

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] Stepping-Stone Holidays

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. This year's Golden Week holidays, when four national holidays fall over the course of seven calendar days, have just ended and people in Japan are returning to their normal work or school schedules. This year's Golden Week was referred to as *tobi-ishi* (stepping stone) *renkyu* (consecutive holidays) because of the scattered days on which the holidays fell: Tuesday, April 29 (Showa Day, the birthday of the Emperor Showa, who reigned from 1926 to 1989); Saturday, May 3 (Constitution Memorial Day, the day on which Japan's current (1947) constitution took effect); Sunday, May 4 (Greenery Day, dedicated to appreciating nature and observed this year on Tuesday, May 6); and Monday, May 5 (Children's Day, an ancient festival that celebrates children and wishes them happiness). This meant that many people had a four-day weekend from May 3-6, but that the three consecutive days before and after the long weekend were regular business days, making this year's Golden Week relatively short (2026 and 2027 will have a five-day weekend). This is one of the busiest travel times of the year, and despite the relatively short break for most people, television news showed trains filled to capacity and expressway traffic jams of 20 to 40 kilometers on the first and last days of the four-day weekend. This is also when Japan experiences some of its best weather of the year, and many people who do not travel enjoy spending time outdoors under warm, but not too hot, sunny skies close to home.



People enjoying recent spring weather in Tokyo parks

News

- **Employment Survey on Persons with Disabilities in Seven ASEAN Countries** (April 10, 2025)
- **Completion Ceremony Held for Comprehensive Infectious Disease Education and Research Facility at University of Osaka** (April 1, 2025)
- **Latest Employment Survey of College Graduates with Disabilities in Thailand** (March 25, 2025)

## Employment Survey on Persons with Disabilities in Seven ASEAN Countries

*Key insights on job-seeking and workplace challenges*



The Nippon Foundation, in collaboration with Koei Research & Consulting Inc., has conducted a survey on employment conditions for university graduates with disabilities in seven ASEAN countries. The study identifies workplace challenges and employment trends, and these findings will be used to strengthen The Nippon Foundation's initiatives supporting the employment of persons with disabilities.

[Full Article](#)

## Completion Ceremony Held for Comprehensive Infectious Disease Education and Research Facility at University of Osaka

*Aiming to become leading infectious disease research center focusing on basic research and research integrating various fields*



A ceremony was held on March 24 at the University of Osaka's Suita Campus to mark the completion of the UOsaka and Nippon Foundation Center for Infectious Disease Education and Research. The center was built as part of The Nippon Foundation – Osaka University Infectious Disease Response Project, and the 10-story building, designed by architect Tadao Ando, is Japan's largest infectious disease research facility.

[Full Article](#)

## Latest Employment Survey of College Graduates with Disabilities in Thailand

*Major workplace trends for employees with disabilities identified*



The Nippon Foundation, in cooperation with the Social Innovation Foundation of Thailand and TSIS Limited Partnership, has conducted a survey of college graduates in Thailand on the hiring of people with disabilities and their integration into workplaces. The report sheds light on the main factors affecting employment and offers recommendations for the creation of workplace environments in which people with disabilities can work comfortably.

[Full Article](#)

## Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



[Japan Launches Hydrogen Dual-Fueled Oil Tanker, Tugboat Under The Nippon Foundation's "Zero Emission Ships Project"](#) [2025/5/9]

[Infectious Disease Research Center, Financed by The Nippon Foundation, Completed in Osaka to Prepare Japan, the World to Tackle Future Pandemics](#) [2025/5/1]

[The Nippon Foundation, Economist Impact Co-host World Ocean Summit in Tokyo to Instigate Action for Sustainable Ocean Economy\\_\(2\)](#) [2025/4/24]

[The Nippon Foundation, Economist Impact Co-host World Ocean Summit in Tokyo to Instigate Action for Sustainable Ocean Economy\\_\(1\)](#) [2025/4/23]

[The Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census Discovers 866 New Marine Species After 10 Global Expeditions \(2\)](#) [2025/4/17]

[The Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census Discovers 866 New Marine Species After 10 Global Expeditions \(1\)](#) [2025/4/16]

[The Nippon Foundation Delivering Additional Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to People of Quake-Hit Myanmar](#) [2025/4/11]

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