The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SFP), 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**

- **1975** Establishment of the Japan Foundation for Shipbuilding Advancement
- **1986** Establishment of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Setsuya Tabuchi appointed as inaugural Chairman
- **1992** Establishment of the Sasakawa Southeast Asia Cooperation Fund
  - Renamed “the Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund” in 2002
  - The fund’s target then expanded to the whole of Asia in 2009
- **2002** Establishment of the Sasakawa Middle East Islam Fund, replacing The Sasakawa Central Europe Fund
- **2009** Establishment of the Sasakawa Program Fund using a portion of Specific Funds
- **2011** Became a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation under the public interest incorporated associations and foundations reform
- **2015** Merged with the Ship & Ocean Foundation to become one of Asia’s largest public interest incorporated foundations, with combined assets worth 142.6 billion yen with OPRF commencing operation as the Ocean Policy Research Institute
- **2017** Establishment of the Asian Women’s Impact Fund
- **2018** Granted special consultative status by the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council

- **1987** Ryoichi Sasakawa appointed as Honorary Chairman
- **1990** Establishment of The Sasakawa Central Europe Fund (SCEF)
- **2001** Took over administration of WMU Sasakawa Fellowships Program from the Tokyo Foundation
- **2004** Published the inaugural issue of the White Paper on the Oceans and Ocean Policy
- **2005** Began operating under the name Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF)
- **2006** Compiled the “Ocean Policy Outline” and “Basic Ocean Law Outline” at the Basic Ocean Law Forum
- **2007** The Basic Act on Ocean Policy was enacted as lawmaker-initiated legislation. OPRF has worked since then on developing specific basic policies.
- **2002** Founded the Institute for Ocean Policy within SOF
- **2009** Established Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund
- **2016** Yohei Sasakawa appointed as the Honorary Chairman
- **2017** Established the Sasakawa Program Fund
- **2018** Established the Asian Women’s Impact Fund
- **2019** Granted special consultative status by the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council

**Contents**

- History of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- Conversation between Honorary Chairman Sasakawa and President Sunami
- The role of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation post-COVID-19
- Mission Statement and Five Priority Goals
- FY 2019 Program Report
  - Supporting stability in the international community and strengthening Japan–U.S. relations
  - Japan–U.S. Program
  - International Peace and Security Department
  - Pacific Island Nations Program
- Expanding Japan’s presence in Asia
  - Asia Peace Initiatives Department
  - Gender Investment and Innovation Department
  - Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund
- Enhancing understanding of and relationships with Islamic countries
  - Middle East and Islam Program Department
- Establishing ocean governance
  - The Ocean Policy Research Institute
- Financial Position
- Foundation Profile
- Organization Chart
- Board Members
- Contact and Access
The role of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation post-COVID-19

Honorary Chairman Yohei Sasakawa

“Bolstering international cooperation and understanding as a private foundation”
&

“Breaking down barriers to build a harmonious society”
President Atsushi Sunami

With an eye toward the post-COVID-19 era, Honorary Chairman Yohei Sasakawa and President Atsushi Sunami, who took office in June 2020, talked about the potential roles to be played by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) and the importance of spreading the word about the foundation’s activities.

President Sunami: The world has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in various ways.

Chairman Sasakawa: That’s very true. U.S. President Donald Trump has strongly promoted his America First policy and also announced the country’s withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, the United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union (EU), which has been traditionally kept in order by the combined efforts of Germany, France, and the U.K. While it is a matter of great concern that international frameworks and regional alliances are collapsing despite having existed and developed ever since World War II, the spread of COVID-19 has also had a major impact on the movement of people, goods, and money, which are the cornerstones of capitalist society. It is the first time since the Spanish flu epidemic that modern society has faced such a serious situation.

I believe that the biggest issues we are facing at the moment are how to organize the post-COVID-19 society and how to determine what kind of new world order we need to build. In this context, SPF certainly has an important role to play.

President Sunami: With the world gradually becoming more divided, our mission is to build a society in which people can live together in harmony by breaking down barriers and divisions brought about by differences in religion and history. I feel that the national trends are working against this idea, so the expectations for SPF as a private foundation are very high both inside and outside Japan.

Chairman Sasakawa: Breaking down barriers acts as the starting point for everything. People-to-people connections are what enable relationships and interactions that transcend politics, ideology, religion, race, and national boundaries. The work done by SPF is quite different from political activities, and while focusing on getting a firm grip on the basics is a very low-profile and time-consuming activity, I believe it is in fact the most important thing that we do. Moreover, SPF is the only private foundation currently working toward this kind of international cooperation and understanding.

Telling the world about SPF

President Sunami: Fewer and fewer foundations and organizations do what we do at SPF. For this reason, I believe that we could benefit by going back to our roots. I have been discussing the potential roles for SPF after the COVID-19 pandemic with the staff at the foundation, and I would like us to focus on the work that defines us an organization.

In order to make our work more in line with people’s expectations, we need to adopt new methods and mindsets. SPF works with people around the world, so it follows that we need to work harder to help people around the world find information about us in English. Since we are unable to meet face-to-face due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we must focus our efforts on providing information about our work online.

Chairman Sasakawa: To look at this situation another way, the COVID-19 pandemic has in fact made it easier to reach out, communicate, and interact with people through webinars and other digital technologies. In this sense, the nature of international exchange has changed considerably and ought to change even more.

There is one part of the Japanese mentality that does not work in the international community. Japanese people tend to believe that showing off our achievements is immodest, yet this practice has major negative repercussions for Japan in the international community. We’re in an era where it’s not enough just to reach people who are already “in the know.” It is very important for both Japan and SPF to release more information about themselves to the world.

1 + 1 = 3 ...

President Sunami: SPF has established five priority goals (see page 6), one of which is “Establishing Ocean Governance.” Ocean issues are being addressed more and more on a global scale, and I feel that the world is now catching up with what SPF’s Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) has been working on for years with The Nippon Foundation.

Chairman Sasakawa: The world has finally begun to realize that ocean issues are fundamental to human survival. I hope that in the future SPF, The Nippon Foundation, and the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research will share information and collaborate with one another as sister foundations to develop and implement new projects in which the whole will be more than the sum of its parts, creating a world where one plus one can become three, five, or more.

When designing a project, it is important to remember that what we think is good and what the other party thinks is good may be completely different, and therefore pushing matters in a one-sided manner may be futile and fail to achieve positive results. It is important to always understand the interests of other people when proceeding with a project.
Pursuing the Sasakawa Peace Foundation’s Missions through our Priority Goals

Our 3 Missions:

- Work Toward Establishing New Ocean Governance
- Encourage the Realization of World Peace and Security
- Promote Solutions for the Diverse Problems of the Planet

Our 5 Priority Goals:

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Budget (yen)</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan–U.S. Program</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>52,474,029</td>
<td>3/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The German Marshall Fund’s Young Strategists Forum</td>
<td>German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>2,481,023</td>
<td>2/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening the U.S.–Japan Relationship from U.S. Perspectives 2019</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>233,651,106</td>
<td>1/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enriching U.S.–Japan Congressional Exchanges</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>47,455,251</td>
<td>1/1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International Peace and Security Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Budget (yen)</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Study of Contemporary China</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>8,376,847</td>
<td>3/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of the Implication of China’s Economic Operation</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>11,986,520</td>
<td>3/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance Sheet of Lesser Allies and Implication for Japan’s Alliance Policy</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>7,392,530</td>
<td>2/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology**</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>8,382,295</td>
<td>2/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan’s Defense Diplomacy**</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>3,918,234</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing National Cyber Security**</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>18,072,366</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security in the Indo-Pacific Region</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>14,324,013</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Provision of International Situation and Security II</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>9,016,988</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan U.S. Alliance Study</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>20,257,914</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.–Japan–India Triilateral Workshop on Strategic Technology Cooperation</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>5,478,000</td>
<td>1/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Security Policy Dialogue</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>5,988,829</td>
<td>1/1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pacific Island Nations Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Budget (yen)</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Japan’s Strategy on the Security Issues in the Pacific Island Region</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>8,376,132</td>
<td>2/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region II</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>35,088,013</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of Palau Sustainable Tourism Model**</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>3,057,870</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening the Genuine Partnership between the Pacific Island Countries and Japan</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>1,701,090</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For projects *1–4, the following measures were taken to prevent the further spread of COVID-19:

*1 Press conference postponed and moved online for FY 2020
*2 Suspension of overseas business trips and seminars
*3 Invitation projects, TTX, and seminars postponed, with plans to be carried out during FY 2020
*4 Expert dispatch projects postponed, with plans to be carried out during FY 2020
Aiming to maintain and build an intellectual network between Japan and the U.S. through strategic people-to-people exchanges and utilize those professional networks to strengthen research and information dissemination efforts both domestically and internationally, the Japan-U.S. Program conducted a range of projects, including self-implemented projects such as the “Japan-U.S. Opinion Leader Exchange” project as well as grant projects including in support of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA. The program implemented these activities in light of a broader perspective that covers relations with countries and regions critical to the Japan-U.S. relationship. Continuing from before the fiscal year, we further strengthened our research and information dissemination efforts focusing on understanding the domestic situation in the United States and exploring a range of diplomatic and security issues.

**Strengthening the Japan–U.S. network**

In cooperation with the Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ), nine members of the U.S. Congress visited Japan and met with Japanese officials and experts including the prime minister, foreign minister, and minister of defense. Eight chiefs of staff from the U.S. Congress also visited Japan, giving them the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Japan and Japan–U.S. relations.

Furthermore, the program hosted Dr. Jeffrey Hornung, a research fellow from the RAND Corporation who specializes in Japanese foreign policy and security studies, at the foundation as a visiting fellow for one month. This gave Dr. Hornung the opportunity to study the latest developments in Japan–Europe relations, a topic with little information readily available in the U.S. During his stay at SPF, Dr. Hornung also deepened his relationship with Japanese experts including journalists.

Dr. Toshihiro Nakayama, a professor at Keio University, and Dr. Nobuhiro Azawa, an associate professor at Kyushu University, were dispatched from Japan to the U.S. as long-term Woodrow Wilson Center Japan Scholars. Through these exchanges, the program made an effort to promote mutual understanding and policy dialogue between Japan and the U.S.

In the U.S., the program conducted regular seminars in Washington, D.C. on security issues and other relevant topics through the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA). SPF’s sister organization, and conducted exchanges and shared information to promote understanding of Japan–U.S. relations, targeting various audiences including policy communities and local cities.

In addition, in cooperation with the National Association of Japan America Societies (NAJAS), the program organized the seminar series “Geostrategy in the Grassroots” hosted by local Japan America Societies (NAJAS), the program organized the seminar series “Geostrategy in the Grassroots” hosted by local Japan America Societies in five cities in the U.S. At each event, a Japanese and American expert were invited as guest speakers to create an opportunity to deepen understanding at a local level in the U.S. of the latest developments regarding the Japan–U.S. alliance, the security environment in East Asia, as well as international relations.

In addition, working with the U.S.–Japan Council (USJC), the program invited a group of six Asian state-level legislators to Japan as part of efforts to deepen the understanding of Japan among American experts at the state-level. The group made a fruitful trip by visiting several cities and prefectures including Tottori, with the cooperation of The Nippon Foundation.

A delegation of Asian American state legislators visited Tottori (December 2019).

Former USJC President Irene Hirano Inouye (front row, center), who passed away in February 2020, in a meeting with Governor Shinji Hirai on her visit to Tottori (December 2019).

The “America Geijutsu Monitor” (monitoring current American politics and society) project, a study group with Japanese researchers, investigated and analyzed the current situation of American politics, foreign policies, and social issues, and published 25 op-eds on the SPF website (Japanese only).

Looking toward the 2020 U.S. presidential election, the program invited American and Japanese experts for a lecture event and also made a special video for YouTube, both of which provided analysis of the issue of the primary elections and the presidential candidates, and discussed the potential impact of the election on foreign affairs.

A deeper understanding of the United States

The “America Geijutsu Monitor” (monitoring current American politics and society) project, a study group with Japanese researchers, investigated and analyzed the current situation of American politics, foreign policies, and social issues, and published 25 op-eds on the SPF website (Japanese only).

Enhancement of research and information dissemination to the public

**Multilateral discussions about Japan–U.S. relations and alliance relations**

The program held two workshops in Tokyo and Washington, D.C. through the “Asia Strategy Initiative” project, which brought together young and mid-career foreign policy and security experts from Japan and the U.S. Based on the discussions through the workshop, three policy memoranda on the themes of “An Alliance Strategy for the East China Sea,” “U.S.–Japan cooperation on Indo-Pacific Regional Architecture,” and “The U.S.–Japan Alliance in an Age of Resurgent Techno-Nationalism” were published on the SPF website.

The “Workshops on the U.S., Alliances, and International Order” project held a workshop in Fukuoka with young researchers from Japan, South Korea, India, Vietnam, Australia, Turkey, Germany, and Poland. The researchers also wrote papers built upon these in-depth discussions that continued over the course of more than two years.

In addition, on the occasion of the publication of the third edition of the booklet “Japan Matters for America/America Matters for Japan” in 2018 in collaboration with the East-West Center (EWC), the program hosted a panel discussion with four experts from Japan and the U.S. on the theme of comparison of the different relationships between the U.S. and partners and allies including Japan, Australia, and Southeast Asia.

Enhancement of research and information dissemination to the public

**Multilateral discussions about Japan–U.S. relations and alliance relations**

The program held two workshops in Tokyo and Washington, D.C. through the “Asia Strategy Initiative” project, which brought together young and mid-career foreign policy and security experts from Japan and the U.S. Based on the discussions through the workshop, three policy memoranda on the themes of “An Alliance Strategy for the East China Sea,” “U.S.–Japan cooperation on Indo-Pacific Regional Architecture,” and “The U.S.–Japan Alliance in an Age of Resurgent Techno-Nationalism” were published on the SPF website.

The “Workshops on the U.S., Alliances, and International Order” project held a workshop in Fukuoka with young researchers from Japan, South Korea, India, Vietnam, Australia, Turkey, Germany, and Poland. The researchers also wrote papers built upon these in-depth discussions that continued over the course of more than two years.

In addition, on the occasion of the publication of the third edition of the booklet “Japan Matters for America/America Matters for Japan” in 2018 in collaboration with the East-West Center (EWC), the program hosted a panel discussion with four experts from Japan and the U.S. on the theme of comparison of the different relationships between the U.S. and partners and allies including Japan, Australia, and Southeast Asia.

Enhancement of research and information dissemination to the public

**Multilateral discussions about Japan–U.S. relations and alliance relations**

The program held two workshops in Tokyo and Washington, D.C. through the “Asia Strategy Initiative” project, which brought together young and mid-career foreign policy and security experts from Japan and the U.S. Based on the discussions through the workshop, three policy memoranda on the themes of “An Alliance Strategy for the East China Sea,” “U.S.–Japan cooperation on Indo-Pacific Regional Architecture,” and “The U.S.–Japan Alliance in an Age of Resurgent Techno-Nationalism” were published on the SPF website.

The “Workshops on the U.S., Alliances, and International Order” project held a workshop in Fukuoka with young researchers from Japan, South Korea, India, Vietnam, Australia, Turkey, Germany, and Poland. The researchers also wrote papers built upon these in-depth discussions that continued over the course of more than two years.

In addition, on the occasion of the publication of the third edition of the booklet “Japan Matters for America/America Matters for Japan” in 2018 in collaboration with the East-West Center (EWC), the program hosted a panel discussion with four experts from Japan and the U.S. on the theme of comparison of the different relationships between the U.S. and partners and allies including Japan, Australia, and Southeast Asia.

Enhancement of research and information dissemination to the public

**Multilateral discussions about Japan–U.S. relations and alliance relations**

The program held two workshops in Tokyo and Washington, D.C. through the “Asia Strategy Initiative” project, which brought together young and mid-career foreign policy and security experts from Japan and the U.S. Based on the discussions through the workshop, three policy memoranda on the themes of “An Alliance Strategy for the East China Sea,” “U.S.–Japan cooperation on Indo-Pacific Regional Architecture,” and “The U.S.–Japan Alliance in an Age of Resurgent Techno-Nationalism” were published on the SPF website.

The “Workshops on the U.S., Alliances, and International Order” project held a workshop in Fukuoka with young researchers from Japan, South Korea, India, Vietnam, Australia, Turkey, Germany, and Poland. The researchers also wrote papers built upon these in-depth discussions that continued over the course of more than two years.

In addition, on the occasion of the publication of the third edition of the booklet “Japan Matters for America/America Matters for Japan” in 2018 in collaboration with the East-West Center (EWC), the program hosted a panel discussion with four experts from Japan and the U.S. on the theme of comparison of the different relationships between the U.S. and partners and allies including Japan, Australia, and Southeast Asia.

Enhancement of research and information dissemination to the public

**Multilateral discussions about Japan–U.S. relations and alliance relations**

The program held two workshops in Tokyo and Washington, D.C. through the “Asia Strategy Initiative” project, which brought together young and mid-career foreign policy and security experts from Japan and the U.S. Based on the discussions through the workshop, three policy memoranda on the themes of “An Alliance Strategy for the East China Sea,” “U.S.–Japan cooperation on Indo-Pacific Regional Architecture,” and “The U.S.–Japan Alliance in an Age of Resurgent Techno-Nationalism” were published on the SPF website.

The “Workshops on the U.S., Alliances, and International Order” project held a workshop in Fukuoka with young researchers from Japan, South Korea, India, Vietnam, Australia, Turkey, Germany, and Poland. The researchers also wrote papers built upon these in-depth discussions that continued over the course of more than two years.

In addition, on the occasion of the publication of the third edition of the booklet “Japan Matters for America/America Matters for Japan” in 2018 in collaboration with the East-West Center (EWC), the program hosted a panel discussion with four experts from Japan and the U.S. on the theme of comparison of the different relationships between the U.S. and partners and allies including Japan, Australia, and Southeast Asia.
International Peace and Security Department

In order to contribute to the peace and stability of Japan, the Asia-Pacific region, and the world writ large, the International Peace and Security Department conducted research on security issues surrounding Japan as an individual nation, the Japan–U.S. alliance, and the Asia-Pacific region in relation to global stability while simultaneously addressing emerging challenges in the new domain of cyberspace. The department made timely policy recommendations as well as proactive efforts to share these research outcomes with the public.

Japan’s national security issues and challenges in the Japan–U.S. alliance

With the main goal of responding to the contemporary international security environment, the department conducted joint research with the Heritage Foundation for the “Japan–U.S. Alliance Study” project focusing on the nature of Japan’s cooperation with the U.S., and co-hosted an international conference in Japan as part of the “Maritime Security Policy Dialogue” project with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Command and Staff College. In addition, the “Policy Proposal for Implementing Proactive Contributions to Peace” project presented future-oriented proposals with a view to improve Japan’s international security cooperation.

Challenges in the Asia-Pacific region

Against the backdrop of a rising China and its growing influence in the international community, the department conducted China-focused multifaceted analyses and offered insights on the “SPF China Observer” website. There is a similar ongoing project called the “Analysis of the Implications of China’s Economic Operations,” which analyzes data about China’s foreign aid activities with the ultimate goal being the integration and visualization of various data that can be used as reference materials by the public. [Related information on page 13]

Furthermore, the “Security in the Indo-Pacific Region” project featured research encompassing Indo-Pacific island nations with the view of bolstering Japan’s cooperation with India, Australia, and other countries in the region. The department drafted a policy proposal, which argued that Japan, in its effort to contribute to world peace, should carry on research into the peaceful use of nuclear energy and that it should place the country’s surplus plutonium under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The department also made recommendations to the Japanese government regarding the denuclearization of North Korea as well as Japan’s expected role in global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Defense exchange programs

Through the Japan–Vietnam exchange program, mid-level officers from the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the People’s Army of Vietnam participated in an annual exchange visit. In addition, the Japan–Korea exchange program dispatched a delegation of former senior JSDF officers to South Korea to deepen mutual understanding and relationships. Concurrently, the department pursued research on defense diplomacy in South Korea and other countries.

Challenges in new security domains

Given the importance of the new domain of cyberspace, the department organized a series of study groups focusing on research about data manipulation attacks, where the members engaged in methodological discussions on the ways that cyber threat information should be handled and shared. The outcomes from these sessions as well as additional research findings were further discussed and made available at public seminars.

The department also created an opportunity for experts from Japan, the U.S., and India to exchange opinions on the impact of scientific and technological advancements on security.

Information sharing on satellite sites

The International Information Network Analysis (IINA) website served as a platform for publishing selected articles, some available in English, to offer analyses and insights on both global and regional security issues. The editorial team ensured objectivity, accuracy, timeliness, and relevance to Japan in all pieces selected.
Since its establishment in 1989, the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund has been committed to people-to-people exchanges and capacity building for the regional stability and toward the prosperity of the island nations. In recent years, the program has put more focus on the Micronesian region for its close geographical and historical ties with Japan, and particularly the program has supported the Republic of Palau on the basis of the February 2016 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the country and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation along with The Nippon Foundation, with such aims as to improve Palau’s maritime security capabilities and to establish the country’s eco-conscious tourism model. In light of the Pacific island nations’ growing presence in the international arena, this program also strives to address emerging concerns facing the region, and strengthen trust between these nations and Japan.

“Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region II” project

As part of this project, training sessions were organized in collaboration with the Coast Guard of the Republic of Palau for its 18 maritime police officers using both small patrol boats and a 40-meter-long medium-sized patrol vessel provided by The Nippon Foundation. The project also included the coverage of the officers’ salaries. With the assistance of the Japan Association of Marine Safety, the program sent Japan Coast Guard staff to train Palau’s marine safety personnel on the skills necessary for capturing, towing and arresting vessels conducting illegal activities.

Workshops to hold out community-based ecotourism model into four states, including Ngapantap State on Babeldaob Island, by creating a website and engaging in preparations to launch eco tours.

Building Japan’s strategy on the security issues in the Pacific Island region

An informal meeting was held in January 2020 with the directors of the National Disaster Management Bureau from Fiji, Palau, and Nauru to support multilateral and pragmatic cooperation involving Japan, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, and Pacific island nations on prevention, mitigation, and response efforts in the face of disasters triggered by climate change, which is considered the biggest threat to regional security. Prior to this, the third Southwest Pacific Coast Guard Directors Conference was held in August 2019 with the aim of bringing together those who work in the field of maritime security.

To celebrate the launch of the book, the authors and U.S. experts held a panel discussion covering the current situations and issues from the perspectives of both nuclear deterrence and nuclear disarmament and management (July 19, 2019).

“Strengthening the Genuine Partnership between the Pacific Island Countries and Japan” project

In January 2020, experts were invited from Fiji, Palau, Nauru, and various UN agencies for a public symposium focusing on the increasingly complex regional order amongst the Pacific Islands and the current state of regional security. During this event, entitled “Discussions on Strengthening Mutual Cooperation between Japan and Pacific Island Countries – Exploring the Multi-layered Structure of Pacific Island Order and the State of Regional Security,” the participants discussed ongoing threats to regional security such as climate change and infectious diseases, and collectively emphasized the role of governance as the basis of sustainable development.

“In the News”

Publication of a book based on research project discussions

Since the end of the Cold War, the likelihood of nuclear war between the great powers has decreased, raising expectations that the role of nuclear weapons in security discussions would diminish. However, the recent escalation of tensions between the U.S. and other major powers such as Russia and China alongside repeated nuclear tests and missile launches conducted by North Korea have had a significant impact on the conversation around nuclear weapons. In this way, the world appears to be witnessing a return to nuclear weapons. This book clarifies the trends of major powers, the role of nuclear deterrence at the regional level, the relationship between progress of science and technology and nuclear weapons, and the role of nuclear weapons in the 21st-century security environment. The book takes a comprehensive and direct approach to address the challenges that Japan now faces with regard to nuclear weapons without embroidering the debates and realities of nuclear deterrence. In addition, the book emphasizes the importance of not separating the two fundamental aspects of debates on nuclear weapons and security, namely, security/deterrence and disarmament/arms control.

“Analysis of the Implications of China’s Economic Operations” project

China’s foreign aid and government-sponsored investment activities trend to be viewed in a negative light, with some labeling them as “debt traps,” as they often include excessive lending practices that burden the borrowing countries with unsustainable loans. This may force the borrowers into default, allowing China to collect payment in the form of strategic assets such as port operating rights, or increase its influence over the debtor countries in other ways. However, not all such practices can or should be assumed to be “debt traps,” simply based on observations of several dubious cases. While China’s aid and investment activities have attracted criticism from the international community, recent observations have also pointed to improvements in transparency and governance. Reaching a definite answer as to whether these schemes have diplomatic and security objectives requires the collection of case-by-case data on China’s aid and investments, so as to examine the findings in the light of China’s actual activities. To this end, the “Analysis of the Implications of China’s Economic Operations” project was initiated to collect information and build a database on China’s foreign aid and investment practices to allow for comparison with China’s foreign policy and security activities. Through this analysis, several characteristics have been identified pertaining to China’s foreign aid and investment activities, such as a clear trend indicating that China’s foreign economic activities are geographically mapped out in line with the country’s Belt and Road Initiative. These findings have been visually incorporated into a digital map and made available to the public.
Expanding Japan’s presence in Asia

Asia Peace Initiatives Department

- **Conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the Deep South of Thailand**
  
Through three projects focused on peacebuilding – “Japan’s Roles in Peacebuilding,” “Conflict Transformation in the Deep South of Thailand,” and “Analysis of Pre-Peace Talk Initiatives in Peacebuilding” – the department provided support for official Track 1 peace dialogues aimed at conflict resolution in the Deep South of Thailand, continued capacity building for local communities, and shared the knowledge gained from these experiences with the international community.

- **Support for conflict resolution in the Deep South of Thailand through peace dialogues**
  
Malaysia is an important actor in efforts toward conflict resolution in Patani, not only as the neighboring country but also as a facilitator for peace talks. Therefore, the department, held a seminar in Malaysia on the Patani region in Thailand, and also arranged dialogues with parliamentarians, government officials, and members of the armed forces in Thailand to promote peace talks.

- **Capacity building for local communities**
  
The department conducted training with local civil society members and young journalists while also bolstering information sharing efforts.

Gender Investment and Innovation Department

- **Ecosystem Building for SDGs Financing**
  
The department contributed with its experience and coordinated with the town of editors for a special edition of Accord, which is highly acclaimed internationally for its analysis of the peace-building process.

- **Sharing information and promoting intellectual dialogue in Northeast India**
  
Through the three projects “Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of Northeast India,” “Looking into the Past for a Future: Shared History of Northeast India and Its Neighbors,” and “Imphal Peace Museum Project,” the department has worked on three central themes: 1. sharing information on the rich cultural diversity of the region and promoting multiculturalism, 2. creating a hub to preserve and pass down memories and histories, and 3. providing support for intellectual dialogue.

- **Sharing information on the rich cultural diversity of the region and promotion of multiculturalism**
  
In collaboration with independent publisher Zubaan, the department provided fellowships to 24 women and individuals from minority groups and published a selection of works by women writers from Manipur and Nagaland.

Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund

- **Sharing SPF’s knowledge with other countries**
  
Editing work was completed on a special edition of Accord, a peacebuilding journal, that focused on the “pre-talk” phase that comes before to the start of peace dialogues.

For projects 1-4, the following measures were taken to prevent the further spread of COVID-19:

1. The following events scheduled for March were postponed, with plans to be carried out during FY 2020: (1) Business and human rights conference with ISEAS, (2) Training for aspiring women politicians in Malaysia with IWB, (3) Civil society tour of Indonesia in support of marginalized groups, and (4) Meetings in Tokyo about supporting women entrepreneurs in Asia
2. General meeting in Tokyo scheduled for February postponed, with plans to be carried out using FY 2020 program operating funds
3. Suspension of Japan visit scheduled for February, with plans to be carried out as part of new program development in FY 2020
4. Suspension of exchange visit to China scheduled for March, with plans to be carried out as part of the FY 2020 framework
In October 2019, the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival (YIDFF) showcased a special program on Northeast India and invited five of the directors whose films had been screened to attend the festival. The interview article featuring three leading documentary filmmakers was posted on the SPF website (https://www.spf.org/en/publications/spfnow/0063.html) on October 30, 2020.

The department also supported the creation of the Imphal Peace Museum, which opened in Nambol, Manipur, in June 2019. SPF’s efforts focused on planning and management, including dispatching Japanese experts to India, conducting interviews with survivors of the World War II battles that took place on the site, and producing documentary films. [Related information on page 22]

The department helped to establish an audio-visual archive on Northeast India and invited five of the directors whose films had been screened to attend the festival. The interview article featuring three leading documentary filmmakers was posted on the SPF website (https://www.spf.org/en/publications/spfnow/0063.html) on October 30, 2020.

Creating a hub to preserve and pass down memories and histories

In collaboration with the secretariat of YIDFF, the department helped to establish an audio-visual archive on Northeast India at St. Anthony’s College in Shillong, Meghalaya. The department also supported the creation of the Imphal Peace Museum, which opened in Nambol, Manipur, in June 2019. SPF’s efforts focused on planning and management, including dispatching Japanese experts to India, conducting interviews with survivors of the World War II battles that took place on the site, and producing documentary films. [Related information on page 22]

Creating a hub to preserve and pass down memories and histories

In collaboration with the secretariat of YIDFF, the department helped to establish an audio-visual archive on Northeast India at St. Anthony’s College in Shillong, Meghalaya. The department also supported the creation of the Imphal Peace Museum, which opened in Nambol, Manipur, in June 2019. SPF’s efforts focused on planning and management, including dispatching Japanese experts to India, conducting interviews with survivors of the World War II battles that took place on the site, and producing documentary films. [Related information on page 22]

Empowering minorities and vulnerable populations, securing social justice, and respecting human rights

1 “Building Migration Resource Platform for Asia” project
In collaboration with experts and NGOs in Southeast Asia, the department has conducted research on various issues related to international migration including pre-departure training and challenges faced by children left behind in the sending countries. To present the results of this research, a public seminar was held in Osaka on February 22, 2020 (see bottom photo). In July 2019, the department held a cross-regional workshop in Bangkok, inviting experts from East and Southeast Asia to work together toward finding solutions to issues common to the two regions.

2 “Proposing New Roles for Men in Asia” project
In July 2019, the department released a report summarizing the results of a survey and analysis about how men’s perceptions in five cities in East Asia correlate to their involvement in housework and child rearing.

Rebuilding partnerships between Japan and Asia

1 “Asia Impact Dialogue” project
In January 2020, an expert workshop and seminar were held in Tokyo focusing on the theme of violent extremism and de-radicalization. In addition, a survey was conducted to identify investors and organizations that support women entrepreneurs.

2 “Toward Constructive Journalism in Asia” project
To promote cross-border media collaboration and cooperation, a group of executive editors and high-level staff from major media outlets in Japan and Southeast Asia were invited to participate in a meeting held in December 2019. In February 2020, 10 young and mid-career journalists from Southeast Asia were invited to attend a 2-week fellowship program.

In addition, based on the survey results, the department announced policy recommendations in March 2020, with the aim of informing the Japanese government’s 5th Basic Plan for Gender Equality.

Research report on the new role of men toward a gender-equal society.

Along with the release of the report, a panel discussion entitled “Rebuilding Masculinity in Japan and East Asia: Men’s Share! Care! Fair!” was held on July 26, 2019.


Policy Recommendations on “Rebuilding Masculinity” in Japan and East Asia Men’s Share! Care! Fair!

Using the above report as reference, a seminar was held in Osaka entitled “Protecting the Rights of Migrant Workers and their families — Examining the Situations in the Sending Countries in Southeast Asia and the Reception in Japan —.”

Using the above report as reference, a seminar was held in Osaka entitled “Protecting the Rights of Migrant Workers and their families — Examining the Situations in the Sending Countries in Southeast Asia and the Reception in Japan —.”

The report “Migrant Workers’ Rights in the ASEAN Region: A Baseline Study,” which featured comprehensive research on the status of migrant workers’ rights in the ASEAN region, was translated and published in Japanese.

Empowering minorities and vulnerable populations, securing social justice, and respecting human rights

1 “Building Migration Resource Platform for Asia” project
In collaboration with experts and NGOs in Southeast Asia, the department has conducted research on various issues related to international migration including pre-departure training and challenges faced by children left behind in the sending countries. To present the results of this research, a public seminar was held in Osaka on February 22, 2020 (see bottom photo). In July 2019, the department held a cross-regional workshop in Bangkok, inviting experts from East and Southeast Asia to work together toward finding solutions to issues common to the two regions.

2 “Proposing New Roles for Men in Asia” project
In July 2019, the department released a report summarizing the results of a survey and analysis about how men’s perceptions in five cities in East Asia correlate to their involvement in housework and child rearing.

Rebuilding partnerships between Japan and Asia

1 “Asia Impact Dialogue” project
In January 2020, an expert workshop and seminar were held in Tokyo focusing on the theme of violent extremism and de-radicalization. In addition, a survey was conducted to identify investors and organizations that support women entrepreneurs.

2 “Toward Constructive Journalism in Asia” project
To promote cross-border media collaboration and cooperation, a group of executive editors and high-level staff from major media outlets in Japan and Southeast Asia were invited to participate in a meeting held in December 2019. In February 2020, 10 young and mid-career journalists from Southeast Asia were invited to attend a 2-week fellowship program.

In addition, based on the survey results, the department announced policy recommendations in March 2020, with the aim of informing the Japanese government’s 5th Basic Plan for Gender Equality.
Gender Investment and Innovation Department

Through greater economic empowerment of women and progress toward gender equality, the Gender Investment and Innovation Department envisions a society where all women in Asia can realize their full potential. The department aims to promote women’s economic empowerment and gender equality through two main approaches: promoting gender lens investing and supporting entrepreneurial activities. The department also seeks to make progress toward substantial outcomes by promoting women’s economic empowerment and gender equality through two main approaches: promoting gender lens investing and its vehicles in both private and public markets. The report was published in preparation for the "Gender Lens Incubation Acceleration (GLIA) Toolkit," an online resource that helps entrepreneurs and intermediaries to better incorporate a gender lens into their work. The final version of the toolkit was presented at the AVPN Southeast Asia Summit (February 2020) in Bali, Indonesia. [Related information on page 22]

Asia Women Impact Fund

In FY 2019, the Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF), which was established two years ago with the aim of promoting greater financial inclusion of women and increasing women’s economic and growth opportunities in Southeast Asia, made a new investment in the Japan ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund (JAWEF). JAWEF is an example of a blended finance vehicle where public-private partnerships are made effectively to achieve the common goal.

In addition, to verify the effectiveness of AWIF’s past investment, the department commissioned a series of surveys with the end beneficiaries of the microfinance institutions in JAWEF’s portfolio in Myanmar. Impact measurement and management in AWIF have become more important in order to achieve the “double bottom line” of sustainable financial return and social impact.

Ecosystem Building for SDGs Financing

The department seeks to promote impact and sustainable investing in Asia, with a particular focus on promoting gender lens investing.

To this end, the department published a report, "Sustainable Investing in Japan: An Agenda for Action," that called for action to promote sustainable investing in Japan after reviewing the challenges and opportunities associated with this type of investing in Japan. In addition, the department collaborated with Ms. Suzanne Illegel, a leading expert on gender lens investing, and published the report "Gender Lens Investing: Landscape, East & Southeast Asia," which provides an overview of gender lens investing and its vehicles in both private and public markets. The report was published in preparation for the Gender-Smart Investing Summit, the world’s largest conference on gender lens investing, to act as a valuable input from Asia.

In order to raise awareness about gender lens investing, the department participated in expert panels and gave presentations to audiences at a number of international conferences including events with the W20, the Global Impact Investment Network (GIIN), the Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG), and the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN), among others.

Addressing gender gaps through entrepreneurship

At the annual meeting of the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) in June 2019, the department presented a new study entitled "A Gender-Inclusive Southeast Asia through Entrepreneurship," which identified critical gender issues in Asia and the role of entrepreneurship as a sustainable mechanism to address these issues. The research also highlighted several urgent gender gaps in Myanmar and identified opportunities to explore the power of entrepreneurship to address those gender gaps. This led to the launch of the Gender Equality Myanmar (GEM) project, which aims to connect with and support women entrepreneurs as well as social entrepreneurs in Myanmar who are working to develop businesses that help resolve gender issues through entrepreneurship. As the scope of this project has shifted from covering all countries in Southeast Asia to focusing on Myanmar, the department will conduct research on gender-related social issues in Myanmar, connect with social entrepreneurs who aim to solve these issues through entrepreneurship, and take measures to support their businesses in the future.

Support for women entrepreneurs

In collaboration with the Australian government, the department conducted a pilot project bringing together intermediate support organizations, international NGOs, and networks that support women entrepreneurs in Asia, resulting in the creation of a "Gender Lens Incubation Acceleration (GLIA) Toolkit," an online resource that helps entrepreneurs and intermediaries to better incorporate a gender lens into their work. The final version of the toolkit was presented at the AVPN Southeast Asia Summit (February 2020) in Bali, Indonesia. [Related information on page 22]

Expanding Japan’s presence in Asia

SPF established AWIF in 2017, thereby becoming the first private foundation in Asia to create an impact fund with a focus on gender issues. Through AWIF, SPF plans to invest up to USD 100 million in its endowment toward targeted goals of promoting gender equality, increasing women’s access to financial services, and supporting women entrepreneurs in Asia. In 2019, SPF made an investment in the JAPAN ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund (JAWEF), which aims to empower women in Asia together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). As a pioneering practitioner of gender lens investing SPF aims to demonstrate the efficacy of this women-centered investment strategy by evaluating both its ability to generate sustainable financial returns and its positive impact on end beneficiaries.

In February 2020, the Japan ASEAN Women Empowerment Fund (JAWEF) was launched in FY 2020, to help more intermediaries to apply a gender lens to their work through the GLIA toolkit; develop new content focused on the needs of women entrepreneurs, and establish a community of practice that promotes peer-to-peer learning on gender best practices. The ultimate goal of GLIE is to foster greater cooperation between intermediaries and early stage investors to bridge the gender financing gap and contribute to development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem in Asia that works better for women entrepreneurs.
Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund

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

People-to-people exchanges and dialogue

As 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the fund’s establishment, the department stepped up its efforts to invite and dispatch individuals expected to play active roles in promoting understanding between Japan and China through the following activities:

1. In November 2019, 10 Japanese experts in international law and security visited China and engaged in dialogues with Chinese experts on themes including the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific and Maritime Community with a Shared Future,” “International Straits,” and other issues.

2. In November 2019, a delegation of eight Chinese traditional art specialists visited the production sites of Japanese traditional crafts and met with artisans and experts who are working to preserve and pass down traditional craft techniques.

3. In November 2019, a total of fifteen Chinese media personnel visited Japan to provide them with reporting opportunities.

4. On two occasions, the department invited a total of fifteen Chinese media personnel to Japan to provide them with reporting opportunities.

5. Three Japanese experts in environmental economics and challenges visited China in September 2019 to meet with Chinese experts on environmental issues and industries for discussions focusing on “The Current Status and Future of the Japanese and Chinese Environmental Industries.” In November 2019, three experts on the Chinese economy and international issues were invited to Tokyo to meet with Japanese experts and members of the media to exchange opinions on the outlook for the Chinese economy.

6. As part of the field officer-level exchange program between Japan’s Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and China’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA), 13 JSDF field officers visited China in April 2019, and 20 Chinese PLA field officers visited Japan in September 2019.

7. On 30th anniversary of the establishment of the fund, the department invited Chinese media personnel to Japan to provide them with reporting opportunities.

8. In November 2019, a Japan–China conference was held at Fuzhou University (Fuzhou, Fujian, China) to exchange views on international law and security issues between Japan and China.


10. Masters of traditional Chinese arts engaging with Mr. Kazumi Murose, a lacquer ware artist and President of Important Intangible Cultural Properties.


12. On two occasions, the department invited a total of fifteen Chinese media personnel to Japan to provide them with reporting opportunities.

Promoting mutual understanding by sharing information

To promote mutual understanding between the people of Japan and China and provide opportunities for open and accurate information sharing, the department has spearheaded a range of projects, outlined below:

1. The Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund also made use of a special page on the website of the “People’s Daily Online,” a major media outlet with a wide reach online, to share the foundation’s work with internet users in China. In December 2019, on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of this fund, the department invited Chinese media personnel in Tokyo to look back on this 30-year history and introduce the progress and historical significance of the fund’s activities so far. In addition, these members of the Chinese media received a briefing on the future role of the fund in the private sector in Japan and China. [Related information on page 22]

Enhancing collaboration toward socio-economic development

Japan and China face many of the same challenges, including issues related to the environment, aging, and social security. To build trust between the two countries while also promoting sound development, the department has facilitated information sharing to make it easier for Japan and China to collaborate on strategies to resolve their common challenges. As part of these efforts and in collaboration with the Government of Fujian Province, the department planned to invite leaders from the agricultural community in Fujian to Japan in February 2020 in order to teach them skills that would allow them to promote the development of rural areas while also furthering understanding between Japan and China. However, due to the spread of COVID-19, the visit was suspended. Discussions with the government of Fujian Province will be continued in the future, and there are plans to incorporate these initiatives into future projects.

As part of the Japan–China joint publication project to resolve common challenges, an event to commemorate the publication of “Rural Regeneration in Japan” was held in Yongtai County, Fuzhou, Fujian Province.

A Japan–China conference was held at Fuzhou University (Fuzhou, Fujian, China) to exchange views on international law and security issues between Japan and China.
In December 2019, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, honorary chairman of SPF, gave a briefing to major Chinese media outlets in Tokyo. Chairman Sasakawa reflected on the 30-year history of the Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund by summarizing the achievements of the project, touched on current sticking points in Japan–China exchange and the future direction of fund's work, and also answered questions. The fund was established in December 1989 at a time when Japan–China relations were facing unprecedented difficulties. Since then, the fund has carried out more than 400 projects encompassing around 22,000 participants, all in the context of an ever-changing international environment.

“Imphal Peace Museum” project

The museum originates from the work of the local community to provide a record of “Operation Imphal” by collecting the remains and relics of former soldiers. After the decision was made to build the museum with the support of The Nippon Foundation, SPF welcomed the community members participating in the project to Japan to visit peace museums in Tokyo and Okinawa and meet with experts. As a result of these consultations, the fundamental concept of the museum was established, with the central goal of not only focusing on the war itself but also conveying a message of peace by including examples of the post-war development and the richness of the region’s people and culture. Hoping to establish a collaborative partnership, SPF contacted the Haebaru Cultural Center, a highly regarded peace museum in Okinawa, which itself is a region that suffered greatly in World War II, to learn more about the museum’s incorporation of community perspectives. Mr. Kazuki Oshiro, former director of the Haebaru Town Museum, visited Imphal on a monthly basis beginning in January 2019 to meet with the local preparatory committee and finalize the content to be exhibited, and the museum opened to the public in June 2019.

The “Life and Culture” section introduces the traditional festivals in the region.

A first in Southeast Asia! The Gender Lens Incubation Acceleration (GLIA) Toolkit

For many women in Southeast Asia, entrepreneurship provides a critical opportunity to earn a living and secure decent work. With this in mind, SPF is working to encourage greater integration of gender perspectives into the work of entrepreneurial support organizations so that more women entrepreneurs can receive tailored support at an early stage in their career. In February 2020, SPF in collaboration with the Frontier Incubators Initiative Program of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade presented the Gender Lens Incubation Acceleration (GLIA) Toolkit. This new resource is targeted to entrepreneur support organizations in Southeast Asia, and is the first of its kind to be used in the region. It is currently being used as a guide to formulate and implement strategies to strengthen gender perspectives within organizations, businesses, and ecosystems, and is assisting entrepreneur support organizations in their work with women entrepreneurs.

Enhancing understanding of and relationships with Islamic countries

Middle East and Islam Program Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
<th>Japan/Self-Operated</th>
<th>Budget (yen)</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promoting the Understanding of Islam in Japan</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>1,888,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Empowerment in Iran and Japan</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>14,358,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Exchanges between Japan and Middle Eastern Countries</td>
<td>Sasakawa Peace Foundation</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Self-Operated</td>
<td>14,588,670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* To prevent the further spread of COVID-19, workshops scheduled for FY 2019 were postponed, with the potential to be held online during FY 2020.
People-to-people exchanges in the Middle East

In addition to holding a roundtable meeting with Iran’s Institute for Political and International Studies (April 2019, in Tokyo), the department invited 10 students and faculty members from the School of International Relations (SIR), an institution affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, to Japan in November 2019. The department also provided an eleven-day training session in Iran to seven Japanese university students (selected through open recruitment) in December 2019. (Related information on page 26)

Japan–Iran women’s empowerment

The department successfully completed the final report for the joint research project focusing on “Women and Entrepreneurship,” which began in FY 2017. Upon the publication of the report, the department hosted a lecture and press conference with the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs of Iran in Tokyo in June 2019. (Related information on page 26)

Helping Japan to understand Islam

Three lectures were given by experts on topics related to Islam including gender issues, the role of the media, and others, to provide context for people in Japan to better understand Islam. In addition, the department recruited monitors from local governments in Japan with large Muslim populations and asked them to give their feedback in order to formulate future projects. (Related information on page 26)

Promoting collaborative research on the Middle East

With the aim of supporting the development of Japanese Middle East experts with an interdisciplinary perspective, SPF supported the “U.K.–Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East” project, which is conducted by the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies at the University of Oxford and is now in its second year. Post-doctoral fellows Dr. Shun Watanabe and Dr. Susann Kassem conducted four months of field research in Jordan and South Lebanon respectively. Subsequently, they participated in conferences and seminars in the U.K. and the U.S., where they presented the results of their research.

Thanks to these activities, SPF has been able to work closely with Oxford University in order to promote Middle East studies. Dr. Watanabe and Dr. Kassem’s participation in this project has also helped bolster the network of Middle East researchers around the world.

Program development

As part of ongoing efforts to develop new projects, the department continued preparations for outreach efforts in Europe concerning women’s empowerment in Iran, and travelled to Kuwait and Oman to launch an ocean environment conservation project in the Gulf region. The department also visited academic institutions in Turkey, Jordan, and other countries to expand networks and collect information.

Additional activities

On January 9, 2020, Dr. Yasuyuki Matsunaga, a specialist in Iranian politics and international relations from the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, delivered a lecture entitled “In Response to the Iranian President’s Visit to Japan: Future Prospects” to a study group focusing on the situation in the Middle East. On November 26, 2019, as part of the women’s empowerment project, Ms. Josée Touchette, Executive Director of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, was invited to speak at a public seminar entitled “Women’s Empowerment in International Organizations.”

Enhancing understanding of and relationships with Islamic countries
“Promoting the Understanding of Islam in Japan” project

Three-part lecture series
In recent years, it has become increasingly common to hear the word “Islam” used in the media and elsewhere. However, although there are many people who have a vague idea about Islam, not many people know about Islamic culture or the history and ideology behind the events reported in the media. In addition, as the number of foreign tourists and migrant workers continues to increase in Japan, there are more and more opportunities for Japanese citizens to come into contact with Muslims. Accordingly, promoting a more in-depth awareness and understanding of Islam is crucial to support the development of a society in which Japanese and foreigners, including Muslims, can live together. This project invited experts to give three lectures on a range of themes to help the Japanese people deepen their understanding of Islam beyond the superficial impressions they may have at present.

“Promotion of Understanding of Islam in Japan” lecture series
1. Session 1: “Islam in Japan: Challenges for Coexistence”
   Hirofumi Tanada, Professor, Waseda University (June 21, 2019)
2. Session 2: “Islam and Gender: The Merits and Roles of Men and Women”
   Emi Goto, Associate Professor, The University of Tokyo (September 10, 2019)
   Shuji Hosaka, Research Director, Middle East Research Center, The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (November 13, 2019)

Note: Videos of the lectures and related materials are available on the SPF website.

“Women’s Empowerment in Iran and Japan” project

Lecture and panel discussions held with the Vice President of Iran
Ebtetak, Vice President of Women and Family Affairs in Iran, gave a lecture at SPF entitled “Iran and Women’s Empowerment” on June 27, 2019. Dr. Ebtetak spoke about the current state of women’s social advancement in Iran 40 years after the Iranian Islamic Revolution, the Iranian government’s initiatives to support women’s empowerment, and the results of the joint research with SPF.

In addition, Ms. Kimie Iwata, who served as the director of the Equal Employment, Children and Family Affairs Bureau at Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and later the vice president of Shiseido Company; and Prof. Tomoyo Kazumi of Senshu University, an expert on women’s entrepreneurship in Japan, joined the panel discussion to discuss issues including women’s enterprise and social advancement in Japan.

From left to right: Dr. Kazumi, Ms. Iwata, Vice President Ebtetak, and Ms. Junko Chano, Executive Director of SPF (moderator).
The Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI)

As the only think tank in Japan with a comprehensive focus on ocean issues, the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) strives to understand the many challenges confronting the world’s oceans, analyzing those problems from multiple angles, and sharing relevant information for use in creating concrete proposals and solution-oriented policy planning. In FY 2019, OPRI conducted four ocean-related projects and five grant-funded projects.

Ocean-related projects

- "Research on Adaptation Measures for Global Warming and Ocean Acidification" project
  This year, OPRI pursued a range of projects to understand the domestic and international situation regarding global warming and ocean acidification, while also sharing information about the measures being taken to adapt to these changes.

- As part of these information sharing efforts, OPRI conducted questionnaires targeting internet users to determine potential improvements for "Marine Crisis Watch," a website developed to inform the public about the world's oceans. The results of these surveys will be used to consider possible improvements for the next fiscal year and beyond.

In addition, OPRI promoted research using an ocean acidification prediction system and analysis of observation data. This allowed us to clarify the characteristics of ocean acidification in the northwestern Pacific region, including Japan. OPRI published these results in scientific journals and presented them at scientific conferences including the Global Ocean Acidification Observation Network (GOA-ON).

- "Establishment of Global Ocean Governance" project
  With the aim of establishing new ocean governance, OPRI sought to understand the range of systems used to identify and address ocean issues by organizing them using the "Blue Infinity Loops" concept, an analytical framework that categorizes the world’s oceans according to two distinct areas: the Eurasian Blue Belt that encompasses Eurasia and Africa, and the Rim American Pacific Blue Belt, which covers the Pacific region and the Americas. In addition, OPRI cohosted the annual "Maritime Security Symposium" with the Japan Ministry of Defense (Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force) and public interest incorporated foundation Suisookai, while also continuing efforts to collect and analyze information centered on ocean security, and published these findings in seasonal, quarterly, and special reports.

Furthermore, OPRI conducted research on blue financing, which is expected to contribute to marine environmental conservation and risk financing in developing small island countries, and also worked on involving ocean plastic.

Additionally, OPRI launched the academic paper series entitled "OPRI Perspectives" to widely share the research findings on ocean policies of various countries both domestically and internationally, and prepared to issue the academic journal, "Ocean Policy Studies," to publish OPRI’s research findings.

- "Ocean Education Pioneer School Program" project
  OPRI provided 11 regional development grants and 110 unit plan grants to support the activities of education boards; local governments; and national, public, and private elementary, junior-high, and high schools around Japan that offer education in oceans. [Related information on page 31]

In addition, in collaboration with The Nippon Foundation and the Center for Ocean Literacy and Education, Graduate School of Education, The University of Tokyo, OPRI held an "Ocean Education Workshop" to share information, exchange opinions, and build networks among selected schools. The workshop was attended by 119 participants from across Japan.

OPRI also published "Ocean Education to Tackle Global Warming: Correspondingly and Actively" on the findings of a comparative study of global ocean education conducted in FY 2017.

- "Collection and Dissemination of Information on Island Studies" project
  In FY 2019, OPRI’s Center for Island Studies pursued projects that focused on collecting and preserving materials, conducting research, and sharing information in order to analyze various island-related problems from the standpoint of international law and based on highly reliable primary information. The results of these activities are then shared with the international community in order to contribute to the maintenance of order in the oceans and the peaceful resolution of problems.

Specifically, OPRI collected materials in Hokkaido, Okinawa, and Aichi; created a database; and conducted research. The results of these efforts were published in "The Island Research Journal" during two occasions. The published papers were also translated into English and shared online.

 Furthermore, OPRI provided 11 regional development grants and 110 unit plan grants to support the activities of education boards; local governments; and national, public, and private elementary, junior-high, and high schools around Japan that offer education in oceans. [Related information on page 31]

OPRI also published "Ocean Education to Tackle Global Warming: Correspondingly and Actively" on the findings of a comparative study of global ocean education conducted in FY 2017.

- "Policy Research on the Future of Oceans" project
  OPRI conducted research looking into adaptation and mitigation measures for the realization of a sustainable society, focusing on new crises in the ocean, marine conservation, disaster prevention and mitigation, promotion of ocean industries and related services, along with other matters.

Regarding the blue economy, OPRI conducted research and held workshops in Pacific Island countries, the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere. In Japan, OPRI conducted surveys and research for local governments on the structure of ocean industries, marine resource conservation, and promotion of the sustainable use of resources. Furthermore, preparations were made to establish the "Japan Blue Economy association" to promote research on blue carbon, and ecosystems were involved in the conservation of terrestrial ecosystems and the impact of industrial activities on sea areas.
including remote island areas. Additionally, OPRI presented recommendations based on the “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate” (SROCC) on climate change and ocean issues, participated in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and published their research results. OPRI also participated in U.N. conferences on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, presented research findings on capacity building, and provided information to treaty negotiators. [Related information on page 31]

**“Platform for a New Ocean Paradigm” project**

OPRI aimed to expand its network and foster trusting relationships with the international marine community in a variety of ways, including participation in international and regional meetings on ocean issues and planning and implementation of bilateral Track 2 dialogues.

With regard to the United Nations, OPRI participated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) High-Level Political Forum and other related meetings of various Conferences of the Parties, actively providing knowledge and information as well as participating in public and private platforms such as the Our Ocean Conference in order to expand OPRI’s network.

In addition to ocean issues, OPRI promoted international cooperation on related themes such as collaboration on arctic issues and space, built a platform for domestic discussions, and developed initiatives based on these issues.

To build upon the development of bilateral relations with China, France, and other Western countries such as the U.S., the U.K., and Iceland, OPRI deepened its cooperation with governments and think tanks in Central America, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Pacific island countries, strengthening the foundation for future activities.

**Creative research toward the future of the oceans**

OPRI conducted research on urgently needed mitigation and adaptation measures regarding various challenges facing the world’s oceans, including classifying such measures into two categories: cross-cutting issues and individual issues.

Regarding research on cross-cutting issues, OPRI conducted joint research on climate change and ocean security with the Stockholm Center in the U.S., including risk assessment of climate change disasters, sea level rise, migration, and industrial impacts.

Regarding research on individual issues, OPRI examined the feasibility, organization, and operation of the Japanese version of the “Sea Grant” with Taku University and the University of Toyama. Furthermore, OPRI continued efforts to conduct research on environmental relocation with the aim of establishing methodologies to help people who have been displaced due to climate change rebuild their lives, holding international seminars, and producing academic papers. In addition, OPRI conducted research on six other themes based on research proposals from OPRI experts.

**“Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields” project**

In FY 2019, the “World Maritime University (WMU) Scholarship” program offered 28 new students the opportunity to study at WMU in Sweden, bringing the total number of scholars to 669 from 77 countries.

OPRI provided a field trip in Japan for current scholars of WMU to improve their understanding of the current situation regarding the oceans and the maritime field in general in Japan, as well as “The Gathering Orientation,” which gave students the opportunity to exchange their views. OPRI also hosted the “Friends of WMU, Japan Award Certificate Presentation Ceremony” concurrently with the WMU graduation ceremony.

In addition, in order to maintain and enliven the network of fellows after graduation, OPRI issued three newsletters and published pertinent information on the website “Friends of WMU, Japan.”

**10 Recommendations announced in response to the IPCC Special Report on the Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate**

On September 25, 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the “IPCC Special Report on the Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.” The report shows that the oceans, and thus the entire planet, are in crisis, and warns that “the actions we choose now will determine our future.” In response to the report, the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) held the “Commemorative Symposium for the IPCC Special Report on the Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate” on October 15, 2019, and released the paper “Ten Recommendations,” which presented the scientific findings of the report and explained their implications.

**Roundtable and other official side events at the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7)**

At the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in Yokohama on August 28–30, 2019, OPRI held two official side events on the blue economy and blue carbon, as well as a high-level roundtable on Japan-Africa cooperation in the field of the blue economy. In addition to publicizing the results of OPRI’s research, discussions were also held with Japanese and African governments, companies, researchers and experts, with the aim of promoting international cooperation to strengthen interdisciplinary research and capacity development for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. At each side event and roundtable, participants reaffirmed the importance of working together to achieve a sustainable blue economy and to create synergies using blue carbon ecosystems. They also emphasized the need for industry, academia, and government to cooperate more closely in order to build capacity and promote innovation.

**“Ocean Education Pioneer School Program” project**

Schools working on new forms of ocean education supported by the “Ocean Education Pioneer School Program”

Learn at the sea, learn about the sea, and learn from the sea – The sea is a fascinating resource for education that encompasses many components of learning. With the hope of helping children in schools across Japan become more familiar with the sea, deepen their understanding of the sea, and work to protect the sea, the Ocean Education Pioneer School Program supports schools and teachers looking to provide meaningful education about the ocean. In FY 2019, the program supported ocean education initiatives in 195 schools. In addition, on July 31, 2019, the program co-hosted the “2019 Ocean Education Workshop” with The Nippon Foundation and the Center for Ocean Literacy and Education, Graduate School of Education, The University of Tokyo. The workshop welcomed 119 participants from around the country and provided a forum for the presentation of activity reports from the schools selected in 2018 as well as discussions on the activities and challenges of the schools.
**Financial Position**

**Statement of Income and Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net income, beginning of year</td>
<td>1,291,851</td>
<td>1,769,909</td>
<td>2,010,605</td>
<td>2,374,962</td>
<td>2,717,710</td>
<td>3,064,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net income</td>
<td>203,397</td>
<td>240,696</td>
<td>364,357</td>
<td>342,748</td>
<td>630,588</td>
<td>706,317</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**III. Net assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, restricted</td>
<td>2,272,090</td>
<td>2,864,817</td>
<td>3,084,974</td>
<td>3,284,300</td>
<td>3,580,328</td>
<td>3,298,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, total</td>
<td>5,764,568</td>
<td>6,283,246</td>
<td>6,577,452</td>
<td>6,776,778</td>
<td>7,072,796</td>
<td>6,790,709</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Balance Sheet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>135,355,910</td>
<td>134,498,251</td>
<td>133,643,386</td>
<td>132,781,763</td>
<td>131,924,115</td>
<td>130,701,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>68,177,926</td>
<td>68,121,282</td>
<td>67,993,048</td>
<td>67,715,352</td>
<td>67,466,856</td>
<td>67,361,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets</td>
<td>67,177,984</td>
<td>66,376,969</td>
<td>65,650,338</td>
<td>65,066,411</td>
<td>64,457,259</td>
<td>63,339,421</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- **Name**
  The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)

- **Date of Establishment**
  September 1, 1986

- **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 (5)- (6).
  7. Gather and distribute information and present policy recommendations concerning Items (1)- (6).
  8. Facility rentals.
  9. Other projects required to achieve our objectives.

- **Endowment**
  61,973,360,543 yen (as of March 31, 2020)

- **Special assets**
  62,306,916,085 yen (as of March 31, 2020)

- **Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for Operating Expenses**
  4,342,571,000 yen (as of March 31, 2020)

Organization Chart

- **Board of Councilors**
  - Kiyotaka Akasaka
    - Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
  - Takeju Ogata
    - President, The Nippon Foundation
  - Hideki Kato
    - President, Japan Initiative
  - Atsuko Kanehara
    - Professor, Sophia University
  - Shin Kusugi
    - President, The Open University of Japan
  - Eiko Kono
    - Former Chairman, Recruit Co., Ltd.
  - Tatsuo Sekine
    - Directors, The Mori Trust

- **Honorary Chairman**
  - Yohei Sasakawa
    - Chairman, The Nippon Foundation

- **Trustees**
  - President
    - Atsushi Sunami
  - Executive Directors
    - Akimasa Suga (General Affairs)
    - Junko Chano (Programs)
    - Itsu Adachi (Programs)
  - Trustees
    - Motoshige Itoh
      - Professor, Gakushuin University
    - Tamaki Ura
      - Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo
    - Shigeki Sakamoto
      - Professor, Doshisha University
    - Kaoru Hattori
      - Attorney at Law
  - Auditors
    - Satoshi Sugawara
      - Executive Director, Blue Sea and Green Land Foundation
    - Sadahiko Yoshimura
      - Certified Public Accountant

Contact and Access

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
The Sasakawa Peace Foundation Building
1-15-16 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8524, Japan
Phone: +81-3-3517-5430 Fax: +81-3-3517-5420
Email: spfpr@spf.or.jp

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