



## [The Nippon Foundation News] Year of the Tiger

A Happy Year of the Tiger from The Nippon Foundation! This year, the Lunar New Year was celebrated on February 1, marking the start of the year of the tiger. In the Chinese zodiac system, represented by 12 animals, the tiger is considered the king of all animals and is said to represent strength, courage, confidence, and vitality, all positive traits as the world looks to emerge from the coronavirus pandemic. Tigers are not native to Japan but appear in Japanese literature and art going back to the eighth century, having been introduced through Buddhism from China. One of the best-known Buddhist temples associated with tigers in Tokyo is the Bishamonten Zenkokuji temple. Founded by the first shogun, Tokugawa Ieyasu, in 1595, the temple moved to its current location in Kagurazaka after having been destroyed by fire in the late 18th century. The temple's statue of the deity Bishamonten is guarded by two statues of tigers outside the main building's entrance, making this a popular temple for people born in the year of the tiger to visit and offer prayers for the new year.



*The two tigers guarding Bishamonten Zenkokuji temple*

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## Nippon Foundation

**Donations will be used to support Tonga's recovery from gigantic volcanic eruption**



On January 19, The Nippon Foundation launched the Tonga Emergency Relief Fund to support relief efforts in Tonga following a gigantic volcanic eruption of the underwater volcano Hunga Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai on January 15. The entire amount of donations made to the fund will be used for relief efforts being carried out by the Red Cross. The fund is being launched with initial contributions of 100 million yen from The Nippon Foundation and 10 million yen from the writer Kanae Minato.

[Full Article](#)

## The Nippon Foundation MEGURI 2040 Fully Autonomous Ship Program

**First two demonstration tests successfully completed**



The Nippon Foundation launched the MEGURI 2040 Fully Autonomous Ship Program in February 2020 for the development and verification of fully autonomous ship navigation, through support for five consortia. On

January 11, a small tourism boat successfully navigated the waters around Sarushima, an island off the coast of Yokusuka City in Kanagawa Prefecture, and on January 18, a large car ferry navigated a 240-kilometer route on the Iyonada Sea off northern Kyushu.

[Jan. 11 Demonstration Test of Small Tourism Boat - Full Article](#)

[Jan. 18 Demonstration Test of Large Car Ferry - Full Article](#)

## Olympic X Movement and Athletes to Watch at Beijing Winter Olympics

### Winter Games underway



In 1972, Sapporo became the first city in Asia to host the Winter Olympics, and the Games returned to Japan in Nagano in 1998. The Sapporo Games were the first to take environmental considerations into account, and the Nagano Games demonstrated further advances in reducing the event's environmental impact. With the 2022 Beijing Games currently underway, we also take a look at Japanese athletes to watch.

[The 'Olympic X Environment' that Started in Japan - Full Article](#)

[2022 Winter Olympics – It's all about the athletes - Full Article](#)

## Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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The Nippon Foundation Public Relations Team  
email : [pr@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp](mailto:pr@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp)  
TEL.+81-3-6229-5131 / FAX.+81-3-6229-5130 .



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