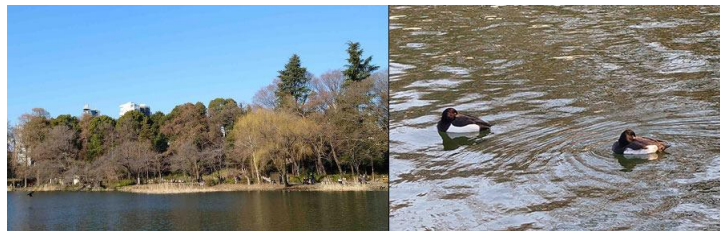




[The Nippon Foundation News] February Greetings

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. In late January many parts of Japan experienced “once-in-10-years” cold weather, accompanied by heavy snowfall in some parts of the country. Although Tokyo was spared the snow, several nights were cold enough that people were warned that water in the pipes to their homes could freeze overnight, and were urged to take preventive measures depending on where they live. Temperatures over the past few days have returned to normal or even slightly higher, but are set to fall again with a possibility of snow in Tokyo on Friday, followed by mild days over the weekend. Even though February 4 was *risshun*, the first day of spring in Japan’s traditional lunisolar calendar, we can expect a few more weeks of alternating cold and warmer weather, with the warmer periods gradually becoming longer, before it actually begins to feel like spring.



Recent photographs from Inokashira Park, which was featured in the December edition of The Nippon Foundation News, with the trees bare of the autumn leaves seen then and ducks on the park’s lake trying to keep warm

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Individual Audience with Pope Francis

Deep understanding of leprosy, tragedy of war



Pope Francis (left) and Yohei Sasakawa (right) (Photo by Vatican Media via Vatican Pool/Getty Images)

Yohei Sasakawa, The Nippon Foundation Chairman and World Health Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, was received by Pope Francis at the Vatican on the morning of January 26. Mr. Sasakawa asked for the pope's cooperation in eliminating both the disease of leprosy and the prejudice and discrimination that accompany it. In response, the pope thanked Mr. Sasakawa for his work as WHO goodwill ambassador and displayed a deep understanding of the situation, noting the need to continue to work to make people understand that leprosy is a curable disease.

[Full Article](#)

Urasando Public Toilet (Marc Newson, Creator) Opens

14th facility of The Nippon Foundation's THE TOKYO TOILET project



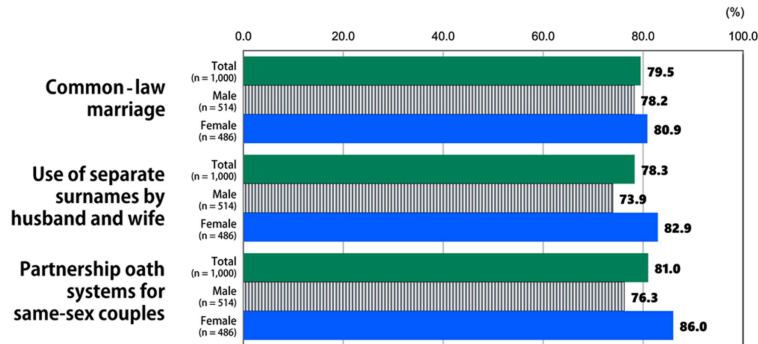
The Nippon Foundation's THE TOKYO TOILET project is recreating public toilets in 17 locations in Shibuya, Tokyo, to make them accessible to

everyone. The 14th facility, in Urasando Park, was created by designer Marc Newson and opened to the public on January 20. The toilet's design focuses on functionality, simplicity, and creating an inviting and enduring space, while integrating into the city over time, so it becomes part of the fabric of Tokyo.

[Full Article](#)

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds - Values and Life Design

Results of 52st installment announced



The 52nd installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out in early December on the subject of "Values and Life Design." While more than 40% of male and female respondents replied that they want to marry, only roughly 20% of men and roughly 10% of women replied that they believed they actually would get married. More than 70% approved of common-law marriages, the use of separate surnames by husbands and wives, and partnership oath systems for same-sex couples.

[Full Article](#)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



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