

This newsletter is being sent to current and former The Nippon Foundation fellows, and persons who have asked to be added to the mailing list or have been introduced by The Nippon Foundation staff.



**THE NIPPON
FOUNDATION**

For Social Innovation

[The Nippon Foundation News] Golden Week

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. Japan's Golden Week of four public holidays falling over one week has just ended and many people, including the staff of The Nippon Foundation, are back to work after two long weekends. This year's holidays fell on Monday, April 29 (Showa Day, the birthday of the Emperor Showa, who reigned from 1926 to 1989), Friday, May 3 (Constitution Memorial Day, the day on which Japan's current (1947) constitution took effect), Saturday, May 4 (Greenery Day, dedicated to appreciating nature), and Sunday, May 5 (Children's Day, an ancient festival that celebrates children and wishes them happiness, observed this year on Monday, May 6). This is also the time when the weather in much of Japan begins to feel like spring has arrived, with the days becoming warmer, flowers blooming, and trees sprouting fresh green leaves. This means that Golden Week is one of the busiest travel times of the year and also a popular time for outdoor activities. One of the activities most popularly associated with Children's Day is flying *koinobori* carp streamers. The streamers fluttering in the wind look like fish swimming upstream, representing good wishes for children to grow up to be strong and healthy. After this succession of holidays, however, Japan's next public holiday doesn't arrive until Marine Day, which this year falls on July 15.



Golden Week 2024 in Tokyo: Koinobori carp streamers on display at a shopping arcade in a residential neighborhood (left), and trees with fresh green leaves in Hibiya Park near the Imperial Palace, with the Marunouchi business district in the background (right)

INDEX - May 10, 2024

News

- Successful Demonstration Test of World's First Zero-Emission Ship (2024.04.04)
- Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds – Country and Society (2024.04.03)
- Professional Basketball B.League Donates 31 Million Yen to Support Earthquake Relief Activities (2024.03.27)

Successful Demonstration Test of World's First Zero-Emission Ship

The Nippon Foundation Zero Emission Ships Project expected to promote carbon neutrality in shipping sector

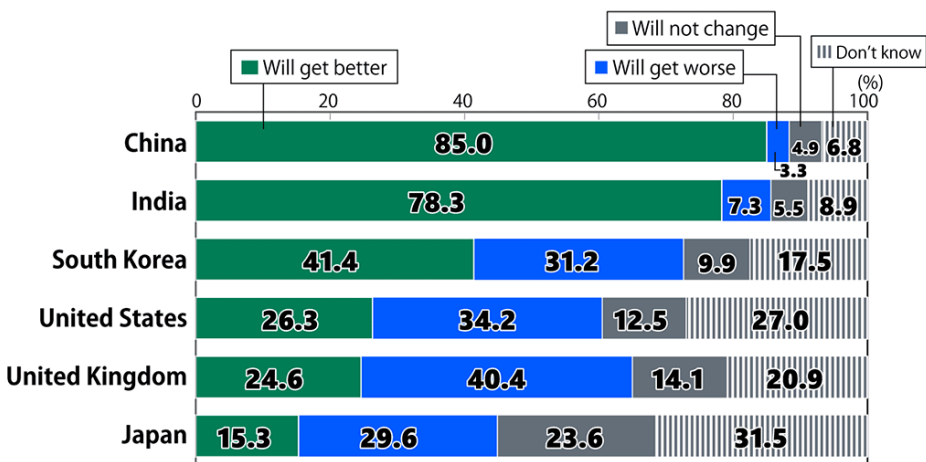


A zero-emission ship demonstration test was successfully conducted from March 26 to April 4, 2024, at the Port of Kokura, Kitakyushu, using the hydrogen fuel-cell-powered crew transfer vessel (CTV) HANARIA, with zero CO2 emissions. This test was part of the Zero Emission Ships Project, which The Nippon Foundation has spearheaded since 2022. According to The Nippon Foundation's research (as of March 2024), this was the "world's first" zero-emission demonstration of a CTV equipped with hydrogen fuel cells.

[Full Article](#)

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds – Country and Society

Japanese young adults rank lowest in dreams for their country's and their own future



The 62nd installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out from February 22 to March 5 on the subject of “Awareness of Country and Society,” surveying 1,000 young people (aged 17 to 19) each in six countries. The survey found that 15% of all Japanese respondents thought that their own country’s future “Will get better” and 60% “Have dreams” for their own future, both of which were the lowest figures among the six countries covered. With regard to the major issues facing their country, Japanese respondents ranked “Declining birthrate” as No. 1 and “Aging population” as No. 2.

[Full Article](#)

Professional Basketball B.League Donates 31 Million Yen to Support Earthquake Relief Activities

Donation to be used to support areas affected by January 1 Noto Peninsula Earthquake



The Nippon Foundation has received a donation of 31,043,088 yen from the Japan Professional Basketball League (B.League). The donation was collected at games and other events from January 5 to March 22 to support relief and recovery activities in areas affected by the January 1, 2024, earthquake that

struck Japan's Noto Peninsula. B. League Chairman Shinji Shimada presented the donation to The Nippon Foundation Chairman Yohei Sasakawa on March 26.

Full Article

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



[Japanese Youths Most Pessimistic About Their Country's Future Among Peers of 6 Major Countries: Poll](#) [2024/05/08]

[The Nippon Foundation to Provide \\$2 Million to Relocate 40,000 Displaced Persons from Myanmar to Bhasan Char Island in Bangladesh \(2\)](#) [2024/05/01]

[The Nippon Foundation to Provide \\$2 Million to Relocate 40,000 Displaced Persons from Myanmar to Bhasan Char Island in Bangladesh \(1\)](#) [2024/04/30]

[100 New Marine Species Each Discovered Off Chile, New Zealand Under The Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census Project \(2\)](#) [2024/04/22]

[100 New Marine Species Each Discovered Off Chile, New Zealand Under The Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census Project \(1\)](#) [2024/04/19]

Yohei Sasakawa Blog Top Page

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