



[The Nippon Foundation News] November Greetings

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. Japan observes two public holidays during November. The first is Culture Day, on November 3. The date is the birthday of the Emperor Meiji, who from 1868 led Japan from an official policy of isolation to become a modern nation. Normally, schools hold culture festivals for classes and clubs to demonstrate their activities, although these events are being curtailed again this year to prevent the spread of coronavirus infections. The government also announces the recipients of various awards for cultural achievement on this day. The second holiday is Labor Thanksgiving Day, on November 23, to honor labor and production. This holiday traces its roots to the ancient *Niinamesai* harvest festival, which dates to the seventh century. Also, although not an official public holiday, November is the month of *Shichi-Go-San* (7-5-3) to celebrate and wish for the health and growth of girls aged three and seven and boys aged five. Around November 15, many of these children visit Shinto shrines with their families, with girls dressed in colorful kimono and boys in a kimono or suit, making this a popular occasion for photographs.



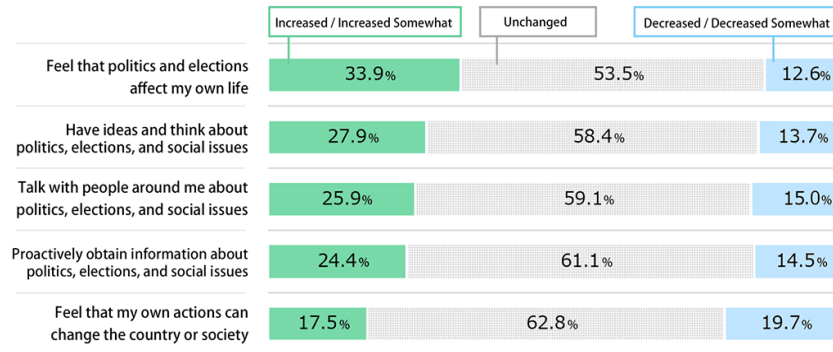
Meiji Shrine in Tokyo is dedicated to the Emperor Meiji. On the shrine grounds, a 'torii' gate on a path leading to the shrine (left) and barrels from sake donated to the shrine by brewers from around Japan (right).

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Coronavirus and Social Participation



The 42nd installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out from September 16 to 21 on the subject of the “Coronavirus and Social Participation.” Intended to examine the changes that have occurred as a result of the coronavirus pandemic with regard to young people’s interest in politics and elections, economic activity, and cultural and artistic activities, the survey showed that young people’s interest in politics has increased as a result of the pandemic, but also that young people’s participation in cultural and artistic events has suffered.

[Full Article](#)

Awards Ceremony for The Nippon Foundation – Ministry of the Environment ‘UMIGOMI Zero Award 2021’

Recognizing outstanding activities, research, and technologies to reduce ocean debris



The Nippon Foundation and Japan’s Ministry of the Environment jointly held the UMIGOMI Zero Award 2021 to identify and disseminate to a wide audience outstanding measures being taken in Japan to address ocean debris. The 2021 winners, selected by a panel of outside judges from among 276 submissions from companies, research institutes, NGOs, local governments, and other groups in Japan covering a broad range of initiatives, ideas, and technological development, were announced at a ceremony held on October 6.

[Full Article](#)

Plastics Management Index Ranks Germany 1st Globally, Followed by Japan

Joint Economist Impact – The Nippon Foundation initiative ranks countries' capacity to minimize plastics mismanagement while promoting optimal production and use



An initiative of
The Economist Group and The Nippon Foundation

Back to Blue, an ocean health initiative of The Nippon Foundation and Economist Impact, has released the first edition of its Plastics Management Index. The index ranks 25 countries worldwide, assessing their capacity to minimize plastics mismanagement while promoting the optimal production and use of plastic as a resource. The report shows that Germany is the top performer overall in plastics management, with Japan the leader in Asia and No. 2 overall.

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Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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