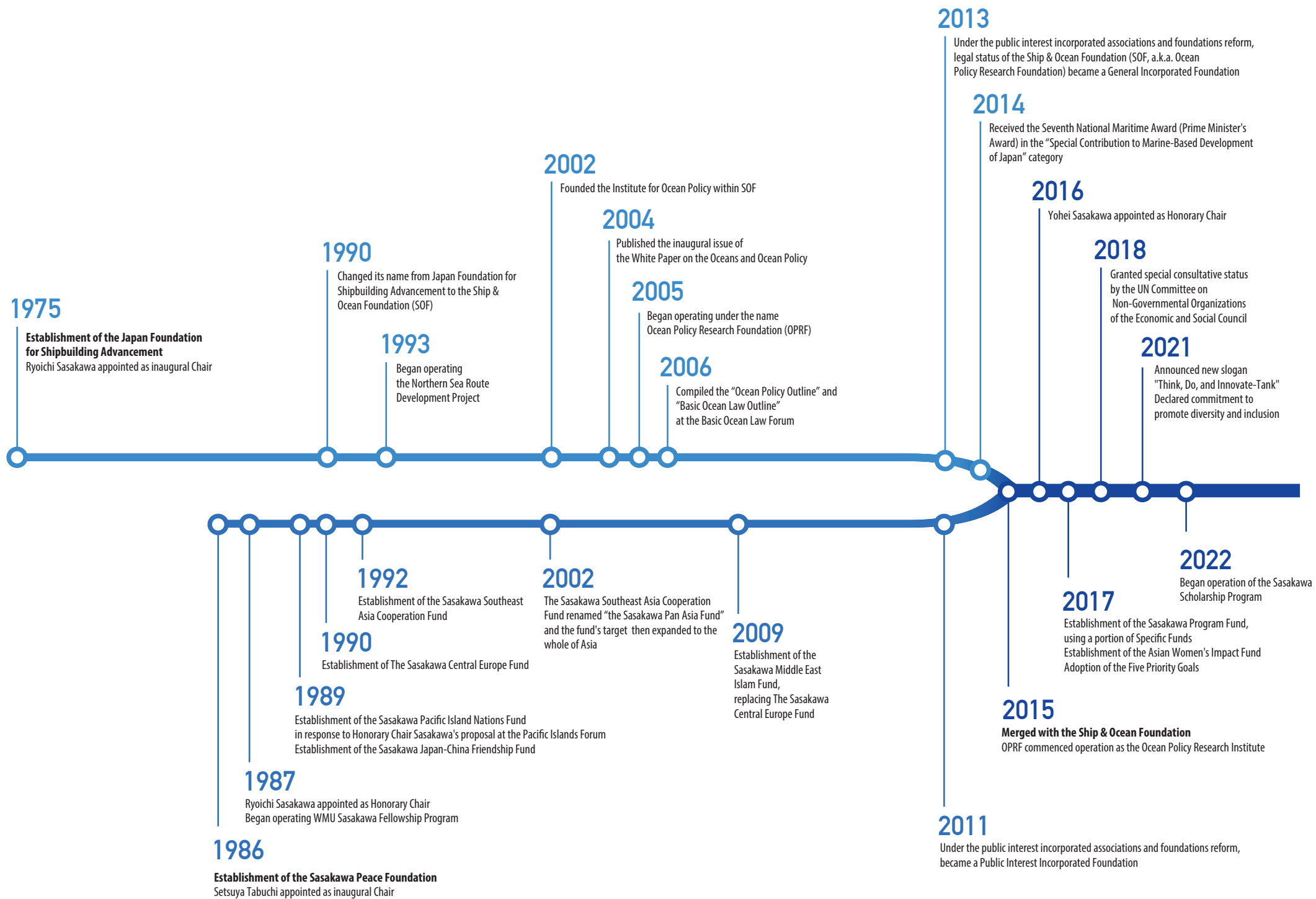




Annual Report 2022

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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Into the Post-COVID Era Building a Harmonious International Society

President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Atsushi Sunami

Three years have already passed since my appointment as president of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) in September 2020 and I am now entering my fourth year in this position. Much of this time passed under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, including times when foundation activities were suspended. This enforced hiatus provided an opportunity to reflect upon the potential of our organization as well as its strengths and weaknesses.

One event that comes to mind when considering the post-COVID world is Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. I had begun thinking that, although weary of the pandemic, the shared experiences that came with it had perhaps put the world on a trajectory where we came to understand the value of pooling resources to expedite action on the challenges we collectively face, the provision of vaccines being one such example. Then,

along came the invasion. As the post-COVID era unfolds against a backdrop of ongoing war, it is starting to appear as if the driver setting the tone of the international community, pre- as well as post-pandemic, has after all been one of fragmentation, fostering a worldview that places "my country before all others."

🕒 Bridging the Gap Between Reality and Expectation

In our effort to create a more stable society, we tend to distinguish between those who are our allies and those who are not, and work in tandem with our allies to build a world based on common values. Nevertheless, we all repeat the same history, a cycle of acting or being

Our 3 Missions and 5 Priority Goals



acted upon. What we need is realistic progress with an inclusive and balanced approach that leads us away from such outcomes, and this cannot be achieved at the national level alone. International agencies based on nation states have gone as far as they can go. This makes it vitally important that we consider what function an organization such as SPF can serve as a private foundation able to work in the international community.

Put simply, this is about making the world one. When nations seek to fulfil their role of protecting the life, wellbeing, and prosperity of their people through defense or diplomacy, the result is a system that puts those nations in a classical power relationship with one another, with the strong exerting power over the weak.

Look at it from a different perspective, however, and we live in codependence as a community of human beings including movement across borders. In other words, two goals we all should share are to move past a world where the strong prey on the weak and to consider at a global level how people can live in harmony in a system that encompasses all living things. Unfortunately, this is not how the world works and we are unable to escape a system in which nation states serve as the primary building blocks. The idea of coexisting systems is out of step with reality and a long way from society as it actually is. Anyone seeking to achieve such an outcome will likely be told that their hopes are unrealistic. As a private foundation, I believe that our calling is to bridge this gap between our reality and our hopes.

🕒 Progress Toward Getting Projects Back to Full Steam

Looking back to FY 2022, I believe that our projects were back to about 70 or 80% of full operation. Circumstances varied, with some projects going back to business as usual while others were still constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic or international situation.

Our Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) has been active in international conferences. The Arctic Circle Japan Forum was held in Tokyo in March 2023, bringing together participants from around the world to address a region that is receiving considerable international attention. The Japan-U.S. Program events for opinion leaders and meetings between legislatures and policymakers also provided venues for large numbers of people to engage with one another. Similarly, a number of our programs held events on related topics in the lead up to the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023. The Peacebuilding Program and the Asia and Middle East Program were also among those able once again to travel abroad to their respective regions.

FY 2023 saw the belated resumption in July of the Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program run by the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program after it had been halted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to these kinds of activities, SPF's Security Studies Program also conducts research on topics including the Japan-U.S. alliance. If action taken at the level of individual nations is an obstacle to the creation of societies where people can live together in harmony, we have an obligation to take action. At the same time, there are an enormous number of pressing problems that need to be confronted if we are to achieve harmony. If we are to get to work on these, it is vital that we keep our doors open to dialogue and debate. To address these issues on a variety of different levels is part of our mission.

Where we should be focusing our efforts in FY 2023 is on overcoming fragmentation. That is, on building bridges across those places that have become fractured. Put another way, what I believe matters most of all is to create an environment where dialogue is possible at a global scale.

Looking at Japan's backyard, issues include how to deal with China and Russia and how we can build bridges with the Global South (emerging and developing nations). Intermediaries are also needed when dealing with issues of gender and minority ethnic groups. What sets us apart from other similar organizations is that here at SPF, we have the ability to take a multifaceted approach to these challenges.

I am confident that everyone who works here believes there is much more that we can do together. My vision for SPF is of a vibrant organization energized by our people's commitment that there is yet more we can accomplish.

Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program Marks 50th Anniversary of Japan and China Normalizing Diplomatic Relations

Wisdom and Networks that Build on the Past and Forge the Future

Established in 1989, the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program has operated through a period in which relations between Japan and China have had their ups and downs. Over this time, the program has sought to encourage understanding between the people of these two nations and to set the stage for building a deeper and constructive relationship of cooperation. A variety of projects took place in 2022 to mark the 50th anniversary of Japan and China normalizing diplomatic relations, using this milestone as an opportunity to take a fresh look at Japan-China relations and deepen mutual understanding, bringing together people of all generations from experts to the general public. Here, we profile three such projects, delving into their backgrounds and objectives.

Student-led Interactive Workshop

The Japan-China Future Visions Workshop for students was held on September 6 and 9, 2022, as part of the “Enhancing Dissemination of Information Relating to China in Japan” project. This interactive event, attended by 31 overseas students from China and 16 Japanese university students, imagined the world a decade from now, exploring opportunities across a range of fields for cooperation between the two nations.



Young participants who represent the next generation in their respective nations work closely with one another at the Japan-China Future Visions Workshop.

With in-person interactions across a range of fields having been halted for more than two years by the COVID-19 pandemic at a time when both Japan and China are facing a shifting international situation, the attitude of the two nations toward one another has tended toward a negative tone. It was against this backdrop that plans were made for this workshop in the hope that it would be an opportunity for Japanese and Chinese students to talk directly with one another and deepen mutual understanding by addressing their respective attitudes and perspectives.

As this was an event intended for students, a student organization routinely involved in exchanges between Japan and China was consulted to get their input, and four volunteers joined the core group planning the event. “We felt that giving students from Japan and China an opportunity to get together and talk to one another about a chosen topic would promote mutual understanding,” said Haruki Maruyama, then a third-year student at the University of Tokyo who was heavily involved in the planning from the very beginning. There was also much discussion about what shared topic to choose.

As Keisuke Ogata, program director of the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program, explained it, “When we asked ourselves what topic we should choose that would be of general interest to a group of students whose concerns did not necessarily align, what we came up with was the possibilities for cooperation between Japan and China a decade from now. We chose this 10-year timeframe because by then the students will be out in the world. With all the students being of a similar age, we felt that asking them to look ahead and imagine the society of

Haruki Maruyama (center) in his then role as a representative of the JING Forum, an organization for student exchanges between the University of Tokyo and Peking University. “The event gave me a strong desire to go and study in China. I would also like to meet local people who may not have a particular interest in Japan.” When asked about the future of relations between Japan and China, Mr. Maruyama said he would like to build relationships between individuals, regardless of nationality or background.



their future would be a topic that everyone could share, regardless of their different nationalities and experiences.”

Also vital was to create an atmosphere in which the participating students felt they could speak freely. To this end, along with the participants introducing themselves, the event was also scattered with icebreaker activities, such as having people come together to consider what is special about the place where the other person comes from. To provide some suggestions for thinking a decade ahead, two experts were also invited to talk to the students about digital transformation (DX) in Japan and China, a topic of considerable interest to the students.

Through this process of close consultation from the very earliest planning stages, the program was able to successfully incorporate the students’ own ideas into the event.

At the two-day workshop itself, the students split into eight teams, each of which had the task of choosing a topic and working through the associated issues and challenges to boil it down to a single idea and formulate a final presentation. Some of the teams focused on specific features of Japan and China to come up with unique ideas in areas such as gender equality, outer space development, and social care services. Others addressed universal problems that challenge humanity as a whole, not just Japan and China, including issues such as how to establish a legal framework that recognizes people’s changing values, conjecturing that a future society where artificial intelligence (AI) is more advanced will see a shift in attitudes to love and marriage.

Speaking after the completion of the event, Haruki Maruyama said, “This initiative to bring together people from different backgrounds to listen to a presentation on DX, find common ground, suggest ideas, and create something new was both refreshing and of great value. Creating an atmosphere where people felt free to express themselves fostered congenial debate and brought forth a steady stream of new ideas. While I sometimes felt lost among all the unfamiliar ideas, I enjoyed how, by talking with people, you could gradually develop an appreciation for what it was they were thinking.” Yang Hao, a doctoral student at the University of Tokyo, commented, “This was the first time I have participated in a Japan-China exchange program or workshop event outside of academia, and it felt like a new way forward had been opened up. Having everyone get together like that was a lot of fun. I look forward to attending

more Japan-China exchange events in the future.” Junki Nakatani, then a third-year student at Ritsumeikan University, spoke of how the event impacted and inspired him, saying, “I was able to meet people from a range of different backgrounds, regardless of nationality. It left me wanting to learn more about China, with the sense that a deepening of exchanges between Japan and China would give me insights into a world I never knew.”

Yang Hao (center), who runs his own company as well as being a student, also heads the Kanto branch of a society for young Chinese researchers working in Japan. “I arrived in Japan seven years ago to fulfill a dream of studying at the University of Tokyo despite strong opposition of my parents, because both of my grandfathers served in the military. I have spoken to my parents by phone nearly every day since then, and I was ultimately able to win them over.”



Junki Nakatani (center) is a member of the Japan-China Student Conference, an organization that arranges student exchanges between Japan and China. He participated in the event to build closer relationships with Chinese students. “Given the differences in the interpretation of history between Japan and China, it is important that we build relationships through economics and through grassroots exchanges.” His goal for the future is to be actively involved in the vibrant Asian market.



Bringing Together the Wisdom of Leading Researchers

The second initiative was a series of six online lectures by specialists as part of a project entitled “A Review of 50 Years of Japan-China Relations (1972-2022) and Future Perspectives.” The project was launched in 2021 with the goal of producing and promoting a book by experts on Japan and China covering 50 years of the history of relations between the two nations. Professor Akio Takahara of the University of Tokyo led the Japanese side of the project, publishing “Japan-China Relations, 2001-2022,” a collection of writings by leading researchers in Japan. The purpose of the lectures was to present the essence of what this book had to say to the general public. The lectures reviewed 50 years of Japan-China relations in areas such as diplomacy and security, the economy and economic cooperation, history, and culture and society, using this as an opportunity to present a variety of observations and look ahead to what the future might hold. The lecture that received the most views was entitled “Changing International Relationships and Japan-China Relations: From 1972 to the Ukraine Crisis.” Held on August 18, it was led by Professor Shin Kawashima of the University of Tokyo, who had been involved in putting the lecture series together, with contributions from Shinichi Kitaoka, professor emeritus at the University of Tokyo, among others. The lecture highlighted the importance of bringing a global perspective to the building of Japan-China relations, basing these efforts on a clear-eyed assessment of China and the U.S., and – given the costs of conflict – maintaining diplomatic efforts and dialogue.

On the Chinese side, Yang Bojiang, head of the Institute of Japanese Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), coordinated the production of a review of 50 years of Japan-China relations by experts based in China that is to be published this fall.



Akio Takahara, Shigeto Sonoda, Tomoo Marukawa, and Shin Kawashima, eds., *Japan-China Relations, 2001-2022* (University of Tokyo Press, May 2023)

Presenting a Life-sized Image of China to Younger Generations and Their Parents

The third project involved helping Mainichi Shimbun Publishing produce an issue of their Gekkan News ga Wakaru Tokubetsuhen, “Chugoku ga Wakaru” (Understanding the News Monthly, Special Edition “Understanding China”). As part of the “Enhancing Dissemination of Information Relating to China in Japan” project, this publication aimed to give young people an image of what life is really like in China, something they are unlikely to encounter in mainstream news outlets. Along with the history of China and of Japan-China relations, the booklet looks at how people live and what it is like to be a young person in China through a variety of lenses, including the interests and concerns of Gen Z, food, IT and technological innovation, and social problems. It also covers ongoing efforts to build relationships of mutual understanding, incorporating experiences from the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program that include Japan-China exchange programs for military field officers (from the Japan Self-Defense Forces and China’s People’s Liberation Army) and for people engaged in keeping traditional culture alive.

A survey by the publisher found that the most read article was a manga cartoon depicting a day in the life of Wang, a typical elementary school student living in a Chinese city. This suggests a level of interest among families with children in this age group about how education works in neighboring countries. Moreover, as the text includes *furigana* (phonetic notation showing the reading of Kanji characters), it can also be used as a teaching resource for people learning Japanese in China or as a Japanese-language resource for learning about China. In other words, its reach extends beyond young people in Japan to also include their parents and students learning Japanese. These students in particular have an important part to play in bringing Japan and China together.

Gekkan News ga Wakaru Tokubetsuhen, “Chugoku ga Wakaru” (Understanding the News Monthly, Special Edition “Understanding China”) (Mainichi Shimbun Publishing, December 2022)



Core Principles of the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program

A satellite site on the history of the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program was launched to mark the 50th anniversary of Japan and China normalizing diplomatic relations. The site looks back at the activities of the program since it was established in 1989, including video interviews with people involved in getting the program started and others from Japan and China who have worked on its projects who talk about Japan-China relations and the role of non-governmental exchanges. In one of these videos, SPF Honorary Chair Yohei Sasakawa talks of his confidence that “Japan and China can build on their 2000 years of history to achieve a harmonious relationship. While a short-term view has people talking about a sense of crisis or about the tension in the relationship between the two nations, it is vital that both sides strive to maintain a positive attitude and a long-term perspective. Given the increasing complexity of the world in which we live, some difficulties may lie ahead. However, having no great involvement in politics, our core stance at SPF remains one of pursuing activities that deepen understanding between the two nations’ peoples.”

As a non-governmental organization that seeks to encourage mutual understanding between the people of Japan and China, the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program will continue its work of building networks across fields, which is crucial to the future of people in both nations.



Projects Concerning Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) by the Peacebuilding Program

Bringing Global Trends to Japan Incorporating a Female Perspective into Peacebuilding

Director Maho Nakayama and Senior Program Officer Akiko Horiba have been involved in conflict resolution and support for women in Thailand's Deep South since the early stages of the project, having recognized that female participation in peacebuilding is essential and that careful policy work is needed if this is to be achieved. They have been actively involved in WPS work in Japan throughout FY 2022. This article profiles the project and its background, describing the experience and knowledge gained through this work to date.

Why WPS, and Why Now?

— **What activities of note have taken place in the Peacebuilding Program during FY 2022?**

Ms. Nakayama: I would like to highlight the WPS project. WPS is the subject of much attention around the world right now, including at the United Nations.

It was the 1995 World Conference on Women that put gender equality and protection and respect for women's rights on the agenda of the UN Security Council. Similarly, it was Resolution 1325, unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council in 2000, that first made the link between women and peace and security. The resolution explicitly recognized the need for equal participation by women, for protection from sexual violence during conflict, and for gender equality in achieving international peace and conflict prevention and resolution. A further nine related resolutions have been adopted over the subsequent 20 years. These have come to be known collectively as the "WPS Agenda." Despite this, little has changed during this time. Since 2020, this lack of progress has prompted global action to put greater effort into WPS.

As of April 2023, 107 nations, Japan among them, have formulated action plans for the WPS Agenda and a lot of activity is going into related research, and new evidence is emerging. In one example, a survey of 58 regions that had experienced conflict between 1980 and 2003 found that the risk of conflict reigniting increases over time if women are absent from legislatures but falls to near zero when the female presence reaches 35%. Another analysis of potential armed conflicts from 1945 to 1995 found that a 5% increase in the number of female legislators reduced the risk of military force being used by a factor of five. What this means is not simply that women favor peace more than men. Rather, incorporating women's perspectives into policymaking results in a broader and more comprehensive range of viewpoints being considered when assessing the costs of conflict or war, thereby encouraging the building of peaceful societies.

Along with the protection of women and children exposed to conflict, meaningful participation by women has been a central topic at SPF. In Thailand's Deep South, this has included more than 13 years working on conflict resolution and support for women. To give international prominence to the importance of this local knowledge, we have also been working on joint research into gender equality, peacebuilding, and masculinity.

Looking now to Japan, one can only say that work on WPS has made slow progress compared to other nations. Along

with our low level of achievement on gender equality, there has been little if any mention of the WPS Agenda in the national security debate. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other American and European organizations that deal with diplomacy, defense, and development have structures in place to incorporate women's perspectives into their operations, including designated officers responsible for WPS. This is because they have been trained that a gender perspective is essential if military operations are to be effective and efficient. Unfortunately, there is no equivalent policy dialogue in Japan. Accordingly, we believe there is a need to encourage international dialogue and work with legislators, policymakers, and experts both here and overseas to enable progress on WPS in Japan.

Driving Political Action

— **You are now working on WPS in Japan as well as in the field in Southeast Asia, correct?**

Dr. Horiba: As the COVID-19 pandemic waned during FY 2022, activities at places like the UN began to pick up pace. SPF partnered with the International Peace Institute (IPI), a U.S. think tank, to organize a symposium on "Achieving Sustainable Peace and Security through Gender-Responsive Leadership." This was held as a side event at the UN General Assembly in September 2022 and was attended by Diet member Yoko Kamikawa, former justice minister. She has a deep sense of how WPS is gaining traction worldwide and is conscious that we also need to be making progress in Japan. We are working with her to launch an initiative aimed at setting up a cross-party group of parliamentarians.

On October 19, a roundtable event to discuss WPS was held to coincide with a visit to Japan by former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The invitees included Melanne Verbeke, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues and executive director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS). The event was also attended by 19 Diet members and it was resolved to establish a cross-party group called WPS Parliamentary Network Japan and to vigorously pursue the WPS Agenda in Japan and elsewhere in collaboration with SPF and GIWPS.

A gathering entitled "WPS Dialogue Japan" was held on December 2 where Katrina Fotovat, the senior official to the U.S. secretary of state in the Office of Global Women's Issues, was invited to speak. The event was attended by 11 members of the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito and included

agreement to formally approve the establishment of the WPS Parliamentary Network Japan.

Along with establishing the parliamentary caucus, a set of policy recommendations on WPS action by Japan was also developed, coming at a time when Japan had taken up its position as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for two years from January 2023 and also served as host to the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May. We presented the policy recommendations to the Minister of Defense Yasukazu Hamada (November 6), Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoshimasa Hayashi (November 7), and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (December 7) and urged that the government strengthen action on WPS and demonstrate leadership on the global stage. The inclusion of WPS in Japan's plan for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) announced in March 2023 and in the G7 Leaders' Communiqué gave us a sense that progress is being made.

What we hope to achieve with the parliamentary caucus on WPS is firstly to promote the WPS Agenda in the debate on increasing defense spending. Secondly, we want to work toward establishing positions with responsibility for WPS and on establishing formal processes, especially in agencies that deal with security and the maintenance of law enforcement, such as the Japan Self-Defense Forces, Ministry of Defense, and police. The third aim is to strengthen international collaboration with organizations such as the WPS caucus in the U.S. and member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and to share what we have to offer the WPS field, especially our experience with disaster relief. Fourthly, we want to pursue initiatives such as pushing for the prioritization of WPS considerations when providing humanitarian aid to conflict zones. Through these efforts, we will be shining a spotlight on the inclusion of women's perspectives in the field of defense and security.

A High-level Political Project

— **What have you learned from your experience of working on gender equality?**

Ms. Nakayama: Studies of masculinity in regions experiencing conflict have found that men in higher socioeconomic positions are more inclined to support women taking

leadership while those in a lower socioeconomic position have more discriminatory views. This is because they see such women as a threat undermining their own opportunities. We have also found that people whose experience of conflict has left them traumatized are more likely to perpetrate domestic violence (DV). So as not to exacerbate fear, rather than going all out to push a gender equality agenda, you need to carefully elaborate your agenda to suit local circumstances, such as providing support for women with the skills necessary to help them participate in politics or providing care for men suffering from trauma. You also need to be conscious that the use of rhetoric that assumes men are always the perpetrators and women are the victims risks provoking a backlash. In this respect, gender equality is a highly political project. Likewise, when it comes to work on gender equality in Japan, policies need to be carefully refined to be both willingly accepted and easily implemented.

— **What are your goals for the future?**

Dr. Horiba: I hope we can bring peace to Thailand's Deep South, a region we have been involved with for many years. We have been providing peace mediation support, working behind the scenes in our position as an organization that is able to talk to all three parties – the Thai government, the insurgents, and Malaysia (which is acting as a facilitator) – and doing what we can to adjust expectations. We have forged strong bonds with people in the region, and we cannot leave them alone suffering under conflict. When a young activist I have watched grow up tells me about the birth of their fifth child, it is a strong reminder of the urgent need for peace.

At a time when Japan's presence in the international community has become relatively diminished, something else I would like to do is to work toward making peace mediation a major pillar of our diplomacy. Even if it only relates to conflicts in Asia, I would like to see Japan more often being a force for peace.

Ms. Nakayama: Our great desire is to see peace achieved in Thailand's Deep South, and I hope we can grab the opportunities that present themselves while keeping one eye on the changing political situation in Thailand. Meanwhile we are guided by the expertise on WPS from around the world. In addition to supporting the peace process, we also want to utilize the potential of gender equality to facilitate peacebuilding.

Maho Nakayama

Graduated from the University of Tokyo (Comparative Japanese Studies, College of Arts and Sciences). Obtained a master's degree in social anthropology and development from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. Joined the Japan Foundation in 1996. Served as assistant director of the Japan Foundation Jakarta Cultural Center from 2001 to 2005 and joined SPF in 2008. She has mainly been involved in establishing the program for peacebuilding and conflict resolution in Southern Thailand. Other positions have included director of the Asia Peace Initiatives Department. She was appointed to her current position in 2022.

Akiko Horiba

Graduated from the Faculty of Theology, Sophia University. Studied at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and obtained a master's degree from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology (now Boston College) and a doctorate in area studies from the Graduate School of Languages and Linguistics at Sophia University. She has undertaken field work and peacebuilding in conflict zones in Southeast Asia, participating since 2010 in work at SPF on resolving the conflict in Thailand's Deep South. She was appointed to her current position in 2015. She is the joint author of "History, Religion, and Politics of the Middle East and Islamic World" and joint editor of "Peacebuilding in the Field."



Maho Nakayama (back row left) and Akiko Horiba (back row right) at the Fifth WPS Dialogue JAPAN event to welcome a group of WPS experts from the U.S. (July 25, 2023).

The Japan-U.S. Program aims to maintain and deepen connections between experts in the Japan-U.S. policy community, and to work with them to produce new insights and information in a world that is experiencing major changes and to contribute to strengthening bilateral cooperation. To this end, we carried out two projects with the goal of bolstering the networks between the Japan and U.S. policy communities; engaging in policy dialogue, research, and communications; and strengthening Japan-U.S. relations while also giving Japan a stronger voice in the U.S. We also funded two projects by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA).

Searching for New Forms of Bilateral Cooperation for a Rapidly Changing World

Suspended since February 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, activities involving travel between Japan and the U.S. finally recommenced in May 2022. Even as anti-infection border controls remained tight and visa difficulties persisted, we were able to increase activities that required travel between the two nations over the course of the year. It was also a period for rebuilding relationships with U.S. experts and think tanks, resuming and starting programs, and for establishing information-sharing platforms to provide our findings to the public.

There was also heightened interest from Japan in the U.S. mid-term elections that took place during this time, a prelude to the 2024 presidential election. While the U.S. has been at the forefront of the shift to the post-COVID era, it has yet to cast off some of the domestic issues such as social division. Factoring in the ongoing response to the conflict in Ukraine and the sharpening of tensions between the U.S. and China, there appears to be a growing recognition that both the U.S. and the U.S.-led world order are going through a period of major change. Through our work, we are seeking to deepen the connections between the policy communities in the two nations as they confront this international situation. We are also contributing to the conversation about what forms of bilateral cooperation are right for this rapidly changing world.

Strengthening Networks in Japan-U.S. Policy Communities

Japan-U.S. Congressional Exchanges

The first Japan-U.S. activity to resume was a program of congressional exchanges undertaken through a grant project (Enriching U.S.-Japan Congressional Exchanges 2022 project). Congresswoman Diana DeGette (Democrat) and Congressman Larry Bucshon (Republican) served as co-chairs leading a delegation of members of the House of Representatives on two visits to Japan in May to June 2022 and February 2023. A seven Congressional Chief of Staff delegation also visited Japan in October 2022. In collaboration with SPF-USA and the Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ), we successfully organized a visit program that included meetings with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida as well as members of the Japanese Diet

and others from the political and business communities. These visits made a major contribution to restarting and strengthening face-to-face meetings between legislators from Japan and the U.S. For the first of the congressional visits to Japan in particular, we provided extensive assistance and support, helping to achieve a successful outcome despite strict entry restrictions still being in place.

Moreover, seminars on Japan-U.S. relations were held in Washington D.C. throughout the year for people associated with the U.S. Congress. With legislators and their Chiefs of Staff among the participants, these events provided opportunities to deepen understanding by communicating the views of experts on topics such as Japan, Japan-U.S. relations, and the Indo-Pacific.



Group of House of Representatives members meeting with SPF Honorary Chair Yohei Sasakawa during a visit to Japan in February 2023. The group spent a week in Tokyo and Hiroshima, and had the opportunity to learn more about Japan through tours and meetings with people from the political and business communities.

Expanding and Strengthening Inter-Personal and Institutional Networks in the Policy Community

The "Creating Strategic Network Between Japanese and American Policy Communities" project aims to utilize multifaceted approaches including both experts network building and institutional collaboration. In order to create a better understanding about "changes in the U.S.," "Japan-U.S. relations in a diversifying diplomatic and security environment," and "the changing international order and the roles of Japan and the U.S.," the program tried to expand and deepen individual and institutional networks between Japanese and U.S. policy communities, and to foster new thinking on how to approach collaboration and Japan-U.S. relations amid changing times. This included the resumption after a four-year hiatus of the Young Strategists Forum held in partnership with the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Selected from more than 500 applicants, a group of 17

young strategists from Japan, the U.S., Asia, and Europe attended a week-long program in Japan during January and February of 2023.

In addition, in partnership with the American Political Science Association (APSA), we launched a pilot for the SPF-APSA Fellowship Program that sent one fellow to work in a senate office. We also dispatched two scholars, Kei Koga (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) and Ryo Sahashi (The University of Tokyo) to the U.S. to take up positions as Japan Scholars at the Wilson Center.

Eight seminars on the impact of the war in Ukraine on Asia (five of which were on-site) were also held in the U.S. in partnership with the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS). We also rebuilt relationships with organizations such as the RAND Corporation and the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA) through initiatives such as collaborative research work.



Seventeen young strategists from Japan, the U.S., Asia, and Europe attended the Young Strategists Forum in Japan to deepen their understanding about the role of the Japan-U.S. alliance in the Indo-Pacific region. A total of more than 100 young strategists have attended to date, with many going on to play an active role around the world.



Policy Dialogue, Investigative Research, and Information Sharing

Investigative Research and Use of a Variety of Tools to Share Information

The "Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations: Study and Presentation" project conducts investigative research in partnership with a network of young and mid-career researchers from the two nations that has been established through our past projects and events. The goal is to incorporate findings and insights on the topics of "changes in the U.S.," "Japan-U.S. relations in a diversifying diplomatic and security environment," and "the changing international order and the roles of Japan and the U.S.," as well as a variety of ideas and approaches that take a mid- to long-term perspective into reports that are shared with the public. In addition to publishing 15 short research papers by the America Genjo Monitor, which tracks and analyzes current U.S. politics and society, other work included partnering with the East-West Center to complete the fourth edition of *Japan Matters for America*, a booklet that uses data and maps to show the bilateral relations between the two nations. An event to celebrate the

launch of the new edition of the booklet was held at the U.S. Capitol building. Production and distribution of five new videos also got a great response, including a video discussion series on "The War in Ukraine and the Era of the End of 'Nuclear Forgetting'" by the authors of *The End of Nuclear Forgetting*, a book published through a previous project. Through these initiatives, we have been able to deliver analyses and insights into topics such as the current state of Japan-U.S. relations, the foreign and security policies of the Biden administration, the current state and potential changes of U.S. politics and society, and the possible impact on the Japan-U.S. alliance.

The "Medium- and Long-Term Prospects for U.S. Foreign Policy and Challenges for Japan" project group has also been debating the future of U.S. diplomacy, changes in Japan's security policy, and the implications for the Japan-U.S. alliance. Work was also done to standardize the design and expand the functionality of the "Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations" satellite site so it can better serve as a hub for information on this topic. Our ability to share information also evolved by the establishment of our own podcast channel.



East-West Center/SPF Japan-U.S. Program, *Japan Matters for America/America Matters for Japan*, 4th edition (February 2023)



Videos of an experts discussion series entitled "The War in Ukraine and the Era of the End of 'Nuclear Forgetting'" (released on April 28, 2022) received 64,000 views. From left: Nobumasa Akiyama (Professor, Graduate School of Law, Hitotsubashi University), Sugio Takahashi (Head, Defense Policy Division, Policy Studies Department, National Institute for Defense Studies), Hirofumi Tosaki (Director, Center for Disarmament, Science and Technology, The Japan Institute of International Affairs), and Yu Koizumi (Lecturer, Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo).



Mie Oba (left, Professor, Kanagawa University) and Kei Koga (right, Associate Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) were invited to a discussion on "Great Power Politics and ASEAN: U.S.-China Rivalry and the Changing International Order in the View of Southeast Asia." The video was released on December 6, 2022.



Hiroyuki Akita (left, Commentator for Nikkei) and Yasuhiro Matsuda (right, Professor, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, The University of Tokyo) were invited to a discussion on "America in 2023: Current Status of Debate on China Policy." The video was released on March 9, 2023.

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

The SPF-USA grant programs have largely resumed on-site activities. For "Strengthening the U.S.-Japan Relationship from U.S. Perspectives," work on various projects such as raising awareness of Japan-U.S. relations aimed at

domestic audiences in the states of Alabama, Oregon, and Tennessee, and five visit programs to Japan, including one by young specialists in the field of public health. SPF and SPF-USA also jointly organized a public seminar in Tokyo by Adm. Philip Davidson (former Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command). The "Congressional Staff Program on Asia" (CSPA) lecture series for congressional staffers resumed on-site activities. The SPF-USA grant programs were now again in full swing.



Adm. Philip Davidson (center, former Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command) was invited to give a presentation on "The Role of the Japan-U.S. Alliance in the Indo-Pacific Region in 2023" (January 25, 2023).

The Security Studies 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 been examining issues related to Japan's security, the Japan-U.S. alliance, and Japan's relationships with regions and countries that are important to it, publishing these findings widely and issuing relevant policy recommendations. The work has also included analysis and research on new threats in the cyber domain and deterrence in cyber and other emerging security fields.

Analysis of Peace and Security Consequences of the War in Ukraine

The ongoing war in Ukraine, triggered by the Russian invasion in February 2022, has been likened to the conflicts of the 20th century. An analysis of the consequences for the peace and security of Japan and the Indo-Pacific region was undertaken during FY 2022 as part of an ongoing research project. While there have been some changes in the activities of certain projects, work continues to progress, including the publication of policy recommendations and other documents.

publishing research papers and other information about the projects and introducing the people involved.

Another project was the "Table Top Exercise on the Taiwan Strait Crisis" held in January 2023 with retired Japanese and U.S. military personnel. The exercise used a scenario developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The "Japan-India-Russia Strategic Dialogue II" project, meanwhile, was postponed due to the difficulties around Russian participation. Instead, we held discussions with U.S. experts on Russia and China looking at how to approach new projects.

Aiming to seek a new framework for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the "International Conference: Securing the Indo-Pacific II" project hosted a Track-2 policy dialogue on "Japan-India-France Trilateral Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific" with the Institute of South Asian Studies in Singapore in November 2022. Attended by nearly 30 researchers and practitioners from the three countries and across Southeast Asia, lively discussions were held on the possibility of the new trilateral. Those included

Issues for Japan's Security and Japan-U.S. Alliance

The primary goal of the "Japan U.S. Alliance Study II" project is to look at issues for Japan's security and the Japan-U.S. alliance. Along with research on topics such as how best to respond to the new international security environment and how to establish a new bilateral relationship between Japan and the U.S. that is built on revisions to the three strategic documents released by the Japanese government in late 2022, the project also held consultations with the Heritage Foundation and a number of other U.S. think tanks.

A joint project by Japanese and U.S. researchers on "Shaping the Pragmatic and Effective Strategy toward Japan II" included Japanese participants visiting the U.S. to partner in work on the final recommendations.



The "Japan-U.S.-Taiwan Security Research" project arranged visits to the U.S. and Taiwan and hosted discussions between the participating think tanks.

International Security and Relationship with Strategically Important Nations and Regions

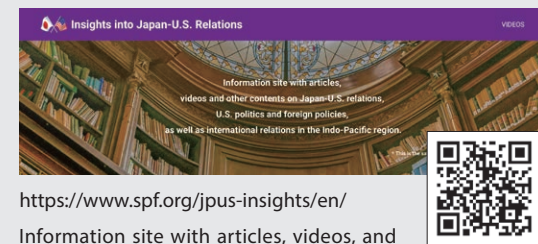
Two projects were undertaken in response to rising concerns about the Taiwan issue as part of a wider initiative looking at what sort of relationships Japan should have with nations and regions that are strategically important to it. In one of these projects, entitled "Maintaining Peace and Stability in the Taiwan Region: Collaborative Research by Think Tanks from Japan, the U.S., and Taiwan," (hereinafter referred to as "Japan-U.S.-Taiwan Security Research") Japanese researchers identified key issues and took their conclusions to Taiwan and the U.S. for discussions with think tanks from these three nations to bolster joint research efforts. Meanwhile, English and Japanese-language satellite sites were launched in January 2023,



SPF China Observer Open Forum on "Satellite Image Analysis - Current State of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and Concerns Going Forward" (November 4, 2022). From the right are Yu Koizumi (Lecturer, Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo), Yuki Kobayashi (SPF Research Fellow), and Bonji Ohara (now SPF Senior Fellow).

Our Information-Sharing Platforms

■ "Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations" site



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

Information site with articles, videos, and other contents on Japan-U.S. relations, U.S. politics and foreign policies, as well as international relations in the Indo-Pacific region.

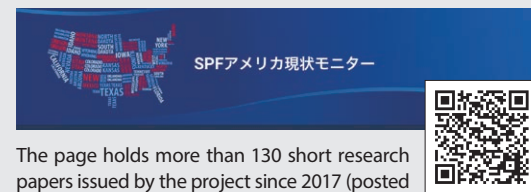
■ X (formerly Twitter)



<https://twitter.com/spfJapanUS>

The account provides information on events hosted by the Japan-U.S. Program, our recent research papers, and publications from other SPF programs. The account also shares a variety of information, such as information on Japan-U.S. ministerial meetings and U.S. public opinion surveys.

■ America Genjo Monitor (Japanese only)



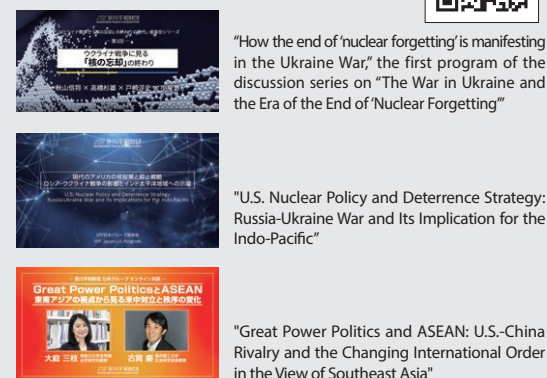
The page holds more than 130 short research papers issued by the project since 2017 (posted under "Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations").

<Most popular articles in FY 2022>

- "Upcoming 2022 mid-term elections" (Masahito Watanabe, Associate Professor, Research Faculty of Media and Communication, Hokkaido University)
- "Who is Ron DeSantis, the biggest victor of the 2022 mid-term elections?" (Takayuki Nishiyama, Professor, Faculty of Law, Seikei University)
- "Political conflict over cancellation of student loan debt" (Takakazu Yamagishi, Professor, Faculty of Global Liberal Studies, Nanzan University)

■ Webinars, discussion videos/podcasts

< Most watched videos in FY 2022 >



implications of the war in Ukraine for the Indo-Pacific; collaboration between Japan, France, and India on ocean security, new technology, economic cooperation, and crisis management; and debate on how ASEAN views this cooperation.

The “Future of International Peace Operations” project held an experts’ panel on the topic of “Climate Change, Peace, and Security: What Role for UN Peace Operations?” in New York on October 18, 2022, in partnership with the French Ministry of Armed Forces and the International Peace Institute (IPI), a U.S. think tank. The event used a hybrid format and was attended by around 50 people from the United Nations and national government delegations. The project also held a public seminar entitled “Ukraine War and Japan-EU Cooperation on Crisis Management” on February 6, 2023, at SPF, and attended by around 40 people, including researchers and government officials, with the Austrian Deputy Secretary of Defense as the keynote speaker.

Regarding an ongoing book project on the Indo-Pacific security with scholars in the region, it became necessary to rework the concepts and chapter compositions to reflect the widening impact of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

New Domains

The “Study on Nuclear Safeguards and Security” project addresses the unprecedented situation of Russian attacks upon and occupation of Ukrainian nuclear power plants. In addition to holding discussions, the project has also released two policy recommendations, “Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Challenges in the Civilian Use of Nuclear Energy and Japan’s Role” (June 2022) and “Protection of Nuclear Facilities and Japan’s Role — In Response to Russian Invasion of Ukraine and Attacks on Nuclear Power Plants —” (February 2023). The latter document makes the case that Japan can play an instructive role in how to go about the protection of nuclear facilities in times of war.

The “Enhancing National Cyber Security II” project has held discussions in the study group on legal measures for dealing with disinformation attacks from overseas and has released a series of discussion documents on disinformation countermeasures in Asian countries. The project also held four online seminars on topics that included “Hybrid Conflict in the Ukraine War: Information Warfare and Cyber Attacks” and “China’s Cognitive Warfare: With a Taiwan Contingency in Mind,” attracting an audience of around 300. Similarly, five articles dealing with cybersecurity incidents have been posted on the IINA website on topics such as “Hybrid Warfare in a Taiwan Contingency” and “Indo-Pacific Regional Disinformation Research Series.” Along with a rising incidence of cyber attacks involving the manipulation of information, the outbreak of conflict in Ukraine also made the 2022 fiscal year a time of growing concern about information warfare. In this regard, the project provided information to the public in a timely manner, posting articles on the International Information Network Analysis (IINA) website as well as

holding seminars on cybersecurity, cognitive warfare, and disinformation.



Seminar on “Ukraine War and Japan-EU Cooperation on Crisis Management” (February 6, 2023).



SPF issued an urgent recommendation on “Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Challenges in the Civilian Use of Nuclear Energy and Japan’s Role” in June 2022 and a joint roundtable on this topic was held with U.S. think tank Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) in Washington D.C. on August 23, 2022.



A proposal entitled “Protection of Nuclear Facilities and Japan’s Role — In Response to Russian Invasion of Ukraine and Attacks on Nuclear Power Plants —” was published and presented to government officials (published February 24, 2023). An English language version is to be produced and supplied to the United Nations and other agencies.



The Fourth Cybersecurity Seminar 2022 on “Cybersecurity Challenges for Ensuring Economic Security” was held on March 9, 2023. From the left are Jun Osawa (Research Fellow), Mihoko Matsubara (Chief Cybersecurity Strategist, NTT Corporation), and Takahisa Kawaguchi (Principal Researcher, Tokio Marine dR).

Information Sharing and Talent Development

The “Information Provision of International Situation and Security III” project undertakes analyses of security in all parts of the world and publishes its findings on the International Information Network Analysis (IINA) website.

The 100 articles posted to date (64 in Japanese and 36 in English) provide a timely response to changes in the international situation such as Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other developments including Japan’s “three strategic documents.” These ongoing efforts to publish up-to-date information about Japan and the security environment in which it finds itself have earned it around 530,000 page views across the Japanese and English sites.

The “Future Fellowship for Okinawa II” project has run training for leaders familiar with the security situation in Okinawa. The seven people selected for the fellowship attended a series of eight seminars between June 2022 and February 2023 where 16 guest lecturers conveyed basic knowledge about international politics and security and spoke on topics such as the factors influencing the current international situation. In tandem with this, a public symposium entitled “War in Ukraine and Japan’s New National Security Strategy” was held on March 4, 2023, at a hotel in Naha, Okinawa and welcomed 102 participants.

The “Dissemination of Security Knowledge to U.S. Military Personnel in Japan” project is primarily aimed at people associated with America’s military presence in Japan. It has worked with the Yokosuka Council on Asia-Pacific Studies (YCAPS), an organization with a strong track record and extensive connections with this community, running joint seminars raising awareness of

Japan’s defense and security. In all, there have been 12 of these expert seminars on Japan’s security, two each at Misawa, Yokota, Yokosuka, Iwakuni, Sasebo, and Okinawa, with an average of 25 participants at each event.

Under the “Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries III” project, the Track 1.5 cross-military exchange cooperation between the People’s Army of Vietnam and Japan Self-Defense Forces was postponed for this fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The exchange at the retired general level was carried out between the Republic of Korea and Japan. The delegation from South Korea visited Japan to hold discussions with the Ministry of Defense and base visits with JSDF retired generals.



A symposium on Okinawa’s security entitled “War in Ukraine and Japan’s New National Security Strategy” was held in the Okinawan city of Naha (March 4, 2023). Participants included Yuichi Hosoya (Professor, Faculty of Law at Keio University), Hidetoshi Hirata (former Lieutenant General, Air Training Command, Air Self-Defense Force), and Hideshi Tokuchi (President, Research Institute for Peace and Security).

Policy Recommendations and Reports

Policy recommendation, “Protection of Nuclear Facilities and Japan’s Role — In Response to Russian Invasion of Ukraine and Attacks on Nuclear Power Plants” (February 2023)

Research project findings, “United Nations Peace Operations, the Environment, and Climate Change: Potentials and Challenges,” Hikaru Yamashita (December 2022)

SPF Urgent Recommendations, “Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Challenges in the Civilian Use of Nuclear Energy and Japan’s Role” (June 2022)

Posting information on satellite sites

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

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

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

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

Scholarship Program

In addition to representing the future of their own country, the young people of Japan also have a part to play in the wider world. The newly created Scholarship Program, which seeks to help Japanese youth study at leading universities in the U.S. and U.K., has been established out of a desire to encourage these young people to obtain a broader outlook and an international perspective, supporting them in acquiring a sound base of knowledge that will underpin their future activities. Based around the goal of fostering people who can demonstrate leadership for overcoming challenges in the international community, the main activities during FY 2022 were the selection of the first round of recipients who commenced their studies in the fall of 2023 and promotional activities aimed at uncovering potential candidates for the following years.

Promotional Activities

Promotional events aimed at uncovering potential candidates for overseas study included visits to local governments and Japanese high schools as well as online presentations.

Four regional presentations were held, one each in Okayama and Tokushima prefectures and two in Tottori. In addition, we also held 18 school presentations, mainly in Tokyo, Chiba, Hokkaido, Shizuoka, and Tottori prefectures. Four online presentations were given, attracting an audience of 547 people in total.

We also attended overseas study fairs held by consulates and regional governments in the hope of informing as many people as possible about the Scholarship Program and to provide them with the information they will need if they hope to study overseas in the future.

In seeking to uncover potential candidates in rural areas, we made a deliberate point of holding presentations in places like Tottori, an underpopulated part of the country, and Shikoku, a region from which we receive fewer applications. In doing so, we were able to forge contacts with people likely to be of assistance in the future, including officials from prefectural boards of education and local newspaper reporters.



Four regional presentations were held in Okayama (top), Tokushima (bottom), and Tottori prefectures.

Call for Applicants, Selection of Initial Recipients, and Establishment of Application Support Process

Separate spring and fall application rounds were held to select the first recipients scheduled to commence study in the fall of 2023. The fall round opened for applications in August. After a review of written applications and interviews, 15 provisional candidates demonstrating great individuality and potential were selected. To ensure fairness in the selection process, a panel of five experts was convened, including Mieko Nakabayashi, a professor at Waseda University. The fall-round selection process comprised a call for applications, the review of written applications, interviews, and support for provisional candidates to apply to the university of their choosing.

While the spring-round selection process was scheduled for later in the current fiscal year, it was deferred until the beginning of FY 2023 because application acceptance decisions at many universities are made at the end of March.

Information Sharing

Efforts to promote the Scholarship Program included the development of an official website and creating posting sites on other social media such as LINE.

Secretariat

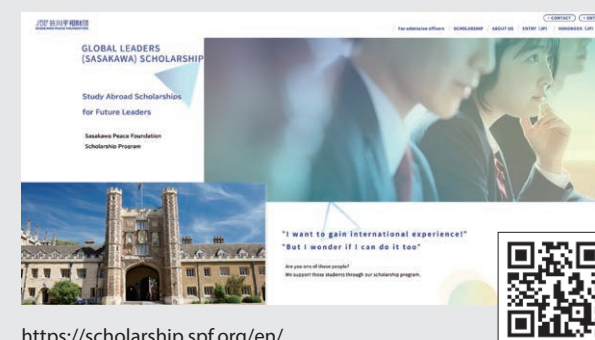
The secretariat members were engaged in a broad range of activities including developing materials such as a leaflet and guidebook, organizing a number of meetings on the program in many parts of Japan as well as on LINE, and consulting with an overseas organization regarding possible collaboration once students started their studies at their respective universities.

Despite our intentional effort to select students from diverse areas, we received applications mainly from metropolitan areas and overseas. We will continue our work to encourage students in many parts of Japan to consider and apply for the program.



Opinion sharing and promotion of program at a U.S. JET Programme meeting.

Satellite Site for Scholarship Program



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

The site provides information about the scholarship program, the application process, and other notices. It can also be used to make inquiries and submit applications.

LINE Account



LINE ID of Sasakawa Scholarship Program
@sasakawa_ryugaku

Results of 2022 Sasakawa Scholarship Selection Process

- Number of applicants**
No. of applicants: 471
No. of candidates selected: 35
- Locations of successful candidates**
Hokkaido, Miyagi, Tokyo, Chiba, Nagano, Nara, Kyoto, Hyogo, Osaka, Hiroshima, Okayama, Fukuoka, overseas
- Successful candidates' choice of university**

U.S. universities	No.	Liberal arts colleges (U.S.)	No.
Yale University	1	Williams College	1
University of Wisconsin-Madison	1	Carleton College	1
University of California, Berkeley	3	Swarthmore College	1
University of California, Los Angeles	1	Pomona College	2
University of Chicago	2	Middlebury College	2
Duke University	3	U.K. universities	No.
Northwestern University	2	Imperial College London	1
Harvard University	1	University of Edinburgh	2*
Brown University	1	University of Oxford	2
University of Pennsylvania	1	King's College London	1*
Boston University	1	University of Cambridge	1
University of Washington	1	University College London	2
Washington University in St. Louis	1	Total: 35	

*Enrolled in foundation course

Sasakawa Scholarship (Summary)

- What the scholarship covers**
 - Expenses / tuition and accommodation (including food), health insurance, return travel (single round-trip)
 - * The indicative upper limit on expenses is \$80,000 (U.S.) or £54,000 (U.K.) annually.
 - Lump sum / living allowance is \$15,000 (U.S.) or £11,000 (U.K.) annually
- Scholarship duration**
 - U.S. universities: four consecutive years up to graduation
 - U.K. universities: three consecutive years up to graduation
 - * If applicants require special assistance to attend the interview due to a physical disability, allowance will be made for this in accordance with the nature and severity of the disability. Students who require such assistance should contact SPF for information about the application process and other details.
- Main documents required for application**
 - Essays (three essays on designated topics)
 - Education history (high school GPA)
 - Score on TOEFL®-iBT test or IELTS and SAT, ACT, or IB, English proficiency test, etc. (only those candidates who have these)
 - * As of the end of June 2023. Please visit the scholarship program website for more details and the latest information.

Asia and Middle East Program

The Asia and Middle East Program coordinates and collaborates with people from Asia and the Islamic countries of the Middle East on the creation of harmonious societies that are peaceful and rich in diversity, both by strengthening leadership in Japan and these regions and developing human-centric social models. To achieve this, we have been working to “build and strengthen equal partnerships rooted in mutual understanding and trust,” “empower vulnerable populations, respecting human dignity, and championing diverse societies in Japan and abroad,” and “work to resolve global issues through collaboration to promote social development and world peace.”

Amid the loosening of COVID-19 travel restrictions and the shift to the “with-corona society,” we were able to move around once more and hold events for large numbers of people, albeit in a way that involved taking proper infection prevention measures. As the response to the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the benefits of doing things online, we also held online seminars and other such events.

Asia Team

The team undertook three projects that sought to “build and strengthen equal partnerships rooted in mutual understanding and trust” and that were based on “strengthening relationships between Asia and Japan” and “making inclusive societies a reality.” Similarly, five projects were undertaken under the theme of “empowering vulnerable populations, respecting human dignity, and championing diverse societies in Japan and abroad.”

Strengthening Relationships Between Asia and Japan

Building and Strengthening Equal Partnerships Rooted in Mutual Understanding and Trust

The goals of the “Asian Statespersons’ Forum” project are to establish a framework for direct dialogue between political leaders in Southeast Asia and Japan while also helping to put the foundations in place for peace and stability in the regional community. Work undertaken on this project included putting a project framework in place, designating eight Japanese researchers with knowledge of the political situation in the relevant nations to provide support for the Southeast Asian region, identifying candidate political leaders for invitations, and holding meetings with these candidates in Indonesia and Thailand. Anies Baswedan, a former governor of Jakarta who intends to run

Public seminar with Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan in August 2022.



in the 2024 Indonesian presidential election, was invited to visit Japan to have talks with Japanese politicians, experts, and members of the media. He also participated in a public seminar.

The “Dialogue and Resonance in Asia” project aims to utilize knowledge of Japan and Southeast Asia to analyze and share information about the state of Asian society and its views on the current international situation, engage in informed debate, and produce publications. This project held two online symposiums on research conducted during the previous fiscal year of the impact on Asian society of the COVID-19 pandemic and produced three 25-minute videos to mark the publication of an associated book, *A World Divided? — How Asia Sees International Politics Beyond Covid-19* (edited by Naonori Kusakabe, Tomoaki Honda, Amane Kobayashi, and Ayuko Takahashi, May 2022, Mainichi Shimbun Publishing). Opinion polls were also conducted on how Asia sees U.S.-China relations and on Japan after COVID-19. Collaboration with defense and security policymakers and local experts was strengthened through a program of interviews with 20 high level individuals in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Singapore.

The “Research and Study on Men and Masculinities in Asia” project established an expert panel chaired by Professor Futoshi Taga of Kansai University and held three meetings to give presentations on “Masculinity in the Philippines.” The expert panel served as a forum for reports on masculinity from an interdisciplinary



Expert panel held at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore in March 2023. The “Dialogue and Resonance in Asia” project provided a venue to debate how Asia sees the post-covid international situation with reference to surveys undertaken in the Philippines and Indonesia.



Field survey of a poverty reduction project in the Doi Tung region of northeast Thailand undertaken in December 2022 as part of the “Dialogue and Resonance in Asia” project.



perspective that spanned fields such as gender studies, regional studies, and economics. Those involved were able to gain greater insights such as the idea that the concept of gender may not always be an appropriate analytical basis in Asia. A hybrid-format international seminar was held in July in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with participation by Tomoko Hayashi (Vice President, Economic and Social Research Institute, Cabinet Office), experts from international institutions, and researchers. The seminar succeeded in widely publicizing gender equality policy initiatives with a focus on masculinity among interested parties.

Making Inclusive Societies a Reality

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

The main objective of the “Engaging Northeast India in ActEast” project is to strengthen the foundations of India’s ActEast policy. Along with providing assistance to 20 young or female entrepreneurs in rural villages in the state of Assam, the project also helped to develop the capabilities of farmer cooperatives (four cooperatives covering 600 households) and to expand market access platforms. The project also held six train-the-trainers sessions for fostering entrepreneurs in fields such as finance and food processing. Through this work, we were able to provide direct assistance to young or female entrepreneurs, especially those engaged in industries that respect the local culture and environment, boosting local employment opportunities while also enhancing sustainability by helping existing cooperatives to organize and upgrade their operational capabilities.

The “Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of Northeast India and Asia” project is seeking to make Northeast India, a remote region with great cultural diversity, a model for harmonious multicultural societies in Asia by building on the ability of people to pass on their memories and history to the next generation. Two

workshops were held in Assam on self-expression by women and social minorities. We also granted 20 next-generation research fellowships, provided training on techniques such as how to conduct surveys, and offered mentorship from outside experts. Two experts from Japan were also sent to the region to provide instruction on technical matters such as film restoration and preservation.

The “Imphal Peace Museum Project III” held a ceremony in June 2022 to mark three years since the opening of the museum and made progress on a partial translation of the Military History Series book “The Battle of Imphal.” Book launches were held in three cities in India in December. In January 2023, we also ran a 10-day training program on museum operations and exhibit management for museum director and curators at the Haeburu Cultural Center in Okinawa.



A ceremony was held in June 2022 to mark three years since the opening of the Imphal Peace Museum.

Work on the “Enhancing Responsible Business Conduct” project included the launch in October 2022 of the Japan Center for Engagement and Remedy on Business and Human Rights (JaCER), an organization established with support from SPF to provide grievance resolution mechanisms. Two training courses were run for participating businesses as well as an online public seminar. The training was attended by 100 people from 39 companies and the seminar by 176 people.

The “Building Models Towards Inclusive Society in Asia” project seeks to build a harmonious society that is inclusive of foreign residents and workers in this new era of movement of people that combines both settled and transient migration. The project has conducted surveys of conditions for foreign residents and workers, including surveying the level of awareness of local government support services for non-Japanese people and identifying the challenges facing migrant workers and assessing the conditions they experience in the care service industry (elder care, nursing, and domestic services).

The awareness survey found that there was little knowledge among non-Japanese people of the support services available to them. This prompted action to help these people get access to the services they really need, such as setting up opportunities for dialogue between local government representatives and foreign residents.

A survey was also conducted about the education of the high-school-age children of Ukrainian evacuees in Japan, identifying the challenges these children faced when entering and attending Japanese public high schools. The results were presented at a symposium in March 2023.

A webinar on Ukrainian evacuees and the educational challenges they face in Japan was held in March 2023.



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



A seminar on a handbook for living in Japan was held in Tokyo in partnership with the KAKEHASHI organization that supports Filipinos residing in Japan and a forum was held with the Filipino community in Nagoya. People shared the challenges they experienced both before and after migrating to Japan and discussed what can be done to address and improve these issues.

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



Our Approach in the Middle East

The team undertook four projects with a focus on “strengthening relations between Japan and Islamic countries in the Middle East,” “addressing global challenges,” and “cultivating talent in Middle Eastern studies.”

Strengthening Relations Between Japan and Islamic Countries in the Middle East

The “Human Exchanges Between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries” project takes a multi-faceted approach and has been strengthening its network of connections in Iran. This has included a roundtable organized in partnership with the Institute for Political and International Studies attached to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Held in Tehran in July 2022, the event hosted discussion by experts from both nations on the impact of the war in Ukraine on eastern and western Asia and the situation in the Middle East. In September, we invited the heads of Türkiye’s Diplomacy Academy and the Center for Strategic Research in Türkiye’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Japan to participate in a roundtable and public seminar on the Ukraine crisis and Turkish diplomacy.



A roundtable was held in Tehran in July 2022 with the Institute for Political and International Studies attached to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Officials from Türkiye’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs were invited to Japan to participate in a seminar in September 2022.

To provide an opportunity for young people to meet with one another, we also invited eight prospective diplomats from Iran’s School of International Relations (SIR) to visit Japan. The visit ran from December 13 to 23 and included discussions at Tokai University, meetings with Diet members, peacebuilding training at Hiroshima, and a visit to Kyoto. Similarly, nine Japanese students selected from public applications visited Iran from

February 23 to March 6, where they attended a lecture at SIR, met with Iranian students, visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and central bank, and went on a trip to regional cities.

We also held a webinar on November 24 on the societal issues facing young people in Jordan and elsewhere in the Middle East and what is being done to address these, with the Jordanian journalist Rana Sweis being invited to speak.



Students from SIR were invited to Japan in December 2022.



invitation to the vice president and the SPF invitation was likewise put on hold. Contact with the Iranian partner was subsequently suspended despite our efforts to maintain communications, with the result that discussions on the joint action plan did not proceed.

The “Research on Muslim in Japanese Society” project aims to gain a better understanding of what life is like for the increasing number of Muslims in Japan and it undertook a survey of conditions for Japan’s Muslims. Local experts were commissioned to undertake the survey, which included interviews with people involved in the Muslim community, health, education, and employment. An online public seminar on the Muslim community that featured the survey results was held on March 5, 2023. The survey also collected specific examples of the opening of mosques in Kansai and Kyushu areas and of how Muslims and their neighbors deal with the problem of Islamic cemeteries. Information was also collected on the insurance and medical needs of Muslims in Japan through health and medical consultation sessions held at mosques and community gatherings. The project succeeded in building a framework for collaborating with experts on the situation facing Muslims in Japan and the challenges they face.



An online public seminar on the Muslim community, entitled “Creating Together: Imagining a Society That’s Comfortable for All,” was held on March 5, 2023.

Japanese students participated in a short study trip to Iran from February to March 2023.



Addressing Global Challenges

To address the economic empowerment of women, SPF set out to formulate a joint action plan with the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs of Iran.

In addition to a meeting with the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs of Iran to discuss areas of potential collaboration during a visit by SPF personnel to Iran in July 2022, agreement was also reached to invite the vice president and hold a seminar to coincide with the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) run by the Japanese government. Unfortunately, circumstances in Iran led the Japanese government to withdraw its

Cultivating Talent in Middle Eastern Studies

The “UK-Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East Phase III” project aims to foster and extend the capabilities of early career academics with an interdisciplinary interest in the social science of the Middle East with opportunities to conduct studies as part of an international collaborative framework. In the current fiscal year, it has run a joint research fellowship program for Japanese and British researchers to undertake post-doctoral Middle Eastern studies at the University of Oxford. This has involved the two nations running their own candidate selection processes and support for the successful Japanese fellow to move to the U.K. (to study church-state relations in Iran). The fellows have already taken up their positions and commenced work.

The “Human Exchanges Between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries” project, meanwhile, has run four online events for early career researchers specializing in the modern-day Middle East, featuring the presentation of research by doctoral and post-doctoral students and commentary by recognized Middle East experts.

The Peacebuilding Program was launched in January 2022, drawing on the experience of ongoing work in Thailand's Deep South since 2010. We formulate and implement intervention plans by designing structural changes for peace while respecting the ownership of the people and communities involved and giving due consideration to the historical context of each conflict area and the local cultural and societal characteristics. We also develop with our local partners pilot projects that draw on the perspectives and understanding of the problems that have been gained from working in the field and share the results of these pilot projects with the international community. Projects undertaken during FY 2022 have been based on "advancing peace processes," "WPS Agenda and deradicalization," and "fostering political leadership among women."

Advancing the Peace Process

Peacebuilding and Engagement with Specific Conflict Areas

The goals of the "Intervention for Peacebuilding" project targeting specific conflict areas are to resolve the world's remaining conflicts, especially in Asia, and to support the building of sustainable peace in these regions. Our approach is to respect the local community's ownership of the process and pay attention to the unique historical, cultural, and societal contexts of the conflict area. We aim to demonstrate the strength of long-term accompaniment by making concrete achievements and transformations in each region. Activities during FY 2022 have focused Thailand's Deep South and Myanmar.

To contribute to the peace process in Thailand's Deep South, we have been engaging with the parties involved in the conflict and supported the building of a conducive environment toward peace in the area. Other activities have included capacity building for the youth in the Deep South, organizing an international symposium in Malaysia to raise public interest on this conflict, providing training to women's groups in Thailand's Deep South on the provision of psychological care to victims of the conflict, and staging an exhibition in Bangkok to commemorate the victims of the Tak Bai incident of 2004, one of the incidents that led to the escalation of the conflict.

Collaboration with Malaysia's facilitator team was further enhanced by the election in November 2022, selecting Mr. Anwar Ibrahim as prime minister, as SPF has been building a collaborative relationship with him in the past. We also commissioned experts in Bangkok to have better channels of communication both with the Thai government peace panel and other stakeholders. With all of these activities, SPF has continued its efforts to build bottom-up peace processes in the region.

In Myanmar, meanwhile, tensions remain with no breakthrough in sight. We invited diplomats, think tank personnel, and other experts to two conferences held in Cambodia to analyze what is happening in the border regions. For the purpose of program development, we also conducted a series of closed discussions on Rohingya issues among Japanese experts of area studies.

WPS Agenda and Deradicalization

Survey and Policy Recommendation on Peacebuilding

The "Peacebuilding Research and Policy" project selects themes of growing global interest and organizes research or pilot projects based on the perspectives SPF gained from experiences in the field. Three themes on which we focus are peace mediation; the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda; and deradicalization.

On the theme of peace mediation and conciliation, we have partnered with the U.K. organization Conciliation Resources to host three online meetings with participation by experts and peacebuilding practitioners with an interest in self-determination conflicts in different parts of the world. In December 2022, we brought together about 30 experts and practitioners engaged in peace mediation in different parts of the world to participate in a workshop in London, U.K. where they discussed the possibilities of applying the futures thinking methodology to mediation. The results of this were published in an issue of the Accord Spotlight publication of Conciliation Resources.

For the WPS Agenda, together with Conciliation Resources and Integral Knowledge Asia, we have completed the creation of a questionnaire with more than 70 questions on issues covering gender disparities in income and educational attainment, the division of household labor, perceptions on gender norms, mental health, and experience of violence. With the help of local research institutions, a total of 6,000 responses were collected from men and women in the Aceh and Maluku provinces of Indonesia and from Mindanao in the Philippines and a qualitative research was also conducted. For the quantitative data, the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) was commissioned to analyze data particularly on masculinity and violence, the results of which were compiled into three draft papers.

In the field of deradicalization, we have partnered with the Habibie Center to design our own deradicalization and social integration program for former combatants and their families in Poso in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. Based on this, we have conducted group sessions at three different locations and held nine training camps in total.

In Bangladesh, we worked with the Centre for Genocide Studies at the University of Dhaka to produce a manual

that can serve as a blueprint for the deradicalization and social integration of violent extremists in that country, conducting interviews with inmates in prison and collecting the views of a wide range of interested parties including government agencies and experts.

Fostering Political Leadership Among Women

Fostering Political Leadership Among Asian Women

The "Women Political Participation in Asia" project aims to increase the number of women in Asia seeking to enter politics and to reform the systems, practices, and customs that serve as a hurdle for women's political participation. In this fiscal year, we conducted a training camp for women aspiring to go into politics and where 16 selected participants learned skills including social media messaging and how to draft campaign speeches. Two of the women went on to stand as candidates in the 2023 nationwide local elections. We also conducted a survey where we spoke to lawyers with expertise in the Public Offices Election Act and undertook interviews with politicians and candidates to compile a policy recommendation for institutional reforms for promoting gender equality.

In Malaysia, we ran the "Women2Win: Global Asian Women Leaders Network (GAWLN) Cohort 3 (2022/2023)" program. This six-month program included an in-person workshop (September 2022) and a webinar. The workshop program enabled participating women to acquire the



A survey analyzing the relationships between gender equality and peacebuilding was conducted in the Aceh and Maluku provinces of Indonesia and Mindanao in the Philippines.



A seminar was held on violent extremists and deradicalization training was run for former combatants.

practical knowledge and skills they would need to serve as politicians in the future and included a forum with invited political leaders. The webinar, in turn, discussed how to overcome the obstacles to political participation, the post-covid financial crisis, an overview of political elections, political literacy, and how to raise funds for political campaigns.

Information Sharing

To better publicize our activities, we upgraded the web page for the Asia Peacebuilding Initiative (APBI) project and integrated it into the SPF website.

For the WPS Agenda, we invited former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, one of the world's most influential leaders in the defense of women's and human rights, to attend a discussion with Izumi Nakamitsu, under-secretary-general and high representative for disarmament affairs at the United Nations, on October 20, 2022. Ms. Clinton emphasized the importance of including women's perspectives when dealing with problems of national security and engaging in peacebuilding or conflict resolution, also expressing the view that Japan could improve productivity and foster economic growth by integrating women more fully into the workforce, such as by creating an environment where they have greater opportunity to work after they marry.



We invited Hillary Clinton (right) and Izumi Nakamitsu to participate in a discussion of gender equality on October 20, 2022.

Gender Investment and Innovation Program

It has become the accepted view around the world that the elimination of gender disparities is essential to sustainable development. In seeking to contribute to effective resolution of the problem of gender disparities in economic activity, the Gender Investment and Innovation Program believes in the establishment of systems and an environment where the relevant parties in the nations concerned can take the initiative in pursuing ongoing solutions. Activities in the current fiscal year have focused on the use of finance as a means of resolving gender issues and on strengthening support frameworks for female entrepreneurs.

Boosting Funding for Economic Activity by Women

SPF established the Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF) in September 2017 for promoting economic empowerment for women and gender equality in the Asian region. During the current fiscal year, the AWIF Implementation Support Project has used the fund as a catalyst for the creation and growth of gender investment markets, encouraging investors to adopt gender-focused strategies and working to establish systems and environments in which funding will be directed toward women entrepreneurs.

Specifically, this has included putting gender investment into practice in important groundbreaking projects and collating a report on efforts to establish an impact measurement and management (IMM) framework and associated methodologies for assessing the impact of gender investments. Another initiative was a gender investment training project targeted at investors in the Asian region. We also commissioned Equileap to collect gender-related data from companies around the world, resulting in the publication of a report assessing workplace gender equality at listed companies in Japan, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, and Hong Kong.

"Gender Equality in Asia-Pacific: Special Report," a report ranking gender equality at publicly listed companies in the Asia-Pacific region (June 2022).



Strengthen Support Frameworks for Women Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurship as a Means of Economic Empowerment for Women

By strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems from a gender perspective, the "Gender Lens Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (GLEE) Development in Southeast Asia" project aims to help women entrepreneurs in Southeast Asia

access the resources they need to grow their businesses. This included equipping the organizations and investors who support these women with an understanding of the diverse circumstances, business challenges, and support needs that these women face. It also drew on this knowledge to devise support measures.

The current fiscal year saw ongoing work on the previously developed Gender Lens Incubation Acceleration (GLIA) Toolkit for enhancing the capacity of entrepreneurship support organizations to deliver support measures through a gender lens as well as laying the ground for expanding the practitioner community. The work in Cambodia and Thailand has included language localization of the toolkit, getting it more widely used by entrepreneurship support organizations, and running train-the-trainers programs. In seeking to expand funding for entrepreneurs in ways that consider gender issues, we have also experimented with working alongside investor organizations to introduce an entrepreneurship support program in Cambodia that takes account of the investor viewpoint.



Cnai Accelerator Cambodia is a support program for entrepreneurs in Cambodia.

At the annual conference of the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) held in June in Bali, Indonesia, we ran a session entitled "New Models for Innovative Finance for the Missing Middle."

The "Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in the Philippines Through Ecosystem Building" project engages in capacity building (including the digitalization of entrepreneurial activity), in building networks with investors and encouraging them to adopt a stronger gender perspective, and in collaboration and coordination with entrepreneur support organizations so as to provide an environment that is more conducive to women

entrepreneurs.

Activities during the current fiscal year include the launch of a digital platform aimed at expanding networks for mutually beneficial learning by women entrepreneurs and running a six-month program for business growth. We also partnered with other organizations to run a competition supporting women entrepreneurs engaged in activities that contribute to gender equality in the tech sector. The goal was to uncover women entrepreneurs and others active in this male-dominated industry and provide opportunities for matching them with investors.



We ran a session on "New Models for Innovative Finance for the Missing Middle" at the AVPN annual conference in June 2022. Session participants included Itsu Adachi and Ayaka Matsuno, respectively executive director and director of the Gender Investment and Innovation Program.



We also undertook investor education initiatives, supporting the establishment of the Philippines' first gender-smart impact investing network by impact investors and finance experts with the goal of having gender investment and impact investment adopted more widely.



Activities in entrepreneurship support community.

The goals of the "Building an Entrepreneurship Support System with a Gender Lens" project are to build an entrepreneurship support ecosystem with a gender lens in Myanmar, deliver personnel and financial support, and establish a network of connections. This is intended to provide growth opportunities for small and growing businesses (SGBs) in that nation and prepare them for

additional investment. In FY 2022, we worked with local venture capital businesses with an impact focus to run the second round of an entrepreneur support program with a gender lens for SGBs in Myanmar. The first round took place during the previous fiscal year. We also worked with an institutional investor group in Myanmar on identifying organizations and institutions engaged in entrepreneur support activities with a gender lens and the work they are doing, and on consulting with entrepreneurs with a gender lens to assess their needs. This work was done through a gender investment subcommittee set up by the institutional investor group during the previous fiscal year.

With reference to the findings of the Global Gender Gap Report on creating an environment in which women can be economically self-sufficient (published by the World Economic Forum in July 2022), we held a public seminar that same month on the challenges facing Japan on gender equality. This drew on the knowledge of SPF and included participation by experts, examining the political and economic environment in Japan that has been noted for its lack of progress on gender equality.

In November, President Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson of Iceland and Masanobu Ogura, minister of state for gender equality and women's empowerment, were invited to participate in a seminar on "New Form of Capitalism in Japan and the Nordic Vision: Labour Participation, Gender Equality, and Work-Life Balance" that was organized in partnership with five Nordic country embassies. A meeting was also held with a business mission to Japan by female entrepreneurs from Canada to build networks and promote understanding of gender equality.



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

Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program

The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program, established in 1989, builds upon its foundations as one of the largest private funds bridging Japan and China. 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. Activities during the current fiscal year have focused on “people-to-people exchanges and dialogues,” “sharing information and cultivating an environment conducive to increasing mutual understanding,” and “talent development and network building.”

People-to-People Exchanges and Dialogues

Projects Marking 50th Anniversary of Japan and China Normalizing Diplomatic Relations

The “Review of the 50 Years of Japan-China Relations (1972-2022) and Future Perspectives” project has completed preparations for publishing a collection of papers in Japanese (“Japan-China Relations, 2001-2022,” May 2023, University of Tokyo Press), with a Chinese language edition to follow. These findings have also been utilized in a series of six online lectures on the 50th anniversary of Japan and China normalizing diplomatic relations. (More information is available on page 7.)

In parallel with this, a book is being written on the people-to-people exchanges between Japan and China, focusing on the people who have facilitated these exchanges since the normalization of diplomatic relations. The final draft is now complete.

We have also conducted a study looking at the effect that COVID-19 had on groups that arrange such exchanges between Japan and China and on what form such exchanges were able to take during the pandemic. Further investigations are planned to gain a better understanding of the actual situation, with the findings to be made public.

The “Japan-China Relations in 2050” project has held four study groups, each addressing a particular topic relating to the study of present-day Japan-China and using this as a means of exploring what might happen to their relations in the future.

People-to-People Exchanges and Dialogues

While the “Invitation Program for Chinese Opinion Leaders” project has put the invitation of academics from China on hold, it was able to stage online seminars on China-Russia relations and how they may develop in the future and on the tension between values and economic interest in relations between China and Germany, with presentations by Chinese experts on international relations.

Similarly, while visits to Japan by People’s Liberation Army personnel and to China by Japan Self-Defense Forces personnel also remained suspended, the “Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program” has been working to maintain channels of communication with relevant Japanese and Chinese institutions and to keep dialogue going. With restrictions on people-to-people exchanges having been lifted at the end of the fiscal year, we have started preparations in the hope of a quick resumption in



Following the visit by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to China on November 4, the first by a Western leader since the COVID-19 pandemic, we held an online seminar on November 25 on the tension between values and economic interest in relations between China and Germany. Clockwise from the top left are Zhang Yun (associate professor, Graduate School of Modern Society and Culture, Niigata University and senior guest researcher at the Free University of Berlin), Qian Yuejun (a Chinese author and journalist residing in Germany), and Zhou Zhixing (chairman, U.S.-China New Perspective Foundation).

visits in both directions.

While the “Exchange Project for Japan-China Experts in Traditional Arts and Crafts II” has also seen the suspension of reciprocal visits, we have published a book of traditional Japanese crafts in China. The final draft has been completed for a book on leading Japanese craftspeople who are recognized as “living national treasures.”



Shanghai Eon Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Foundation, ed., *Jingdu Gongyi* (Kyoto Crafts) (September 2022, Shanghai Jiaotong University Publishing)

Sharing Information and Cultivating an Environment Conducive to Increasing Mutual Understanding

The “Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application II” project has gained increased views from mobile users in the Chinese-speaking world by utilizing media accounts on Chinese social media apps to post articles about Japan authored by Chinese writers familiar with the country.

The “Website for Dissemination of Information Phase III” project reports on events and people, using an official Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program page on the

influential People’s Daily Online website in China to promote the China-related activities and other outputs of SPF and affiliated organizations as well as interesting work that is happening in Japan.

Following on from an opinion survey on how Japanese people view China, the “Enhancing Dissemination of Information Relating to China in Japan” project has partnered with Waseda University to collect quantitative and qualitative data on various aspects of Japan-China relations and has produced a booklet in which some of these findings are presented in graphical and other easily understood forms. We also participated in a special lecture at Hokkaido University and in the collation by a major newspaper of a booklet on China for elementary school students. To mark the 50th anniversary of Japan and China normalizing diplomatic relations, we held a workshop where young people from Japan and China could look to the future and explore opportunities for cooperation. (More information is available on pages 6 and 7.)

We have also set up a website for presenting the activities of the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program from its inception through to the present day (launched in April 2023). With the assistance of the People’s Daily Online, Chinese language content includes interviews with people who have contributed to exchanges between Japan and China. “Japan at a Glance” on WeChat, meanwhile, carries articles on life in Japan.

Talent Development and Network Building

The “Network Construction Between Japanese and Chinese Young Leaders” project is putting arrangements in place to ensure ongoing continuity in exchanges and other forms of collaboration, laying the foundations for young people specializing in the field of international relations who have the potential to be leaders in future academic exchanges between Japan and China to engage with one another and work together.

The goal of the “Training for Teachers of Japanese Language in Remote Areas of China” project is to improve the environment for Japanese language learning in China. It held a locally based training program for 100 up-and-coming teachers likely to play a leading role in future Japanese language education in China.

With restrictions on people-to-people exchanges between Japan and China having been lifted at the end of the fiscal year, we have resumed information and experience sharing, network-building, and the collection of information on areas where policies are being explored in an effort to overcome challenges common to both nations, such as regional development and climate change.

Elsewhere, we have published Japanese and Chinese language editions of a book about Japan by a group of Chinese Japanologists. We have also released a video retrospective on the activities of the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program since its inception and published interviews with trustees and project participants from both Japan and China on a variety of media.



We conducted online training for Japanese language education in regional Chinese cities in partnership with the China Education International Exchange Association and Beijing Center for Japanese Studies. This is helping to foster the future leaders of cooperation between Japan and China.



Hu Yiping, Yu Shan, eds, *Riben Shixiang: Dajiahua Fusang* (Japan Social Conditions: Everyone’s Talking About Japan) (September 2022, Duan Press) (left) Japanese edition (December 2022, Duan Press) (right)



Sekika Ruirui, Keiou Kairai (Building on Past Achievements and Opening up New Prospects) The History of the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program <https://www.spf.org/sjcff1989/>



Special site set up by Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program and People’s Daily Online <http://spjfc.people.com.cn>



“Japan at a Glance” on WeChat



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 challenges we face and help establish new ocean governance so that we may ensure future generations can inherit the ocean in its healthiest state. We aim to establish an appropriate management regime for the oceans that ensures that their use and conservation both occur in a sustainable manner. As a result, the three pillars of our projects include the need to clarify the benefits and risks to the oceans, to research and propose sustainable management methods, while also encouraging dialogue, training, and information sharing needed for policy implementation.

Clarifying Benefits and Risks to Oceans

The “Building Sustainable Ocean for the Future” project assesses the risks to marine environments and identifies the priority policy issues, using these findings to bolster international action on sustainable use of the ocean. We published three reports on major coastal cities in developing nations (Suva in Fiji, Dagupan in the Philippines, and Chattogram in Bangladesh) based on country-specific calculations of the CORVI indicators, which is the assessment index for climate and ocean-related risks. Two academic papers were also published and presented at international conferences and workshops, with findings being incorporated into the policies and plans of the governments concerned.

To ensure the sustainability of the ocean economy, we are also leveraging blue financing and environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) investment to protect the ocean environment and assess the impacts on different industries. We have participated in the subsidiary bodies to the United Nations Climate Change Conference and the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) and contributed to running the Ocean Pavilion that hosted major marine research institutions from around the world. Through initiatives such as publishing a book on ocean biodiversity in international waters, we are raising awareness of the new agreement for action.

The “Action Research on Sustainable Blue Economy” project seeks to put a value on unexplored regions and subjects of the oceans and assess the risks, conducting research that targets Asia, Africa, and Japan for policy implementation. The blue carbon project is being



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

extended across the regular coastline and regions covered by common fishery rights as well as Japan’s harbors, with recognition being given to J Blue Credit carbon offsets. In North Africa, we have worked with Tunisia, highlighting the need for policies that add value by processing marine products domestically and blue finance for the associated technology transfer. We have also undertaken economic assessments of the marine economy at four domestic locations to show the economic impacts of ocean policies and the benefits of policies for recovering from marine disasters.

Other work has highlighted the economic benefits of seafood traceability information. We have established cooperative research arrangements with scientific and governmental institutions in Bangladesh and Indonesia where the policies and practices developed through this work are to be implemented. Findings have been presented at international venues that include the United Nations Ocean Conference, Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8), and COP27.

The “Blue Impact Finance” project has worked with the Social Innovation and Investment Foundation (SIIF) to undertake a literature survey and perform data collection and analysis to develop a proposal for the Blue Impact Assessment Index (BIAI) used to evaluate financing.

We have also partnered with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) to hold the International Conference on Achieving Ocean Equity: Innovative, Fair, Inclusive and Sustainable Strategies and Blue Impact Investments on the challenges to achieving “ocean equity,” which included the findings of this work. The conference, which combined a symposium with policy dialogue, was attended by 55 researchers and government officials from 18 Asian and Pacific nations who debated topics such as the challenges to achieving ocean equity and what actions are needed.

We also co-hosted the “Think Tank-University Social Responsibility and Blue Impact” online workshop with the Taiwan-Japan Alliance of Local Revitalization and Social Practice (TJ Alliance). The workshop was a venue for vigorous debate, with 14 universities giving presentations on their ocean study projects.

Research and Proposals for Sustainable Ocean Management

The “Promotion on Ocean Digital Society” project visualized the current status of ocean observation systems in Japan and overseas, taking multiple sectors into account. It has commenced discussions at the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) on establishing an international coordination guideline to harmonically operate the satellite VHF Data Exchange System (VDES). The work to date has been incorporated into the Fourth Basic Plan on Ocean Policy (cabinet decision on April 28, 2023), including action to promote the use of Satellite VDES. A private sector-led consortium has been launched for accelerating the commercialization of satellite VDES. An international forum on Satellite VDES was held to introduce the activity in Japan to stakeholders overseas and to share the challenges and the possibility of future collaboration. To facilitate the automated collation of text data relating to the ocean, new prototype software was developed.



September 15, 2022, meeting in the lead up to the establishment of a private-sector-led consortium for Satellite VDES.

The “Innovative Development on Ocean Governance” project collects, analyzes, and assesses relevant data and makes it available on a regular basis through OPRI’s “From the Oceans” website for ocean information (international ocean information and maritime security information). The project enhanced understanding of international relations, including future maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region, by inviting Richard Marles, deputy prime minister, minister for defence of Australia, and a key actor in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue between Japan, the U.S., Australia, and India (QUAD), to give a presentation.

The “Research Study for Global Ocean Governance” project includes the OPRI Challenge, a project run by researchers from the institute, and builds knowledge about the effect of marine organisms on the ocean economy and about maritime policy in island nations and South Asia. We held the 188th Ocean Forum entitled “Japan-Norway Cooperation in the Maritime Sector: Reflections on its Expansion and Deepening” (April 22, 2022) and the Ninth Maritime Security Symposium on

“Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Japan Coast Guard: Past and Future of These Two Similar but Different Organizations” (November 29, 2022). These events strengthened international links with Norway and discussed how security and rescue operations can be handled in a seamless manner.

OPRI also strives to make the results of research available, including by publishing the 17th edition of Ocean Policy Studies to communicate the findings of both its own personnel and external partners more widely. It also published issues 1 and 2 of volume 12 of The Journal of Islands Studies to provide the international community with a highly reliable primary source of information that will help resolve the problems facing island communities. We also collated material on South Sea Islands held by the Asia-Pacific Library to publish a compendium of information on this topic and help establish the foundations for associated research in Japan.



A scene from the Ninth Maritime Security Symposium “Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Japan Coast Guard: Past and Future of These Two Similar but Different Organizations” (November 29, 2022).

The “Study on Science for Policy in the Arctic” project established a new collaborative relationship with Greenland, hosting a session at the Arctic Circle Greenland Forum. Joint research with overseas think tanks has focused on the use of Arctic shipping lanes and the Arctic energy problem. We invited experts from Canada, a member state of the Arctic Council, to discuss the future of the Arctic, addressing the rapidly changing prospects for the region’s future in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We also presented reports at the Polar Law Symposium on Japan-China cooperation in Arctic affairs and on Japan’s current Arctic policy and the associated issues. We hosted a joint session at the Arctic Circle Assembly with the China Institute for Marine Affairs and shared the findings of our research on the region with the Arctic community. We attended the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok and have been successful at expanding our contacts and the collection of reliable information for research into creating a hydrogen economy.

Dialogue, Training, and Information Sharing for Policy Implementation

The “Platform for a New Ocean Paradigm” project facilitated the Our Ocean Conference hosted by the

government of Palau. The conference attracted a number of national leaders as well as management and experts from international institutions and research institutes for a wide-ranging and productive debate on the ocean, with a particular focus on the island nations of the Pacific. Our role in the conference was highlighted by OPRI President Hide Sakaguchi being among those who spoke and led the debate at sessions on the blue economy and maritime security, two areas of particular interest to us.

Although the Arctic Circle Japan Forum was delayed three times, we worked closely with the Arctic Circle Secretariat through the COVID-19 pandemic and the event was finally held in March 2023. Despite the ongoing deadlock due to the situation in Ukraine, the forum made great progress on the future management of the Arctic, attracting a high caliber of local and overseas attendees with numerous sessions seeing vigorous debate.



We facilitated the 7th Our Ocean Conference held on April 13, 2022. OPRI President Hide Sakaguchi was among those who spoke and led the debate at sessions on the blue economy and maritime security.



Main session of the Arctic Circle Japan Forum on March 4, 2023.

The “Strengthening Ocean Policy Dialogues and Networks” project enables realistic dialogue based on empirical data and the results of policy analysis and has successfully delivered progress on policy making and implementation in relevant nations while encouraging regional collaboration between local and international institutions. This has involved organizing and engaging in policy dialogue to promote international collaboration on things like the elimination of harmful subsidies, the goal of establishing protections for 30% of the world’s oceans, the adoption of international agreements on topics such as marine biodiversity in international waters, and launching negotiations on eliminating marine plastic, while also recognizing the need for action on strengthening the infrastructure in island nations to support putting

these new initiatives into practice.

Through multilateral policy dialogue, we have engaged in regional collaboration on how major nations and regions such as Africa and the island nations of the Pacific can achieve sustainable oceans and a sustainable blue economy. This includes deepening understanding of priority areas in the promotion of international coordination. We have also reinvigorated mutual exchange programs to strengthen ties with national leaders, executives, and other key people. In the case of bilateral dialogue, we have resumed high-level interactions with leaders in various countries and enhanced understanding of policy issues for the new administrations in places like Palau.

The “Ocean Education Pioneer School Program III” has funded activities by 140 educational institutions across 38 prefectures around Japan, including boards of education, local governments, schools, and kindergartens. The recipient institutions are chosen by a panel of experts and we have taken advice and received other input from specialist and objective standpoints on how to run the program.

To provide forums where educators can share information, we held the Ocean Education Workshop in August and began monthly “Sunset Talk” sessions from September, with both initiatives happening online.

We have also conducted field observations to assess how widespread ocean education is in Japan and worked on the design of educational resources. The latter included trialing the production of Japanese-translated teaching materials from Canada’s Ocean School and an educational video for underwater observation of Sukumo Bay.

To promote ocean education to schools around Japan, we have run advertisements in the media, upgraded the operation of our website, and provided advice and classroom observation to recipient institutions. We also held the “Ocean Learner Conference for All (OLCA) 2022” on February 4, 2023, as an event for children from funded schools.



Expanding the possibilities for using the ocean for learning (Ocean Education Pioneer School Program).

The “Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields” project provided opportunities for 31 Sasakawa Fellowship Students from the class of 2022 and 30 students from the class of 2023 to pursue MSc programs at the World Maritime University (WMU).

It also established a strong network among the students of two generations by conducting the Gathering

Orientation and WMU Sasakawa Fellows Awards Ceremony at WMU. The number of WMU Sasakawa Fellows reaches almost 800, and it made a particular effort to maintain and strengthen the network by updating the fellows’ database, and by keeping fellows and affiliated people up to date through newsletters, website, and other channels. Furthermore, by taking advantage of the opportunity of the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), it held Sasakawa Fellows Regional Network Meeting in Tunisia to strengthen collaborative relationships within the African region to support overcoming common challenges. Meanwhile, it has been developing talent and arranging exchanges between relevant institutions by seconding an adjunct professor to WMU and attending events hosted by WMU or the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute (GOI).

The “Public Relations for Ocean Science and Technology” project is working on long-term initiatives for personnel



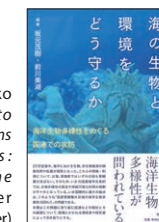
WMU Sasakawa Fellows participated in the Regional Network Meeting in Tunisia.

development to achieve greater understanding of the issues facing the oceans and coastal regions. Activities include providing interested young people with a place on the training vessel Statsraad Lehmkuhl as it made a circumnavigation of the world. This is being done in partnership with One Ocean Expedition, an international project to support the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development being undertaken by Norway. Acknowledging the upcoming World Expo 2025 in Osaka, we also held a seminar in February 2023 entitled “Towards the Ocean Expo”

The “Public Relations for Ocean Policy” project presents broad-ranging information about ocean in Japan and elsewhere with the aims of fostering better understanding of the ocean and of making resources available for the development of ocean policy. To keep people up to date with the latest developments in this field, this project publishes the bi-monthly Ocean Newsletter, delivering high-level content in a clear and easy-to-understand format by email, blog postings, and other such channels. In a practice that dates back to 2004, the current fiscal year has also featured the publication of a White Paper, collating comprehensive and interdisciplinary reports on trends and other developments over the year that relate to the ocean and coastal regions of Japan and farther afield. We have also sought to better coordinate our use of different media by undertaking a comprehensive upgrade of OPRI’s website and by reviewing the role and target readership of the different forms of communication we use.

Ocean Policy Research Institute Publications

Shigeki Sakamoto, Miko Maekawa, eds. *How to Protect Marine Organisms and Environments: UN Tactics on Marine Biodiversity* (October 2022, Nishinihon Publisher)



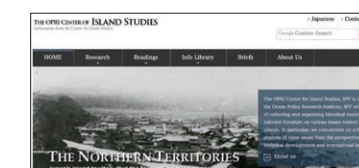
Ocean Policy Studies No. 17 (February 2023)



“White Paper on the Oceans and Ocean Policy in Japan 2022” (April 2022, Seizendo)



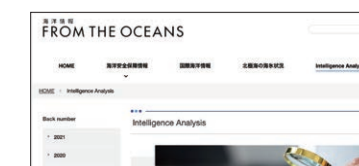
Ocean Policy Research Institute Satellite Sites



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



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



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



Friends of WMU, Japan
<https://www.wmujapan.net/>



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.

With all Pacific island nations having moved on to a post-COVID footing by October 2022, we have been able to resume activities in the region, meetings in Japan, and work on rebuilding our networks in Japan and overseas as well as studying and publicizing the situation in these nations.

Marine Management and Safety

The "Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region III" project continued to fund Palau Coast Guard salaries for the operation of the small patrol boats and 40-meter patrol vessel supplied to Palau by The Nippon Foundation. We also arranged for a Japan Coast Guard Mobile Cooperation Team (MCT) to visit Palau twice to provide training to the Coast Guard.

Achieving Sustainable Societies

The "Economic Revitalization in Pacific Island Communities by Boosting Community Based Tourism" project held separate meetings with eight rural states from the commercial center of Babeldaob Island, Koror state, and the Palau Visitors Authority (PVA), also organizing a workshop for local people, a trial of tourism operations, and an internship at Toba City in Mie, Japan. In doing so, we fostered opportunities for community-centered ecotourism while encouraging cooperation between the national and state levels of government. We also raised interest in community-centered ecotourism by presenting the work being done in Palau as an example of putting sustainable tourism into practice at the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) summit in the Cook Islands and the global summit of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in the Maldives.

Bolstering Ties Between Pacific Island Countries and Japan

The "Enhancement of Public-Private Partnership for Upgrading Japan's Strategy Toward Pacific Islands Region" project was involved in the working group that put together a draft declaration for the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 10) and the inaugural meeting of the eminent persons group. We also set up a group to

work on collaboration between industry, government, academia, and the public in the Pacific islands region and started work on establishing a platform for such collaboration.

Passing Down Records and Memories and Rebuilding Interpersonal Networks

To give the international community an insight into how the island nations of the Indo-Pacific region view the world, the "Building a Foundation of Human Relationships Between Pacific Islands and Japan for Future Generation" project co-hosted the 2nd Annual Indo-Pacific Islands Dialogue with the U.S. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The event was held in September 2022 in New York.

Information Sharing

The program shares local news along with commentary in the "Breaking News from the Pacific Islands" section of the program website. It seeks to help people in Japan and elsewhere gain an accurate understanding of what is going on the region by speaking with the media and providing government officials in Japan and like-minded countries with new analysis and information.



Aiming to achieve sustainable island societies together with future generations (internship training at the Kaito Yumin Club in Toba, Mie, in October 2022).

Project List

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen)*	Year
Japan-U.S. Program					
Creating Strategic Network Between Japanese and American Policy Communities	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	101,400,396	3/3
Insights into Japan-U.S. Relations	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	26,140,192	3/3
Enriching U.S.-Japan Congressional Exchanges 2022	Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA	USA	Grant	98,521,230	1/1
Strengthening the U.S.-Japan Relationship from U.S. Perspectives 2022	Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA	USA	Grant	287,501,955	1/1

Security Studies Program

Japan U.S. Alliance Study	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	27,220,635	4/5
Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,497,307	3/3
The Study of Contemporary China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	23,546,082	3/3
Study on Nuclear Safeguards and Security	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,685,476	2/2
Deterrence in the New Domains	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	5,694,282	2/2
Future Fellowship for Okinawa II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	13,508,545	2/2
Information Provision of International Situation and Security III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	16,617,013	1/5
Shaping the Pragmatic and Effective Strategy toward China II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,939,438	1/1
Security Research in Collaboration with Japan, the United States, and Taiwan -Comprehensive Security Centered on the Taiwan region-	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	17,112,517	1/3
Japan-India-Russia Strategic Dialogue II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	0	1/2
International Conference: Securing the Indo-Pacific II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,905,754	1/2
Future of International Peace Operations	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	10,041,688	1/3
Table Top Exercise on the Taiwan Strait Crisis	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	18,353,744	1/1
Enhancing National Cyber Security II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,715,039	1/3
Dissemination of Security Knowledge to U.S. Military Personnel in Japan	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	7,722,844	1/2
Japan-EU Maritime Dialogue	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,901,590	1/2

Scholarship Program

Sasakawa Scholarship Program	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	53,119,118	1/1
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* Some project activities were unable to proceed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global situation, and other external factors.

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen)*	Year
● Asia Peace Initiatives Program					
Engaging Northeast India in ActEast	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	39,286,694	3/3
Enhancing Responsible Business Conduct	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	25,034,764	3/3
Dialogue and Resonance in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	27,609,227	2/3
Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of North East India and Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	25,925,059	1/3
Building Models towards Inclusive Society in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	39,043,436	1/5
Research and Study on Men and Masculinities in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,677,685	1/1
Asian Statespersons' Forum	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	2,789,296	1/1
Imphal Peace Museum Project III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,669,186	1/2
Women's Empowerment in Iran and Japan II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	414,266	1/1
Human Exchanges between Japan and the Middle Eastern Countries	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	21,633,624	1/3
UK-Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East Phase III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,942,933	1/3
Research on Muslim in Japanese Society	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	5,565,332	1/3

● Peacebuilding Program

Women Political Participation in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,945,540	2/3
Intervention for Peacebuilding	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	61,726,414	1/2
Research and Policy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	160,491,975	1/2

● Gender Investment and Innovation Program

Gender Lens Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (GLEE) Development in Southeast Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	19,634,990	3/3
Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF) Implementation Project	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	56,485,859	2/3
Building an Entrepreneurial Support System with Gender Lens	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	34,248,384	2/3
Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in the Philippines through Ecosystem Building	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	21,503,072	1/3

● Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Program

Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,570,496	5/5
Website for Dissemination of Information Phase III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,803,028	4/5
Invitation Program for Chinese Opinion Leaders	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	1,176,338	3/3
Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	13,861,399	3/3
A Review of the 50 Years of Japan-China Relations (1972-2022) and Future Perspectives	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	15,924,344	2/2
Exchange Project for Japan-China Experts in Traditional Arts and Crafts II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	3,257,410	1/3
A Summary of Private-Sector Diplomacy Between Japan and China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,600,348	1/2
Network Construction Between Japanese and Chinese Young Leaders	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	2,475,429	1/5
Survey of Japan-China Exchange Groups and Influence of COVID-19	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	15,271,400	1/1
Training for Teachers of Japanese Language in Remote Areas of China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,762,407	1/5
Enhancing Dissemination of Information Relating to China in Japan	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	17,234,861	1/5
Japan-China Relations in 2050	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,430,213	1/2

* Some project activities were unable to proceed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global situation, and other external factors.

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen)*	Year
● Ocean Policy Research Institute					
Division of Ocean Policy Planning and Management					
Public Relations for Ocean Science and Technology	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	15,212,531	2/3
Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	341,911,740	2/3
Ocean Education Pioneer School Program III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	93,630,775	1/4
Public Relations for Ocean Policy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	43,775,317	1/5

Division of Ocean Policy Research

Platform for a New Ocean Paradigm	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	88,383,276	4/4
Innovative Development on Ocean Governance	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	55,756,683	2/2
Building Sustainable Ocean for the Future	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	81,911,259	2/3
Strengthening Ocean Policy Dialogues and Networks	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	54,105,057	2/3
Promotion on Ocean Digital Society	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	48,671,642	2/3
Study on Science for Policy in the Arctic	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	22,298,762	2/3
Action Research on Sustainable Blue Economy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	73,729,854	2/3
Research Study for Global Ocean Governance	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	54,440,708	1/3
Blue Impact Finance	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	10,535,178	1/3

● Pacific Island Nations Program

Economic Revitalization in Pacific Island Communities by Boosting Community Based Tourism	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,132,594	1/5
Enhancement of Public-Private Partnership for Upgrading Japan's Strategy Toward Pacific Islands Region	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	3,788,867	1/3
Building a Foundation of Human Relationships Between Pacific Islands and Japan for Future Generation	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	32,305,789	1/5
Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	67,333,263	1/5

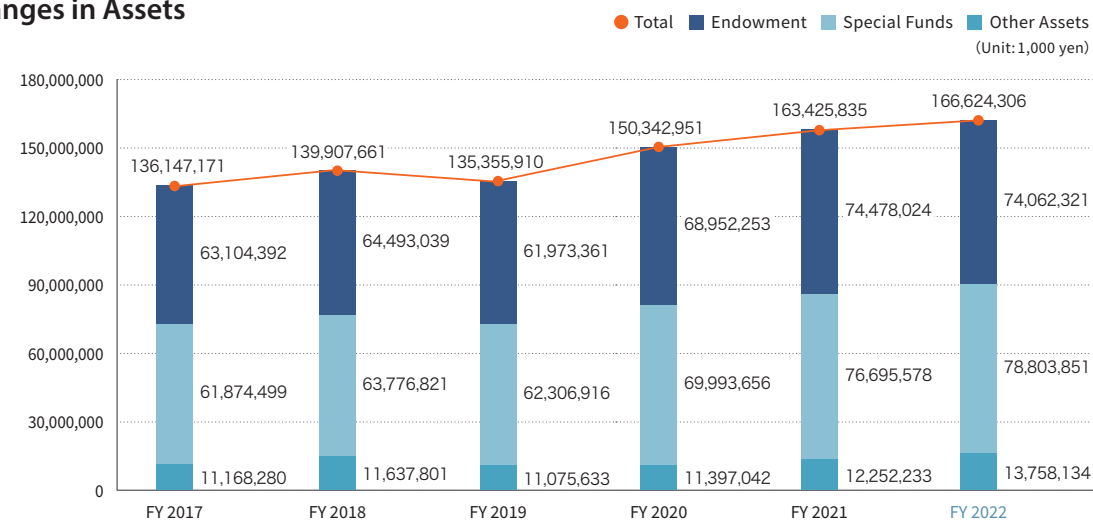
* Some project activities were unable to proceed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global situation, and other external factors.

Statement of Income and Expenses

(Unit: 1,000 yen)

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
I. Operating activities						
1. Income						
From endowment	1,327,302	1,625,058	1,721,795	1,802,582	1,725,827	3,760,858
From special funds	1,441,396	1,542,209	1,599,834	1,709,679	1,793,095	4,175,585
Other income	110,930	136,948	132,260	131,345	231,584	230,472
Contributions / grants	1,511,561	703,342	638,979	602,944	1,353,809	1,775,170
Total income from operating activities	4,391,189	4,007,557	4,092,868	4,246,550	5,104,315	9,942,084
2. Expenses						
Program	3,431,383	3,098,410	2,993,668	2,342,480	2,729,060	4,128,823
General and administrative	306,905	286,067	284,817	314,783	324,076	425,139
Total expenses from operating activities	3,738,288	3,384,477	3,278,485	2,657,263	3,053,136	4,553,962
Net income from operating activities	652,901	623,080	814,383	1,589,287	2,051,179	5,388,122
II. Investing activities						
1. Income						
Proceeds from sales of investments	64,676,478	460,532	2,384,060	177,197	306,409	659,584
Deposits return income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sale of property	0	128	0	0	0	0
Total income from investing activities	64,676,478	460,660	2,384,060	177,197	306,409	659,584
2. Expenses						
Purchase of investments	64,834,519	437,415	3,418,329	1,039,269	1,963,819	5,516,178
Purchase of property	152,112	11,979	74,149	53,892	25,366	46,142
Long-term prepaid expenses	0	3,758	0	0	0	0
Total expenses from investing activities	64,986,631	453,152	3,492,478	1,093,161	1,989,185	5,562,320
Net income from investing activities	△ 310,153	7,508	△ 1,108,418	△ 915,964	△ 1,682,776	△ 4,902,736
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	342,748	630,588	△ 294,036	673,323	368,403	485,386
Net income, beginning of year	2,374,962	2,717,710	3,348,298	3,054,262	3,727,585	4,095,988
Net income, end of year	2,717,710	3,348,298	3,054,262	3,727,585	4,095,988	4,581,374

Changes in Assets



Statement of Changes in Net Assets

(Unit: 1,000 yen)

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
I. Net assets-unrestricted						
1. Recurring revenues and expenses						
(1) Recurring revenues	3,838,618	4,191,251	3,992,254	4,014,039	4,423,802	5,243,970
(2) Recurring expenses	3,968,784	3,673,437	3,496,558	2,874,557	3,277,034	4,745,518
Net assets from recurring activities before valuation	△ 130,166	517,814	495,696	1,139,482	1,146,768	498,452
Profit and loss on appraisal in basic assets	△ 366,321	457,361	△ 933,702	2,336,615	1,954,503	3,539,069
Net assets from recurring activities	△ 496,487	975,175	△ 438,006	3,476,097	3,101,271	4,037,522
2. Non-recurring revenues and expenses						
(1) Non-recurring revenues	0	127,870	0	1,031	0	814
(2) Non-recurring expenses	3,902	0	0	0	0	0
Net assets from non-recurring activities	△ 3,901	128	0	1,031	0	814
Change in unrestricted	△ 500,388	975,303	△ 438,006	3,477,128	3,101,271	4,038,335
Net assets-unrestricted, beginning of year	32,173,136	31,672,747	32,648,050	32,210,044	35,687,172	38,788,443
Net assets-unrestricted, end of year	31,672,748	32,648,050	32,210,044	35,687,172	38,788,443	42,826,778
II. Net assets-temporarily restricted						
Change in net assets-temporarily restricted	△ 2,235,567	2,626,770	△ 4,026,748	11,516,710	9,840,084	△ 722,929
Net assets-temporarily restricted, beginning of year	105,923,751	103,688,184	106,314,954	102,288,206	113,804,916	123,645,000
Net assets-temporarily restricted, end of year	103,688,184	106,314,954	102,288,206	113,804,916	123,645,000	122,922,071
III. Total net assets, end of year	135,360,932	138,963,004	134,498,250	149,492,088	162,433,443	165,748,850

Balance Sheet

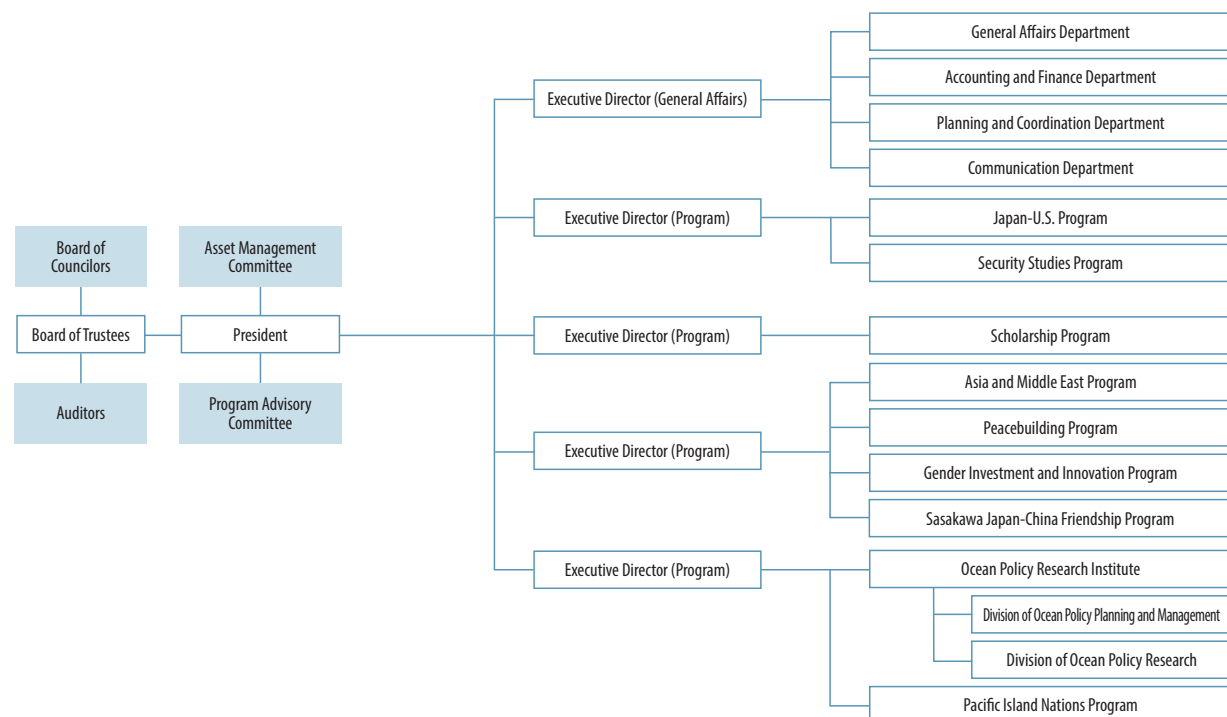
(Unit: 1,000 yen)

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
I. Assets						
1. Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	3,053,744	3,580,763	3,421,916	4,059,024	4,477,491	4,933,830
Investments	0	225,052	0	0	0	0
Other current assets	311,664	303,122	253,139	230,499	302,471	179,803
Total current assets	3,365,408	4,108,937	3,675,055	4,289,523	4,779,962	5,113,633
2. Fixed assets						
Endowment	63,104,392	64,493,039	61,973,361	68,952,253	74,478,024	74,062,321
Special funds (special assets)	61,874,499	63,776,821	62,306,916	69,993,656	76,695,578	78,803,851
Other special assets	2,697,086	2,674,014	2,708,323	2,570,407	3,132,359	4,434,146
Other fixed assets	5,105,786	4,854,850	4,692,255	4,537,112	4,339,912	4,210,355
Total fixed assets	132,781,763	135,798,724	131,680,855	146,053,428	158,645,873	161,510,673
Total assets	136,147,171	139,907,661	135,355,910	150,342,951	163,425,835	166,624,306
II. Liabilities						
Current liabilities	419,796	567,891	500,562	497,731	632,939	511,417
Long-term liabilities	366,443	376,765	357,097	353,132	359,453	364,039
Total liabilities	786,239	944,656	857,659	850,863	992,392	875,456
III. Net assets						
1. Net assets-temporarily restricted	103,688,185	106,314,955	102,288,206	113,804,916	123,645,000	122,922,071
To endowment	(57,008,126)	(58,311,679)	(56,268,880)	(62,547,178)	(67,650,150)	(67,403,601)
To special assets	(46,680,059)	(48,003,276)	(46,019,326)	(51,257,738)	(55,994,850)	(55,518,471)
2. Net assets-unrestricted	31,672,747	32,648,050	32,210,045	35,687,172	38,788,443	42,826,778
To endowment	(6,096,266)	(6,181,360)	(5,704,480)	(6,405,076)	(6,827,874)	(6,658,720)
To special assets	(17,563,584)	(18,092,679)	(18,654,236)	(20,974,924)	(23,489,648)	(27,395,475)
Total net assets	135,360,932	138,963,005	134,498,251	149,492,088	162,433,443	165,748,850
Total liabilities and net assets	136,147,171	139,907,661	135,355,910	150,342,951	163,425,835	166,624,306

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 public awareness raising campaigns geared toward solving issues facing human society. (2) Provide training resources, create exchange opportunities, and build people-to-people networks to help solve societal issues. (3) Conduct research and publicize recommendations on new governance systems to regulate human society. (4) Carry out innovative research, development efforts, and studies on maritime affairs. (5) Promote international understanding, exchange, and cooperation. (6) Convene conferences and special events related to items (1)-(5) (7) Gather and distribute information and present policy recommendations concerning items (1)-(5). (8) Facility rentals. (9) Other projects required to achieve our objectives.
Endowment	74,062,320,935 yen (as of March 31, 2023)
Special Assets	78,803,851,198 yen (as of March 31, 2023)
Fiscal Year 2023 Budget for Operating Expenses	6,529,740,000 yen (as of March 31, 2023)

Organization Chart (As of June 28, 2023)



Board Members (As of December 1, 2023)

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