

## Personal History of Takeju Ogata, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



### <Date of Birth>

November 28, 1944

### <Education>

March 1967: Graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture, Tokyo University of Agriculture

### <Professional>

December 1968: Joined the Japan Ship Machinery Export Association

August 1974: Director of Japan Ship Machinery Export Association's Rotterdam office

November 1980: Joined the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation (later renamed The Nippon Foundation)

April 1990: Director, General Affairs Department, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

October 1993: General Manager, General Affairs Department, Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation

September 1997: Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation

July 2005: President, The Nippon Foundation

June 2025: Chairman, The Nippon Foundation

### <Recognitions>

July 2014: Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport's "Marine Day" 2014 Award for Distinguished Service in Maritime Affairs

October 2017: Honorary Citizen, São Paulo, Brazil

September 2018: Chinese Government Friendship Award

September 2019: Honorary Citizen, Fujian Province, China

November 2020: Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon (Japan)

September 2023: Honorary Citizen, Suzano, Brazil

### <Honorary Degrees>

April 2017: Doctorado Honoris Causa, United Nations University for Peace

October 2024: Honorary Professor, Renmin University of China

### <Publications: Editorial Supervision>

September 2012: *Zaidankeiei no tetsugaku* (Philosophy of Foundation Management), Kairyusha Publishing Co.

### <Publications: Author>

November 2019: *Sedou jinshin ni tadasu!* (Question Public Morals!), Liberal Time Co., Ltd.

### **Profile of Takeju Ogata**

Takeju Ogata graduated from the Tokyo University of Agriculture in 1967. He joined the Japan Ship Machinery Export Association, where he was involved in navigational safety in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. From 1974, he was Director of the association's Rotterdam office, where he promoted exports from Japanese ship-use machinery manufacturers.

Mr. Ogata joined The Nippon Foundation\* in 1980. Given his experience in overseas operations, he was responsible for the newly established international department. To lay the foundation for overseas cooperation and assistance, his activities included establishing bilateral foundations in the United States, Britain, France, and Scandinavia with the aim of promoting mutual understanding with Japan. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation was established in 1986, and Mr. Ogata was involved in organizational operations as Director of the General Affairs Department. After working to establish the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund, the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund, the Sasakawa Central Europe Fund, and the Sasakawa Pan Asia Fund, he returned to The Nippon Foundation as General Manager of the General Affairs Department in 1993. After the Foundation's long-time Chairman Ryoichi Sasakawa passed away and Executive Director Ayako Sono took office as Chairperson, Mr. Ogata used his wealth of experience to improve the Foundation's organizational structure and operational management, including the change of the Foundation's name to The Nippon Foundation.

Mr. Ogata was appointed Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation in 1997. The Tokyo Foundation was established in the same year as a unique, independent think tank, and Mr. Ogata was appointed President in 2005. To promote the motorboat racing industry, new small-scale off-site motorboat race betting shops were opened and in 2007 the Motorboat Racing Law was revised. During this time, Mr. Ogata assisted The Nippon Foundation Chairman Yohei Sasakawa in transforming the organization and strengthening and ensuring the transparency of the Foundation.

Japan – China relations stand out among the wide range of Mr. Ogata's activities. Despite a stagnant relationship between the two countries' governments, the Japan – China Sasakawa Medical Fellowship was established in 1986, and in 2001, the Japan – China Field Officer Exchange program began. The Japan – China Sasakawa Medical Fellowship program in particular has given roughly 2,400 medical professionals (as of July 2023) from China opportunities to study at Japanese universities and research institutes. The program's alumni association has produced many presidents and professors at Chinese medical associations, and is highly recognized in both Japan and China as “the most successful private-sector cooperation project.”

The Nippon Foundation is active in a wide range of fields, from ocean affairs to support for children and people with disabilities and for recovery in regions affected by large-scale disasters. In particular, beginning with providing support to areas damaged in the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (that struck Hyogo Prefecture and surrounding areas in 1995), the Foundation has trained volunteers and increased their quality and numbers, engaging in relief and reconstruction activities following the Great East Japan Earthquake (that struck the Tohoku region of northeast Japan in 2011) and the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. In the case of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Mr. Ogata led the Foundation's initial relief activities, entering the area 10 days after the earthquake struck, and played a proactive role in providing relief to damaged areas including making multiple visits to the region in alternation with Chairman Sasakawa.

The number of places where similar, large-scale disasters could occur and create similar situations covers all of Japan, including major earthquakes in the Nankai Trough or directly beneath the Tokyo metropolis. Given the desire to mitigate the effects of these events to the extent possible, the role of The Nippon Foundation will become even greater going forward.

There are issues in many other areas that The Nippon Foundation is addressing as a social innovation hub, including Children's Third Places that aim to give children a healthy upbringing, the development of new occupations like book and document digitalization that promote independence and social participation by people with disabilities, and activities to battle ocean debris to create a healthy ocean, and Mr. Ogata takes this responsibility very seriously.

\* The Nippon Foundation was originally established as the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation in 1962. It adopted the nickname "Nippon Foundation" in 1996, and was officially renamed The Nippon Foundation in 2011.

As of June, 2025