



SASAKAWA PEACE FOUNDATION

# Our Programs

## About the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

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.

### Our 3 Missions:



### Our 5 Priority Goals:

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

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# Japan–U.S. Program

## Acting as a Hub of Experts and Intellectual Information to Strengthen the Japan–U.S. Relationship and Maintain Regional Peace and Stability

The political environment in the United States and the international community have been in turmoil. Under these circumstances, this program seeks to explore how Japan–U.S. relations should evolve in response to these changes and to establish a more stable and deeper network that can withstand potential difficulties. We collaborate with experts from Japan, the United States, and around the world to create networks, generate ideas, and provide information to tackle regional and global issues, not just bilateral issues between Japan and the United States but also regional and global challenges. Through these approaches, we aim to contribute to regional peace and social stability.

## Pillars of Our Work

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### 1. Expanding and strengthening a network of experts, practitioners, and organizations between Japan and the U.S.

We actively work to promote and cultivate intellectual exchanges among individual experts and organizations between Japan and the U.S. with the aim of continuing active intellectual cooperation between the two countries. In addition to developing and maintaining the network in the policy community that we have built over the years, which includes researchers, practitioners, and those with ties to congressional bodies, we also work to bring new human resources and organizations with diverse perspectives into the fold, thereby strengthening dialogue at a multi-layered level and further deepening mutual understanding.

### 2. Developing new wisdom and fresh insights to think about the future of Japan–U.S. relations and the international community

We conduct research in cooperation with experts from an objective and comprehensive perspective. Topics include U.S. politics, society, foreign and security policies, the U.S. in the international community, Japan–U.S. relations, and relations with other countries/regions that are important to both countries. We also maintain and develop a framework for dialogue and discussion between young and mid-career experts.

### 3. Disseminating information and analysis on Japan–U.S. relations, U.S. politics, foreign policies, and related issues

Our research has produced a strong base of multifaceted knowledge, wisdom, and information that can contribute to strengthening the foundation of the Japan–U.S. relationship through dialogues at various levels and research in close collaboration with experts. We regularly share these insights with Japanese, American, and international audiences through seminars, reports, videos, and an array of other media suited to meet the needs of the moment.

#### Research Projects Include:

- Asia Strategy Initiative
- Worldviews on the United States, Alliances, and International Order
- Monitoring Current American Politics and Society (America Genjyo Monitor)
- Japan–U.S. Relationship After Trump

## Recent Topics

### People-to-People Exchanges

We organize projects on themes such as “building a strategic people-to-people network (between Japan and the U.S.)” and “strengthening exchanges between U.S. Congress members and Japanese Diet members.” We invite American experts (researchers, congressional members and senior staff, journalists, former government officials, and other practitioners), organize meetings, and host public events. We also send Japanese experts to the U.S. in cooperation with U.S. organizations.

#### ■ Asian American State Legislators Visited Japan (December 2019)

Six Asian American state legislators participated in this one-week Japan trip. They visited Kyoto, Osaka, Tottori, and Tokyo, and met with leaders of the political, business, and local communities in Japan.



State legislators visited a high school in Tottori to meet with students.

#### ■ Bipartisan group of U.S. Congressional Members Visited Japan (February 2020)

Nine members of the U.S. Congress visited Tokyo and Kyoto over the course of a one-week trip, and had discussions with Japanese politicians and business leaders, among others.



Congressmen and Congresswomen learned about Japanese tea ceremony at Urasenke Estate in Kyoto.

### Research

We conduct research projects that aim to contribute to deeper understanding of the United States and consider the future of Japan–U.S. relations. Currently, we have two projects: the “SPF America Genjo Monitor,” which analyzes changes in U.S. politics and society and publishes an op-ed series in Japanese, and “Japan–U.S. Relations After Trump,” which aims to grasp a mid-to-long-term outlook for U.S. foreign policies and changes in the times, and considers the future of Japan–U.S. relations. In addition, we have implemented other projects such as “Worldviews on the United States, Alliances, and International Order,” “Asia Strategy Initiative,” and “Changing role of the nuclear weapons in the world.”

### Disseminating Information by Experts

The “Insight into Japan–U.S. Relations” page of the program website publishes and publicizes research project results such as essays, policy proposals, assessments, and reports, as well as an SPF special monograph series. This project also occasionally hosts seminars and symposiums on timely themes and posts videos of those discussions.

#### [ Public Seminars and Symposiums ]

Events hosted include:

- “U.S.–Japan Relations in a Changing Asia,” with Richard Fontaine, Chief Executive Officer of the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) (October 2018)
- “How Japan Matters for America in the Indo-Pacific,” with Dr. Satu Limaye, Director of the East-West Center Washington, D.C., and others (April 2019)
- “The End of Nuclear Forgetting: Revival of Nuclear Weapons,” with Nobumasa Akiyama, professor of Hitotsubashi University, Frank A. Rose, senior fellow of the Brookings Institution and former assistant secretary of state for arms control, and others (July 2019, top photo)
- “U.S. in 2020: Changing Society and Presidential Election,” with Paul Sracic, professor of Youngstown State University, and Toshihiro Nakayama, professor of Keio University (February 2020, bottom photo)
- “U.S. in 2020: The Direction of the Presidential Election and Foreign Policy,” featuring Toshihiro Nakayama, professor of Keio University, and Hiroyuki Akita, commentator of *The Nikkei* newspaper (February 2020)



#### [ Publications ]



“Japan Matters for America/America Matters for Japan” (3rd edition, March 2019)



“The Authoritarian Challenge: China, Russia and the Threat to the Liberal International Order” by Aaron L. Friedberg (August 2017)



“The Bay of Bengal: Political-Economic Transition and Strategic Implications” by Kent E. Calder (July 2018)



# International Peace and Security Department

## Helping to Bring Peace and Stability to Japan and the Greater Indo-Pacific Region

Competition for influence between the United States and China has continued to intensify. As this battle for dominance unfolds, the world will turn to see what role Japan will play as a major U.S. ally. The International Peace and Security Department collaborates with domestic and international experts and organizations to research this increasingly multi-faceted and complex strategic environment further compounded by the Russo-Chinese cooperative relationship, North Korea's persistent pursuit of nuclear weapons and missile capabilities, and the emergence of new domains including cybersecurity and space. We prepare proposals aimed at realizing peace and security throughout Japan and the Indo-Pacific region and present our results in a timely manner.

## Pillars of Our Work

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### 1. Leading discourse as one of the most distinguished Japanese think tanks in the field of international security.

Drawing on knowledge provided by experts and organizations based both in Japan and abroad, the department conducts research on defense and international security issues facing Japan and the world. The department subsequently consolidates research findings and presents policy proposals and reports. In equal measure, we also focus our efforts on developing in-house and outside talent as well as building partnerships with Japanese and international think tanks.

### 2. Advancing Japanese initiatives for peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region

The department works hand-in-hand with government officials to identify and share information on issues relevant to peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region. It also strives to promote interaction on these issues between regional stakeholders by serving as a hub for government officials, research institutions, and related organizations.

### 3. Studying the newest risks to peace and security and formulating strategic plans for the future

All of the research themes in this department are designed to precisely capture and respond to the ever-changing situations on the ground. Our experts use the findings derived from each study to devise strategies for peace and security, which we then publicize through SPF-hosted seminars; in the form of strategy proposals, essays, and reports; and on our satellite sites in order to guide political, business, and academic discussions while informing public opinion on these topics.

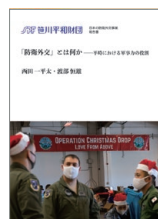
#### Research Projects Include:

- The New Direction of the Japan–U.S. Alliance
- The State of China's Diplomacy, Military Affairs, Economy, and Society
- Strategic Dialogues between Japan, India, and Russia
- Japan's Defense Diplomacy
- Deterrence Efforts in Emerging Domains
- Defense Exchanges between Japan and Countries in Asia
- Peace and Security in the Indo-Pacific Region
- Enhancing National Cybersecurity
- Nuclear Disarmament and Nonproliferation

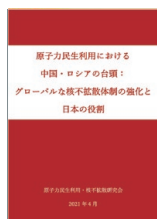
## Recent Topics

### Research

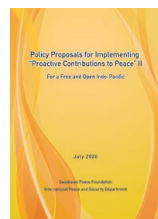
The International Peace and Security Department conducts research into a wide variety of topics, then compiles the findings of those studies into proposals, reports, and books. Through our timely publications, we exert great influence over the implementation of improved policies.



"What is Defense Diplomacy? The Role of Military Force in Times of Peace" (March 2021)



"The Rise of China and Russia in the Civilian Use of Nuclear Energy: Strengthening Global Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime and Japan's Role" (April 2021)



Policy Proposals for Implementing "Proactive Contributions to Peace II" (July 2020)



SPF China Observer Essay Collection (compilation of essays published March to August 2018)



"Balance Sheet of U.S. Allies: Comparative Study between Asia and Europe" (left, March 2019) and publications of country-specific reports (right)

### Exchange Programs

The department takes full advantage of SPF's flexibility as a private institution to facilitate exchange visits between Japanese defense officials and their counterparts in strategically important countries. It also arranges Track 2 diplomacy meetings and takes an active role as a bridge connecting governments and peoples.



Officials from Japan's Ministry of Defense and Senior Japan Self-Defense Forces visited Vietnam on the Ninth Defense Exchange in November 2019. The delegation toured various bases, and military representatives of both countries confirmed the importance of strengthening joint cooperation efforts.

### Information Sharing

We publish the latest analyses and papers on current affairs through our two department-run satellite sites. The department also organizes timely seminars and symposiums in response to significant developments in Japan and around the world.

#### [ Satellite Site Publications ]

##### ■ International Information Network Analysis (IINA)

The IINA website publishes analyses by both in-house and outside experts on security issues pertaining to individual countries, regions, or cross-regional themes. Each article is carefully selected for its objectivity, timeliness, and relevance to Japan.



[URL] <https://www.spf.or.jp/iina/en/>

##### ■ SPF China Observer

Through this project, we routinely offer China-focused insights presented by Japanese experts based on fixed-point observational studies in their respective fields of specialization. We also host regularly scheduled public forums with the site's editor and contributors, and invite renowned academics from within Japan and abroad.



[URL] <https://www.spf.or.jp/spf-china-observer/en/>

#### [ Seminars and Symposiums ]

##### ■ Online Forum: "Studies on the Japan-U.S. Alliance: Issues Raised by China's Coast Guard Law and Japan's Response" (March 2021)

##### ■ Webinar: "Indo-Pacific International Symposium" (November 2020, January 2021)

##### ■ SPF China Observer Public Forum (regularly held since 2017)

##### ■ "Cybersecurity Seminar" (regularly held since 2017) and others



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SPF hosted symposiums and other events held after the spring of 2020 almost exclusively online and made related recordings publicly available.



# Pacific Island Nations Program

## Building Mutual Trust between Japan and Pacific Island Nations and Promoting Peace and Prosperity in the Region through Targeted Research and Localized Projects

This program has worked to contribute to the stability of the Pacific region and prosperity of its island nations through exchanges, talent development, and related initiatives ever since the establishment of the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund in 1989. In recent years, it has focused heavily on supporting the Micronesia region, and in particular the Republic of Palau, given its intimate geographic and historical ties to Japan. The program also endeavors to further strengthen the ties between Japan and the Pacific island nations through new projects designed and implemented to respond to emerging issues these countries face due to regional changes and the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Project Themes Include:

- Training Coastguard Officers to Enhance Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region
- Strengthening Genuine Partnerships between Pacific Island Nations and Japan
- Rebuilding Island Societies through Applying Sustainable Tourism

## Pillars of Our Work

### 1. Striving for enhanced Pacific governance and security through close cooperation with the Micronesia region and stakeholder nations

Based on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) SPF and The Nippon Foundation signed with the Republic of Palau in February 2016, this program seeks to enhance the country's maritime security capabilities by conducting training sessions for its coastguard officers and ensuring they maintain the skills to effectively operate the small patrol boats and patrol vessel provided by The Nippon Foundation. The program also facilitates cooperation between Japan, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the U.S., and Australia on issues of maritime security.

### 2. Balancing economic interests with environmental and cultural conservation in order to achieve sustainable societies in the Pacific islands region

Following the guidelines of the 2016 MOU, our program develops and introduces management methods based on carrying capacity studies and a community-based approach to promote the implementation of environmentally friendly tourism policies in Palau. The program also aims to contribute to the recovery of Pacific island societies that have suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic by encouraging widespread adoption of this practical model for sustainable tourism throughout the region.

### 3. Endeavoring to strengthen ties between Japan and Pacific island nations by deepening mutual understanding

Our program facilitates candid dialogues by acting as a Track 1.5 and Track 2 platform in order to foster greater mutual understanding between Japan and Pacific island nations. We also strive to contribute to Japanese diplomatic policy in relation to these nations. To this end, we provide accurate analyses of the region that also account for its external environmental factors and make recommendations to the national government and relevant organizations in Japan.

## Recent Topics

SPF conducted online training sessions for maritime security human resource development in collaboration with the Division of Marine Law Enforcement in the Republic of Palau, the Japan Coast Guard Mobile Cooperation Team (MCT), and the Japan Association of Marine Safety (March 2021).



The sessions provided trainings in practical maritime rescue and arrest techniques and gave participants the chance to exchange stories and thoughts about their respective experiences implementing countermeasures against COVID-19 during on-site inspections, among other topics.



# Asia Peace Initiatives Department

## Striving to Engender Societies Where the Most Marginalized People's Voices Count

This department applies the unique flexibilities in terms of approaches and methods SPF wields as a private foundation to its work focusing mainly on Southeast Asia and South Asia. While shining a light on the shared history and embracing the rich diversity in this region, the department devotes its activities toward supporting the development of inclusive societies where the most marginalized regions, minorities, and vulnerable populations are heard and valued. Additionally, SPF believes collaboration with our Asian neighbors will revitalize Japanese society as it confronts a multitude of pressing challenges. It is this conviction that drives us to build equal and fruitful partnerships with Asian nations and create human networks connecting all our citizens.

## Pillars of Our Work

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### 1. Creating a foundation for conflict resolution, disengagement from violence, and reconciliation

This department explores solutions for addressing the conflicts, violence, and terrorism that destabilize the region. We eschew a theory-driven approach and instead formulate our strategies based on our analysis of the needs on-the-ground, then share the results of our efforts with the rest of the world. In our work, we place great emphasis on the cultures and historical contexts unique to each region and respect the ownership of the peoples and societies involved in these processes toward peace. Furthermore, our analyses go beyond examinations of each individual nation-state and take regional connectedness and continuity into account as well.

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

Inequality has been deepened throughout Asia in the shadow of its recent rapid economic development. Coupled with the negative impacts of globalization and technological innovations, this has led to the rise of intolerance in the region. We take great care to ensure that gender equality, minority inclusion, and respect for diversity stay at the forefront of all our project planning.

### 3. Rebuilding partnerships between Japan and Asia

This department endeavors to create opportunities for collaboration between Japan and Asia, stakeholders facing shared policy challenges together, and rebuild partnerships between our nations.

#### Project Themes Include:

- Analysis of Pre-Peace Talk Initiatives in Peacebuilding
- Women and Peacebuilding
- Preserving and Sharing Histories and Memories of Northeast India
- Imphal Peace Museum Project
- Building Migration Resource Platform for Asia
- Proposing New Roles for Men in Asia
- Engaging Northeast India in Act East



## Recent Topics

### 1. Creating a foundation for conflict resolution, disengagement from violence, and reconciliation

#### ■ Analysis of Pre-Peace Talk Initiatives in Peacebuilding/Women and Peacebuilding

Since 2010, this department has been committed to conflict resolution in Patani, Thailand's Deep South, by providing capacity development opportunities for local civil society actors and journalists, as well as supporting official Track 1 peace dialogues between the Thai government and armed groups. Under the theme of women's roles in peacebuilding, the department also supports women-led peace movements and cross-regional collaboration initiatives in former conflict zones.



The department collaborated on a special issue of *Accord*, a journal in the field of conflict resolution and peacebuilding (*Accord* Issue 29, September 2020).

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

The northeastern region of India is home to a rich diversity of cultures and peoples, but has also suffered greatly due to violent conflicts and insufficient development. Our department supports local residents who work to capture the histories and memories of the region in their own languages and pass this inheritance on to future generations. We provide infrastructure such as film archives needed to preserve these resources as well as capacity development opportunities for the next generation of researchers, writers, artists, and entrepreneurs. The department also publishes their work, hosts specialized events, and publicizes information on the area, all in an effort to help create a stable environment in the region where the people from diverse cultures can peacefully coexist and move toward reconciliation.



A collection of writings by women authors from the region, Parismita Singh, ed., *Centrepiece: New Writing and Art From Northeast India* was published in June 2018 (left). The department organized a special program featuring films from Northeast India at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival in October 2019 (bottom).



#### ■ Imphal Peace Museum Project

Opened in June 2019, the Imphal Peace Museum traces the history and memories of the fierce battles Imphal saw during World War II from the perspectives of the local people who lived through them and shares a message of peace with its visitors. SPF works in concert with The Nippon Foundation to support the museum's development in various ways.



The Imphal Peace Museum opened in June 2019.

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

#### ■ Building Migration Resource Platform for Asia

Migrants encounter a multitude of challenges as they move between countries and go through integration processes. As a result, they are often left in vulnerable positions. Our department researches important issues concerning international migration and creates a space for civil society, experts, key parties, and other stakeholders within Asia to discuss policies and practices needed to protect migrant workers and refugees.



"Migrant Workers' Rights in ASEAN Region: A Baseline Study" (January 2019)

#### ■ Proposing New Roles for Men in Asia

This department conducts research and presents policy recommendations relating to men's roles in achieving gender equality. Activities include studying how men's perceptions in East Asia correlate to their involvement in housework and child rearing. We also plan to develop pilot programs to bolster counseling resources for men and rehabilitation for intimate partner violence perpetrators.



"Report for the Study on Creating New Roles for Men in Gender Equality" (July 2019)

### 3. Rebuilding partnerships between Japan and Asia

Initiatives Include:

#### ■ Asia Impact Dialogue

With an awareness of a decline in the opportunities available for collaboration and intellectual dialogues between Asian countries and Japan partly due to Japan's shrinking economic influence, the department regularly convenes dialogues and workshops to provide a space where experts and policymakers can explore alternative solutions to the societal issues we all face.

#### ■ Toward Constructive Journalism in Asia

This project creates a professional network for Japanese and Asian journalists in an effort to foster cross-border media collaboration and cooperation in international reporting.

#### ■ Engaging Northeast India in Act East

Northeast India is a region that connects South Asia and Southeast Asia, making it the focus of India's Act East Policy. Through this project, the department seeks to rediscover the shared histories that unite this diverse region and explore pathways for achieving autonomous and sustainable development with these common histories in mind. We are also designing a new form of Japan-India collaboration that is firmly grounded in a community-centered perspective.



# Gender Investment and Innovation Department

## Envisioning a Society Where Women in Asia Can Realize Their Full Potential

This department strives to reshape Asian society through economic empowerment and gender equality projects so that all women can have the agency to independently tap into their own potential. Leveraging our unique competitive advantage as one of Japan's leading private foundations, we aim to address gender inequality issues through two main approaches: encouraging investment in women and supporting entrepreneurial activities. The department also promotes the implementation of concrete actions by conducting research and collaborating with regional organizations and groups. We then present pragmatic policy recommendations informed by these studies and initiatives.

## Pillars of Our Work

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### 1. Closing gender gaps through the power of finance

This department promotes gender lens investing in order to achieve societies where women can realize their full potential. To this end, SPF established the Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF), a practical example of gender lens investing, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the strategy by measuring the fund's impacts and to mobilize resources for women-focused businesses and entrepreneurs while promoting gender equality.

### 2. Achieving gender equality through entrepreneurship

Our department collaborates with entrepreneurial support organizations to explore innovative finance mechanisms to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs, create opportunities for Japanese and Asian enterprises to make connections, improve the business environments in which women entrepreneurs must navigate, and increase their access to resources.

### 3. Building an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem with a gender lens

Calling on our extensive contacts and networks, we provide opportunities for knowledge sharing, conduct research projects, and organize capacity development initiatives to help bolster the ecosystem underpinning both gender lens investing and support for women entrepreneurs.

#### Project Themes Include:

- Ecosystem Building for SDGs Financing
- Addressing Gender Issues in Asia Through Entrepreneurship
- Gender Lens Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (GLEE) Development in Southeast Asia
- Promoting Angel Investing
- Gender Nexus to Environment

## Recent Topics

### 1. Closing gender gaps through the power of finance

SPF has worked to advance women's economic empowerment through the power of gender lens investing (GLI) since 2017. This approach to investing aims to increase women's access to financial services, promote gender-responsive business practices, and has the potential to accelerate more inclusive investing. In addition to managing the Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF), SPF also hosts panel sessions at conventions such as the 5th World Assembly for Women (WAWI)/W20 and Impact Investing Forum 2019, and raises awareness for gender lens investing at domestic and international conferences through workshops and other initiatives.

### 2. Achieving gender equality through entrepreneurship

Starting and running their own businesses is one way women in Southeast Asia can support themselves and their families. Entrepreneurship provides an opportunity to secure decent working conditions and achieve economic empowerment. Our department collaborates with partners in Southeast Asia to equip women entrepreneurs, as well as business owners who contribute to improving women's lives, with technical support to help them overcome obstacles. For example, we launched the Gender Equality Myanmar (GEM) project to first identify local entrepreneurs using innovative business models that can benefit women and girls, then provide them with opportunities for further development.

Additionally, we collaborated with the Australian government in developing the "Gender Lens Incubation and Acceleration Toolkit" (<https://toolkits.scalingfrontierinnovation.org>), a resource geared toward helping entrepreneurial support organizations formulate and implement gender-inclusive strategies.



### 3. Building an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem with a gender lens

We collaborate with regional ecosystem builders to help fortify the networks that support both gender lens investing and entrepreneurial support organizations. Through this department, SPF works to conduct research and facilitate knowledge sharing on these issues, raise awareness on impact management, and offer professional development opportunities to build an inclusive, gender-responsive entrepreneurship support ecosystem and advocate for gender lens investment.

SPF also partnered with Angel Investment Network Indonesia (ANGIN) to conduct a series of studies on gender lens angel investing in Asia. We teamed up with ANGIN and GLI experts to provide training for angel and early stage investors on how to apply a gender lens to their entrepreneurship support programs.

Furthermore, we co-authored a landmark report published in the summer of 2020 with a prominent gender lens investment organization on the status of gender lens investing in Asia, which has been gaining momentum in recent years.



#### Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF)

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 100 million USD of its endowment toward targeted goals of promoting gender equality, increasing women's accesses 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 GLI, 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.





# Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund

## Working Toward a Future of Lasting Peace and Mutual Understanding

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

## Pillars of Our Work

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### 1. Facilitating people-to-people exchanges and dialogues to connect our peoples through greater understanding

The Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund arranges and expands outlets for citizens of both countries to better understand one another and forge close connections in a wide variety of domains. It creates new channels for communication between Japan and China by supporting initiatives such as youth leader exchanges and proposes recommendations for how Japan–China relations could evolve by 2030.

### 2. Providing informational resources and cultivating an environment to encourage mutual understanding

The fund supplies a vehicle for high-caliber intellectual exchange among experts, members of the media, and other specialists. It also provides a platform for publishing objective news in both countries and works to cultivate an environment conducive to this flow of information. In particular, the fund continuously shares insights through publications, dedicated websites, and social media to advance true understanding of Japan in China.

### 3. Sharing experiences and strengthening cooperation to advance socioeconomic development in both Japan and China

The fund seeks to provide opportunities for our countries to share experiences and learn from each other’s examples to address social issues. The fund also strives to enhance communication between Japan and China to ensure these lessons can reach a greater audience. Our goal with these initiatives is not only to make headway in solving the issues facing our societies, but also to foster better understanding of our respective nations.

#### Project Themes Include:

- Inviting Chinese Journalists and Opinion Leaders to Visit Japan
- Organizing Intercultural Expert Exchanges
- Facilitating Sino-Japanese Communication in the Field of International Law
- Field Officer Exchanges
- Exchange Projects for Masters of Traditional Arts and Crafts
- Publishing Information Online
- Sharing Insights Via Chinese Social Media
- Training Chinese Rural Community Leaders



## Recent Topics

### People-to-People Connections

Initiatives Include:

#### ■ Japan–China Field Officer Exchange Program

This program organizes exchanges between defense officials in Japan and China. It ran for 11 years until 2012 when it was forced to stop due to a downturn in relations, but resumed operation once more in 2018. Each year, field officers in the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Chinese People's Liberation Army travel to each other's countries to promote goodwill and mutual understanding. On these trips, participants tour the host country's army, naval, and air force bases, attend lectures on national defense policies, discuss differing viewpoints with defense officials and private citizens, visit businesses and agricultural villages, and study the histories, societies, and cultures of both countries.



Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) officials visit the 72nd Air Brigade of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force (left).



Chinese People's Liberation Army officials visit the JSDF Maizuru Marine Base and boarded the JS Fuyuzuki (right).

#### ■ Exchange Projects for Masters of Traditional Arts and Crafts

By facilitating exchanges between leaders of Japanese and Chinese traditional arts and crafts, this program aims to deepen mutual understanding and stimulate these industries in our respective nations. It also strives to pave new avenues for cooperation between nonprofit organizations in Japan and China.



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



Representatives of SPF and a private Chinese non-profit foundation sign a Memorandum of Cooperation in an official ceremony held at the SPF building.

#### ■ Japanese and Chinese Expert Engagement

The fund establishes multiple channels for nongovernmental exchanges so that authorities of many fields can engage in amicable dialogue. Through these channels, we also share information and knowledge with both countries to help the citizens of our two nations better understand one another.



Japanese and Chinese experts on international law and security hold a discussion in Nanjing.

### Information Sharing

Initiatives Include:

#### ■ Invitation Programs for Chinese Journalists

This program invites Chinese journalists and internet media opinion leaders to visit and experience Japan for themselves so they can then share their first-hand impressions with Chinese audiences.



Chinese journalists tour a "Zero Waste" garbage treatment facility in Kamikatsu, Tokushima.

#### ■ Publishing Information Online

SPF collaborates with "People's Daily Online," the Chinese news website, to publish timely Chinese-language stories regarding the foundation's China-focused activities as well as articles on Japan.

#### ■ Sharing Insights Via Chinese Social Media

Through an e-newsletter on the Chinese social media application WeChat, SPF provides Chinese mobile users with reliable information on Japan. This includes articles by Chinese writers well-versed in Japan as well as excerpts from the results of our programs related to China.

#### ■ Translating and Publishing Books on Contemporary Japan

This project supports the Chinese translation and publishing of a carefully curated selection of 100 books on contemporary Japan which would otherwise be difficult to release commercially. It aims to provide a wide array of valuable information on modern day Japan to the Chinese public and help advance greater understanding of Japan in China.

### Sharing Experiences on Addressing Social Issues

#### ■ Publishing Results of Joint Research Studies on Common Challenges

Japan and China face many shared issues such as environmental pollution, overburdened social security programs, and food security. This project supports joint research studies by experts of both nations on these topics, then compiles the results of those studies into books published in China in order to provide Chinese policymakers and experts with high-quality reference data. Through these expert-level exchanges, we hope to also find clues for how to resolve Japan's challenges as well.

#### ■ Training Project for Chinese Rural Community Leaders

This project invites leaders of farming communities in China's Fujian Province to Japan for training courses in an effort to help build up rural areas and therefore support the wholesome development of Chinese society.



# Middle East and Islam Program Department

## Advancing Peace and Development in the Middle East and Elevating Understanding About the Region and Islam in Japan for Greater World Peace

Some of the world's oldest civilizations flourished in the Middle East, an important region linking Japan and the rest of Asia with the Mediterranean and Europe. It has carried its powerful geopolitical influence through to the modern day and has an ever-greater role to play in fostering global peace, stability, and economic advancement. Given the region's vital significance in these issues, this department supports initiatives such as facilitating research and policy dialogues covering political, diplomatic, social, and cultural themes to advocate for increased joint collaboration with Middle Eastern countries. We firmly believe people form the cornerstone for stability and progress. Our department therefore also dedicates itself to cultivating talent and people-to-people exchanges. Additionally, we are currently developing informational programs to help build bridges between the region and the rest of the world.

## Pillars of Our Work

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### 1. Taking a Panoramic View of the Middle East and Islam from an International Perspective

SPF is dedicated to advancing world peace and security as well as global economic advancement. This department works toward those goals by contributing to stability and sustainable growth in the Middle East and helping to develop harmony between the region, Islamic peoples, and the wider international community.

### 2. The Middle East, Japan, and the World

Our projects promote mutual exchange and greater understanding between Japan and Middle Eastern Islamic nations on a broad range of themes in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields. From a more international perspective, we also aim to empower the Middle East to make still greater contributions to world peace and security.

### 3. Islam in Japan and Around the World

Opportunities for Japanese people and the nation as a whole to engage with Islam are ever-increasing. This department aims to first assess the current state of Islam in Japan, then help promote deeper understanding of Islamic religions and cultures within the country. As we work to cultivate greater understanding of Middle Eastern and Asian Islamic cultures and peoples, we are also committed to a global vision where Islam plays an even greater role in achieving peace and security in the international community.

#### Project Themes Include:

- Women's Empowerment in Iran and Japan
- Fostering Middle Eastern Connections (Hosting Experts and Youth Leader Exchanges)
- Policy Dialogues with Iran
- Advocating International Collaboration on Middle Eastern Research
- Promoting Greater Understanding of Islam in Japan
- Publishing Data on Women's Roles in Iran



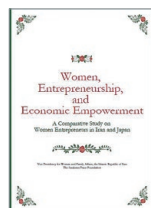
## Recent Topics

### Promoting Greater Mutual Understanding with Islamic Middle Eastern Countries

#### [ Joint Projects ]

This department facilitates joint research projects and surveys between Japan and Islamic Middle Eastern countries as part of our goal to further mutual understanding among our nations. We publish our findings with a global audience in mind, not only that of the target countries studied, to help build up and bolster the ties between the Middle Eastern region and the international community as well.

#### ■ Women's Empowerment in Iran and Japan



Published studies include "Women Entrepreneurship, and Economic Empowerment."



Dr. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice President for Women and Family Affairs of Iran, gives a public lecture entitled "Iran and Women Empowerment: Trends and Prospects."

#### [ People-to-People Exchanges ]

Another way the department works toward promoting mutual understanding is by organizing exchange opportunities for the next generation of leaders who will inherit the world. We also convene regular workshops where experts can gather to discuss policy under one roof.

#### ■ Fostering Middle Eastern Connections (Hosting Experts and Youth Leader Exchanges)



The department hosted exchange events including a workshop on "Satoumi" (left).



Japanese university students participate in our Short Term Study Abroad Program in Iran (right).

#### ■ Policy Dialogues with Iran

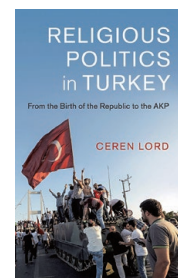


SPF co-hosted a roundtable discussion "East and West Asia: Regional Developments" with Iran's Institute for Political and International Studies.

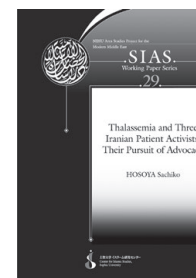
### Cultivating Talent and International Networks

We provide training opportunities for Middle Eastern researchers through partnerships with Middle East research institutes in the U.S. and Europe. Our department is also working to develop a new platform for Middle Eastern and Islamic studies founded on a network of intellectual centers around the world.

#### ■ Advocacy for International Collaboration on Middle Eastern Research



*Religious Politics in Turkey* was published by SPF fellow Dr. Ceren Lord.



*Thalassemia and Three Iranian Patient Activists: Their Pursuit of Advocacy* was published by SPF fellow Sachiko Hosoya.



SPF hosted an international workshop entitled "Rethinking Nationalism, Sectarianism and Ethno-Religious Mobilisation in the Middle East."

### Information Sharing

Our department shares informative resources geared toward the Japanese public to help them better understand Islam in Japan. In the future, we plan to incorporate the results of our joint research projects into these efforts and publicize materials on the Islamic world, including the Middle East and Asia, for a global audience.

#### ■ Promoting Greater Understanding of Islam in Japan

#### ■ Fostering Middle Eastern Connections (Inviting Experts to Japan)

#### ■ Publishing Data on Women's Roles in Iran



SPF has convened a three-part lecture series through the "Promoting the Understanding of Islam in Japan" project. This photo was taken at the third of these, entitled "Islam and the Media — Extremism and Portrayals of the 'Radical.'"



# The Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI)

## Pioneers for a Sustainable Ocean

### Developing an Innovative Ocean Governance

The Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) strives to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the many issues confronting the world's oceans, analyzing those problems through a scientific approach that integrates the natural and social sciences as well as the humanities. We present key stakeholders in international policymaking with practicable proposals they can use as reference in their work and cultivate an environment where those plans can be put into action. Through our work in policy research, OPRI aims to assist in resolving the various challenges facing our oceans and establish an innovative ocean governance to ensure future generations can inherit the oceans in their healthiest state.

## Pillars of Our Work

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### 1. The Blue Economy

OPRI conducts policy research on a blue economy that aims to promote sustainable development through the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. We identify enabling factors such as policies, innovative initiatives, and collective actions while building upon local and regional characteristics, and mainstream such policies on the national and international stages.

### 2. The Oceans and the Environment

OPRI carries out research and makes policy recommendations for conserving marine biodiversity and resolving the myriad issues afflicting our oceans including plastics pollution and ocean warming and acidification due to climate change. We strive to further these causes and advance both the domestic and international dialogue surrounding them.

### 3. Ocean Governance

We strive to constantly update our understanding of the various phenomena occurring in the oceans around the world and propose a new form of ocean governance based on these insights to ensure its stable and sustainable use.

### 4. Ocean Science — Illuminating the Oceans from Underwater and from Space

OPRI firmly believes that integrating space technologies and new innovations that shed light on the hidden reaches of the oceans will help bring visions for a maritime Society 5.0 to fruition and contribute to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. In an effort to work toward these goals, we propose new observation systems and strategies for collecting data that can assist in tackling the problems confronting the world's oceans.

### 5. Ocean Education and Capacity Building

We support ocean education in schools throughout Japan for two main purposes: to help our citizens better understand the relationship between humanity and the oceans, and to nurture talented individuals who can contribute to marine environment conservation as well as sustainable ocean development and utilization. OPRI also funds scholarships for students at the World Maritime University (WMU) to cultivate international talent and establish people-to-people networks that stretch across the globe.

### 6. Sharing the Depths of Our Knowledge

OPRI publicizes information based on its research and policy proposals through a variety of communication tools such as websites, publications, and events to help influence international ocean policy-making and spread awareness about the oceans.

## 1. The Blue Economy

OPRI conducts policy research on a sustainable blue economy and identifies enabling factors such as policies, innovative initiatives, and collective actions, while building upon local and regional characteristics. OPRI promotes multi-stakeholder policy dialogues to achieve the blue economy through interdisciplinary and inclusive approaches with various partners in Japan, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and around the world.



### Initiatives Include:

- Interdisciplinary research to promote the blue economy through the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources (in fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, marine renewable energy, etc.).
- Science-based, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral policy research on mitigation and adaptation measures to marine environmental changes, disaster risks, climate change impacts, and integration coastal management (including blue carbon and habitat ecosystems).
- Pragmatic policy research to assist small island developing states (SIDS) and island and coastal communities to capitalize upon opportunities for the blue economy and to build self-reliant, sustainable, and resilient societies through regional and international cooperation.

## 2. The Oceans and the Environment

OPRI conducts research on ocean-based mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change as well as ways to address marine plastic pollution. We also carry out research and formulate policy recommendations for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in coastal zones and the high seas, to be shared within Japan and abroad.



### Initiatives Include:

- Participation in the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. OPRI calls attention to problems facing the oceans and coastal zones caused by ocean warming and acidification, and contributes to international discussions on themes including marine renewable energy utilization, climate-induced migration issues, and overall adaptation to climate change.
- Research that contributes to the development of a new international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) currently being negotiated at the UN.
- Research based on case studies in Japan. We disseminate research results to advocate for the conservation of marine biodiversity in coastal areas and its sustainable use toward achieving the SDGs, and also to contribute to the processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Designing and implementing innovative research on “blue finance,” a means of mobilizing financial resources in a sustainable ocean economy, and research on plastic pollution in the oceans.

## 3. Ocean Governance

Drastic, sudden changes in the natural environment and security landscape are creating what we call the “Blue Infinity Loop.” The impacts of problems occurring in these areas of the world’s oceans extend past the borders of their individual seas to other bodies of water as well. OPRI is currently conducting research on regions relating to the Blue Infinity Loop, including the Indo-Pacific and Arctic, to formulate a proposal for a new form of ocean governance their emergence has made necessary.



### Initiatives Include:

- Policy proposals to address specific issues such as the current state of ocean governance in East Asian waters and the greater Indo-Pacific as well as measures to combat IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) fishing.
- Publishing results of our studies that can contribute to the construction of a research network connecting scientific institutions and specialized organizations in Japan and around the world as well as the establishment of a system of ocean governance that incorporates matters of maritime security.
- Contributions to the maintenance of maritime order. We collect and publicize highly reliable primary information regarding the varied issues island nations face for use as reference in resolving those challenges. We also publish analyses of these issues from the perspective of international law.

## 4. Ocean Science — Illuminating the Oceans from Underwater and from Space

OPRI integrates advancements made in ocean visualization and space technologies to develop policies for new observation systems that can help make a maritime Society 5.0 a reality. In addition, we draw on these advancements to propose data collection methods that can contribute to solving the problems afflicting the world’s oceans.

### Initiatives Include:

- Large-scale reviews of underwater platforms and sensors. We also formulate proposals for an observation system to visualize the oceans and advocate for sharing platforms dedicated to documenting individual problems, consolidating data, and developing key new measurement technologies.
- Studying and demonstrating the viability of achieving safe and secure maritime traffic through the use of next-generation AIS (Automatic Identification Systems) and satellite ocean monitoring. Based on this work, we present recommendations for new communication and observation systems that synthesize these marine and space technologies.
- Combining cutting-edge forms of communication, remote sensing, and underwater visualization technologies to propose measures for collecting data that can assist in finding solutions to ocean issues such as fisheries resource management.
- Facilitating research that can contribute to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).



## 5. Ocean Education and Capacity Building

### Initiatives Include:

#### ■ The Ocean Education Pioneer School Program

Conducted in coordination with The Nippon Foundation and the Center for Ocean Literacy and Education, Graduate School of Education, The University of Tokyo, this project awards grants to schools to provide ocean education and supports experts in educational and maritime fields in order to develop ocean curricula and train future leaders in ocean education across Japan. The project strives to broaden the scope of ocean education at schools and enhance its quality, with the aim of promoting the development of skilled professionals who can serve as leaders in the new maritime age and contribute to international society.



#### ■ World Maritime University (WMU) Sasakawa Fellowship

As part of our international capacity building activities and the development of people-to-people networks in the fields of ocean studies, we fund fellowships for students at the World Maritime University (WMU) and serve as the secretariat for Friends of WMU, Japan, which supports alumni networking. Graduates go on to assume important positions in their home countries' governments, educational institutions, and other organizations, and become active leaders in ocean-related domains.

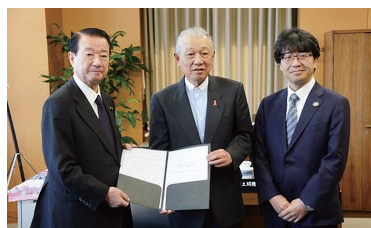


### Advocating for Arctic Policies

The Ocean Policy Research Foundation, predecessor to OPRI, began operating as a think tank in 2000. It conducted ocean policy research, presented policy proposals, distributed related information, and also contributed to the enactment of the

2007 Basic Act on Ocean Policy. Its work toward establishing a new form of ocean governance continued after the foundation merged with SPF in April 2015.

Our advocacy for Arctic policies is one product of these initiatives. We participate in discussions among experts from nations with interests in the Arctic such as Japan, Arctic states, and other Asian countries to identify specific initiatives Japan should pursue as well as to clarify the current state of international cooperation in this area. We then apply these insights in our policy proposals and publications to proactively advance the development of Arctic policies.



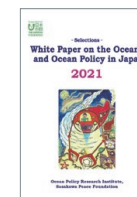
Presenting a proposal in January 2018 to Mr. Tetsuma Esaki, then Minister of State for Ocean Policy, on behalf of the Study Group on the Future of the Arctic.

## 6. Sharing the Depths of Our Knowledge on the Oceans

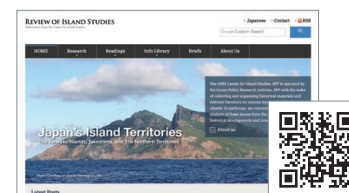
We publicize results of our research, policy recommendations, and information on a broad range of ocean-centered topics via our website, print publications, events, blogs, and other communication tools.

### Initiatives Include:

- “White Paper on the Oceans”: A wide-ranging, cross-sectional summary of domestic and international events and trends with respect to the oceans, published annually in Japanese and English.
- “The Ocean Newsletter”: A bi-monthly bulletin that provides the latest updates on the oceans. Begun in August 2000, it features articles written by experts from Japan and abroad.
- “OPRI Perspectives”: This series features articles that discuss and analyze domestic and international developments regarding the oceans. These articles are authored mainly by researchers at OPRI and are published online.
- Ocean Forum: Usually held once a month, these talks are organized around a specific topic of social concern related to the oceans and feature guest expert commentary on those issues.
- Publication of the book series, *A Study of Our Ties to the Sea*, and other information pertaining to ocean governance including “Ocean Policy Studies” research articles and the “Maritime Security Intelligence Quarterly.”



### Ocean Policy Studies Satellite Sites



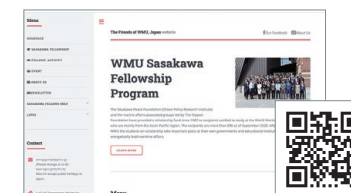
The Center for Island Studies



From the Oceans



Ocean Education Pioneer School Program



Friends of WMU (World Maritime University), Japan



## Foundation Profile

### Name

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)

### Date of Establishment

September 1, 1986

October 2011: Transitioned to Public Interest Incorporated Foundation

April 1, 2015: Merged with the Ship & Ocean Foundation

### Objectives

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation is dedicated to responding to changes in the world's natural and social environments caused by human activity. We are also committed to working toward ensuring the healthy and sustainable development of the increasingly stratified and complex societies around the world. We aim to contribute to the welfare of humankind by leveraging the unique freedoms afforded to us as a private organization to pursue innovative ideas and methods for conducting research, presenting policy recommendations, advocating for international cooperation and exchange, and formulating a new governance system for humanity that encompasses all the world's oceans and lands.

### Description of Activities

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, SPF directly engages in or provides assistance to parties who carry out the following initiatives:

- (1) Research and information sharing efforts geared toward solving issues facing human society.
- (2) Provide training resources, create exchange opportunities, and build people-to-people networks to help solve societal issues.
- (3) Conduct research and publicize recommendations on new governance systems to regulate human society.
- (4) Carry out innovative studies and R&D efforts on maritime affairs.
- (5) Promote international understanding, exchange, and cooperation.
- (6) Convene conferences and special events related to items (1)-(5).
- (7) Gather and distribute information and present policy recommendations concerning items (1)-(5).
- (8) Facility rentals.
- (9) Other projects required to achieve our objectives.

### Endowment

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)

## Board Members (As of May 31, 2021)

### [ Councilors ]

**Kiyotaka Akasaka** Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

**Takeju Ogata** President, The Nippon Foundation

**Hideki Kato** President, Japan Initiative

**Atsuko Kanehara** Professor, Sophia University  
President, Japanese Society of International Law

**Shin Kisugi** Professor Emeritus, Yokohama National University

**Eiko Kono** Former Chairman, Recruit Co., Ltd.

**Tatsuo Sekine** Director, The Yomiuri Shimbun Holdings

### [Honorary Chairman]

**Yohei Sasakawa** Chairman, The Nippon Foundation

### [Trustees]

President **Atsushi Sunami**

Executive Directors **Akinori Sugai** (General Affairs)

**Junko Chano** (Programs)

**Itsu Adachi** (Programs)

Trustees **Motoshige Itoh** Professor, Gakushuin University

**Tamaki Ura** Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo

**Shigeki Sakamoto** President, Center for Human Rights Education and Training

**Kaoru Hattori** Attorney at Law

Auditors **Satoshi Sugawara** Executive Director, Blue Sea and Green Land Foundation

**Sadahiko Yoshimura** Certified Public Accountant

## E-Newsletter and Social Media Information

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation regularly shares updates on our activities via our e-newsletter and social media accounts, which can be accessed using the links or QR codes below. Please follow us to learn more.

### E-Newsletter

SPF shares event details, the latest articles written by our research fellows, press releases, and other information through our email newsletter.



#### E-Newsletter Registration

[https://f.msgs.jp/webapp/form/19951\\_jndb\\_4/index.do](https://f.msgs.jp/webapp/form/19951_jndb_4/index.do)

### Facebook/Twitter

We post details on SPF-hosted events, our most recent analyses, media appearances by our researchers, lecture schedules, and a wide range of other information in both Japanese and English on our social media accounts. Please visit the links below or use the QR codes below to learn more.



#### Official Facebook Account

<https://www.facebook.com/SasakawaPeaceFoundation>



#### Official Twitter Account

[https://twitter.com/SPF\\_PR](https://twitter.com/SPF_PR)

### YouTube

Our YouTube channel hosts a variety of videos including interviews with experts and specialists as well as lectures and symposiums sponsored by SPF.



#### Official YouTube Channel [spfnews]

<https://www.youtube.com/user/spfnews>

## Contact and Access

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



To learn more about the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, please visit our website.

[www.spf.org/en/](http://www.spf.org/en/)





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