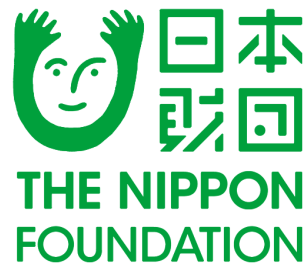


This newsletter is being sent to current and former The Nippon Foundation fellows, and persons who have asked to be added to the mailing list or have been introduced by The Nippon Foundation staff.



## [The Nippon Foundation News] November Greetings

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. Last month we introduced *matsuri*, community festivals associated with a local Shinto shrine. Shinto (which translates as “the way of the gods”) is Japan’s native religion, and involves the worship of supernatural *kami*, or gods, that inhabit the natural world around us. While there are many large, famous shrines like Meiji Shrine in Tokyo and the Ise Grand Shrine in Mie Prefecture, there are also smaller, local public shrines across Japan. In Tokyo, it is common to come across a shrine while walking through a residential neighborhood and even sandwiched between high-rise office buildings in commercial districts. Shinto shrines are easily recognizable by their *torii*, a symbolic gate that marks the entrance to the shrine grounds, and the shrine’s main building is where the local *kami* is said to reside. This is where people come to pray, by first rinsing their hands and mouth with water as ritual purification, then throwing coins into a box and ringing a bell to attract the *kami*’s attention before offering their prayer. Many people visit a shrine on New Year’s Eve or one of the first days of the new year to pray for blessings in the new year, but it is also not unusual to see someone praying at a local neighborhood shrine at any time. In fact, November 15 is the date of a festival in Japan known as “Shichi-Go-San” (7-5-3), which celebrates the milestones of boys reaching the ages of three and five and girls turning three and seven. Many families with children of these ages will be visiting a shrine this weekend to pray for the child’s further healthy growth and development.



*Shinto shrines in a Tokyo residential neighborhood, with a torii at their entrance*

Please note that The Nippon Foundation will be launching a redesigned English website in late November. The new website is intended to help viewers better understand what the Foundation is and does, and to have improved accessibility for people with limited vision.

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## Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds – U.S. Presidential Election, National Security

*Less than 30% see presidential election bringing 'change for the better' in U.S.-Japan relationship*



Ahead of the U.S. presidential election on November 5, the 66th installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out in October to gauge young people's awareness of the U.S. election, their views of the U.S.-Japan relationship with regard to a change of administration, and their thinking regarding Japan's national security. Only roughly 40% of respondents were aware that votes for U.S. president would be cast and counted in November, while fewer than half replied that the current U.S.-Japan relationship was either "Good" or "Somewhat good."

[Full Article](#)

## Training the Next Generation of Leaders

*How 'Moral Morpheus' fosters responsible innovation by gamifying digital ethics*

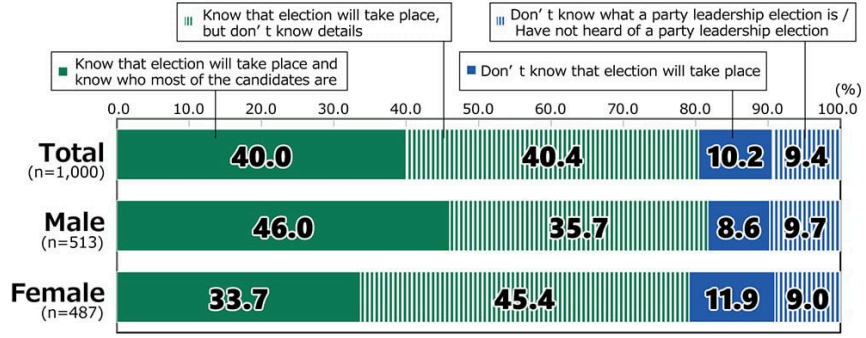


In partnership with The Nippon Foundation, Satyam Mohla, a Nippon Foundation Fellow and NSIC Grant Awardee is creating Moral Morpheus, a project that gamifies the complexities of digital ethics to foster responsible innovation. Moral Morpheus invites players to engage in critical discourse and design thinking by presenting scenarios, such as the use of robotics in healthcare, and prompting them to choose between two distinct solutions while considering diverse worldviews and economic conditions.

[Full Article](#)

### Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds – Party Presidential Elections, Interest in Politics

*More than half intend to vote in upcoming general election*



Ahead of elections for the leaders of two of Japan’s main political parties, the 65th installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out in September to gauge changes in young people’s interest in politics, their intention to vote in the next general election, and their expectations regarding politics and the new prime minister going forward. Roughly 60% of respondents were aware that the CDP would be holding an election, roughly 80% were aware of the LDP election, and roughly half replied that the party elections had “increased their interest in politics.”

[Full Article](#)



[Yanmar Succeeds in Onshore Verification Test of Hydrogen-Fueled Marine Engine Under The Nippon Foundation's Project](#) [2024/11/01]

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