence of Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic is essential. Japan was also granted Observer status in 2013.

In FY 2021, we conducted joint research and information gathering with Iceland during its 2019-2021 chairmanship and with the Arctic Circle organization, the world's largest international conference on arctic issues, in doing so elevating Japan's presence. In May of 2021, we collaborated with the Arctic Circle to hold an online forum, the "Arctic Circle Japan Forum - Virtual Prelude." That same month, the leadership position passed on to Russia (whose chairmanship will continue until 2023). Just prior to this in April, we hosted the "Russian-Japanese round table on the prospects for cooperation in the NSR and energy development" online together with the Russian Federation for the Development of the Far East and Arctic region. This seminar produced a report on the three topics that are expected to become important in Japan-Russia relations in the Arctic region—Arctic policy, the Northern Sea Route, and energy cooperation—and deepened our mutual understanding.

However, Arctic Council operations are currently halted due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Its members have taken various positions, with some countries completely refusing to work with Russia, and others asserting that there cannot be productive dialogue on the Arctic, which consists of Russian

territory and waters, without building cooperative relationships with Russia.

Dr. Kitagawa: As a researcher, I have a long history with Arctic countries, and one must not shy away from speaking clearly to Russia. However, when it comes to the international discussion of the Northern Sea Route, there have been many fronts on which I believe we must appreciate Russia's contributions. As the nation with the single largest Arctic coast, Russia has throughout history sacrificed many lives to pioneering the Northern Sea Route. We cannot forget this fact.

Dedicating My Life to Keeping Close Watch

— What can we expect to see from this project going forward?

Ms. Hataya: In March 2023, SPF will hold the "Arctic Circle Japan Forum." Additionally, in preparation for the planned revision of Japan's Arctic policy guidelines, we intend to examine the strategic use of Arctic policy and Arctic research vessels and consolidate our findings in a proposal.

Dr. Kitagawa: To say more on the topic of Japan, we have consistently advocated for the necessity of building icebreaking polar class research vessels. Construction finally began in Japan in 2021, with completion projected for 2026. This is welcome news, but it is regrettably taking too long. Countries such as Russia, China, and the Republic of Korea already possess research vessels of that class. We must also continue to construct our Arctic research infrastructure, developing observation equipment such as unmanned drones and satellites. China has a mass production system for satellites already in place and plans to have 14,000 units in orbit. Japan, with its 100 units, would be utterly outclassed.

— What is the Arctic like as a field of research?

Ms. Hataya: The Arctic is a region that changes moment by moment. Its environment as well as its politics are in constant motion. Meanwhile, Arctic states have been united in the context of Arctic-related matters since the Cold War era, and their forward-looking mindset has resulted in progress on certain issues. We are currently dealing with the crisis in Ukraine, but I would like to dedicate my life to keeping close watch on this movement.

Dr. Kitagawa: The Arctic is "the Earth's mirror." It is an indispensable research subject for predicting the future of this planet. For this reason, we must take interest in and carefully study topics related to the region such as energy resources, environmental issues, and ocean engineering, and keep abreast of research trends around the world. It is a research field that is fraught with challenges, but also one that contributes directly to the sustainable development of human society.



Research Fellow Hataya meets with research fellows of Norway's Fridtjof Nansen Institute.

Japan-U.S. Program

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

The Japan-U.S. Program endeavors to maintain and develop personal networks within the Japan-U.S. policy community, leverage the expertise of their members to produce new insights and information, and contribute to strengthening Japan-U.S. relations and bilateral cooperation in the face of global changes. To this end, this fiscal year we carried out two projects: “Creating Strategic Networks Between Japanese and American Policy Communities,” and “Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations.” Our program also funded two grants at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA).

Japan-U.S. Program

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen) *	Year
Japan-U.S. Opinion Leaders' Network	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	22,814,730	2/3
Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	10,847,063	2/3
Enriching U.S.-Japan Congressional Exchanges	Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA	USA	Grant	11,658,998	1/1
Strengthening the U.S.-Japan Relationship from U.S. Perspectives 2021	Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA	USA	Grant	146,661,808	1/1

Security Studies Program

Japan's Defense Diplomacy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,228,317	3/3
Enhancing National Cyber Security	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,237,787	3/3
Information Provision of International Situation and Security II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	13,568,539	3/3
Shaping the Effective Strategy Toward China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,517,573	2/2
The Japan-India-Russia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,085,959	2/2
International Conference: Securing Indo-Pacific — Expanding Cooperation Between Asia and Europe	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,671,379	2/2
Japan U.S. Alliance Study	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	20,862,007	3/5
Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges Between Japan and Asian Countries III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	308,138	2/3
The Study of Contemporary China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	18,664,199	2/3
Study on Nuclear Safeguards and Security	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,438,606	1/2
Deterrence in the New Domains	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,883,592	1/2
Future Fellowship for Okinawa II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	7,078,375	1/2
Security in the Indo-Pacific Region II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	27,947,479	1/1

Pacific Island Nations Program

Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	51,143,234	3/3
Strengthening the Genuine Partnership Between the Pacific Island Countries and Japan	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	0	3/3
Rebuilding Island Societies Through Applying Sustainable Tourism	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	491,624	1/1

* 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.

Focusing on the Post-COVID International Community and the United States

Although the COVID-19 pandemic limited activities involving travel between the two countries, which began in the previous fiscal year, we redoubled our efforts online and worked to nurture our existing connections while also cultivating new networks of Japan-U.S. researchers. We furthermore re-examined and improved our existing projects to prepare for their resumption post-pandemic. As we continued to make progress with our research, we also created an information-sharing platform to make optimal use of the intellectual resources we have gathered through the work of the Japan-U.S. Program.

The Biden administration kicked into full gear this past fiscal year, spreading a momentary sense of relief in the wake of the Trump presidency, which was felt in Japan as well. However, social divisions and other domestic challenges in the U.S. have since intensified, and on the foreign policy front, turmoil surrounding the withdrawal from Afghanistan, tackling Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and heightening disputes with China have all made it increasingly clear that we are now facing a period of tremendous change in the international order. Through the work of our program, we have collected data and held a variety of discussions to deepen our understanding of such international contexts as well as the inner workings of the U.S. while endeavoring to advance mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S., expand our interpersonal connections, and seek to contribute to bilateral cooperation in these tumultuous times.

Preserving Interpersonal and Organizational Networks During the COVID-19 Crisis

Our program's “Creating a Strategic Network Between Japanese and American Policy Communities” project strives to expand and deepen interpersonal and organizational networks amongst Japan-U.S. policy experts, engendering new approaches to our bilateral relationship and cooperation in these changing times. The project generally takes a multilayered approach toward these goals, inviting stakeholders to Japan and dispatching researchers to the U.S., as well as promoting institutional cooperation. However, due to the persistence of the COVID-19 crisis in FY 2021, we focused our efforts on preserving and strengthening existing networks online as we had done

the previous year.

In a new collaborative effort between Japanese and U.S. experts, we organized a webinar on the topic of “Anti-Asian Hate Crimes and U.S. Society.” We invited three speakers from both countries to discuss America's formation and historical background as a nation of immigrants and a multiethnic society, the many complex issues that arise from this context, and the current situation of hate crimes in the U.S. Through this event, we provided not only an opportunity to build new connections between experts, but also to deepen understanding of American society.

We also continued sponsoring a series of seminars organized by the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS) entitled “Geostrategy in the Grassroots Series 2021.” Eight sessions were hosted by local Japan-America societies in the U.S., either online or in hybrid format. Through discussions between Japanese and U.S. experts, we provided over 1,000 audience members from both countries with opportunities to learn more about



“Anti-Asian Hate Crimes and U.S. Society” webinar (August 19, 2021). Guest Speakers Dr. Takayuki Nishiyama (Professor, Seikei University [center top]), Dr. Russel Jeung (Professor, San Francisco State University [bottom left]), Dr. Michael Omi (Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley [top right]).



“A discussion on American and Japanese perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing the relationship moving forward” webinar, hosted by the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania (March 23, 2022). Guest speakers Dr. Zack Cooper (Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute [left]) and Dr. Ken Jimbo (Professor, Keio University [center]).

the impacts of the Ukrainian war on the East Asian security environment.

Additionally, we dispatched a Japanese researcher to begin a residency from October 2021-March 2022 as Japan Scholar at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.

Maintaining and Diversifying Our Investigative Research and Information Sharing Platform

The “Insights Into Japan-U.S. Relations” project seeks to conduct investigative research that promotes understanding of the U.S. in these times of great change, and examines Japan-U.S. relations from a mid- to long-term perspective. To this end, we leverage the networks created through our projects to date and work with young and mid-level researchers from Japan and the U.S. to conduct research and analysis on topics including Japan-U.S. relations, American diplomacy, politics, and society, and international relations in the Indo-Pacific region. We then openly distribute our findings as research papers, proposals, and reports, and share these insights via our website, social media, and other such avenues of communication.

In FY 2021, 31 research papers were published as part of the “SPF America Genjo Monitor.” To commemorate the publication of the project’s 100th research paper, we held special discussions featuring several members of the project and shared videos of the conversations with the public to great response. We also compiled the first through seventh research papers of the “Analyzing Obama’s Memoirs” series by Dr. Masahito Watanabe (Associate Professor, Hokkaido University Graduate School

of International Media, Communication, and Tourism Studies) into a special booklet containing papers that were originally released between April and June of 2021. Through these activities, we shared analysis and insights on themes such as the Biden administration’s diplomatic and security policies, the divided state of American politics and society, and the effects of developments in these fields on Japan-U.S. relations.

In the “Future of American Foreign Policies and Options for Japan” research group, we continued our efforts from the previous year, inviting experts from Japan and the U.S. to lecture on topics such as U.S. relations with India, Australia, the Republic of Korea, and Southeast Asia, the future of U.S. foreign policy, and their effects on Japanese politics. We also renovated our program’s satellite site “Insights Into Japan-U.S. Relations” and developed it to serve as a portal for sharing information on Japan-U.S. relations (see next page). Additionally, we opened a Twitter account for the program, and have made a resource platform where various insights can be widely and promptly shared.



@SPFJapanUS" Twitter account
<https://twitter.com/SPFJapanUS>



Japan-U.S. Program
フォローする
笹川平和財団日米グループ SPF Japan-U.S. Program
@SPFJapanUS
公益財団法人笹川平和財団日米グループのアカウントです。 Official account for SPF Japan-U.S. Program. spf.org/en/programs/jpus/
Tokyo, Japan spf.org/en/programs/jpus/
2021年11月からTwitterを利用しています

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA)

Through our grants to SPF-USA, we endeavor to communicate the importance of Japan-U.S. relations to American policy makers, business leaders, members of Congress, and other stakeholders, and thereby assist in deepening mutual understanding and strengthening cooperation between Japan and the U.S.

In FY 2021, as in the previous fiscal year, we continued our activities centered on sharing information concerning Japan-U.S. relations online. We held more than 20 events, from small webinars to full on-site functions featuring Japanese and American experts as guest speakers, and published a number of articles on Japan-U.S. relations. Ten congressional aides participated in the Congressional Staff Program on Asia (CSPA), held virtually in February 2022.

We furthermore continued our initiatives to enrich exchanges between members of the Japanese Diet and U.S. members of Congress. We suspended the Japan visit program for the U.S. House Representatives and Chiefs of Staff again this year. However, SPF-USA worked with its partner, the Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ), to hold several virtual and hybrid events with CSGJ Co-Chairs Rep. Diana DeGette (D) and Rep. Larry Bucshon (R) as guests. Online talks with members of the Japanese Diet were arranged as well.



“The Present and Future of American Foreign Policy: Withdrawal from Afghanistan, Biden, and America’s China Strategy” podcast-style round-table discussion (September 6, 2021) [from left to right] Dr. Toshihiro Nakayama (Professor, Keio University [late]), Dr. Satoru Mori (Professor, Hosei University [now Professor, Keio University]), Tsuneo Watanabe (Senior Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation).

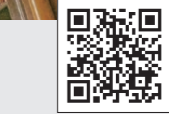
Analyzing Obama’s Memoirs by Dr. Masahito Watanabe (November 2021). This booklet compiled seven volumes of Dr. Watanabe’s commentary and analysis of President Barack Obama’s memoirs, A Promised Land, published in the U.S. in November 2020.



■ Upgrading Japan-U.S. Program’s satellite site “Insights Into Japan-U.S. Relations” to an information-sharing portal




This site features research papers, videos, basic information, and other content examining Japan-U.S. relations, American politics, foreign policy, and relations in the Indo-Pacific region. The website was renovated to be referred to for research and analysis of the U.S. and the Japan-U.S. relationship. Our program’s research findings are now much easier to access as well.



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

SPF America Genjo Monitor



アメリカ現状モニター

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.

Ideas and Analyses



Ideas and Analyses

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

SPF Japan-U.S. Special Monograph Series



SPF Japan-U.S. Special Monograph Series

A collection of special contribution papers by researchers who we have cultivated cooperative relationships with through our projects. We started this series in 2008.

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA)



SPF USA

A link to the website of SPF-USA, our sister organization based in Washington D.C., which conducts exchanges centered on Japan and Japan-U.S. relations and information sharing activities aimed at the U.S. audience.

*Additionally, a “Publications” link contains information on our published research findings and PDF versions of the reports.

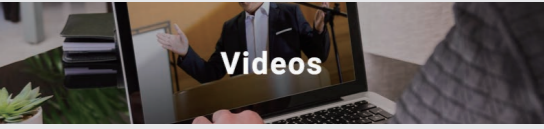
Views from Inside America



Views from Inside America

Essays and other content by Japanese researchers staying in the U.S. are published on this site in order to deepen understanding of the current situation and discussions occurring in the U.S.

Videos



Videos

Video content such as past lectures, webinars with experts, and podcast-style round-table discussions.

Other Research Projects Information



Other Research Projects Information

Links to the pages of eight past and present research projects, such as “Future of American Foreign Policies and Options for Japan,” “Asia Strategic Initiative,” and “Worldviews on the United States.”

Outside Links to the Information on Japan-U.S. Relations



Outside Links to the Information on Japan-U.S. Relations

A collection of links to the websites of organizations like the U.S. Congress, major U.S.-based think tanks, Japan-U.S. relations and exchange groups, and Japan-based think tanks (diplomacy and security).

Security Studies Program

This program is dedicated to advancing peace and stability in Japan, the Indo-Pacific region, and ultimately the world. To work toward these goals, we have undertaken a number of projects examining issues related to Japan's security, the Japan-U.S. alliance, and Japan's relationships with regions and countries that are important to Japan. Our program has also conducted analysis and research on issues related to new threats in the cyber domain and deterrence in emerging security fields. Furthermore, in response to Russia's military invasion of Ukraine at the end of February 2022, we expended great effort to share relevant information and provide proposals based on our respective areas of expertise and research projects in a timely manner.

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

Our program's overarching goal is to develop effective measures with which Japan and the Japan-U.S. alliance can respond to the new international security environment. Regarding the nature of cooperation with the U.S., we conducted joint research with the U.S. Heritage Foundation under the "Japan U.S. Alliance Study II" project. We also continued efforts from the previous fiscal year to examine the type of cooperation required of both Japan and the U.S. in the event of a Taiwan contingency, further deepening both countries' understanding of this issue. Furthermore, we summarized the discussions conducted up to the previous year and published these as a Japanese-language book entitled *Taiwan Contingency Scenarios*, which attracted much attention as a timely topic.

Through our "Shaping the Pragmatic and Effective Strategy toward China" project, we facilitated online meetings where security and economic experts from the U.S. and Japan could discuss China's domestic politics, economy, and future prospects, as well as export controls for sensitive technologies, the security environment in the East Asian region, and challenges for the U.S.-Japan alliance, among other topics. Members of this research then took their own individual analyses of the current situation and summarized these as a working paper made available on SPF's website. Furthermore, on November 9, 2021, our program held an online public forum, "Shaping the Pragmatic and Effective Strategy Toward China: Defense and Economic Security," to discuss the need for a common Japan-U.S. approach toward China.



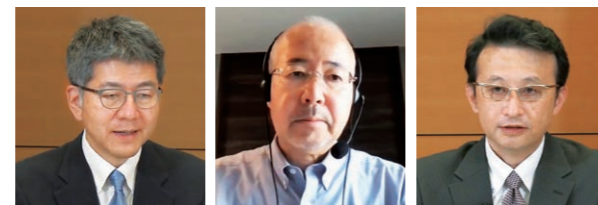
Invited to the forum were Dr. Eric Heginbotham (Principal Research Scientist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Dr. Mireya Solis (Director, Center for East Asian Policy Studies, The Brookings Institution), Nicholas Szechenyi (Deputy Director and Senior Fellow, Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies), and others.

Indo-Pacific Region

"The Study of Contemporary China" project aims to collect observations across a range of fields to assemble a broader picture of China's overall approach and inform the public in Japanese society.

Under this project, we carried out a multifaceted analysis of issues in the Indo-Pacific region, with particular attention to China's increasing influence in the international community, and published our results in "SPF China Observer," a satellite site of the Security Studies Program. On the same website in May 2021, we launched the "Satellite Image Analysis Project," which analyzes China's security-related activities through satellite imagery. Our team reported these results at the public forum, "Satellite Image Analysis: Status of Naval Shipbuilding and Construction Facilities of the Chinese Navy," one of five such events we organized around themes such as "China's Perception of the Situation in Afghanistan."

This fiscal year, our "Security in the Indo-Pacific Region II" project organized the first intra-governmental Indo-Pacific Islands Dialogue in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting focused



At the 10th SPF China Observer Open Forum "China's Worldview Against the New U.S. Administration" (June 21, 2021), experts discussed the background of China's stance against the United States. [From left] Dr. Akio Takahara (Professor, University of Tokyo), Dr. Ichiro Inoue (Professor, Kwansei Gakuin University), and Bonji Ohara (Senior Fellow, SPF).



The 13th SPF China Observer Open Forum "Satellite Image Analysis - Status of Naval Shipbuilding and Construction Facilities of the Chinese Navy" was held on November 18, 2021, with Retired Vice Admiral Tokuhiko Ikeda, former Kure District Commander of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

on topics regarding the Indian Ocean and Pacific Island countries, which occupy important geopolitical positions, and garnered great enthusiasm from the countries concerned.

Through our "Japan-India-Russia Trilateral Strategic Dialogue" project, we conducted Track 2-level strategic discussions among representatives of each country, including India, which historically has had good relations with Russia, to examine appropriate diplomatic approaches with Russia going forward. We also took this opportunity to explore the possibility of cooperation among the three countries. While we had been discussing ways to involve Russia in the security framework of the Indo-Pacific region, in the meeting held immediately after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we limited our activity to listening to Russian experts' positions followed by comments from Japanese and Indian counterparts.

With the program's "Study on Nuclear Safeguards and Security" project, we seek to highlight the potential for Japan, as a country equipped with advanced expertise in nuclear technology, to exercise global leadership in advancing nuclear nonproliferation. Specifically, we examined nuclear safeguard measures, important tools for improving the international security environment, and explored ideas for new international codes to complement these safeguards and further promote nuclear nonproliferation. Grounded in our goals for achieving nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear security, our discussions this fiscal year focused on drafting recommendations to improve the effectiveness of such safeguards and enhance security.

Emerging Security Domains

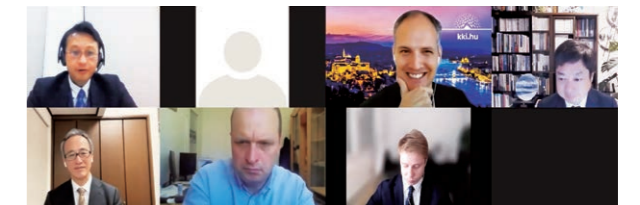
As part of the program's "Enhancing National Cyber Security" project, we considered the policies Japan should implement to prepare countermeasures against disinformation attacks, especially those originating in foreign countries, and synthesized the results of our discussions into a policy proposal entitled "Prepare for Foreign Disinformation Campaigns! The Threat Posed by Information Manipulation in the Cyberspace Sphere." Additionally, the Research Group on Disinformation in the Indo-Pacific Region conducted analyses on disinformation manipulations tailored to its target region, held discussions about related security issues grounded in awareness of regional characteristics, and compiled a paper on the subject. We also held four "Cybersecurity Seminars" on timely themes such as "Prospects and Challenges of International Cyber Law," "Threats Ransomware Pose to Japanese Companies," and "Expectations for New Cyber Security Strategies," which featured experts including members of the Study Group. [Refer to pages 8-9 for more detail].

Under the "Deterrence in the New Domains" project, our team engaged in lively dialogue about the titular topic, including deterrence in cyberspace. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia during the implementation of this project presented a historic opportunity to gain important insights into the nature of deterrence in these new domains.

In the "Japan's Defense Diplomacy" project, we summarized the results of our research to date and published it as a book titled *What is Defense Diplomacy? The Role of Military Power in Peace Time*. We also released a policy proposal to the Japanese government entitled "Strengthening Japan's Defense Diplomacy" (in Japanese and English). Up to this point, the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense Forces had not generally been considered diplomatic actors. However, our program introduced the new concept of "defense diplomacy" and helped improve public recognition and understanding of the activities of those institutions in diplomatic spheres.

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

In the "International Conference: Securing Indo-Pacific - Expanding Cooperation Between Asia and Europe" project, we continued hosting online seminars and expert meetings to discuss the state of global security, particularly from the perspectives of Asia and Europe, and share these insights with the public.



Co-hosted a webinar with the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), a Hungarian think tank, on "Ukraine Crisis and International Prospects: Perspectives from Japan, Perspectives from Europe" (March 11, 2022) featuring Dr. Márton Ugródy (IFAT Director), Dr. Peter Stepper (Director of the Euroatlantic Program at IFAT), Dr. Ken Jimbo (Professor, Keio University), and others.

The "Future Fellowship for Okinawa II" project offered training for young leaders in Okinawa Prefecture with the aim of deepening their understanding of security issues. As the culmination of this session, we held a public symposium entitled "Tension in the Taiwan Strait and Japan's Security" in Naha City on March 5, 2022. Retired Admiral Katsutoshi Kawano (former Joint Chief of Staff), Ryo Sahashi (Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo), and five other experts took the stage to inform the audience about the security environment in the region, including the Taiwan Strait, the geopolitical value of Okinawa, as well as the implications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the Indo-Pacific region. This symposium was attended by 81 participants and was featured in various media outlets in Okinawa Prefecture.

After taking the devastating impacts of the spread of COVID-19 into consideration, all activities planned through the "Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries III" project were again canceled this fiscal year. These included an exchange between Vietnamese Armed Forces personnel and high-level Japanese Self-Defense Force officers, and another between retired defense officials in Japan and South Korea.

Sharing Insights and Other Initiatives

Through the “Information Provision of International Situation and Security II” project, we analyzed security



Although all events planned through the “Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries III” were cancelled, in November 2021, Yohei Sasakawa (Honorary Chair, SPF) and Junko Chano (Executive Director, SPF) met with the Vietnamese Undersecretary of Defense to confirm that the continuation of the aforementioned project would contribute to regional peace and stability and reaffirm the project would be resumed promptly after COVID-19 measures are lifted.

issues around the world and published 114 articles in Japanese and English on our satellite site “International Information Network Analysis (IINA).”



The 3rd SPF Security Seminar “Taiwan Contingency and Japan’s Response” was held (July 5, 2021) to coincide with the publication of an article by Susumu Nakamura (Senior Visiting Fellow, SPF) entitled “The Taiwan Crisis and Japan-U.S. Response.” Additional speakers included Dr. Yasuhiro Matsuda (Professor, University of Tokyo), Jun Nagashima (Adjunct Lecturer, National Defense Academy), Tsuneo Watanabe (Senior Fellow, SPF), and Noboru Yamaguchi (Senior Visiting Fellow, SPF).

Pacific Island Nations Program

Ever since the establishment of the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund in 1989, this program has worked to contribute to the stability of the Pacific region and prosperity of its island nations through exchanges, capacity development, and related initiatives. In recent years, the program has focused heavily on supporting the Micronesia region, 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.

Although Pacific island nations such as Palau had remained free of COVID-19 infections throughout most of the pandemic, the virus finally reached them this last fiscal year. While travel and in-person activities were restricted, the program nonetheless cooperated with local organizations to continue carrying out our initiatives in Pacific island nations. Meanwhile, we also proactively worked to enhance understanding and interest in the Pacific islands by analyzing the region’s geopolitics, including historical background, and shared these insights throughout Japan.

Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region II

Since FY 2009, this program has been working to strengthen maritime security capabilities in the Micronesian region. In FY 2021, our project continued to provide 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. Unfortunately, we had to postpone our planned program to train Coast Guard officers in the Republic of Palau due to the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

Rebuilding Island Societies Through Sustainable Tourism

Since FY 2015, this program has been striving to help resolve the social and natural environment issues caused by the rapid growth of tourism in Palau while also achieving economic benefits. Our efforts have focused on the realization of an environmentally conscious tourism policy through environmental carrying capacity studies and a community-centered approach.

This fiscal year, this project partnered with local organizations CRIS Alliance and BCET to conduct workshops for residents in six states to help revitalize the tourism sector and communities that were devastated by the pandemic by revamping community-based ecotourism and expanding understanding of this approach among residents.

Strengthening the Genuine Partnership Between the Pacific Island Countries and Japan

In this project, we facilitate dialogue between government and public sector representatives in Japan and Pacific island countries to deepen strategic partnerships. As the 9th Pacific Islands Summit was held online in July 2021, in lieu of an in-person event to build interest, we focused on enhancing understanding and interest in Japan’s relations with Pacific island countries through SPF’s YouTube program “SPF UPDATE” and other vehicles. Throughout the year, we held separate discussions with relevant domestic and international organizations to exchange insights on the ever-changing regional situation.

Additional Initiatives

This fiscal year we continued our “Breaking News from the Pacific Islands*” feature, originally launched on SPF’s website in FY 2019, through which we publish updates and commentary on news concerning these nations to spread accurate understanding in Japan of the rapidly changing developments in the region.

* https://www.spf.org/pacific-islands/breaking_news/
Through “Breaking News from the Pacific Islands,” the program shares Japanese translations of selected articles provided by the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA)’s news digest “PACNEWS,” as well as commentary.

■ Sharing Information on Our Satellite Sites

International Information Network Analysis (IINA)



IINA (English)
<https://www.spf.org/iina/en/>

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 relevance to Japan. These are published as articles organized by major regions of the world and by topic, such as cyber and space.

SPF China Observer



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

Through the “SPF China Observer,” Japanese experts on China regularly offer insights drawn from observational studies in their respective fields of specialization. We also host online forums and share video recordings as well.

■ Publication of Policy Recommendations, Reports, and Books

We compile the results of our research and studies into policy recommendations, reports, and books, extending our influence to help realize better policies.

【Policy Recommendations】



“Prepare for Foreign Disinformation Attacks! The Threat Posed by Information Manipulation in the Cyberspace Sphere” (February 2022)
“Strengthening Japan’s Defense Diplomacy” (October 2021)

【Reports】



“Challenges for Joint Japan-U.S. Responses to Cyberattack-Triggered Crises in Taiwan” (April 2022)
“Emergency Preparedness Shortcomings in Japan: A Legislative Review of Japan’s COVID-19 Response” (March 2022)
“Trustworthiness of Nuclear Energy Questioned: 10 Years After the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Accident” (September 2021)

【Books】



Taiwan Contingency Scenarios, edited by Satoshi Morimoto and Bonji Ohara, (January 2022, Minerva Publishing)
What is Defense Diplomacy? The Role of Military Power in Peace Time, edited by Tsuneo Watanabe and Ippeita Nishida, (October 2021, Keiso Shobo).



Hideyuki Shiozawa (Senior Program Officer, SPF) provided an overview of SPF’s involvement with the Pacific Islands Summit, the historical background of the conference, and highlights of the 9th Summit on the foundation’s YouTube program “SPF UPDATE.”

Asia Peace Initiatives Program

Expanding Japan's presence in Asia

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen) *	Year
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● Asia Peace Initiatives Program

Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of Northeast India	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	13,032,870	3/3
Building Migration Resource Platform for Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,970,228	3/3
Toward Constructive Journalism in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	10,639,847	3/3
Imphal Peace Museum Project II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,551,918	2/2
Women and Peacebuilding	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	40,555,716	2/3
Engaging Northeast India in ActEast	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	26,671,712	2/3
Enhancing Responsible Business Conduct	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	15,321,355	2/3
Toward Disengagement from Violence in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	15,485,263	1/3
Women Political Participation in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	11,330,516	1/3
Promoting Men's New Roles Phase II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,388,908	1/3
Dialogue and Resonance in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	27,023,352	1/3

● Gender Investment and Innovation Program

Gender Lens Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (GLEE) Development in Southeast Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	18,183,124	2/3
Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF) Implementation Project	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	28,962,424	1/3
Digitization of Micro Women-led Business in Rural Myanmar	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	3,655,676	1/3
Building an Entrepreneurial Support System with Gender Lens	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	28,334,549	1/3

● Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program

Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	215,069	4/5
Website for Dissemination of Information Phase III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,000,000	3/5
Exchange Project for Japan-China Experts in Traditional Arts and Crafts	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,274,408	3/3
Invitation Program for Chinese Opinion Leader	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,685,172	2/3
Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,057,940	2/3
A Review of the 50 Years of the Japan-China Relations (1972-2022) and a Future Perspective	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	3,773,600	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.

With its main focus on Southeast and South Asia, this program strives to highlight the region's common history and vibrant diversity while helping to advance inclusive societies that value and incorporate the experiences and needs of their most marginalized communities, minorities, and vulnerable populations. We center our work around three main pillars: empowering vulnerable populations, respecting human dignity, and championing diverse societies in Japan and abroad; building and strengthening equal partnerships rooted in mutual understanding and trust; and supporting peacebuilding efforts.

Due to the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we proceeded as in the last fiscal year with modified operations, canceling some exchange and dispatch projects, shifting in-person events to online formats, as well as adjusting and reworking our projects.

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

This fiscal year we continued our project focused on India's ethnically diverse northeastern region, "Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of Northeast India," to promote mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence among its communities. We also collaborated further with local publishers to produce works penned from the perspectives of women and minorities, including two collections of selected works and four editorial projects, and held photo exhibitions and events to commemorate such publications. Additionally, we hosted educational online workshops on research methods to help nurture the future generation of young and mid-career researchers.

Through the Northeast India AV Archive established in October 2019 in Shillong, Meghalaya, the program conducted training in film restoration, conservation, and digitization to select researchers from each state. We also helped digitize films and photographs provided by organizations and individuals, and worked to document and record local oral histories.

Through the "Imphal Peace Museum Project II," we made headway editing 165 interviews we conducted over the last two years with survivors of the fighting. When finished, we will publicize these oral histories as video recordings. We also continued work to publish an English translation of *The Imphal Operation: The Defense of Burma* from the Japanese WWII war records.

Given the severe damage to the region inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic, SPF in collaboration with The Nippon Foundation added to the project's originally planned activities, taking advantage of the museum's administrative organization to provide oxygen concentrators and pulse oximeters for the local community.

Though a geopolitically important node connecting South and Southeast Asia, Northeast India has a complex past and bears sources of strife that have divided its communities and led to conflict.

The "Engaging Northeast India in Act East" project



The Imphal Peace Museum opened on June 22, 2019, in Manipur, India, with financial assistance provided by The Nippon Foundation.

seeks to explore possibilities and methods for developing new businesses which respect the local culture and environment while also nurturing leaders in these fields. We furthermore strive to create employment opportunities for young people and women, strengthen cooperation between leaders and stakeholders in the northeast region, and present new models for encouraging the restoration of self-dignity through agricultural and entrepreneurial pursuits as part of bottom-up community development. In 2021, the program conducted training for young and women micro entrepreneurs (50 companies in 4 states), supported agricultural workers' organizing initiatives (2,200 farmers in 7 states), and helped construct a network of entrepreneurs through branding and marketing. Additionally, we began a new partnership with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), conducting online lectures on business management to prospective female entrepreneurs and facilitating on-site technical support provided by SEWA staff.

The program's "Enhancing Responsible Business Conduct in Asia" project aims to promote responsible corporate behavior by Japanese companies, mainly in South and Southeast Asia. One key aspect in this work is the establishment of an effective and accessible grievance mechanism that emphasizes the importance of dialogue, through which we aim to help provide relief to victims of human rights violations. We first focused on creating this type of mechanism at the industry level by supporting the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA)'s related efforts and hosted a conference among experts in constructing such systems. We expect to integrate the results of these activities into

“The Business and Human Rights Dialogue Redress Mechanism,” a comprehensive collective grievance apparatus to be presented next year.

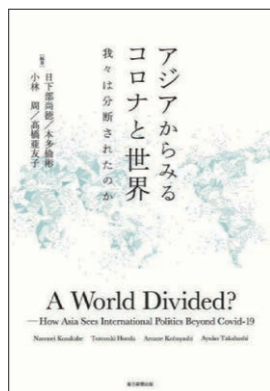


Panel discussion from the “Engagement and Remedy Forum 2022 for Responsible Business Conduct” webinar, centered on the achievements of grievance mechanisms and obstacles to their implementation in society (February 28, 2022). [Clockwise from top] Akiko Sato (Human Rights Now, Deputy Secretary General, Attorney), Surya Deva (former Member of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights), Toshio Shikata (LQRA Sustainability), Daisuke Takahashi (Business and Human Rights Lawyers Network Japan, Attorney), Dr. Akihiro Ueda (SPF Program Officer).

The “Building Migration Resource Platform for Asia” project aims to promote safety throughout the migration process for countries of origin, host countries, and migrants themselves. To do so, we publish articles via the dedicated website BEBESEA (<https://bebeSEA.org/>), which provides a platform for sharing news and information related to international migration issues and initiatives. The program also conducted discussions and workshops featuring migrants, among other participants, to delve into topics such as health care, equitable recruitment fees, and immigrant safety and support systems. We then utilized insights drawn from these activities to prepare research reports and proposals.

Building and Strengthening Equal Partnerships Rooted in Mutual Understanding and Trust

Amidst the increasingly severe effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the “Dialogue and Resonance in Japan” project worked to strengthen knowledge-sharing networks between Japan and Asia where participant nations can collaborate on common issues by supporting discussions, exchanges, and research projects. We have also continued the study group initiative begun last fiscal year, “Reimagining Asia and the World from COVID-19 Responses,” through which we published analyses and research papers written mainly by young and mid-career Japanese professionals who specialize in international politics and regional studies. Furthermore, we analyzed and verified issues discussed in the study group to examine the pandemic from an Asian perspective, publishing our findings into a book entitled, *A World Divided? How Asia Sees International Politics Beyond Covid-19*.



A World Divided? How Asia Sees International Politics Beyond Covid-19 by Naonori Kusakabe and Ayuko Takahashi et al. (Mainichi Shimbun, May 2022).

This program also endeavors to help cultivate gender-equal societies in Japan and Asia through our “Research and Study on Men and Masculinities” project, which critically analyzes and compares traditional expressions of masculinity in these cultures that can impede achievement of this goal. Based on our research, we aim to propose international policies and programs to help overcome the obstacles posed by such expressions of masculinity. In FY 2021, we hosted four study sessions to examine proposals based on our findings, analyzed data from surveys taken in FY 2020 of men in Europe and the U.S., and translated our “Report for the Study on Creating New Roles for Men in Gender Equality” into Korean and Chinese. Furthermore, we held events to publicize our portal website for men, “Otokokoro Net.”



“The Future of Men’s Counseling - Possibilities for Healing and Coexistence” webinar (June 25, 2021).

Supporting Peacebuilding

Our program shines a spotlight on the important roles of women in conflict areas through our “Women and Peacebuilding” project, sharing relevant information and experiences to help them play even bigger parts in conflict resolution. In 2021, we centered our activities around three main pillars to help promote in both theory and practice the goals determined by the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda, established based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), which recognized the valuable contributions of women in the fields of conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The first pillar concentrated on the theoretical aspects of the WPS Agenda goals. In collaboration with Conciliation Resources (U.K.), InteGral, and the Georgetown Institute of Women, Peace, and Security (GIWPS), we designed quantitative and qualitative research to study the correlation between gender equality and peacebuilding, as well as expressions of masculinity and vulnerability to violence.

For the second pillar, which focused on more practical aspects, we collaborated with the Southeast Asian Women Peacebuilders Network (SEAWP) to fortify platforms serving women peace activists in Southeast Asia in order to enhance lateral collaboration among activists across Asia. We held webinars covering topics such as the impacts of political upheaval in Afghanistan on Southeast Asia, violent extremism, and misogyny; invited women activists to host online lectures; and

produced videos, podcasts, and shared other educational materials.

As part of the final pillar of our strategy, which is geared toward supporting women-led grassroots movements, we conducted leadership training for women activists including those in Thailand’s Deep South, who have continued their activities within the constraints of traditional Malay-Muslim societies. Participants also included women activists from diverse ethnic backgrounds in Myanmar, where conflicts between the military and civilians have become increasingly severe since the coup d’état. In addition, we supported the efforts of women in Bangkok and Thailand’s Deep South who are researching the Tak Bai incident of 2004*.

* The Tak Bai Incident refers to the mass casualties incurred near a police department in Narathiwat Province in October 2004 when the police and military forcefully repressed protesters, many of whom were crushed to death in trucks during transportation.



A leadership development training session conducted for women in Thailand’s Deep South.

Our “Toward Disengagement from Violence in Asia” project aims to develop, implement, and share with experts around the world a de-radicalization program that takes into account the diverse contexts of each unique region and incorporates the latest developments in psychological research. In FY 2021, this project focused on Indonesia and Bangladesh.

In Indonesia, we worked with the Habibie Center and consulted with psychologists to develop a pilot program for the unique situation of Poso, Central Sulawesi.

In Bangladesh, we compiled a proposal for another such project based on the results of our comprehensive survey of de-radicalization efforts funded by the UN and other major donors in the region. To craft this proposal, made possible by our partnership with Dhaka University and with the cooperation of local police, we analyzed the socio-economic and educational backgrounds as well as psychological health of 103 leftist activists, ethnic separatists, and Islamist extremists who had served prison sentences.

We furthermore held 14 research sessions with Japanese experts, and engaged in dialogue with experts from Indonesia, Germany, and other countries.

Through our “Women Political Participation in Asia” project, the program worked with Malaysian women’s

empowerment organization Wanita Berdaya Selangor (WBS) to co-organize virtual workshops for women in Southeast Asia who seek to enter politics. From about 100 participants, 30 were selected to participate in a training program held in Malaysia from January 28-30, 2022.

While the training program scheduled to take place in Japan was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we organized webinars featuring politicians from Taiwan and the Republic of Korea, conducted online fact-finding surveys, and produced educational training videos.

The “Toward Constructive Journalism in Asia” project aims to construct and strengthen media networks among countries in Southeast Asia as well as those connecting the region with Japan to promote increased coverage of regional and inclusive perspectives and facilitate the resolution of shared challenges.

In FY 2021, we created an online space for dialogue between the editors-in-chief of 10 media companies from the region, held a webinar titled “One Year from the Myanmar Military Coup and Three Months before the Philippines’ Presidential Election: The Situation Facing the Media in Southeast Asia” (January 28, 2022), and provided small grants to facilitate joint coverage between media companies from two or more countries, resulting in nine joint reports.



Burmese journalist Aung Zaw (Founder and Editor in Chief, The Irrawaddy) speaks about the current situation in Myanmar during an online event titled “One Year from the Myanmar Military Coup and Three Months before the Philippines’ Presidential Election: The Situation Facing the Media in Southeast Asia.”

Gender Investment and Innovation Program

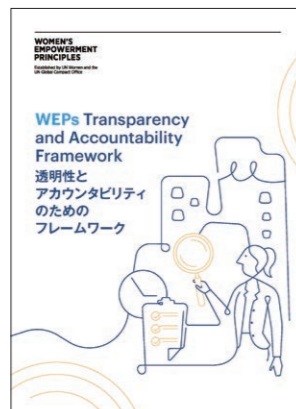
This program is devoted to paving the way for a society where women in Asia can enjoy the agency to fulfill their potential, a future we strive to achieve by supporting their economic empowerment and gender equality. Initiatives we conducted this fiscal year include the “Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF) Implementation Project,” which aimed to advance the work of AWIF, as well as two projects geared toward promoting women’s economic empowerment through entrepreneurial activities: the “Building an Entrepreneurial Support System with a Gender Lens” project, and the “Gender Lens Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (GLEE) Development in Southeast Asia” project.

Promoting Gender Lens Investing in Asia

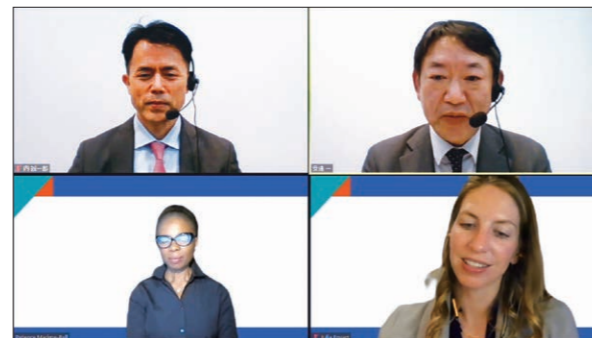
In 2017, SPF established the Asia Women’s Impact Fund (AWIF), the first gender-focused impact fund created by a private foundation in Asia. Our “Asia Women Impact Fund Implementation Project” aims to facilitate the smooth operation of AWIF so that the fund can generate financial returns alongside impact to contribute to achieving gender equality. In FY 2021, based on the mid- to long-term investment plan redefined in the previous year, we executed the third investment, made a decision on the fourth investment, and finalized the extension of the second investment fund life, with a higher target dividend. We also conducted a series of in-depth interviews with impact investors on impact measurement and management frameworks to learn about the different approaches that they use in measuring and efficiently managing the social impacts that they respectively create. Through this research, we have gained valuable insights and created our own AWIF impact measurement and management framework.

Additionally, our program hosted a webinar entitled “International Trends and Future Prospects of Gender Lens-related Information Disclosure.” In the seminar, leading experts were invited to give insights on the information disclosure in line with the UN Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs). At that webinar, we launched the Japanese version of the “WEPs Transparency and Accountability Framework,” which provides practical guidance for companies on gender-related information disclosure. We also conducted research and published a brief overview of “Trends in Gender Equality in the Business Sector in Asian Countries” (March 2022). Furthermore, our team has continued to advance gender equality by sharing knowledge and research on gender lens investing at conferences in Asia and around the world. [Related information on pages 6-7].

“WEPs Transparency and Accountability Framework” (January 2022).



Ayaka Matsuno (Director of the Gender Investment and Innovation Program, SPF) moderated the session with panelists Junko Yoda (Advisory Board Member, SWEET Capital) and Kaoru Kobu (Head of Japan Equity Management, Invesco Asset Management).



SPF hosted a breakout session “Gender Lens Investing to Achieve Gender Equality: Expansion and Possibilities in the Public Markets” at the Impact Investment Forum 2021 organized by the GSG National Advisory Board (September 28, 2021). [Clockwise from top right: Itsu Adachi (Executive Director, SPF), Julia Enyart (Vice President, Glenmead Investment Management), Patience Marime-Ball (CEO, Women of the World Endowment), Seichiro Uchi (General Manager, Investment Strategy Dept, Invesco Asset Management).

Economically Empowering Women Through Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is a vital tool through which women in Southeast Asia can economically empower themselves, develop their livelihood for themselves and their families, and secure decent working conditions. This program works hand-in-hand with our partners in Southeast Asia to support women business owners and other entrepreneurs whose work helps to improve women’s lives, with assistance in areas such as growing their businesses or resolving funding challenges.

In the “Building an Entrepreneurial Support System with Gender Lens” project, we are committed to providing small but promising companies in Myanmar with entrepreneurship support programs provided with a gender lens. We incorporate perspectives of investors

from the start into the program, thereby providing an effective acceleration program for entrepreneurs to grow and become investment ready, while working closely with entrepreneurs and investors to connect to one another.

After the coup in February 2021, many of the entrepreneurship support organizations (ESOs) in Myanmar could not sustain their operation and were forced to withdraw from the country. Under this challenging situation, we continued our efforts to support entrepreneurs and foster talented individuals who can grow their impactful businesses in a sustainable manner. We designed an accelerator program to provide a level playing field for both female and male entrepreneurs so that we can help realize a highly inclusive and equitable society in Myanmar. Twenty entrepreneurs joined the program as the first cohort and received hands-on capacity building training in business skills and other tailored assistance, as well as peer support. Our “SanThit Accelerator Program,” has become a model program, which was called for opportunities in other countries in Southeast Asia, such as Cambodia. Under the current situation in the country, we made sure that we worked very closely with our local implementation partners to manage any risk for the participating entrepreneurs and the project.

Our “Gender Lens Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (GLEE) Development in Southeast Asia” project strives to help organizations and investors that support women entrepreneurs in Southeast Asia understand the real-life circumstances and challenges these businesswomen face, as well as the specific support they need, and implement measures to make it easier for women entrepreneurs to access the resources necessary for their businesses. In FY 2021, we continued such initiatives through ESOs for women entrepreneurs in Asia.

The heart of the project is the Gender Lens Incubation Acceleration (GLIA) Toolkit, a set of online resources released in February 2020, which SPF developed in collaboration with the Frontier Incubators program of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. With this toolkit, ESOs can apply a gender lens to their organization, program, and ecosystem to provide support fit for the needs of women entrepreneurs. Since the GLIA website was renewed in March 2022, the toolkit has been even more widely shared, providing opportunities for GLIA practitioners to share the lessons they’ve learned and creating a space for mutual learning among GLIA

practitioners.

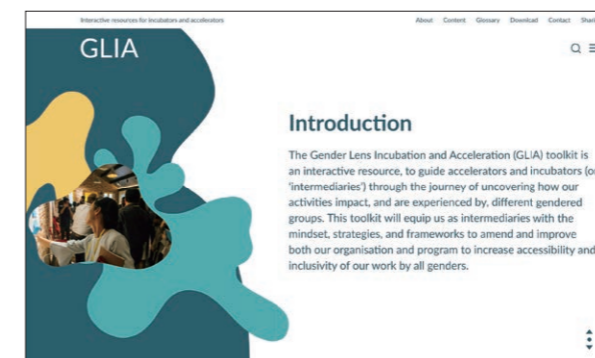
To expand the GLIA foundational community of practitioners, our program trained the core ESO in the Philippines to serve as a training leader. This core ESO then provided Training of Trainers (TOTs) to five other local organizations to help them localize the GLIA toolkit and strengthen their gender-inclusive policies.

Our “Digitization of Micro Women Entrepreneurs in Rural Myanmar” project was cancelled due to the political situation in Myanmar. The project was originally developed to promote economic empowerment of micro women entrepreneurs through the use of digital financial services and training to build digital literacy among rural women in Myanmar. After careful examination of the current country situation, we concluded that it is not conducive to implementing the project, and we decided to discontinue it.

Information Sharing

We intensified our effort in raising awareness of the issues that we address and sharing information regarding our program’s activities. We revamped the Japanese-language section of our website to include a series of articles to shed light on our initiatives. The articles featured the voices of our partners and beneficiaries to share their views and the value they found in our initiatives.

We will continue to deepen our partnerships with existing partners to implement projects effectively and to provide support that matches the needs of the target groups.



The new GLIA website (<http://gliatoolkit.com/>).

Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program

The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program builds upon its foundations as one of the largest private funds bridging Japan and China, originally established in 1989. Since its inception, the fund-turned-program has followed the philosophy of “promoting understanding, nurturing talent, and furthering cooperation to shape the future,” and has continuously worked to promote greater understanding between the peoples of Japan and China and facilitate fertile grounds for constructive cooperation. Our initiatives are currently centered on three pillars: organizing opportunities for exchanges and discussions between the peoples of Japan and China, sharing information and cultivating an environment conducive to increasing mutual understanding, and exchanging experiences and collaborating together to nurture socioeconomic development in both countries.

Over the years, the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program has conducted exchange programs for Japanese and Chinese personnel with promising futures as active stakeholders in various fields in an effort to deepen understanding between the peoples of our two countries. As in the previous fiscal year, however, the obstacles posed by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic made it challenging to conduct our programs in-person. We therefore exerted every effort to smoothly shift planned exchanges and dialogues online, and through these maintain and expand networks between Japan and China.

People-to-People Exchanges and Dialogues

The “Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program” was established with the aim of promoting mutual understanding between defense officials of the two countries and fostering trust-based relationships in the security field. Originally begun in 2001, the program was suspended from 2012 to 2017 due to the deterioration of Japan-China relations, but then resumed operation in 2018. Due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, we had to cancel the program inviting Chinese People’s Liberation Army officers to visit Japan as well as the program through which the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces toured areas in China. Nevertheless, we maintained open channels of communication between Japan’s Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces, China’s Ministry of National Defense, and the China Institute for International Strategic Studies in hopes of resuming these activities as soon as possible after the worst of the pandemic has passed.

In October 2021, we hosted the first-ever “Japan-China Defense Officials Virtual Conference.” The session was attended in Japan by 14 officers of the Self-Defense Forces, in China by 14 officers of the People’s Liberation Army, as well as stakeholders in both countries for a grand total of more than 40 participants.

The “Exchange Project for Japanese and Chinese Experts in Traditional Arts and Crafts” facilitates visits between our two countries for leaders of these cultural legacies to foster mutual understanding, facilitate cultural exchange between Japan and China, and contribute to the promotion of the traditional arts and crafts industries of both countries. Unfortunately, travel restrictions forced us to cancel in-person exchanges for this project as well.

Under these circumstances, our program collaborated with the Japan Kōgei Association, the Shanghai Eon Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Foundation, and the Kyoto Culture Association (NPO) to create a book (in both Chinese and



“Japan-China Defense Officials Virtual Conference” with the China Institute for International Strategic Studies (October 29, 2021).

Japanese) introducing Preservers of Important Intangible Cultural Properties, otherwise known as Living National Treasures, unparalleled masters of traditional Japanese arts. We also continued work on a Chinese-language guidebook introducing representative examples of traditional Japanese artisanry. These two books are scheduled to be published in China in 2022 to coincide with the events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Japan and China.

Providing Educational Resources and Cultivating Favorable Conditions for Deepening Mutual Understanding

As part of our efforts to promote mutual understanding between the peoples of Japan and China, the program implemented the following initiatives aimed at creating a media environment which supports the publishing of objective information in both countries.

Our “Invitation Program for Chinese Opinion Leaders” project was designed to enhance mutual understanding between China and Japan by inviting influential Chinese opinion leaders in various fields to meet with Japanese intellectuals and media representatives, thereby facilitating a

forum for high-quality intellectual exchange.

Due to the obstacles the pandemic posed to achieving these original goals, in FY 2021 we focused on shifting these exchange activities to online formats. On September 29, 2021, we invited Dr. Wang Jisi, a Chinese expert in international relations and Founding President of the Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Peking University, to hold an online seminar entitled China: Assessment of International Situation and Foreign Policy.

We also organized a seminar series on the Chinese economy, a topic of great interest in Japan, in cooperation with the U.S.-China New Perspectives Foundation in China. The three seminars featured speakers such as Xu Sitao (Chief Economist, Deloitte China), Jia Kang (President, China Academy of New Supply-Side Economics), and Wu Xiaoying (Professor, National School of Economics, Peking University) who discussed the outlook for the Chinese economy from a variety of perspectives. Mr. Toshiya Tsugami, Visiting Fellow of the Japan Institute of International Affairs, served as moderator.



The 2nd China Economic Seminar “Developments in the Real Estate Industry and the Chinese Economy” held on January 20, 2022. [Clockwise from top left] Jia Kang (President, China Academy of New Supply-Side Economics), Toshiya Tsugami (Visiting Fellow, Japan Institute of International Affairs), and Zhou Zhixing (Chairman, U.S.-China New Perspective Foundation).

In the “Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application II” project, our goal is to share information that will help promote understanding of Japan among mobile users in China and other parts of the Greater China region. Through our SPF account “yī lǎn fǎ sāng” on the Chinese social media platform WeChat, we post Chinese-language articles written by Chinese writers living in Japan that provide insights into Japanese history, society, and culture.

Through our “Website for Dissemination of Information Phase III” project, we utilized the dedicated SPF page on the Chinese-language website People’s Daily Online to share articles explaining China-focused activities undertaken by SPF, The Nippon Foundation, and other related organizations. We also shared information about unique projects and



events conducted by related organizations in Japan, as well as interviews of individuals who have contributed to exchange programs between China and Japan.



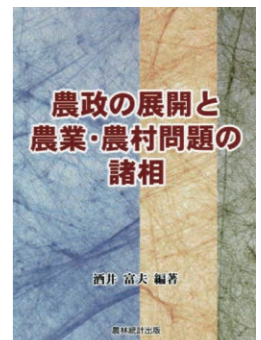
In preparation for the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China in 2022, our project “A Review of the 50 Years of Japan-China Relations (1972-2022) and Future Perspectives” established a study group of experts from both countries to assemble a review of the history since this important milestone. This study group has started a project researching means to cultivate better futures for both countries and has begun compiling their results into a research paper.

Sharing Experiences and Combining Efforts for Socio-economic Development

SPF was planning to launch a project to explore cooperative strategies to resolve common challenges faced by both Japanese and Chinese societies such as the environment, aging populations, social security, and rural economic development, by sharing our insights and experiences in these fields. While we had to postpone its launch due to COVID-19, we continued foundational work to prepare for the project’s resumption once travel and exchanges are once again possible post-pandemic. We focused on building relationships with local governments in China and collaborators in Japan and China, as well as collecting basic information on potential sites for implementation. We also touched base with stakeholders through our research to understand the situations on the ground and identify issues requiring attention.

Additionally, we published a Japanese translation of the book *The Development of Agricultural Policy and Aspects of Agricultural and Rural Issues*, which was originally released in China in 2019. This book was based on research conducted through the “Japan-China Joint Research and Publication for Resolving Common Challenges” project (FY 2016-2018) and summarizes Japan’s experience with agricultural policy and rural issues.

The Development of Agricultural Policy and Aspects of Agricultural and Rural Issues, edited by Tomio Sakai (Norin Statistics Publishing, December 2021).



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

Women's Empowerment in Iran and Japan	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,186,939	3/3
Human Exchanges Between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,874,025	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

The Middle East and Islam Program strives to deepen mutual understanding between Islamic countries in the Middle East and Japan in political, economic, social, and other fields; cultivate and bring talented Middle Eastern researchers together in a global network; and promote better understanding of Islam. In FY 2021, we continued implementing the “Women’s Empowerment in Iran and Japan” project to foster collaborations conducive to promoting social development and global peace while aiming to resolve global issues. Additionally, we kept working on the “Human Exchanges Between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries” project to build and strengthen equal partnerships rooted in mutual understanding and trust.

As with the previous fiscal year, we continued with significant restrictions on travel and in-person events. However, we adapted to the situation and carried out the following projects by changing plans and devising adjustments, such as canceling projects involving international trips and bringing events online.

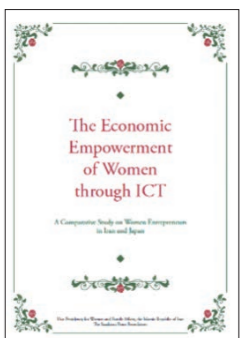
Collaborations Conducive to Promoting Social Development and Global Peace While Contributing to Resolving Global Issues

Through the “Women’s Empowerment in Iran and Japan” project, SPF conducts research and shares our insights in the field of women’s empowerment in an effort to help women in Iran to achieve the full potential power they have to contribute to their economy. Our efforts are also aimed at encouraging the realization of a socially and economically equal and fair society and to assist in building bridges between the international community and Iran.

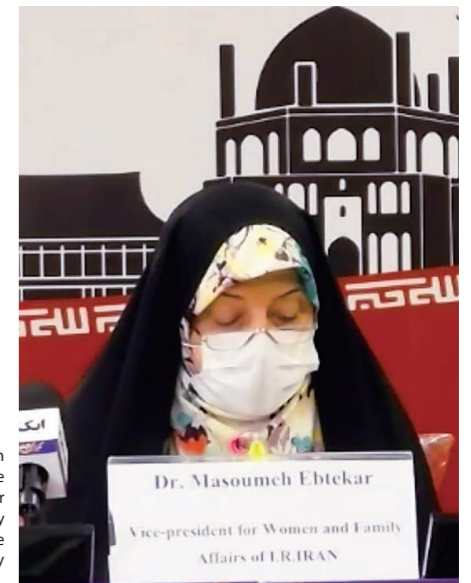
In FY 2021, we compiled an English report covering the results of our joint research on women’s economic empowerment aided by information and communication technology (ICT), a study which we conducted in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs of Iran. In March 2022, the Japanese experts who participated in the joint research and the Middle East experts in Japan held an online meeting to discuss and share the results of their research and challenges related to the ICT approach. These events also provided a platform to examine the unique social and economic circumstances affecting women in Iran through comparison with other Middle Eastern countries.

Additionally, in July 2021, SPF and the Iranian Vice-President’s Office held a workshop entitled “COVID-19 and the Development of Digital Marketing: Policies and Practices with the Focus on Women Entrepreneurs in Iran and Japan.” About 20 participants, including then Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Masumeh Ebtekar, officials from the Vice President’s Office and the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and experts from Japan and Iran discussed the impact of COVID-19 on women in the workforce. Through the workshop, we learned that the Vice President’s Office, in cooperation with other ministries and the private sector, is working to help women entrepreneurs expand their use of digital marketing to counter the negative effects they experienced due to COVID-19.

With the change of administration in Iran, a new Vice President was inaugurated in September 2021. We are currently in discussions with the new Vice President’s office regarding future approaches to our joint projects.



Report: The Economic Empowerment of Women through ICT



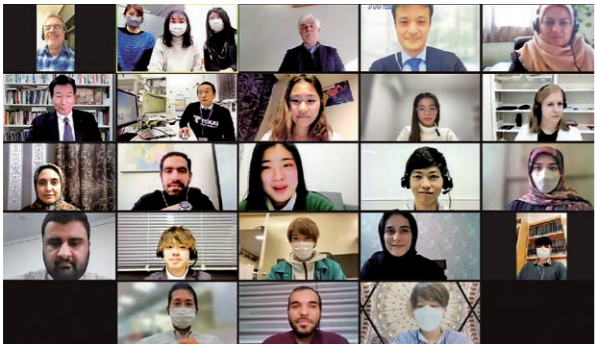
H.E. Dr. Masumeh Ebtekar, then Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, from the workshop on July 5, 2021.

Developing and Enhancing Partnership Rooted in Mutual Understanding and Trust

Since FY 2009, SPF has been conducting people-to-people exchanges with Middle Eastern countries, expanding its people-to-people networks, and building trusting relationships, particularly with Iran. The “Human Exchanges between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries” project aims to deepen multilateral understanding of the turbulent Middle East region by offering lectures and webinars as well as inviting aspiring youth and experts from Middle Eastern countries to Japan. The project also aims to contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding and multilayered exchanges between Japan and the Middle East.

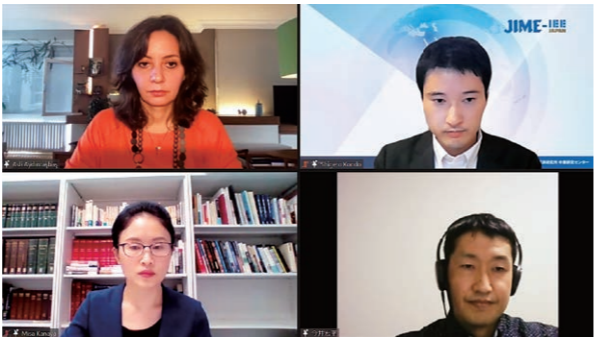
In FY 2021, all projects were conducted online, including a roundtable with the Iranian Institute for Political and International Studies and a youth exchange program with 10 diplomat candidates and faculty members from the School of International Relations (SIR), a graduate institution affiliated with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Specifically, the roundtable with the Institute for Political and International Studies in July 2021 focused on the theme of “Regional Affairs in East and West Asia,” and experts from the two countries discussed the situations in those areas in light of the conflict between the U.S. and China. In December 2021, our program invited Iranian diplomatic candidates to take part in a two-day joint presentation with Tokai University students. The presentation, aimed at promoting mutual understanding and exchange between the students of the two countries, centered on four themes: geopolitics, governance, economics, and culture and society.



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

Additionally, as an alternative to the usual invitations we extend to visit Japan, we arranged a series of three open webinars with Middle East experts living abroad, facilitating lively discussion between the guests and audience members, who were mainly from Japan. The webinar topics included “Turkey’s Neighborhood Diplomacy,” “Women’s Empowerment in Egypt,” and “The State, Islam, and Religious Minorities in Turkey.”

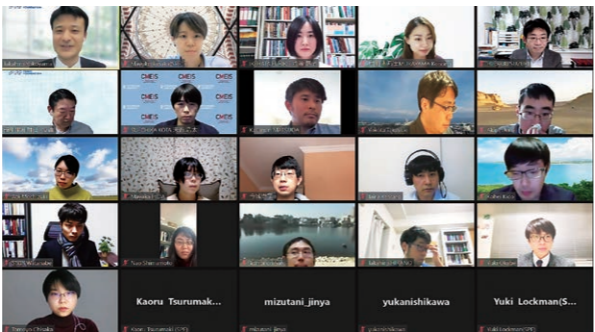


Webinar “Turkey’s Neighborhood Diplomacy: Moving to Ease Intra-regional Conflicts,” with the lecturer Asli Aydintasbas (Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations [top left]), and the panelists [clockwise from top right] Shigeto Kondo (Senior Fellow, Middle East Research Center, Institute of Energy Economics, Japan), Kohei Imai (Fellow, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan), and Misa Kanaya (Senior Fellow, Middle East Institute of Japan) (October 13, 2021).



Webinar “Women’s Empowerment in Egypt: Initiatives and Challenges” with Dr. Hania Sholkamy (Associate Professor, Social Research Center, American University in Cairo [left]) and Dr. Kazuaki Takemura (Associate Professor, Takachiho University) (March 16, 2022).

In addition, as part of our goal to foster talented researchers involved in the Middle East, we also established the Society for Early Career Researchers of Modern Middle Eastern Studies and provided young scholars with opportunities to exchange views and ideas.



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

Due to the impact of COVID-19, we have decided to postpone for one year the launch of the initiative set to succeed our “U.K.-Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East Phase II” project, which ended in FY 2020.



Establishing ocean governance

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

Division of Ocean Policy Planning and Management

Ocean Education Pioneer School Program	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	97,876,638	3/3
Public Relations for Ocean Science and Technology	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	10,263,793	1/3
Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	253,574,919	1/3
Public Relations for Ocean Policy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	75,784,628	1/3

Division of Ocean Policy Research

Establishment of Global Ocean Governance	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	38,137,541	3/3
Policy Research on Future Ocean	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	24,803,191	3/3
Innovative Research on Future Ocean	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	419,150	3/3
Collaboration Between Space and Maritime Domain in the Digital Age	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	13,013,402	2/2
Platform for a New Ocean Paradigm	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	17,485,659	3/4
Building Sustainable Ocean for the Future	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	77,190,928	1/3
Strengthening Ocean Policy Dialogues and Networks	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	7,724,786	1/3
Promotion on Ocean Digital Society	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	40,812,133	1/3
Study on Science for Policy in the Arctic	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	7,544,061	1/3
Action Research on Sustainable Blue Economy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	82,137,239	1/3
Innovative Development on Ocean Governance	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	40,125,199	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.

As a Think, Do, and Innovate-Tank, the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) is committed to using policy research approaches to assist in resolving the myriad marine challenges we face and help establish new ocean governance so that we may ensure future generations can inherit the ocean in their healthiest state. In FY 2021, OPRI has developed original ocean-related projects founded on the following three pillars: ❶ ocean information dissemination, ❷ ocean education and capacity building, and ❸ ocean governance. Furthermore, funding from The Nippon Foundation enabled us to carry out projects centered on the following six pillars: ❶ maritime domain awareness, ❷ the Blue Economy, ❸ ocean governance, ❹ ocean policy dialogue, ❺ sustainable marine environments, and ❻ sharing information and capacity building.

Independent Ocean-Related Projects

Sharing the Depths of Our Knowledge

Through the “Public Relations for Ocean Science and Technology” project, we strive to deepen understanding of the oceans among relevant stakeholders and the general public by sharing OPRI research results and information elucidating the various issues facing the oceans. This fiscal year, we published an English-language book featuring case studies related to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. As part of our explorations into the potential of utilizing existing content to share information, we adapted past lectures by winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics Syukuro Manabe, making use of lecture recordings, slides, and photos. We then made these materials available to the public, garnering more than 1,500 views.

OPRI also experimented with keeping the public informed of updates via Twitter during occasions such as the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26). Moreover, our program held three seminars on the theme of “Oceans Expo” with a view toward Expo 2025 Osaka.

Ocean Education and Capacity-Building

The “Ocean Education Pioneer School Program II” aims to cultivate knowledgeable teachers and experts who can contribute to improvement of ocean education at schools and to ocean conservation through citizen science. Through the project, we work to expand the scope and improve the quality of marine education in Japanese schools by developing tailored curricula and fostering experts throughout Japan. In FY 2021, our program provided over 80 million yen in grants to boards of education, local governments, and kindergarten, elementary, junior high, and high schools that are incorporating such innovative ocean education approaches. Our program reached a total of 222 schools in 38 prefectures, with support for regional expansion in 98 schools (9 prefectures, 10 municipalities) and unit development in 124 schools (38 prefectures). Additionally, we convened online meetings of the “Ocean Education Study Group” to share case studies, successes, and exchange opinions on marine education practices, as well as build a network for practitioners.

Ocean Governance

In the “Establishment of Global Ocean Governance” project, we incorporated the results of our “Innovative Research on Future Ocean” project and published a book entitled, *Climate Security: Global Warming and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific*, which presents approaches to the global problem of climate change through an ocean security lens.

Furthermore, we compiled the “FY 2021 Research Report on Legal Issues Concerning Unmanned Ships and COVID-19 Cruise Ships” and conducted foundational research that will contribute to studies in FY 2022 and beyond. We then hosted online symposiums based on these results, each of which garnered more than 2,000 views.



Publications: *Climate Security: Global Warming and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific*, edited by the Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and supervised by Hide Sakaguchi (Tokai Education Research Institute, September 2021) [left] and *Ocean Policy Studies* No. 16 (March 2022) [right].



Symposium “Unmanned Vessels under International Law: Object, Ships, or...?” held on November 12, 2021, featuring keynote speaker Atsuko Kanehara (Professor, Faculty of Law, Sophia University [lower left photo]), Shigeki Sakamoto (Professor Emeritus, Kobe University [lower right photo]), and other experts who participated in a panel discussion.



The SPF Journal of Island Studies Vol. 11, No. 1 (April 2021) and No. 2 (April 2022) (Naigai Publishing Co., Ltd.).

Grant-Funded Projects

OPRI holds that to sustainably utilize, conserve, and build an appropriate system to manage the oceans, we must undertake the following six tasks: ❶ understand the current state of the oceans (maritime domain awareness), ❷ discover new economic value in the oceans (Blue Economy), ❸ establish a system for ocean management (ocean governance), ❹ promote dialogue and consensus on ocean issues (ocean policy dialogue), ❺ approach marine environments from a global perspective (sustainable marine environments), and ❻ educate people and shape public opinion (sharing information and developing talent). Our grant-funded projects are designed to address these six pillars with a view to social implementation.

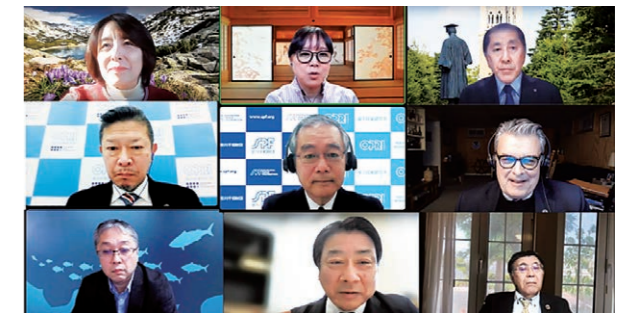
Maritime Domain Awareness

This pillar represents our goal to advance the digitalization of ocean activities and states, which is far behind the progress of measuring corresponding land phenomena, and to create a new system for monitoring ocean conditions through the sophisticated use of big data. Through our “Promotion on Ocean Digital Society” project, we explored prospects for sharing existing platforms located mostly within Japan’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and for collating gathered data. We also researched the latest remote sensing technologies and secure and open data management methods. Our team drew from these investigations to propose an observation system and data collection methods to improve our grasp of oceanographic conditions, then presented these results at the “Building Ocean Big Data for Making Marine Policy” Symposium.

Additionally, we gathered expert research members into a committee which met over three sessions to discuss the construction of a satellite VDES (VHF Data Exchange System)—a next-generation AIS (Automatic Identification System) that enables two-way data communication from all oceans—and establish international operation guidelines for the system. Our team then participated in the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities conference (IALA), where it was decided that OPRI’s recommendations for cooperative navigation, monitoring fisheries, and observing maritime conditions would be reflected in the international guidelines for the application of satellite VDES.

Furthermore, OPRI conducted text analysis to bring to light the policies of different marine stakeholders. Using the “White Paper on the Fisheries” and “White Paper on the Environment” as examples, we applied machine learning methods to extract topics of interest and map annual changes in such initiatives over the past 12 years.

In the “Collaboration between Space and Maritime Domain in the Digital Age” project, we decided to focus on the construction and promotion of wide-spread adoption of satellite VDES, then began the groundwork to establish a consortium led by the private sector to pursue these concrete strategies. Moreover, we utilized actual satellites and land/ship stations to verify the technical concept and develop future research.



Screenshot from the international symposium “Building Ocean Big Data for Making Marine Policy” held on February 24, 2022. More than 300 participants, including experts, shared cutting-edge information in this field.

Discovering New Economic Value in the Oceans

Projects conducted under the Blue Economy pillar are aimed at quantifying the positive and negative economic effects of marine industry promotion measures and tsunami disasters to achieve economic growth through the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.

In the “Action Research on Sustainable Blue Economy” project, we continued work toward the creation and trade of Blue Carbon credits not only for carbon sinks but also for initiatives that promote biodiversity and water purification. Through these efforts, we demonstrated the potential behind creating new value from regenerated algal beds and mangrove forests in Japan and abroad.

Using the Japan Blue Economy Association established in 2020 as a model, we have additionally been working on the design of an institutional mechanism to repatriate capital for the carbon value of Blue Carbon (BC) ecosystems and other coherencies (synergistic benefits) in the cities of Yokohama, Shunan, Kobe, and Kitakyushu. At the same time, we also conducted research and made recommendations for the introduction of BC policies in related municipalities, including Setouchi Town in Kagoshima Prefecture, and Taketomi Town in Okinawa Prefecture.

Furthermore, we have established effective financing methods to quantify the complex interconnections of the marine industry and generate the most effective economic ripple effects. These models include risk calculations, subsidies for tsunami disasters, and fluctuations in harvested fish volumes.

In the “Policy Research on Future Ocean” project, we compiled basic information necessary to analyze Japan’s budget for ocean science and technology by collecting materials related to the marine science budgets of relevant Japanese ministries and conducting interviews with major research institutions.

Establishing a System for Ocean Management

The “Ocean Governance” project seeks to propose a new type of governance that will become necessary due to the emergence of the Blue Infinity Loop, an ocean continuum encompassing the Pacific, Arctic, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans, which is developing due to rapid changes in the natural environment and the security environment.

Through the “Innovative Development on Ocean

Governance” project, we have prepared for the OPRI’s satellite site “From the Oceans” to begin distributing “International Ocean Information” digests and provide a comprehensive collection and analysis of overseas trends covering a wide range of marine affairs. We also organized a workshop on economic marine expansion with researchers and experts from inside and outside OPRI to identify nations pursuing excessive ocean expansion as well as clarify their respective contexts and objectives.

Facilitate Dialogue and Agreement on Maritime Issues

Under the Ocean Policy Dialogue pillar, we aim to utilize multilateral and bilateral frameworks to support effective dialogue with policymakers and diverse stakeholders on marine policy while strengthening networks geared toward assessment, analysis, and implementation of policies tackling ocean issues.

Achievements produced through our “Strengthening Ocean Policy Dialogues and Networks” project this fiscal year include the following:

—In the fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, we assisted in securing various policy objectives such as fishing certificates, protecting fishermen’s interests, and ensuring fair competition in the international seafood markets.

—Regarding plastic marine litter, we advocated for the importance of international cooperation, technological innovation, and social collaboration to help build an international consensus for the establishment of a negotiating committee to develop a new agreement addressing the issue.

As part of our “Study on Science for Policy in the Arctic” project, we facilitated opportunities for the exchange of ideas and dialogue on Japan’s Arctic policy and the strategic use of Arctic research vessels. Additionally, we worked to maintain and develop cooperative relations with Arctic Council (AC) member countries while also conducting joint research on the Arctic with overseas think tanks. Our Japan-Russia seminar in particular featured reports on topics that are expected to become important for our bilateral relations in the Arctic region in the future and assisted both sides in deepening their understanding of these issues, which included Arctic policy, Arctic sea routes, and energy cooperation. [See pages 10-11 for more detail.]

OPRI was requested to draft proposals for the United Nations Ocean Conference’s final declaration, which we crafted through our “Platform for a New Ocean Paradigm” project, making recommendations on items such as ocean pollution prevention and promotion of marine economies with a focus on island nations. On March 16, 2022, we also held a pre-event for the Our Ocean Conference Palau 2022, during which we took a leading role in preparations and building momentum for the international event.

Approaching Marine Environments from a Global Perspective

Our fifth pillar, sustainable marine environments, guides our research on measures for mitigating and adapting to climate change in the marine sector, achieving climate change resilience in coastal areas, and

conserving and securing the sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the high seas. We then developed policy recommendations based on our findings, and presented them to decision-makers and stakeholders in Japan and at UNFCCC COP and high seas negotiation conferences.

OPRI’s “Building Sustainable Ocean for the Future” project has yielded the following results:

—As part of our research on ocean-based climate change mitigation measures, we conducted a life cycle assessment of Japan’s seafood industry, and identified areas where data needs to be enhanced, especially electricity consumption in the fishing industry.

—Regarding adaptation measures, we collected best practices from coastal cities in Japan and abroad, and also examined the potential for nature-based solutions. We conducted the Climate Change and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index (CORVI) study in major coastal cities in Asia and the Pacific that identified risks and policy priorities, and informed city-level planning and climate change responses.

Through our “Innovative Research on Future Ocean” project, we accessed CORVI’s data collection platform to conduct a survey on various countries and gathered data for our predetermined sample size. We also published the aforementioned book *Climate Security*, and in cooperation with the Japan Waterways Association (JWWA), planned and convened public seminars to elucidate the book’s contents.



The 8th session of the “Challenges and Expectations for Maritime Defense Capabilities in Response to Climate Change” symposium, held on October 25, 2021. This symposium featured frank discussions among current Maritime Self-Defense Force officers, members of the Suikoukai Foundation with practical experience in the field of maritime defense, and maritime security researchers.

Educating People and Shaping Public Opinion

Under the final pillar, sharing information and capacity building, we gather projects committed to promoting people’s understanding of the oceans and contributing to the formulation of ocean policy. Specifically, these projects compile materials based on our research and publicize comprehensive information on the oceans from a variety of angles, both domestically and internationally. They also focus on developing talented individuals with international perspectives.

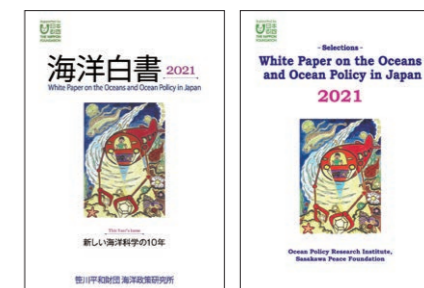
Amid the continuing spread of COVID-19, our “Public Relations for Ocean Policy” project team continued their efforts to widely share such information by publishing the “Ocean Newsletter” (Japanese and English editions), “150 Opinions,” “The Communal Oceans” (Volume 5 of the “Studies on the Human-Ocean Connection” series), “Ocean White Paper 2021” (Japanese and English editions), and

other materials. These efforts, as well as the Ocean Forum symposium the team hosted for the public, contributed to the formulation of ocean policies and the promotion of public understanding of the oceans. Additionally, we were able to provide a wide range of information to overseas marine stakeholders by publishing these and other materials on our websites in both Japanese and English.

The “Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields” project funds the World Maritime University (WMU) Sasakawa Fellowship Program. The Fellowship Program’s aims are twofold: 1) provide scholarships to



The Sea as a Commons by Tomoya Akimichi and Atsushi Sunami (eds.) (Nishinippon Publishers, March 2022), the fifth volume of the “Studies on the Human-Ocean Connection” series.



“White Paper on the Oceans and Ocean Policy in Japan 2021” (April 2021) [left] and its English summary version (June 2021) [right].

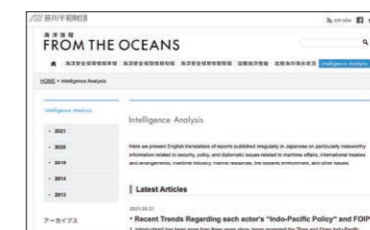
individuals in the maritime and ocean fields to help further their education at WMU, and 2) maintain an alumni network between maritime communities worldwide. In FY 2021, scholarships were awarded to 31 students from 25 different countries, which included the addition of 3 new countries to the Fellowship Program.

Despite the ongoing effects of the pandemic, we were able to continue our efforts to promote and expand the Sasakawa Fellows Network. As Secretariat of the Friends of WMU, Japan society, we continued to issue the alumni newsletter to bring the latest information and news to the Fellows, and updated the website and directory to encourage further communication.

Satellite Sites of the Ocean Policy Research Institute



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



FROM THE OCEANS
https://www.spf.org/oceans/analysis_en



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



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

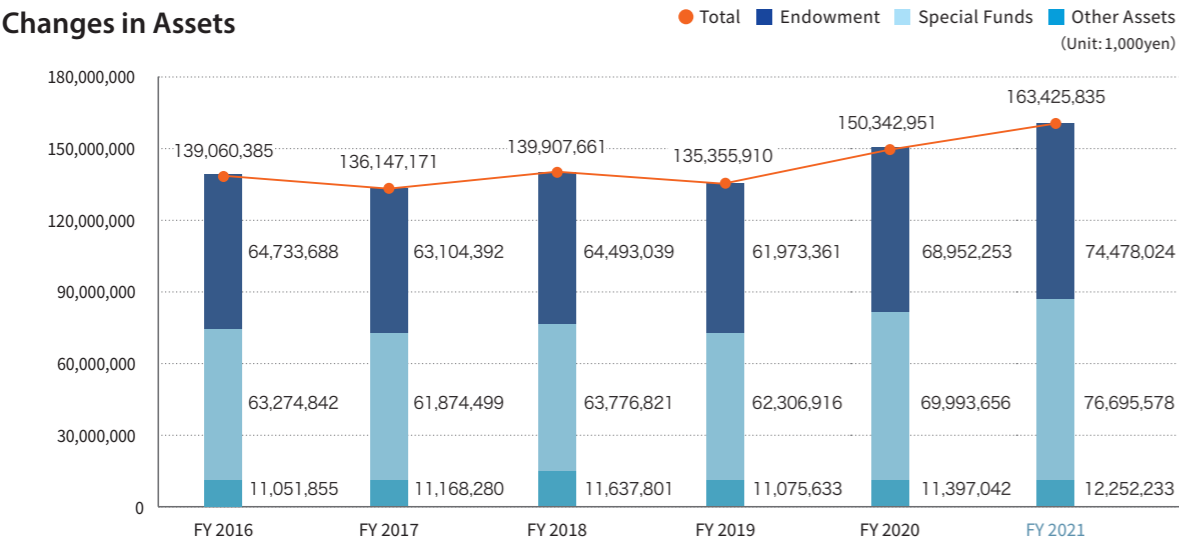


Statement of Income and Expenses

(Unit: 1,000yen)

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
I. Operating activities						
1. Income						
From endowment	1,085,636	1,327,302	1,625,058	1,721,795	1,802,582	1,725,827
From special funds	1,209,825	1,441,396	1,542,209	1,599,834	1,709,679	1,793,095
Other income	132,638	110,930	136,948	132,260	131,345	231,584
Contributions / grants	459,551	1,511,561	703,342	638,979	602,944	1,353,809
Total income from operating activities	2,887,650	4,391,189	4,007,557	4,092,868	4,246,550	5,104,315
2. Expenses						
Program	3,019,898	3,431,383	3,098,410	2,993,668	2,342,480	2,729,060
General and administrative	310,293	306,905	286,067	284,817	314,783	324,076
Total expenses from operating activities	3,330,191	3,738,288	3,384,477	3,278,485	2,657,263	3,053,136
Net income from operating activities	△ 442,541	652,901	623,080	814,383	1,589,287	2,051,179
II. Investing activities						
1. Income						
Proceeds from sales of investments	932,018	64,676,478	460,532	2,384,060	177,197	306,409
Deposits return income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sale of property	0	0	128	0	0	0
Total income from investing activities	932,018	64,676,478	460,660	2,384,060	177,197	306,409
2. Expenses						
Purchase of investments	29,110	64,834,519	437,415	3,418,329	1,039,269	1,963,819
Purchase of property	96,010	152,112	11,979	74,149	53,892	25,366
Long-term prepaid expenses	0	0	3,758	0	0	0
Total expenses from investing activities	125,120	64,986,631	453,152	3,492,478	1,093,161	1,989,185
Net income from investing activities	806,898	△ 310,153	7,508	△ 1,108,418	△ 915,964	△ 1,682,776
III. Financing activities						
1. Income						
Total income from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Expenses						
Total expenses from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income	364,357	342,748	630,588	△ 294,036	673,323	368,403
Net income, beginning of year	2,010,605	2,374,962	2,717,710	3,348,298	3,054,262	3,727,585
Net income, end of year	2,374,962	2,717,710	3,348,298	3,054,262	3,727,585	4,095,988

Changes in Assets



Statement of Changes in Net Assets

(Unit: 1,000yen)

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
I. Net assets-unrestricted						
1. Recurring revenues and expenses						
(1) Recurring revenues	3,033,864	3,838,618	4,191,251	3,992,254	4,014,039	4,423,802
(2) Recurring expenses	3,600,498	3,968,784	3,673,437	3,496,558	2,874,557	3,277,034
Net assets from recurring activities before valuation	△ 566,634	△ 130,166	517,814	495,696	1,139,482	1,146,768
Profit and loss on appraisal in basic assets	△ 162,836	△ 366,321	457,361	△ 933,702	2,336,615	1,954,503
Net assets from recurring activities	△ 729,470	△ 496,487	975,175	△ 438,006	3,476,097	3,101,271
2. Non-recurring revenues and expenses						
(1) Non-recurring revenues	0	0	127,870	0	1,031	0
(2) Non-recurring expenses	0	3,902	0	0	0	0
Net assets from non-recurring activities	0	△ 3,901	128	0	1,031	0
Change in unrestricted	△ 729,470	△ 500,388	975,303	△ 438,006	3,477,128	3,101,271
Net assets-unrestricted, beginning of year	32,902,606	32,173,136	31,672,747	32,648,050	32,210,044	35,687,172
Net assets-unrestricted, end of year	32,173,136	31,672,748	32,648,050	32,210,044	35,687,172	38,788,443
II. Net assets-temporarily restricted						
Change in net asset-temporarily restricted	△ 1,384,269	△ 2,235,567	2,626,770	△ 4,026,748	11,516,710	9,840,084
Net assets-temporarily restricted, beginning of year	107,308,020	105,923,751	103,688,184	106,314,954	102,288,206	113,804,916
Net assets-temporarily restricted, end of year	105,923,751	103,688,184	106,314,954	102,288,206	113,804,916	123,645,000
III. Total net assets, end of year	138,096,887	135,360,932	138,963,004	134,498,250	149,492,088	162,433,443

Balance Sheet

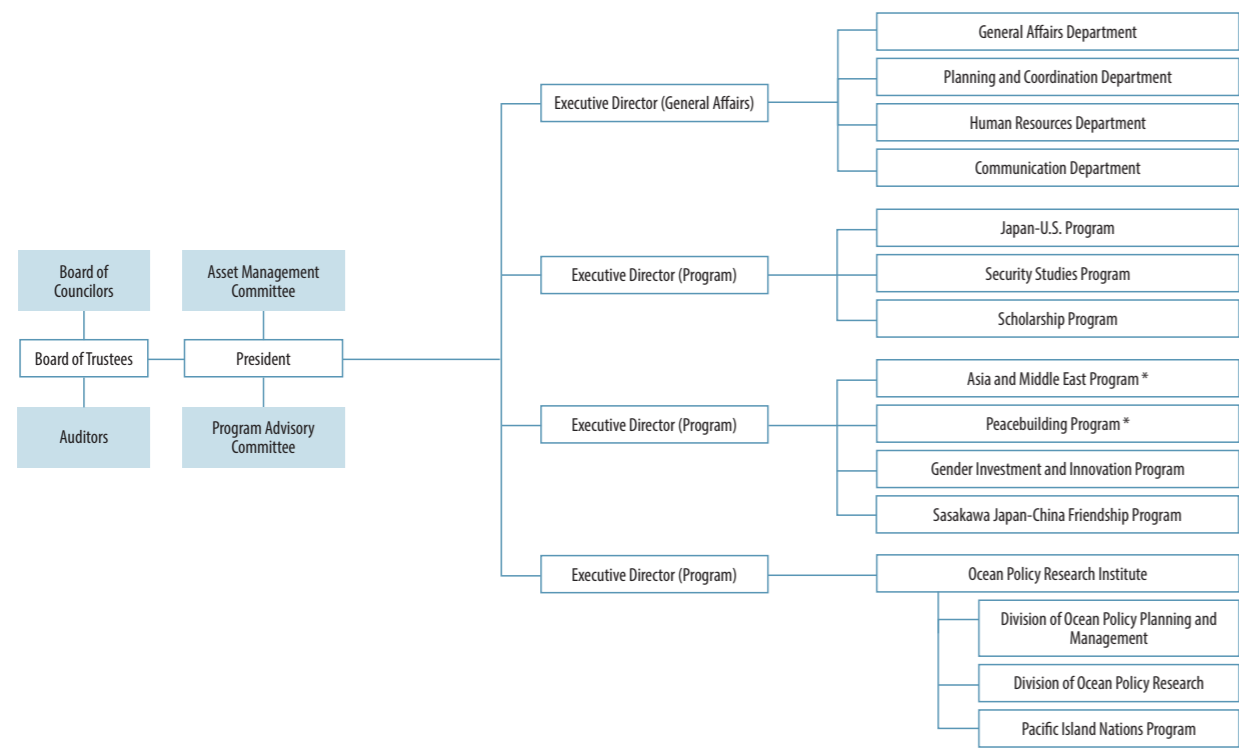
(Unit: 1,000yen)

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
I. Assets						
1. Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	2,606,496	3,053,744	3,580,763	3,421,916	4,059,024	4,477,491
Investments	168,323	0	225,052	0	0	0
Other current assets	468,377	311,664	303,122	253,139	230,499	302,471
Total current assets	3,243,196	3,365,408	4,108,937	3,675,055	4,289,523	4,779,962
2. Fixed assets						
Endowment	64,733,688	63,104,392	64,493,039	61,973,361	68,952,253	74,478,024
Special funds (special assets)	63,274,842	61,874,499	63,776,821	62,306,916	69,993,656	76,695,578
Other fixed assets	2,589,208	2,697,086	2,674,014	2,708,323	2,570,407	3,132,359
Other fixed assets	5,219,451	5,105,786	4,854,850	4,692,255	4,537,112	4,339,912
Total fixed assets	135,817,189	132,781,763	135,798,724	131,680,855	146,053,428	158,645,873
Total assets	139,060,385	136,147,171	139,907,661	135,355,910	150,342,951	163,425,835
II. Liabilities						
Current liabilities	571,077	419,796	567,891	500,562	497,731	632,939
Long-term liabilities	392,421	366,443	376,765	357,097	353,132	359,453
Total liabilities	963,498	786,239	944,656	857,659	850,863	992,392
III. Net assets						
1. Net assets-temporarily restricted	105,923,752	103,688,185	106,314,955	102,288,206	113,804,916	123,645,000
To endowment	(58,552,539)	(57,008,126)	(58,311,679)	(56,268,880)	(62,547,178)	(67,650,150)
To special assets	(47,371,213)	(46,680,059)	(48,003,276)	(46,019,326)	(51,257,738)	(55,994,850)
2. Net assets-unrestricted	32,173,135	31,672,747	32,648,050	32,210,045	35,687,172	38,788,443
To endowment	(6,193,461)	(6,096,266)	(6,181,360)	(5,704,480)	(6,405,076)	(6,827,874)
To special assets	(18,979,356)	(17,563,584)	(18,092,679)	(18,654,236)	(20,974,924)	(23,489,648)
Total net assets	138,096,887	135,360,932	138,963,005	134,498,251	149,492,088	162,433,443
Total liabilities and net assets	139,060,385	136,147,171	139,907,661	135,355,910	150,342,951	163,425,835

Foundation Profile

Name	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)
Date of Establishment	September 1, 1986 October 2011: Transitioned to Public Interest Incorporated Foundation April 1, 2015: Merged with the Ship & Ocean Foundation
Objectives	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation is dedicated to responding to changes in the world's natural and social environments caused by human activity. We are also committed to working toward ensuring the healthy and sustainable development of the increasingly stratified and complex societies around the world. We aim to contribute to the welfare of humankind by leveraging the unique freedoms afforded to us as a private organization to pursue innovative ideas and methods for conducting research, presenting policy recommendations, advocating for international cooperation and exchange, and formulating a new governance system for humanity that encompasses all the world's oceans and lands.
Description of Activities	In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, SPF directly engages in or provides assistance to parties who carry out the following initiatives: (1) Research and information sharing efforts geared toward solving issues facing human society. (2) Provide training resources, create exchange opportunities, and build people-to-people networks to help solve societal issues. (3) Conduct research and publicize recommendations on new governance systems to regulate human society. (4) Carry out innovative studies and R&D efforts on maritime affairs. (5) Promote international understanding, exchange, and cooperation. (6) Convene conferences and special events related to items (1)-(5) (7) Gather and distribute information and present policy recommendations concerning items (1)-(5). (8) Facility rentals. (9) Other projects required to achieve our objectives.
Endowment	74,478,023,733 yen (as of March 31, 2022)
Special Assets	76,695,578,041 yen (as of March 31, 2022)
Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for Operating Expenses	5,662,970,000 yen (as of March 31, 2022)

Organization Chart (As of April 1, 2022)



*In January 2022, the Asia Peace Initiatives Program and the Middle East and Islam Program were merged, and the Peacebuilding Program was established.

Board Members (As of June 29, 2022)

Councilors		Kiyotaka Akasaka	Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
		Takeju Ogata	President, The Nippon Foundation
		Hideki Kato	President, Japan Initiative
		Atsuko Kanehara	Professor, Sophia University
		Nobuko Kayashima	Advisor to the Executive Director/Senior Research Advisor, JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development
Honorary Chair		Eiko Kono	Former Chairman, Recruit Co., Ltd
		Tatsuo Sekine	Director, The Yomiuri Shimbun Holdings
		Kaoru Nakata	Executive Director, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency
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		Itsu Adachi	Programs
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		Tamaki Ura	Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
		Shigeki Sakamoto	President, Center for Human Rights Education and Training
	Auditors	Kaoru Hattori	Attorney at Law
		Satoshi Sugawara	Executive Director, Blue Sea and Green Land Foundation
		Sadahiko Yoshimura	Certified Public Accountant

Contact and Access



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

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

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



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