

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 News] Rainy Season

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. June in much of Japan means the beginning of the rainy season (called *tsuyu* in Japanese). The Japan Meteorological Agency has already declared that this year's rainy season has begun in Okinawa Prefecture, parts of the southern island of Kyushu, and in the island of Shikoku. The seasonal front generally moves to the northeast and will probably reach Tokyo in the next five to 10 days. Despite the name, it does not rain every day, but the skies are mostly cloudy and there is a greater chance of rain than there is of sunshine on most days.

Hydrangea (*ajisai* in Japanese), which are in full bloom at this time, are one of the most representative symbols of the season. There are several locations in the greater Tokyo area that are popular destinations for viewing the flowers, the most famous being Meigetsuin temple in Kamakura, an ancient capital of Japan about one hour south of Tokyo. The temple's flowers are so abundant that the temple is colloquially known as Ajisaidera (Hydrangea Temple). Closer to central Tokyo, one of the most popular locations for hydrangea is Hakusan Shrine, a Shinto shrine established in 948 in what is now Bunkyo Ward. The shrine is not very large, but has several varieties of hydrangea growing all around its grounds. A hydrangea festival is held at the shrine in mid-June, bringing a large number of visitors to this otherwise quiet neighborhood shrine.



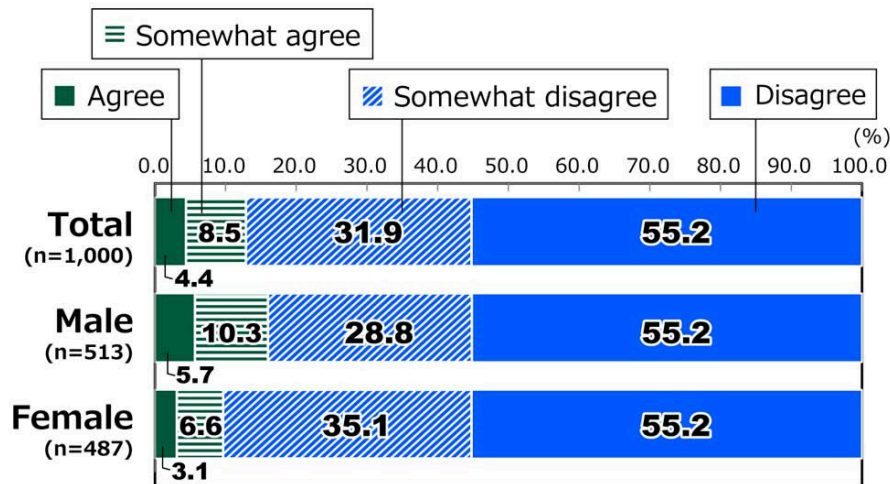
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Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds – Money and Politics

90% of respondents say Japanese politics ‘Not clean’ and more than 80% cite ‘Lack of accountability’



The 63rd installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out in mid-April to gauge young people’s views on Japanese politics and politicians. A very large number of respondents replied either “Disagree” or “Somewhat disagree” in response to the statements that politics “Is clean,” and that politicians “Reflect the will of the people” and are “Able to make necessary decisions in a timely manner.” In addition, 64% of respondents replied that they “Will vote” when given the opportunity, while 13% replied that they “Will not vote.”

[Full Article](#)

Comprehensive Tie-Up Concluded with Minerva University

World’s most innovative university to establish base in Tokyo



The Nippon Foundation has been building networks to provide multilayered support to address social issues for more than 60 years, while Minerva University has been named the world's most innovative university by World's Universities with Real Impact. Minerva University classes are held entirely online, and students live in seven cities around the world during their four years of undergraduate study. This agreement will add Tokyo as an eighth rotation city, and aims to address issues associated with "teaching to the test" and high university tuition, and to create a new educational model with a learning program that involves Japanese universities, local communities, and businesses.

[Full Article](#)

First Meeting With 4 Prefectural Governors on Comprehensive 'Setouchi Oceans X' Project to Address Marine Debris

Agreement reached to carry out large-scale cleanup project by 4 prefectures, targeting 86 tons of debris to be collected annually



As part of the Setouchi Oceans X project to find comprehensive measures to address the issue of marine debris, The Nippon Foundation Chairman Yohei Sasakawa and the governors of the project's four participating prefectures held their first top-level meeting on April 15. They reviewed the project's accomplishments to date, discussed its future direction, set new targets based on the current situation, extended the term of the project, and agreed that the four prefectures would cooperate in a large-scale cleanup activity.

[Full Article](#)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



[Almost 90% of Japanese Youths View Politics as Not Clean, 80% Don't See Politicians Taking Accountability in Fundraising Scandal: Poll](#) [2024/06/07]

[Receiving Anthem Award Statue for Back to Blue Project from The Economist Group CEO](#) [2024/06/03]

[The Nippon Foundation to Support Establishment of Minerva University's New Global Rotation City in Tokyo \(2\)](#) [2024/05/30]

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[My Article on Myanmar Posted on "JAPAN Forward" English Site](#) [2024/05/23]

[The Nippon Foundation, 4 Prefectures Extend "Setouchi Oceans X" Project By 3 Years to Achieve the World's Most Beautiful Inland Sea](#) [2024/05/20]

[Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessel Demonstrated Successfully Under The Nippon Foundation's Zero Emission Ship Project \(2\)](#) [2024/05/15]

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