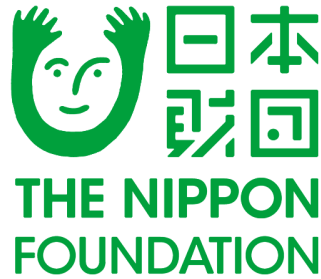


This newsletter is being sent to current and former The Nippon Foundation fellows, and persons who have asked to be added to the mailing list or have been introduced by The Nippon Foundation staff.



[The Nippon Foundation News] October Greetings

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. September is when many communities in Tokyo hold their local *matsuri*, or festival. Many festivals are held across Japan throughout the year on seasonal or other themes like the blooming of *sakura* cherry blossoms in the spring, *bon odori* dance festivals during the summer *Bon* holiday season, fireworks festivals held throughout the year, and summer community festivals held by local merchants' associations. When used on its own, however, the term "matsuri" usually refers to a festival associated with a community's local Shinto shrine. Some are large and famous, like Kyoto's Gion Matsuri and the Sanja Matsuri in Tokyo's Asakusa neighborhood, but ordinary residential areas have their own matsuri associated with a neighborhood shrine as well. Wearing traditional *happi* coats, members of the community carry a portable shrine, called a *mikoshi* (or *o-mikoshi*) through the streets of the neighborhood. This is the only time during the year that the mikoshi leaves the shrine grounds, and is said to enable to community to give thanks to the deity enshrined there and for the deity to visit the community, spread good fortune, and absorb or prevent bad fortune.



Local residents wearing happi coats carry a mikoshi portable shrine through their Tokyo neighborhood in mid-September

News

- The Nippon Foundation SPOGOMI World Cup 2025 Confirmed (2024.10.01)
- Evacuees from Ukraine Consider Whether to Return to Ukraine or Remain in Japan (2024.08.13)

The Nippon Foundation SPOGOMI World Cup 2025 Confirmed

Number of participating countries grows to over 30



In response to the increasingly severe global problem of marine debris, The Nippon Foundation has announced that it plans to hold a second world championship (World Cup) for “SPOGOMI,” a sport that originated in Japan and turns trash collection into a competition. Qualifying competitions are being planned in all 47 prefectures of Japan and in more than 30 countries overseas spanning six continents. Winning national teams will compete in the final competition, which is scheduled to be held in Japan in October 2025.

[Full Article](#)

Evacuees from Ukraine Consider Whether to Return to Ukraine or Remain in Japan

What kind of support is needed now?



The Nippon Foundation Support for Evacuees from Ukraine project has been providing Ukrainian evacuees in Japan with financial assistance for travel and living expenses, as well as support for education and employment. With more than two years having passed since the invasion, from March 2024 the program also began offering support for evacuees who were receiving assistance for daily living and now want to return to Ukraine. We talked with two evacuees about their decisions on whether to return to Ukraine or to continue to live in Japan.

[Full Article](#)

Noto Peninsula earthquake and heavy rain disaster



While still recovering from extensive damage caused by a magnitude 7.6 earthquake that struck the area on January 1, the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture experienced flooding and mudslides from record rainfall on September 21. The Special Fund for Disaster Preparedness <For the Noto Peninsula> is collecting donations for ongoing recovery efforts in the region, and we cordially invite you to contribute.

Special Fund for Disaster Preparedness

<For the Noto Peninsula>

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



[\[Photo Diary\] \(3\) Visit to Malaysia](#) [2024/10/04]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(2\) Visit to Malaysia](#) [2024/10/03]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(1\) Visit to Malaysia](#) [2024/10/02]

[Hydrogen Engine R&D Center Completed Under The Nippon Foundation's Zero Emission Ship Project](#) [2024/09/24]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(4\) Visit to Ethiopia and Uganda](#) [2024/09/18]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(3\) Visit to Ethiopia and Uganda](#) [2024/09/17]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(2\) Visit to Ethiopia and Uganda](#) [2024/09/13]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(1\) Visit to Ethiopia and Uganda](#) [2024/09/12]

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