

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] Japan's National Sport

October greetings from The Nippon Foundation. Although baseball and soccer are now more popular in Japan in terms of participation and in-person and television viewership, *sumo*, a type of wrestling with roots in the Shinto religion going back 1,500 years, is considered Japan's national sport. The first sumo matches were performed as a ritual at Shinto shrines as a form of prayer for a bountiful harvest, and sumo tournaments today still include many ancient rituals including ring-entering ceremonies, the throwing of salt to purify the ring, and a bow-twirling ceremony after the conclusion of a day's matches. The wrestlers, known as *rikishi*, live communally in what are called "stables," which have dormitory-style apartments and a practice ring, and train under the guidance of an *oyakata* stable master. Life as a *rikishi* is highly regimented and hierarchical, with perks including a cash salary and private apartment as a *rikishi* moves up the rankings.

Today, professional sumo comprises six 15-day tournaments in locations alternating between Tokyo and the three regional cities of Osaka, Nagoya, and Fukuoka. Regional tours, which do not count toward a *rikishi*'s ranking, take place across Japan between these tournaments, and this year, an extraordinary regional tournament will take place in London from October 15. With two newly promoted, young *yokozuna* grand champions, sumo is currently experiencing a surge in popularity, making tickets for the six official tournaments very difficult to obtain. A one-day exhibition tournament was recently held in Tokyo, giving people who have been unable to buy tickets for official tournaments an opportunity to experience the sport first-hand.



Spectators watching a sumo tournament (left) and a match between two *rikishi* (right)

News

- **Minerva University Opens Rotation in Japan** (September 24, 2025)
- **Courtesy Call by Asia Disability Leaders** (September 8, 2025)
- **Survey on Higher Education and Formal Employment for Persons with Disabilities in Indonesia** (September 5, 2025)
- **Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds – Values, Daily Lives, and Education** (January 6 and August 28, 2025)

Minerva University Opens Rotation in Japan

Opening ceremony held for 125 second-year students



In April 2024, The Nippon Foundation concluded a comprehensive tie-up agreement with Minerva University, which has been named “the world’s most innovative university.” Minerva students regularly move among major cities around the world to learn by working with or interning at local companies, governments, NGOs, and research institutes to address issues, with classes primarily held online. With this launch, Japan will become the eighth rotation city in this groundbreaking program.

[Full Article](#)

Courtesy Call by Asia Disability Leaders

Social issues discussed with 8 leaders from 5 countries

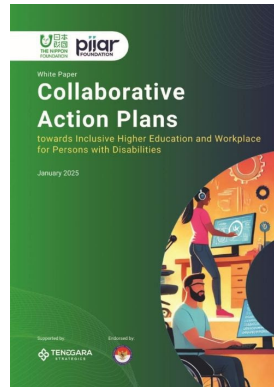


On August 26, eight disability leaders from five Asian countries paid a courtesy call on The Nippon Foundation to exchange views. These individuals had formerly visited Japan to study and returned to their home countries as leaders to promote inclusiveness in local communities. On this visit to The Nippon Foundation, which is also active in this area, they introduced the initiatives they are pursuing in a wide range of areas including education, employment, and policy proposals.

[Full Article](#)

Survey on Higher Education and Formal Employment for Persons with Disabilities in Indonesia

Recommendations for practical policies and social mindset reform



The Nippon Foundation commissioned PT Trisaka Wahana Tenggara to conduct a survey on the current situation of higher education and formal employment for persons with disabilities in Indonesia. The survey combined desk research and in-depth interviews to analyze both the institutional frameworks and the realities faced on the ground, to examine how access to university education and formal employment opportunities are guaranteed and to provide recommendations for future improvements.

[Full Article](#)

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds – Values, Daily Lives, and Education

Unique national surveys compare young people's views by type of municipality



The 67th and 72nd installments of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds were carried out in November 2024 and July 2025 on issues related to values, daily lives, and education. Both surveys covered 4,700 respondents comprising 100 men and women in each of Japan's 47 prefectures. There are few surveys that cover the young people of the next generation nationwide and compare the results by region,

and we expect these surveys to become fundamental documents in regional revitalization efforts going forward.

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds
– Values and Daily Lives

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds
– Values and Education

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Honorary Chair of The Nippon Foundation



[Invited by Leading Thai Think Tank to Speak About My Life-long Commitment to Help Build Lasting Peace in Myanmar \(2\)](#) [2025/10/06]

[Invited by Leading Thai Think Tank to Speak About My Life-long Commitment to Help Build Lasting Peace in Myanmar \(1\)](#) [2025/10/03]

[Sasakawa Peace Foundation Hosts High-Level Event, Highlighting Africa's Food Security, the Blue Economy \(2\)](#) [2025/09/25]

[Sasakawa Peace Foundation Hosts High-Level Event, Highlighting Africa's Food Security, the Blue Economy \(1\)](#) [2025/09/24]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(5\) Visit to Indonesia](#) [2025/09/17]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(4\) Visit to Indonesia](#) [2025//09/16]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(3\) Visit to Indonesia](#) [2025/09/12]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(2\) Visit to Indonesia](#) [2025/09/11]

[\[Photo Diary\] \(1\) Visit to Indonesia](#) [2025/09/10]

Yohei Sasakawa Blog Top Page

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