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Beyond politics, ideology, religion, race, and borders:

The philosophy and priority goals of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation



Yohei Sasakawa

Honorary Chairman
Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) conducted a number of projects throughout FY 2018 based on the foundation's five priority goals. To learn more about the nature and significance of these activities, we spoke with Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chairman of SPF.

— What is SPF's mission?

SPF's essential mission is to conduct humanitarian activities that go beyond politics, ideology, religion, race, and borders. We are very conscious of this philosophy in all the work we do.

There are a wide range of humanitarian issues affecting the world today. Poverty would fall into the humanitarian category, as would raising the status of women. Some say that security is entirely a political issue, but this is in fact not the case. Ensuring security means working out a way for people to live together in peace, and this is very much a humanitarian issue.

— With this philosophy in mind, what are the specific goals for the foundation?

We have established five priority goals: further strengthening the Japan–U.S. relationship, expanding Japan's presence in Asia, enhancing understanding of and relationships with Islamic countries, establishing ocean governance, and empowering women.

In the area of strengthening Japan–U.S. relations, there are a wide range of issues to consider, with security as the central theme. For example, activities like relationship building at the state level are important to our work. It is crucial that we expand and deepen the Japan–U.S. relationship, and for that purpose we also aim to strengthen our cooperation with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA) in Washington, D.C.

Turning to Asia, 74 years have passed since the end of the Second World War, and in this post-war era many people in Asia, including Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohamad, would like Japan to let the world know more about the region and make its voice more widely heard. However, Japan has a so-called "self-tormenting" view of history following the war, and tends to hold back from playing such an active

role. At SPF, we hope to address the demands of the region to make Asia's voice heard around the world, while at the same time building ever-stronger relations on a bilateral basis, regionally with ASEAN, and with countries in South Asia such as India. Regarding China, in FY 2018 the foundation restarted the program that facilitates exchanges between military field officers from China and Japan. Governments are not in a position to be able to arrange these kinds of exchanges. Even the private sector needs a depth of experience and demonstrated successes in the field.

Next, if we imagine our world many decades in the future, given demographic trends we will surely encounter a rising Islamic society. Japan has a vital role to play by building a base of knowledge about Islam and establishing relevant networks. Within the Islamic religion there are different groups, like the Sunni and Shia. Some have a fundamentalist ideology while others do not. I believe that Islamic countries that are more open-minded also have established civil societies, and I hope that Islamic society as a whole will move in this direction. Accordingly, continuing to conduct research on Islam and establish the relevant people-to-people networks is an important issue for Japan and should be supported by SPF.

When considering the issues affecting our oceans, we must think in terms of thousands of years. The ocean is a living thing, and if the ocean dies, humanity will die as well. However, nobody really discusses the oceans from this point of view. Marine issues are now drawing the world's attention and SPF's Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) has an important role to play by conducting research about a range of marine issues.

For example, while microplastics in the ocean have an impact on ecosystems, we can only discuss and address this problem after establishing a solid scientific basis. For this reason, we will continue to approach our activities and research in this field with clearly defined strategies and tactics. We also plan to establish a global network of scholars and researchers through OPRI.

Raising the status of women around the world makes life in society better for women, particularly women in Asia. In general, it is said that Japan lags behind other countries in

terms of social advancement for women, but SPF aims to be an organization where many women can play an active role.

— You meet many country leaders in the course of the foundation's work, right?

Over the last 30 years, I have met with presidents and prime ministers around 460 times. Meeting with the top people of a given country can be an important starting point for new projects. By understanding the mindset of the leadership, it is possible to develop activities that are appropriate to the country. Governments and policies change in every country, but humanitarian work remains unchanged even under different administrations.

— What is crucial to realizing SPF'S mission?

To make progress in the five policy areas I mentioned earlier, it is critical to build networks among politicians, scholars, intellectuals, and members of the media in various countries. It is impossible to develop effective programs without an accurate understanding of the partner country. Leading such discussions is an essential role for SPF.



Chairman's Message



Nobuo Tanaka

Chairman, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

As a public interest foundation dedicated to serving the international community, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) has the freedom to consider innovative ideas and explore novel approaches to pursue new forms of governance for human society through policy recommendations, international cooperation, and exchange programs.

Looking at the world today, the Trump administration with its “America First” stance is expected to wage a protracted strategic battle with China, which itself is vying to build up its superpower status through its Belt and Road Initiative, causing concern in some countries. The United States’ reduced involvement in the world order also has brought about significant changes to its relationship with allies. These shifts have spread unease in regions including the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East, particularly with regard to relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. In Europe, the looming Brexit and the Yellow Vest movement in France have sparked the rise of nationalism in Italy and Eastern European countries, potentially stoking resistance to greater European integration. With chaos and uncertainty set to dominate international affairs, there is a growing expectation for the role that SPF can play as a private-sector organization in facilitating Track 1.5 Diplomacy and connecting governments, international organizations, research institutes, and other stakeholders beyond the scope of existing frameworks.

Regarding the world’s oceans, international initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are calling for global action against a diverse range of crises including global warming, ocean acidification, biodiversity loss, and pollution. At the same time, new movements are emerging such as the voluntary “Our Ocean” commitments and the concept of the “Blue Economy,” which encompasses the environment, society, and economy. However, international efforts to formulate policies to address challenges facing the world’s oceans have fallen short, in part because policy research has not adequately bridged the gap between scientists and policymakers. To this end, SPF’s Ocean Policy Research Institute is poised to meet growing expectations regarding its role in the international community as a think tank specializing in maritime issues.

In the context of these evolving global challenges, SPF has set five priority goals from a mid- to long-term perspective: (1) further strengthening the Japan–U.S. relationship, built around the bilateral security agreement, (2) expanding Japan’s presence in Asia, (3) enhancing understanding of and relationships with Islamic countries in the Middle East, (4) establishing ocean governance, and (5) empowering women to achieve gender equality in society.

While remaining focused on the ever-changing nature of the global environment, SPF will continue to collaborate with others around the world who share a common understanding of the challenges we face to work toward achieving our priority goals.

Looking to the future, we look forward to striving to meet your high expectations, and we sincerely appreciate your continued support and guidance.

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Special Feature

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Mission Statement

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) addresses the diverse and complex issues that human society is encountering in the 21st century. In order to respond to an increasing number of natural disasters and social crises, we implement and support a variety of programs and projects. As a private Japanese foundation, we strive to strengthen cooperation at all levels between Japan and the international community. Moreover, we make use of our freedom as a private foundation to promote activities, proposals, and exchanges in the search for a new governance model for human society.

Toward New Ocean Governance

We make proposals for better ocean governance and promote policy implementation to protect our oceans, which are the common heritage of mankind. Through international cooperation and coordination, we promote research about comprehensive ocean management and sustainable development. As an organization located in a country surrounded by the sea, we pursue a model of a new ocean state that maintains a balance between development and utilization of marine resources and environmental protection. We make efforts to enhance cooperation with the international community, especially with Asian and Pacific countries, to establish the ocean governance of the future.

Realization of World Peace and Security

We implement and support projects that contribute to world peace and security by devoting our efforts to the stability and development of the Asia-Pacific region and the international community. At the same time, we consider strategies for governance in new areas of maritime and space security in cooperation with leaders of other countries and in various fields by conducting studies and making proposals. We also examine and implement measures to ensure the security of citizens against internal conflicts, terrorism, and natural disasters, which have recently been increasing around the world.

Solving the Diverse Problems of the Planet

Keeping the diversity of the world community in view, we seek tailor-made solutions for each country and region. With the current aging of the population in Japan and the rest of the developed world, growth has slowed down in recent years. Social problems are arising from the aging population and increasing economic disparities. On the other hand, the population in the developing world is growing rapidly, bringing about various problems inside as well as outside the countries concerned. With the goal of creating practical solutions to these complex problems, we promote approaches that respect diversity. In order to realize a society where individuals can fully express their potential and contribute to creating a better future, we encourage innovative efforts at the policymaking level.

Sasakawa Peace Foundation April 1, 2015

Program Policy

In order to fulfill the mission set out in our Mission Statement, we reviewed our programs implemented since April 2015 and adopted the following five priority goals in 2017: (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, and (5) empowering women. As a public interest incorporated foundation, SPF is able to implement unconstrained ideas and maintain a long-term perspective to work toward achieving these goals while remaining flexible in the face of global changes.

Further strengthening the Japan–U.S. relationship

The United States is Japan’s most important ally from a political, economic, and security perspective. However, the people of the two countries still do not have a sufficient level of understanding and recognition of each other. SPF will further promote private-sector exchange between the people of Japan and the United States to strengthen bilateral ties. Particularly in the area of security, SPF will promote initiatives and deepen Japan’s relationship with the U.S. based on diverse perspectives.

Expanding Japan’s presence in Asia

While Asian countries and the region as a whole are enjoying strong economic growth, they also face a multitude of difficulties including a growing population and challenges with environmental protection. SPF sees Asia’s issues as its own issues and aims to share Japan’s extensive knowledge and unique solutions accumulated from its past experiences with the people of countries and regions across Asia. The foundation will explore measures that lead to a path for stable and sustainable development through collaboration between Japan and the rest of Asia.

Enhancing understanding of and relationships with Islamic countries

The emergence of extremism and protracted armed conflicts in the Middle East has had a ripple effect on the rest of the world, even reaching Muslim communities in Asia. Despite an increasing inflow of information on this topic, Japanese society still has a long way to go before establishing recognition and true understanding of people in Muslim societies. SPF will promote networking with Islamic countries around the world, urging Japanese people to form an accurate understanding about Muslim societies.

Establishing ocean governance

Various issues such as environmental pollution and excessive fishing have become common in oceans around the world, requiring urgent action. However, many countries have yet to fully address the ocean crisis they face. SPF will gather opinions from international experts in various fields regarding ways to make our oceans sustainable while also establishing mutual cooperation to generate a greater collective impact.

Empowering women

If Japan is to increase its influence in international society, women’s empowerment is essential in all aspects of society including politics, economy, education, and science. There are many examples of female empowerment around the world that Japan should consider. SPF will focus on the roles that women fulfill in society to explore new potential solutions for a range of international and social issues.

In addition to establishing a multi-faceted network between the United States and Japan through strategic people-to-people exchanges, the Japan–U.S. Program seeks to leverage this network of researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to encourage further collaborative work including research projects and dialogue. The program also promotes the dissemination of information both in Japan and overseas by producing policy research, books, and other publications. These projects cover not only bilateral Japan–U.S. themes but also relations with the countries and regions critical to the Japan–U.S. relationship. The program also cultivates the next generation of specialists and researchers, and provides experts' insights on foreign policy, security, U.S. politics, and others.

*In April 2019, the program changed its name to the Japan–U.S. Program.

Personnel Exchanges Between Japan and the U.S.

In FY 2018, the program invited several opinion leaders who are influential in the U.S. policymaking process such as Richard Fontaine, President of the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), to hold speaking events and roundtable discussions with experts in Japan.



A seminar featuring U.S. opinion leaders

Eight members of the U.S. Congress were invited to Japan through the U.S. Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ) to meet with Japanese officials and experts including the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. Also invited were eight Chiefs of Staff from the U.S. Congress, who exchanged information with Japanese experts to deepen their understanding of Japan.



Asian-American state-level legislators' Japan visit program in cooperation with the U.S. Japan Council

Furthermore, in cooperation with the U.S.–Japan Council (USJC), the program invited six Asian-American state legislators to Japan, contributing to the promotion of understanding of Japan and Japan–U.S. relations at the state level. In addition, the program sent experts and a group of young researchers from Japan to the U.S. to promote mutual understanding and policy dialogue between the two countries.

Dissemination of Information in the U.S. by Japan and Through Japan–U.S. Collaboration

To increase awareness about the Japan–U.S. relationship, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA) pursued a range of activities including conducting research on security and other topics relevant in the U.S. and organizing tabletop exercises. In addition to presenting research results at events such as security seminars, SPF-USA conducted exchange and information sharing activities to promote understanding of Japan–U.S. relations, targeting specific groups such as Washington D.C.'s policymaking community, rural cities, next-generation leaders, and government officials.

Furthermore, through the National Association of Japan America Societies (NAJAS), the program held six seminars as part of the "Japan Update Through Japan–America Societies" series, organized by regional Japan–America Societies in six different cities in the U.S. Through the seminars, the program provided more than 600 American participants with opportunities to deepen their understanding of Japan by receiving the latest news on the country and on Japan–U.S. relations.

In collaboration with the East-West Center, the program completed the third edition of the "Japan Matters for America / America Matters for Japan" booklet and website, which provides a visual summary of the interdependence between Japan and the United States using state- and



prefecture-level data.

To mark the completion of the third edition, the program held a public event at the Japan–America Society in three cities in the United States.

Multinational Policy Dialogues and Research

The program also sought to expand the scope of its activities to incorporate broader, multilateral perspectives on issues pertaining to the Japan–U.S. relationship through projects such as the Young Strategists Forum, organized in cooperation with the German Marshall Fund in the U.S. Through this initiative, young strategists and researchers from the government, military, and other domains, mainly from Japan and the United States but also from Indonesia, Germany, France, India, Singapore, Australia, and the United Kingdom, participated in a seminar on Asian geopolitics and simulation exercises in Tokyo to deepen their understanding of security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific and the importance of the Japan–U.S. alliance. Moreover, a research workshop was held in Canberra, Australia on the theme of "Worldviews on the United States, Alliances, and International Order," and young researchers from Japan, South Korea, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Australia, Turkey, Germany, Poland, and other countries engaged in discussions



Japan–U.S. multilateral strategist training with young professionals from Japan, other countries in Asia, Europe, and elsewhere

and wrote papers on the theme of the workshop. Furthermore, in cooperation with the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) and other experts, the program conducted research and held seminars on the possibility for broader cooperation beyond Japan and the U.S. to deal with China's "Belt and Road Initiative."

Dissemination of Information and Policy Proposals

With the aim of disseminating information about U.S. politics, foreign policy, and the impact of social changes, the program launched a research group called the "America Genjyo Monitor." The group consists of scholars specializing in U.S. politics and society who provide analysis of the latest information through op-eds written in Japanese. The group published more than 20 op-eds in FY 2018, which are available online.

The program also held workshops in Tokyo and Honolulu through the "Asia Strategy Initiative" project, which brings together young and mid-career foreign policy and security experts from Japan and the United States. Moreover, SPF published two publications (one in English, one translated into Japanese) as part of the "SPF Japan–U.S. special monograph series"*. The monographs were written by two American opinion leaders who participated in previous initiatives and projects organized by the SPF Japan–U.S. Program.



Publication of a special monograph series on Japan–U.S. relations with contributions from experts involved in the program

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPF-USA)

As a U.S. think tank specializing in Japan–U.S. relations in collaboration with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, SPF-USA seeks to influence policymaking and public opinion by conducting research projects on Japan–U.S. cooperation and disseminating its findings to policy communities in the two countries. In an effort to promote the importance of Japan–U.S. relations as well as mutual understanding and collaboration between the two countries, SPF-USA also works with a diverse group of experts including policymakers, business leaders, members and staff of Congress, researchers, and emerging next-generation leaders.



SPF-USA Chairman Admiral Dennis Blair

*1 The Japan Matters for America / America Matters for Japan booklet can be viewed here: <https://asiamattersforamerica.org/japan>

*2 Publications by the Japan–U.S. Program including the Japan–U.S. monograph series can be viewed at SPF Insights into Japan–U.S. Relations: <https://www.spf.org/jpus/investigation/>

Since its establishment, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) has implemented and supported projects that contribute to global peace and security. The International Peace and Security Department carries out projects that strengthen peace and stability in Japan, the Asia-Pacific region, and the rest of the world. More specifically, the department conducts research, disseminates information, and provides policy recommendations concerning Japan's defense issues; the Japan–U.S. alliance, which has been a key contributor to the stability of Japan and the Asian region; regional issues in Asia; and challenges for world stability. Through these activities, the department also plays a part in private-sector defense diplomacy (Track II diplomacy).

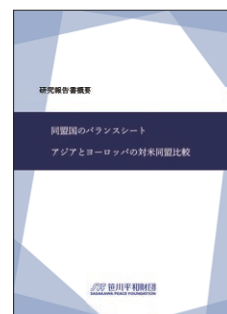
The Japan–U.S. Alliance

The “Japan–U.S. Alliance Study” project evaluated Japan's role within the Japan–U.S. alliance, particularly in response to contingencies in Northeast Asia. In addition, the department collaborated with the Asia-Pacific Research Center (APRC) at Stanford University to host the second Japan–U.S. Security and Defense Dialogue Series to discuss the positioning of the alliance and the role of both countries within the relationship.



Participants in the Japan–U.S. Security and Defense Dialogue Series

The report “The Balance Sheet of U.S. Allies” compiled research that sought to clarify the full spectrum of relative advantages and disadvantage of Japan when compared to other U.S. allies.



“Balance Sheet of U.S. Allies: Comparative Study between Asia and Europe”

Energy Security

The “Japanese Energy Security in a New Era” project aims to analyze the domestic and international risk factors in Japan's energy security while also considering the use of public-private partnerships to contend with energy risks.

The “Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy” program addressed a range of topics including the international control of nuclear fuel, international management of enrichment and reprocessing, and safety management of nuclear power stations.



A scene from a seminar on energy security

Defense Diplomacy and Exchanges

As part of the “Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries II” program, active-duty officers of the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the People's Army of Vietnam made mutual visitation tours, while retired generals and admirals of the Republic of Korea made a visit to exchange with their peers in Japan in order to further their understanding of each other and construct multi-layered relationships.



A delegation of 11 SDF field officers visited Vietnam in December 2018

The department conducted research and held a series of expert workshops to further understanding of defense diplomacy. The project also published case studies on the U.S. and China, followed by last year's cases on the U.K., France, and Australia.



Case studies*3 on the U.S. and China

Distributing Policy Proposals

The “Implementing ‘Proactive Contribution to Peace’” project distributed a policy proposal entitled “Strengthening Defense Posture to Protect Japan” to influence the Japanese government's National Defense Program Guidelines in 2018.



A press conference to present a policy proposal

In order to contend with the new threats emerging in cyberspace, the department compiled a series of policy recommendations into a report entitled “Establish a Cybersecurity Agency in Japan!” as part of the “Strengthening Defense Capabilities in the Cyber Space III” program. These recommendations were then presented to Japanese government officials.

“Establish a Cybersecurity Agency in Japan!”*4 report as part of efforts to bolster Japan's defense in cyberspace



Information Provision

The “Information Provision of International Situation and Security” project distributes the latest research and analysis on international and regional security and diplomacy issues through the International Information Network Analysis (IINA) website, including a new English edition.



For the latest news and analysis from IINA:
<https://www.spf.org/iina/en/>

Regarding “The Study of Contemporary China” program, the department continues to offer studies of contemporary Chinese diplomacy, military affairs, and economy on the Japanese and English editions of the SPF China Observer website.



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

Analysis and Methods

The “Analysis of the Implication of China's Economic Operation” project collected information about China's Belt and Road Initiative for analysis and assessment. Regarding the “Net Assessment” and “Tabletop Exercise for National Security” projects, the department analyzed and evaluated the potential for the development of specific threats as well as the response to them. In the project “Scenario Planning,” the department analyzed a range of scenarios, including a potential crisis in the Middle East and terrorism involving liquefied natural gas (LNG).

*3 To view the case studies (Japanese only): <https://www.spf.org/security/programs/S20170182.html>

*4 To view the full report (Japanese only): <https://www.spf.org/global-data/20181029155951896.pdf>

Pacific Island Nations Program

Since the establishment of the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund in 1989, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) has carried out various activities, including exchange programs and human resource development projects, with the aim of contributing to the stability of the Pacific region as well as the prosperity of Pacific island nations.

More recently, SPF has focused on the Micronesia region, which is not only geographically close to Asia but also has deep historical ties with Japan. In February 2016, SPF together with the Nippon Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding with the Republic of Palau to support its government through projects enhancing capacity-building efforts with the country's coastguard and promotion of eco-conscious tourism. Furthermore, in light of the recent growing influence of Pacific island nations in the international arena, SPF will also broaden its focus to include emerging issues in the Pacific islands region.

Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region

Based on the MOU signed in February 2016, SPF established a series of capacity-building programs in Palau, including on-site training for three maritime police trainees using three small patrol boats supplied by the Nippon Foundation as well as training sessions for 15 maritime police trainees assigned to operate the 40-meter patrol boat granted by the Nippon Foundation. SPF also organized a program that dispatched a team of Japan Coast Guard officers to Palau to provide training for officers in the Division of Maritime Law Enforcement (DMLE) to enhance capabilities in arresting techniques and other areas.



Training by Japan Coast Guard officers in January 2019



Realising Environment-Conscious Tourism in Palau

Based on the MOU signed in 2016, SPF partnered with Toyo University Associate Professor Ayako Toko to conduct environmental capacity studies in Palau. In November 2018, SPF brought a team of researchers from six states in Palau to the city of Toba in Mie Prefecture for training related to eco-conscious tourism, and later organized an on-site tour demonstration in Palau.



Ecotourism training in Palau in January 2019



Ecotourism training in the city of Toba in November 2018

Establishing New Japan-Pacific Island Countries Dialogue by Enhancing Second Track Diplomacy

To support the success of the Eighth Pacific Islands Meeting (PALM8), SPF presented Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Iwao Horii with a document entitled "Recommendations for the Success of the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting," and encouraged its inclusion in the Leader's Declaration.



SPF Executive Director Junko Chano presenting the PALM8 recommendations to Parliamentary Vice-Minister Iwao Horii in April 2018

Following PALM8, SPF also hosted a closed roundtable meeting to discuss the outcomes of the leaders meeting.



Post PALM8 (Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting) Roundtable

Changing Situation of Economic Cooperation Towards Pacific Island Countries and Region

To examine the evolving state of economic cooperation in the region, SPF has looked into the influence of economic cooperation between Pacific island nations and China as well as other non-OECD countries. In addition, SPF conducted a survey of 500 Palau residents regarding their level of confidence in various development partners.

Building Japan's Strategy on the Security Issues in the Pacific Island Region

In order to better understand the perspective of Pacific island nations and examine future regional security cooperation declarations, SPF arranged a series of working-level dialogues with experts both inside and outside Japan to discuss trends regarding countries involved in the region including the U.S., New Zealand, France, China, and Taiwan. In addition, SPF held a closed seminar featuring Sandra Tarte, Associate Professor at the University of the South Pacific, and James Movick, former Director General of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency.

In collaboration with local experts, activists, and leaders, the Asia Peace Initiatives Department carried out a range of projects to seek out new solutions to disputes, violence, religious and ethnic exclusion, terrorism, and other destabilizing challenges in Asia. The centerpiece programs of FY 2018 included peacebuilding efforts in Thailand's Deep South and projects in Northeast India to facilitate intellectual dialogue and dissemination of information.

Peacebuilding in the Deep South of Thailand

Through three programs focused on peacebuilding, including "Japan's Roles in Peacebuilding," "Conflict Transformation in the Deep South of Thailand," and "Analysis of Pre-Peace Talk Initiatives in Peacebuilding," this department strove to ① support capacity building with local communities in Southern Thailand, ② promote the creation of an environment conducive to official peace negotiations, and ③ share SPF's knowledge and experience with an international audience. Specific programs are outlined below.

► Capacity Building for Communities in the Deep South of Thailand

This program featured a variety of capacity building activities including peacebuilding training for young NGO activists, internship programs for young NGO activists and lawyers in Indonesia,

a workshop on female leadership held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with facilitators from Mindanao, Philippines, and on-the-job training for local journalists.

► Supporting Peace Negotiations

In 2018, with the introduction of a specially designated "Safety Zone" in Thailand's Deep South, it was expected that trust-building efforts between the Thai government and Malay armed group would dramatically improve. However, as of May 2018, following political regime change, the representative of the facilitating team of the peace talks from the Malaysian government was changed, which led to the change of the chief official from the Thai government side, and the plans to introduce the "Safety Zone" fell apart.

In light of the political changes in Malaysia, SPF worked to build good relations with high-ranking officials in the new government.



A workshop held in Pattani, Thailand, as a part of the "Japan's Roles in Peacebuilding" program



Top / Senior Program Officer Akiko Horiba meeting with local women in Pattani, Thailand
Bottom / The Pattani Central Mosque in Southern Thailand

Programs in Northeast India

As part of ongoing efforts from the previous fiscal year, these programs support ① creating a constructive information-sharing network related to Northeast India (Promoting the Creation of New Value through Media and People's Exchange for Northeast India), and ② establishing a regional platform for intellectual exchange (Looking into the Past for a Future: Shared History of Northeast India and Its Neighbours). Specific activities are outlined below.



Northeast India was once popular as a summer retreat.

► Sharing Constructive Information About Northeast India

Among the various activities conducted through the program, a particularly notable project from the past year was the publication of two books featuring women authors from Northeast India in collaboration with Zubaan, a leading independent publishing house in India. In addition, in November 2018 SPF organized the ArtLit Festival celebrating art and literature in the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts in the state of Assam, a region where ethnic and religious conflicts continued to worsen until recently. The festival was organized to send a message about embracing a multiethnic society and received a large response on social media.



A scene from the ArtLit Festival

In addition, SPF conducted research about establishing a film library in Northeast India, which laid the foundation for launching a new program in FY 2019 in collaboration with St. Anthony's College in the city of Shillong, Meghalaya. The program, called "Memories and Records of Northeast India," aims to establish an archive of footage related to the region.

► Establishing a Regional Platform for Intellectual Exchange

While Northeastern India has the potential to serve as a critical connecting point between Southeast Asia and South Asia, the greatest challenge to achieving sustainable development in the region continues to be enduring divisions in the community. To contend with these issues, SPF conducted on-the-ground research, including a literature review of ancient documents, to examine how the regional "shared history" was understood by people in the region as well as in neighboring countries. Informed by this research, which included surveys in Bangladesh, this program succeeded in establishing an intellectual platform in collaboration with local experts, which will serve as a base of knowledge for future policy recommendations.



Northeast India, a region rich in culture and ethnic diversity

While ASEAN countries continue to experience increasing regional integration and economic growth, many nations are facing a range of issues including aging populations and other drastic societal and economic shifts. As a country that has already faced many of these challenges, Japan has an important role to play in supporting the region by using its knowledge and experience. Accordingly, in FY 2018, the Asia Social Integration Department focused on the core themes of addressing societal challenges facing the region, namely the issues of population aging, gender, and migration.

*Since July 2019, the Asia Social Integration Department has merged with the Asia Peace Initiatives Department.

Issues and Implications of Ageing Asian Population

Given the importance of supporting active older persons in a rapidly aging society, this program conducted a research project on "active aging," and organized a range of international workshops in collaboration with the Asia Impact Dialogue program. In a workshop held in August 2018, the project team visited Fukuoka, a Japanese city that has become a model for tackling the issues of population aging through its Fukuoka Health Model Initiative. The participants met representatives from the local government and the private sector to discuss issues including lifelong learning, the importance of inter-generational exchange, and the potential use of technology to contend with challenges associated with population aging.



Attendees at a workshop in Fukuoka, Japan

During a workshop held in March 2019 in Hanoi, Vietnam, the team met government officials and local practitioners to discuss the societal and economic impact of population aging in Asia and consider strategies to deal with emerging challenges by improving employment opportunities and social participation for older persons.

Asia Impact Dialogue

In coordination with the "Issues and Implications of Aging Asian Population" project, the Asia Impact Dialogue program has organized international workshops in Fukuoka, Japan and Hanoi, Vietnam.

In addition, SPF and the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (ISEAS), a Singaporean think tank, signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a partnership between the two institutions. The agreement outlined areas for future joint activities including organizing workshops and seminars, and publications.



ISEAS Director Choi (right) and SPF Chairman Tanaka

Proposing New Roles for Men in Asia

This project seeks to propose a new role for men to promote gender equality based on field work research in Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand, as well as comparative studies and in-depth analysis. In addition, the department has also organized symposiums inviting experts from major East Asian cities and held meetings with experts in family sociology and men and masculinity studies.

The results of the research on the current situations for men in various cities have been analyzed and compiled into a report.



Discussion of the Korean Women's Development Institute

International Labor Migration and Roles of Civil Society in Asia

To protect the rights of migrant workers throughout the ASEAN region and Japan, SPF has partnered with the Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), an NGO coalition from Indonesia, to conduct a baseline study assessing the current human rights situation and the state of government-led human rights protections for migrant workers across the region. The results of the survey were widely shared among civil society organizations at the ASEAN Civil Society Forum held in Singapore. The department has also arranged policy dialogues among local NGO representatives, government officials, and other stakeholders in Jakarta, Indonesia and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Workshop at the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ ASEAN People's Forum

In addition, the program has invited experts from Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia—all countries that send a large number of workers to Japan—to the Kansai and Kanto regions in Japan to exchange with experts and practitioners and thereby strengthen the communication and cooperation between the countries of origin and destination in order to ensure safer labor migration.

Support for the Establishment of KOSEN (College of Industrial Technology) Education System in Mongolia

In order to encourage the development and training of practical engineers in Mongolia, since 2013 SPF has supported the introduction, implementation, and administrative system for the Japanese National Institute of Technology (KOSEN). During FY 2018, in addition to establishing the KOSEN model in Mongolia and providing teacher training, SPF arranged a briefing session to share the progress and results of the initiative with the Mongolian government, the National Institute of Technology (KOSEN) Secretariat, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and other stakeholders in Tokyo, Japan and Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. In February 2019, the first class of 15 students educated in the KOSEN model successfully completed their five-year curriculum.



Graduates, teachers, and project staff at the graduation ceremony

Program Development

In order to learn about the latest information and topics, the department organized nine workshops focusing on Asian societies with researchers and specialists. In addition, the department conducted a baseline study about policies and concerns regarding international labor migration in the ASEAN region, and invited NGOs from 10 ASEAN countries to Jakarta, Indonesia for a focus group discussion in August 2018. These activities as well as discussions with experts and practitioners resulted in the launch of the project "International Labor Migration and Roles of Civil Society in Asia." The department also conducted surveys on business and human rights.

The Gender Investment and Innovation Department was established in FY 2017. The Asia Women Impact Fund (AWIF) was launched in the same year to empower women in Asia to reach their full potential. AWIF pursues gender lens investments in organizations to help women entrepreneurs start and grow their business using innovative approaches to improve their access to finance, technology, networks, and skills training. The fund also focuses on inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem development in Southeast Asia through research and the creation of tools to help practitioners apply gender-sensitive approaches to incubation and acceleration. The fund intends to promote gender lens investments in Asia through research, advocacy, and community engagement efforts in partnership with impact investing practitioners and financial markets across Asia.

Ecosystem Building for SDGs Financing

This project aims to promote and accelerate the growth of impact investing*5 and gender lens investing in Asia. Through a series of ecosystem-building activities such as publishing research reports and organizing workshops, we hope to encourage more philanthropic capital in Asia to flow into impact investing. The project aims to conduct research on the ways that various innovative financing mechanisms could create impact, and convenes stakeholders pursuing impact investing in Asia to facilitate partnerships and knowledge sharing. In June 2018, the department organized a workshop with the Asia Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) attended by 150 people from foundations across Asia. Additional collaborations include a survey conducted with The Investment Integration Project (TIIP), an American think tank, about the current ecosystem for sustainable finance in Japan.



Workshop at the Asia Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN) Conference 2018

To promote the concept of gender lens investment and to share the results of SPF's current projects, the department has been active in a variety of international venues by giving presentations and participating as panelists at conferences including the 5th World Assembly for Women (WAW!) / W20, the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN), and the Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG).



SPF Chairman Nobuo Tanaka speaking at the 5th World Assembly for Women (WAW!) / W20

In addition, SPF commissioned Equileap, a Dutch nonprofit organization, to create a gender equality ranking of companies in Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. The results of this study and the published report have been widely covered by domestic and international media.



Gender Equality in Japan, Hong Kong & Singapore *6

Promoting Investment for Women Entrepreneurs in Asia

As a core component of the Asia Women Impact Fund, this program aims to advance women's entrepreneurship by working in close collaboration with international organizations and local partners to improve access to finance, technology, skills, and resources to help women-led businesses grow.

In May 2018, SPF conducted a series of Human Centered Design workshops in Myanmar, Indonesia, and Thailand with women entrepreneurs, Microsoft Philanthropies and local partners including Entrepreneurship Development Network Asia (EDNA) Myanmar, Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation (MBAPF), Instellar, the Research Center of Communication and Development Knowledge Management (CCDKM), and the Social Technology Institute (STI), to co-design and inform development of ICT-based applications to improve business practices, access to information, and established local peer networks. From September 2018 to March 2019, SPF partnered with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to commence research for the National Assessment for Women's Entrepreneurship Development (WED) Framework Conditions in Myanmar to highlight specific barriers faced by women entrepreneurs, assess the extent to which enterprise support policies, programs, and regulations that are sensitive to the needs of women entrepreneurs and respond to their unmet potential and underserved needs.

SPF is also collaborating with a range of partners including the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE), and intermediaries (incubators and accelerators) to develop tools and workshops to accelerate gender-sensitive entrepreneurial ecosystem building in South East Asia.



A workshop for women entrepreneurs in Asia

Women Leadership and Empowerment

As automation and technology continues to change the future of work, much attention and concern has been devoted towards the issue of inequalities in the workplace and widening gender gaps in economic participation. This project aims to identify the root causes of gender gaps and explores innovative system-level interventions to advance institutional and national policies to promote inclusive development of STEM*7 education and industries. Following a series of international policy workshops and conferences, a national-level working group with senior level representatives from six pioneering Japanese research institutions was established to lead pilot feasibility testing and develop policy recommendations on an evidence-based assessment framework to advance gender equality in STEM in higher education.

SPF also collaborated with Portia, a science policy think tank, to analyze the status and effectiveness of policies to integrate gender equality in ten countries in Southeast and East Asia, Europe, and the U.S. This research provides a deeper understanding of good practices to support equal participation in STEM fields and aims to promote international dialogue and collective action to advance structural change for gender equality.

Additional Activities

In 2018, members from SPF attended the Equal Pay International Coalition Pledging event at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, which was organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Women, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). As the only foundation present at this high-level event, the SPF representatives took the opportunity to introduce the foundation's work to address the gender pay gap.



President Shuichi Ohno speaking at a high-level event during the UN General Assembly

*5 Impact investing: investments made with the intention to generate financial returns (revenue) as well as beneficial social or environmental impact
*6 The full report is available on the SPF website: <https://www.spf.org/en/gender/publications/20190322.html>

*7 STEM: science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Since its establishment in 1989, the Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund, later renamed the Japan–China Cooperation Department, has promoted mutual understanding between the people of Japan and China and actively supported cooperative ties between the two countries. The department pursues a range of projects including people-to-people exchanges and dialogues, information and experience sharing to contribute to mutual understanding, and cooperation to advance the socio-economic development in both countries.

*In April 2019, the department changed its name to the Sasakawa Japan–China Friendship Fund.

People-to-People Exchanges and Dialogue

In 2018, as Japan and China celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, the department continued its efforts to boost mutual understanding between the people of Japan and China by strengthening personnel exchanges and invitation programs. Specific programs are outlined below.

- 1 After being suspended for six years, the Japan–China Field Officer Exchange program was restarted in 2018. In April 2018, a delegation of 25 People's Liberation Army officers from China visited Japan, and later in September 2018, a delegation including Japanese field officers travelled to China.



Japan SDF officers visit a navy base in Shanghai

- 2 The department has organized three coverage opportunities in Japan for a total of seven members of the Chinese media and other opinion leaders.

- 3 In November 2018, a panel of seven Japanese experts on international law and security travelled to China. In February 2019, a delegation of seven Chinese experts visited Japan and engaged in discussions on topics including the role of maritime law enforcement agencies, the relationship between the military and law enforcement agencies, issues relating to development strategies for both countries, and maritime issues.



Japanese and Chinese international law and security experts

- 4 After completing discussions about the perceptions of history in Japan and China, the department compiled the results of the discussions into a report, which was subsequently published by Chuokoron-Shinsha, Inc. as a book.



The cover of the book

Promoting Mutual Understanding Through Information Sharing

To promote mutual understanding between the people of Japan and China and to create an environment conducive to open and accurate information sharing, the department has implemented a range of programs, outlined below.

- 1 In order to provide information on modern Japan to Chinese readers, a carefully curated selection of Japanese books has been translated into Chinese and published. In FY 2018, five books were translated and published.

To date, the department has collected 108 books translated into Chinese. In addition, Mr. Masaaki Takahashi, the author of *The History of Kyoto, the Thousand-Year City*, which was one of the books translated through the project, was invited by the department to give a lecture at an exhibition in Shanghai called "100 Worthwhile Books for Chinese People to Understand Modern Japan," an event that brought together authors and readers and provided a platform to publicize the results of the program.



Autograph session by the author at the book exhibition

- 2 To promote an accurate understanding about the issues stemming from the historical perceptions of both Japan and China and to promote mutual understanding, a team of researchers from both countries are preparing to publish a glossary of modern history terms regarding Sino-Japanese relations to be published in both Japan and China.
- 3 In November 2018, the department invited three Chinese international affairs specialists for an expert seminar in Japan to discuss the escalating trade war between the U.S. and China and the future prospects for the Chinese economy. In March 2019, three Japanese experts travelled to China to participate in a forum in Beijing about the evolving international situation and the Japanese and Chinese economies.

- 4 The department continued efforts to provide mobile phone users in China with high quality information about modern Japan through SPF's account on a Chinese Social Network Service application. Chinese writers familiar with Japan edit and post on topics including Japanese history, society, culture, and traditions. In addition, to contribute to online outreach efforts in China, the department created a designated page on the People's Daily Online website*8 outlining the department's activities and publicizing the achievements of previous projects.

Enhancing Collaboration Toward Socio-Economic Development

Japan and China both face many of the same challenges, including the environment, aging, and social security. To build trust between the countries while also promoting sound development, the department has facilitated information sharing to allow the countries to share their experiences and collaborate on strategies to resolve these common challenges.

As a part of this program and in collaboration with the Government of Fujian Province, in July 2018 the department invited 12 leaders from the agricultural community in Fujian to Japan in order to promote skills training to support development of rural areas while also boosting mutual understanding.



Training program for leaders of the Chinese farming community in Yamanashi Prefecture

In FY 2018, to promote issue awareness and share information with agricultural experts in China, the department published the Chinese translation of a book written by Japanese specialists. In March 2019 in Yongtai County in Fujian Province, the department held a roundtable discussion about the book's publication and discussed the achievements of the project during a seminar.

*8 The website can be viewed here: <http://spfjc.people.com.cn/>

FY 2018 marked the final year for two of the department's three-year programs, one focusing on building relationships between Iran and international society and the other promoting joint research about the Middle East. In addition, as part of the women's empowerment program, the department completed a Japan-Iran joint research project about entrepreneurship and published the findings. Regarding the joint research on the Middle East, the team has completed the initial two-year research phase and has moved on to the next stage of the project.

Exchanges with Iran and Collaborative Research

► Policy Discussions about Promoting Women

Upon the conclusion of steering committee discussions in Tehran, the project team, consisting of Japanese and Iranian members, decided to pursue two new joint research topics: "Women and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)" and "Women and Culture." In addition to these two new projects, a group of Japanese and Iranian researchers has been conducting a comparative study focusing on women and entrepreneurship since FY 2017. A workshop to present the interim results was held in Tehran in May 2018, and the final results were published in June 2019.



Chairman Nobuo Tanaka and Executive Director Junko Chano attending a steering committee meeting on Iranian women's entrepreneurship in Tehran

► The Role of Women in Community-Based Healthcare

With the support of outside experts, this program developed a training curriculum for at-home nursing care for cancer patients in Iran. In March 2019, a report outlining the results of this program was presented during a workshop in Esfahan, Iran.

► International Exchange with Young Iranians

The department invited a delegation of eight students and one teacher from the School of International Relations (SIR), an institute affiliated with Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to visit Japan in FY 2018. While in Japan, the students participated in a variety of activities including lectures at Tokai University, meetings with lawmakers and Japanese students, and tours of Hiroshima and the Kansai region. SPF later sent a delegation of six Japanese undergraduate and graduate students to Iran for ten days.



Welcome reception for SIR students in Japan

During a visit to Japan, Dr. Seyed Sajjadpour, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Research and Education, accepted an invitation from the department to give a speech about the current state of diplomacy in Iran. Approximately 300 people attended the event, demonstrating the intense interest surrounding the situation in Iran.



Dr. Seyed Sajjadpour giving a lecture at SPF

Promoting Collaborative Research about the Middle East

This project, conducted in collaboration with the University of Oxford, seeks to cultivate and foster a new generation of academics and regional specialists for Middle Eastern countries. As the first stage of the program enters its final year, the results of the research thus far were compiled into a report and presented at an academic conference. In November 2018, one of the SPF Postdoctoral Research Fellows came to Japan to present the research results at a seminar.



SPF Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr. Ceren Lord from the University of Oxford giving a lecture

The second round of the program began in April 2018 with the selection of two new research fellows, one from Japan and one from the U.K. In preparation for their fieldwork in FY 2019, the two fellows will first conduct literature reviews, hold discussions with experts, and organize seminars and workshops.

Additional Activities

In order to better understand the rapidly changing situation in the Middle East, the department arranged three seminars in FY 2018 featuring outside experts and academics. Discussion themes covered a broad range of topics including the impact of the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and the future outlook regarding the civil war in Syria.

Members from the department also travelled to Switzerland and France to gather information about the current situation for Muslims in the region and the government's response to recent developments. In addition, experts from the department and the Ocean Policy Research Institute visited a scientific research institution in Kuwait to exchange opinions about marine environmental conservation in Kuwait and neighboring countries.

The Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) gathers a wide range of information on various issues concerning the ocean, examines and analyzes it from multiple angles, and disseminates reference materials for use in creating concrete proposals and policy planning with solutions in mind. It is the only think tank in Japan that comprehensively deals with problems concerning the world's oceans. In FY 2018, OPRI conducted the following programs, listed by category.

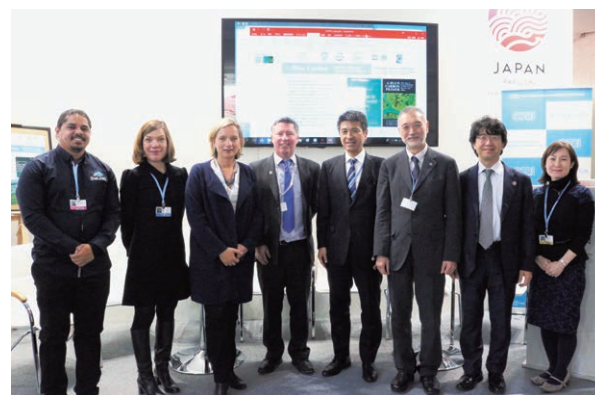
Programs Concerning Ocean Governance

► Studies to Promote Implementation of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy

In FY 2018, OPRI convened a meeting of the "Study Group on Strategy for the Basic Act on Ocean Policy" to discuss important matters with experts regarding the implementation of the Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy formulated in May 2018.

► Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Resource Use

OPRI conducted research on Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), and presented the results at side events at the UN's BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference, the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP24), and the Our Ocean Conference in Bali, Indonesia.



Speakers at a side event hosted by OPRI at COP24 in Poland

► Research on Adaptation Measures for Global Warming and Ocean Acidification

OPRI completed the prototype version of the website "Marine Crisis Watch^{*9}" as an online information base for studying, visualizing, and predicting changes in the marine environment. Through this website, OPRI will provide information on global warming and ocean acidification that is easy for the general public to understand yet can also be used by experts in the field.

^{*9} The Marine Crisis Watch website: <https://www.marinecrisiswatch.jp/mcwatch/>

► Study on Maritime Security

(Conducted under the "Maritime Security Information Report" program on p. 24)

OPRI compiled the results of comprehensive research on security in the sea lanes (the Eurasia Blue Belt) that encircle the Eurasian continent, with a particular eye on the effects of climate change, and the development of an Arctic shipping route. In addition, OPRI co-hosted the "5th Maritime Security Symposium" with the Suiko-Kai.

► Study on Maritime Issues of East Asia

A semi-closed event entitled the "2018 Japan–China Maritime Dialogue" was held in Tokyo with the National Institute for South China Sea Studies (NISCSS). At the event, an extensive exchange of views took place between stakeholders from Japan and China on a broad range of issues pertaining to the East Asian seas, such as conservation of the marine environment, preservation of fishery resources, and cooperation for search and rescue at sea. These discussions helped to foster a common understanding between the participants.



OPRI and the National Institute for South China Sea Studies (NISCSS) co-hosted the "2018 Japan–China Maritime Dialogue" on July 30–31, 2018.

► Research on Integrated Ocean Governance

In order to clarify the efforts of foreign countries to create ocean policy and use this information in formulating Japan's ocean policy, OPRI collected information on trends in ocean policy in 10 countries, conducted surveys and analysis, and took part in international conferences on the oceans. In particular, at COP24 OPRI held an event on the theme of blue carbon^{*10} in the Japan Pavilion, where it shared and disseminated some of Japan's most notable findings and results, such as the country's success in informing the international community about the scientific research issues to which Japan can contribute.

► Study on Effective International Cooperation to Arctic Governance

This year, the "Study Group on the Future of the Arctic" convened three times and engaged in multilateral discussions with representatives from industry, government, and experts from the academic world. Moreover, OPRI actively promoted participation in international conferences, field visits, and high-level exchanges of ideas, and expanded relevant international networks.

In particular, OPRI constructed high-level networks with key personnel from leading research institutes and companies in various countries, and pushed forward collaboration in the Arctic and oceanic fields with major organizations such as the Arctic Circle, the University of Alaska, and the Wilson Center. Furthermore, these activities resulted in plans to hold the Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting and the regional forum of the Arctic Circle in Japan in 2020.



President of OPRI Atsushi Sunami was appointed as a member of the Arctic Circle Advisory Board in FY 2018

► Research on Marine Resource Conservation Policy

OPRI brought together salient points and studies regarding successful cases and issues pertaining to the Blue Economy^{*11} both in Japan and overseas, and attempted to understand the current status of and problems surrounding fishery law, which was recently revised for the first time in 70 years. OPRI also summarized its findings in this area as a means to contribute to international fishery policy. The results of this research have been published as the "Policy Research on Conservation of

Marine Resources: Study and Research Report on the Blue Economy and International Fisheries" on OPRI's website. In the future, OPRI will consider conducting joint research with researchers from Japan and overseas, as well as with organizations that are interested in the report.

OPRI was also invited to international conferences held in Indonesia, the Middle East, and Cuba in order to pass on information on the Blue Economy in Japan to the international community.



The blue economy is now attracting attention around the world in areas such as Latin America and Africa.

Programs Concerning Ocean Education and Human Resource Development

► Ocean Education Pioneer School Program

This year, OPRI provided 146 grants to support the activities of national, public and private elementary, middle, and high schools around Japan that offer education in marine affairs. In addition to co-hosting various events such as the Ocean Education Summit in collaboration with The Nippon Foundation and the University of Tokyo, OPRI also provided training for approximately 50 staff members from schools and social education facilities across the country.



An example of activities conducted under the Ocean Education Pioneer School grant

^{*10} Blue carbon: carbon stored in marine ecosystems

^{*11} The Blue Economy: a concept by which stakeholders work together using awareness reform and technological innovation with the aim of using ecosystems and social infrastructure related to the ocean in a sustainable way, by targeting and thereby promoting industries and services, resulting in an improvement of the welfare of the people in the area

Project List

Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields

In FY 2018, OPRI offered a total of 30 individuals scholarships to study at the World Marine University (WMU). OPRI provided training in Japan for current students of WMU to deepen awareness of the current situation regarding the oceans and the maritime field in general in Japan, and held a “Gathering Orientation” session to allow current students to interact with each other. OPRI also hosted the “WMU Friends Association Japan Membership Certificate Presentation Ceremony” concurrently with the WMU graduation ceremony.

In addition, in order to maintain and enliven the Fellows Network after graduation, OPRI issued four newsletters and disseminated pertinent information on the website “The Friends of WMU, Japan.”



The Friends of WMU, Japan website: <http://www.wmu-japan.net/>

Research and Development for Ocean Floor Mapping

OPRI helped to improve technology used for conducting bathymetric surveys through its support of the GEBCO-NF Alumni Team. The team, composed principally of graduates of a postgraduate training program in ocean bathymetry conducted by the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), with funding from The Nippon Foundation, competed in the final round of the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE competition. This support will also contribute to the “Seabed 2030” project, an initiative led by The Nippon Foundation, which aims to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030.

Information Dissemination Programs

Public Relations for Ocean Policy

In addition to periodicals such as the “Ocean Newsletter,” “Ocean Newsletter Selected Papers,” (in English), OPRI published a regular feature on the opinions of 150 individuals regarding the symbiosis of human beings and the oceans, as

well as two volumes of a commercially-available book on the relationship between humans and the oceans. OPRI also disseminated information both inside and outside Japan by creating the “White Paper on Oceans and Ocean Policy in Japan 2018,” which is an English-language version of the same document in Japanese. In addition, OPRI held the Ocean Forum ten times in FY 2018 to further understanding of the latest trends pertaining to the world's oceans.



OPRI regularly issues information through various publications and our website

Collection and Dissemination of Information on Island Studies

In FY 2018, the Center for Island Studies produced, published, and offered for sale the first two issues of the eighth volume of the academic journal entitled the “Journal of Island Studies” (in Japanese). In addition, the Center produced the “Review of Island Studies (Selected Papers, 2018),” which is an English language version of the Journal.

Moreover, utilizing the know-how of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and working jointly with the Asia Center of Japan and the Japan Pacific Islands Association, OPRI helped create a database of materials from the former Government Office of the South Sea Islands (Nanyo-cho) pertaining to the Pacific Islands, and worked to improve the environment for island-related research.

Maritime Security Information Report

OPRI gathered, analyzed, and disseminated information around three times each month through the “From the Oceans” website,^{*12} and published the “Seasonal Report on Maritime Security” three times, to broadly distribute to relevant experts. Based on this information, OPRI established the basic foundation for new research projects. In addition, OPRI also participated in various international conferences related to maritime security both in and outside of Japan, and conducted information exchanges with overseas research institutes including the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in the United States. OPRI also conducted meetings with visiting researchers from overseas research institutes including China’s PLA Academy of Military Science and the Korea Institute for Maritime Studies (KIMS).

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen)	Year
Japan–U.S. Program Department					
Japan-US Opinion Leader Exchange Program IV	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	82,530,802	2/3 ^{*13}
Asian American Leadership Delegation	U.S.-Japan Council	U.S.A.	Grant	15,660,322	3/3
Japan Update Through Japan-America Societies	National Association of Japan-America Societies, Inc. (NAJAS)	U.S.A.	Grant	12,753,398	3/3
The German Marshall Fund's Young Strategists Forum	The German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States	U.S.A.	Grant	20,015,424	1/3
Enriching U.S. -Japan Congressional Exchanges	Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA	U.S.A.	Grant	42,342,442	1/1
Strengthening the US-Japan Relationship from US Perspectives 2018	Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA	U.S.A.	Grant	233,216,981	1/1

^{*13} A part of the programs is managed by the “Japan-U.S. Experts Invitation Program Fund” (Grant provided by The Nippon Foundation)

International Peace and Security Department

Security Dialogues and Defense Exchanges between Japan and Asian Countries II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	28,826,685	2/3
Policy Proposal for Implementing “Proactive Contribution to Peace”	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	7,810,474	2/3
Information Provision of International Situation and Security	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,175,962	2/2
Net Assessment	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	5,173,193	2/3
The Study of Contemporary China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,383,232	2/3
Analysis of the Implication of China's Economic Operation	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	11,098,498	2/3
US-Japan Alliance Study	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	11,504,236	2/4
Japanese Energy Security in a New Era	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,862,376	2/2
Research Project on Defense Diplomacy through Non-Official Channel (DD-NOC)	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,797,511	2/2
Table Top Exercise for National Security	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,784,721	2/2
Balance Sheet of Lesser Allies and Implication for Japanese Alliance Policy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	7,210,327	1/2
Strengthening Defense Capabilities in the Cyber Space III	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,242,189	1/1
Scenario Planning	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,727,783	1/2
US-Japan Alliance Workshop	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	5,168,748	1/1
Research for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,026,024	1/2

Pacific Island Nations Program

Enhancing Human Resources for Maritime Security in the Micronesia Region	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	28,757,971	3/3 ^{*14}
Realising Environment-Conscious Tourism in Palau	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	21,224,853	2/2 ^{*15}
Establishing New Japan-Pacific Island Countries Dialogue by Enhancing Second Track Diplomacy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	2,670,729	2/2
Changing Situation of Economic Cooperation Towards Pacific Island Countries and Region	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	3,291,221	2/2
Building Japan's Strategy on the Security Issues in the Pacific Island Region	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	2,007,139	1/2

^{*14,15} Implemented through the “Maritime Nation Support Fund” (Grant provided by The Nippon Foundation)

^{*12} FROM THE OCEANS Website: <https://www.spf.org/oceans/>

Project Name	Implementing Agency	Location	Type	Budget (yen)	Year
Asia Peace Initiatives Department					
Promoting the Creation of New Value through Media and People's Exchange for Northeast India	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,935,902	2/2
Japan's Roles in Peacebuilding	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	34,485,867	1/2
Conflict Transformation in Deep South of Thailand	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,899,971	1/2
Analysis of Pre-peace Talk Initiatives in Peacebuilding	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	10,520,315	1/2
Looking into the Past for a Future: Shared History of Northeast India and Its Neighbours	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,758,170	1/2

Asia Social Integration Department

Support for the Establishment of KOSEN (College of Industrial Technology) Education System in Mongolia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	19,864,279	2/2
Issues and Implications of Ageing Asian Population	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,587,223	3/3
Asia Impact Dialogue	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	12,768,680	1/3
Proposing New Roles for Men in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,205,820	1/3
International Labor Migration and Roles of Civil Society in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,528,226	1/1

Gender Investment and Innovation Department

Women Leadership and Empowerment	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,749,000	3/3
Promoting Investment for Women Entrepreneurs in Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	31,447,824	2/2
Ecosystem Building for SDGs Financing	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	27,879,363	1/3

Japan–China Cooperation Department

Website for Dissemination of Information Phase II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,000,000	5/5
Book Translation and Publication Project for Understanding Contemporary Japan Phase II	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	11,455,467	5/5
Invitation Program for Chinese Journalists	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,374,348	3/5
Creating a Glossary of Modern History Terms Regarding Sino-Japanese Relations	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,603,501	3/3
Joint Research and Publishing towards Solving Issues Shared by Japan and China	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	9,015,916	3/3
Facilitating Sino-Japan Communication in the Field of International Law	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	10,442,307	2/3
Information Sending by a Chinese SNS Application	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,072,066	2/3
Exchange Project for Japan-China Opinion Leaders	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,365,287	2/3
Training Project for Chinese Rural Community Leaders	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	6,642,569	2/3
Japan-China Field Officer Exchange Program	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	14,684,303	1/5

Middle East and Islam Program Department

Building Relationships between Iran and International Society	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	33,195,296	3/3
UK-Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East	The Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford	U.K.	Grant	4,669,554	3/3
UK-Japan Joint Research: Foundation for Original, Team-Based Research in the Modern Middle East Phase II	The Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford	U.K.	Grant	8,434,739	1/3

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

Programs Concerning Ocean Governance

Studies to Promote Implementation of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	715,342	3/3
Promotion of Ocean Policy Studies	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	4,493,000	1/1
Creative Research Towards the Future of the Oceans	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	8,674,884	1/1
Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Resource Use	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	18,971,706	3/3
Study on Maritime Issues of East Asia	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	7,205,875	2/3
Research on Adaptation Measures for Global Warming and Ocean Acidification	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	29,425,935	3/4
Research on Integrated Ocean Governance	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	118,911,660	3/3
Research on Marine Resource Conservation Policy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	64,786,789	2/3
Study on Effective International Cooperation to Arctic Governance	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	20,841,002	2/2

Programs Concerning Ocean Education and HR Development

Ocean Education Pioneer School Program	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	130,556,555	3/3 ^{*16}
Promotion of International Cooperation in Ocean Related Fields	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	256,362,771	3/3
Research and Development for Ocean Floor Mapping	The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO)	U.S.A.	Grant	211,366,393	1/1 ^{*17}

Information Dissemination Programs

Public Relations for Ocean Policy	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	42,441,671	3/3
Collection and Dissemination of Information on Island Studies	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	17,677,342	1/3
Maritime Security Information Report	Sasakawa Peace Foundation	Japan	Self-Operated	16,590,037	3/3

^{*16} Conducted through the “Ocean Education Pioneer School Fund” (Grant provided by The Nippon Foundation)

^{*17} Conducted with support from The Nippon Foundation

Financial Position

(For Year Ended March 31, 2018)

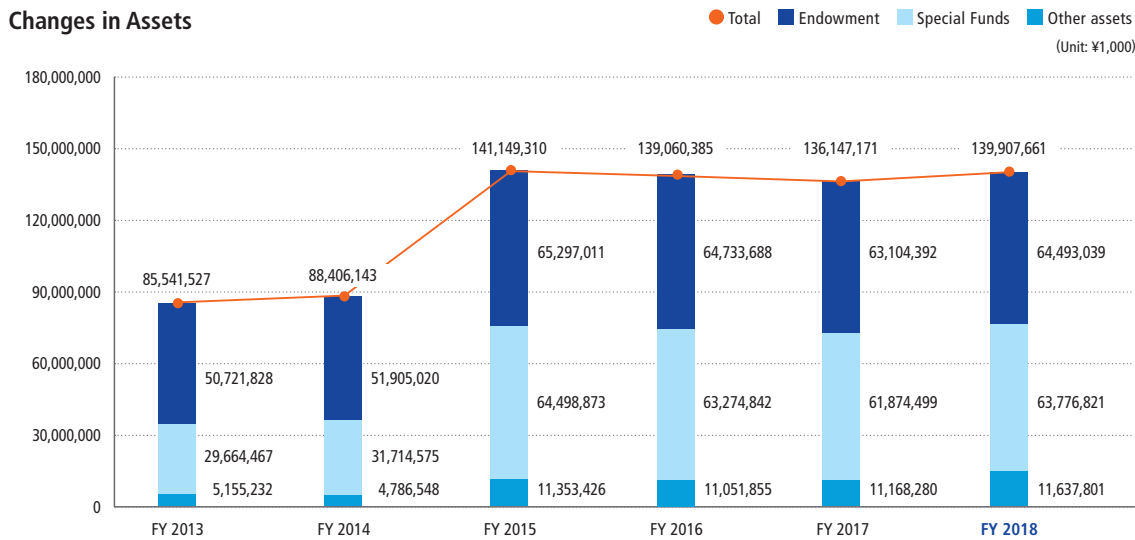
Statement of Income and Expenses

(Unit: ¥1,000)

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
I. Operating activities						
1. Income						
From endowment	1,320,983	868,297	1,094,985	1,085,636	1,327,302	1,625,058
From special funds	818,066	702,535	1,500,464	1,209,825	1,441,396	1,542,209
Other income	42,149	116,355	305,454	132,638	110,930	136,948
Contributions / grants	0	0	393,076	459,551	1,511,561	703,342
Total income from operating activities	2,181,198	1,687,187	3,293,979	2,887,650	4,391,189	4,007,557
2. Expenses						
Program	1,538,247	1,788,802	3,259,961	3,019,898	3,431,383	3,098,410
General and administrative	141,335	145,627	366,254	310,293	306,905	286,067
Total expenses from operating activities	1,679,582	1,934,429	3,626,215	3,330,191	3,738,288	3,384,477
Net income from operating activities	501,616	△ 247,242	△ 332,236	△ 442,541	652,901	623,080
II. Investing activities						
1. Income						
Proceeds from sales of investments	201,459	555,307	12,471,754	932,018	64,676,478	460,532
Deposits return income	0	0	90,946	0	0	0
Sale of property	0	0	0	0	0	128
Total income from investing activities	201,459	555,307	12,562,700	932,018	64,676,478	460,660
2. Expenses						
Purchase of investments	354,903	49,277	10,093,033	29,110	64,834,519	437,415
Purchase of property	82,299	55,391	1,896,735	96,010	152,112	11,979
Long-term prepaid expenses	0	0	0	0	0	3,758
Total expenses from investing activities	437,202	104,668	11,989,768	125,120	64,986,631	453,152
Net income from investing activities	△ 235,743	450,639	572,932	806,898	△ 310,153	7,508
III. Financing activities						
1. Income						
Total income from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Expenses						
Total expenses from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income from financing activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income	265,873	203,397	240,696	364,357	342,748	630,588
Net income, beginning of year	1,025,978	1,291,851	1,769,909	2,010,605	2,374,962	2,717,710
Net income, end of year	1,291,851	1,495,248	2,010,605	2,374,962	2,717,710	3,348,298

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

Changes in Assets



Statement of Changes in Net Assets

(Unit: ¥1,000)

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
I. Net assets-unrestricted						
1. Recurring revenues and expenses						
(1) Recurring revenues	1,808,332	1,739,848	3,102,399	3,033,864	3,838,618	4,191,251
(2) Recurring expenses	1,749,374	2,009,462	3,764,947	3,600,498	3,968,784	3,673,437
Net assets from recurring activities before valuation	58,958	△ 269,614	△ 662,548	△ 566,634	△ 130,166	517,814
Profit and Loss on Appraisal in Basic Assets	430,837	150,690	△ 85,804	△ 162,836	△ 366,321	457,361
Net assets from recurring activities	489,795	△ 118,924	△ 748,352	△ 729,470	△ 496,487	975,175
2. Non-recurring revenues and expenses						
(1) Non-recurring revenues	97,639	99,999	232,370	0	0	127,870
(2) Non-recurring expenses	26	0	35,983	0	3,902	0
Net assets from non-recurring activities	97,613	99,999	196,387	0	△ 3,901	128
Change in unrestricted	587,407	△ 18,925	△ 551,965	△ 729,470	△ 500,388	975,303
Net assets-unrestricted, beginning of year	5,399,134	5,986,541	33,454,571	32,902,606	32,173,136	31,672,747
Net assets-unrestricted, end of year	5,986,541	5,967,616	32,902,606	32,173,136	31,672,748	32,648,050
II. Net assets-temporarily restricted						
Change in net asset-temporarily restricted	470,426	2,901,697	△ 736,762	△ 1,384,269	△ 2,235,567	2,626,770
Net assets-temporarily restricted, beginning of year	78,778,187	79,248,613	108,044,782	107,308,020	105,923,751	103,688,184
Net assets-temporarily restricted, end of year	79,248,613	82,150,311	107,308,020	105,923,751	103,688,184	106,314,954
III. Total net assets, end of year	85,235,154	88,117,927	140,210,626	138,096,887	135,360,932	138,963,004

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

Balance Sheet

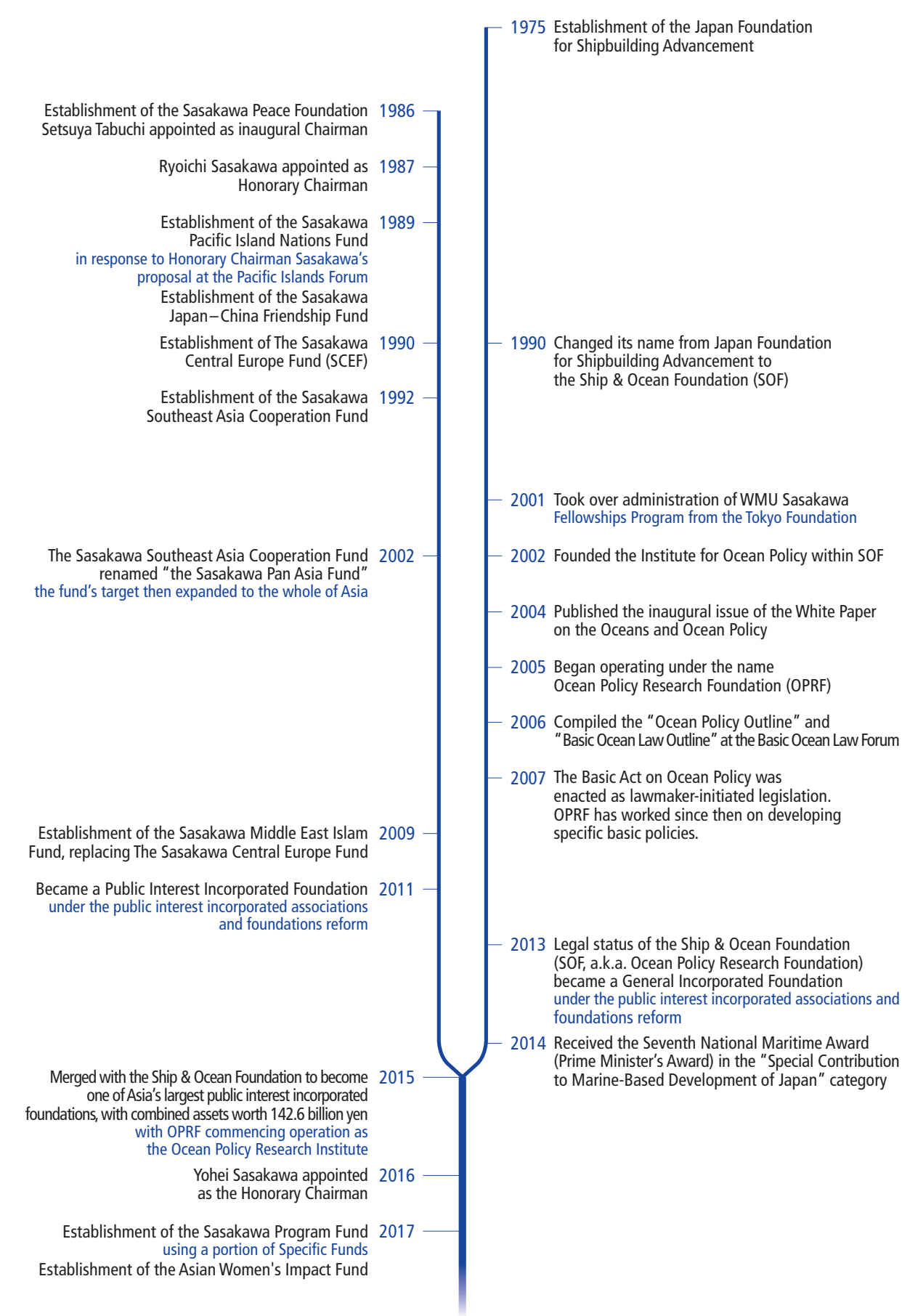
(Unit: ¥1,000)

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
I. Assets						
1. Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	581,053	413,689	722,051	2,606,496	3,053,744	3,580,763
Investments	826,904	1,171,270	1,437,640	168,323	0	225,052
Other current assets	325,956	304,263	658,370	468,377	311,664	303,122
Total current assets	1,733,913	1,889,222	2,818,061	3,243,196	3,365,408	4,108,937
2. Fixed assets						
Endowment	50,721,828	51,905,020	65,297,011	64,733,688	63,104,392	64,493,039
Special funds (special assets)	29,664,467	31,714,575	64,498,873	63,274,842	61,874,499	63,776,821
Other special assets	3,157,803	2,651,897	3,092,110	2,589,208	2,697,086	2,674,014
Other fixed assets	263,516	245,429	5,443,255	5,219,451	5,105,786	4,854,850
Total fixed assets	83,807,614	86,516,921	138,331,249	135,817,189	132,781,763	135,798,724
Total assets	85,541,527	88,406,143	141,149,310	139,060,385	136,147,171	139,907,661
II. Liabilities						
Current liabilities	161,796	142,158	499,114	571,077	419,796	567,891
Long-term liabilities	144,576	146,058	439,570	392,421	366,443	376,765
Total liabilities	306,373	288,216	938,684	963,498	786,239	944,656
III. Net assets						
1. Net assets-temporarily restricted	79,248,613	82,150,311	107,308,020	105,923,752	103,688,185	106,314,955
To endowment	(50,289,737)	(51,462,214)	(59,103,549)	(58,552,539)	(57,008,126)	(58,311,679)
To special assets	(28,958,876)	(30,688,097)	(48,204,471)	(47,371,213)	(46,680,059)	(48,003,276)
2. Net assets-unrestricted	5,986,541	5,967,616	32,902,606	32,173,135	31,672,747	32,648,050
To endowment	(432,091)	(442,807)	(6,193,461)	(6,193,461)	(6,096,266)	(6,181,360)
To special assets	(3,728,774)	(3,536,873)	(18,979,356)	(18,979,356)	(17,563,584)	(18,092,679)
Total net assets	85,235,154	88,117,927	140,210,626	138,096,887	135,360,932	138,963,005
Total liabilities and net assets	85,541,527	88,406,143	141,149,310	139,060,385	136,147,171	139,907,661

Foundation Profile

●Name	The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)
●Date of Establishment	September 1, 1986 (Transition to public interest incorporated foundation in October 2011); merged with the Ship & Ocean Foundation in April 2015
●Objectives	We are committed to achieving the following objectives by applying the innovative ideas and methods of the private sector: (1) To respond to changes in nature and the social environment (2) To contribute to the sound and sustainable development of human society, which is becoming more stratified and complex (3) To build a new governance system for human society on this planet of oceans and land by promoting research activities, making policy recommendations, and supporting international cooperation and exchange projects
●Project Description	To achieve the above-mentioned objectives, we carry out the following projects or provide assistance to parties implementing projects: (1) Conducting research, disseminating information, and raising public awareness with the aim of solving issues facing human society (2) Developing human resources that contribute to solving societal issues, supporting exchanges, and building networks (3) Conducting research, disseminating information, and raising public awareness with the aim of forming new governance systems (4) Conducting R&D and studies on maritime affairs (5) Promoting international understanding, international exchange, and cooperation (6) Organizing conferences and events concerning items (1)–(5) (7) Gathering and disseminating information and issuing policy recommendations concerning items (1)–(5) (8) Lending facilities (9) Conducting any other project required to achieve our objectives
●Endowment	64,493,039,397 yen (as of March 31, 2019)
●Special assets	63,776,821,097 yen (as of March 31, 2019)
●Fiscal Year 2019	
Operating Expenses	3,959,990,000 yen (estimated)

History of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation



Board Members (as of June 26, 2019)

Councilors

Kiyotaka Akasaka	President, Foreign Press Center Japan
Takeju Ogata	President, The Nippon Foundation
Hideki Kato	President, Japan Initiative
Atsuko Kanehara	Professor, Sophia University
Shin Kisugi	President, The Open University of Japan
Eiko Kono	Former Chairman, Recruit Co., Ltd.
Tatsuo Sekine	Director, The Yomiuri Shimbun Holdings

Honorary Chairman

Yohei Sasakawa	Chairman, The Nippon Foundation
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Trustees

Chairman	Nobuo Tanaka	
President	Shuichi Ohno	
Executive Director	Akinori Sugai (General Affairs)	
Executive Director	Junko Chano (Program)	
Executive Director	Atsushi Sunami (Program)	
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

Organization Chart (as of July 1, 2019)

