

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] Golden Week

Please note that from April 2026, The Nippon Foundation News is being sent from a new email address. To ensure that you continue to receive The Nippon Foundation News without interruption, please add our new address to your contact list or "safe senders" list.

New Email Address: [[pr@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp](mailto:pr@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp) ]

Previous Email Address: [[info\\_global\\_communication@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp](mailto:info_global_communication@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp)]



***Koinobori*** carp streamers flying in neighborhood parks in Tokyo

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. This week, people in Japan have been returning to their regular work or school routines following last week's Golden Week

holidays. Golden Week refers to a series of four public holidays that fall over seven days from late April to early May, and is one of the three most popular travel times of the year. The holidays are Showa Day (April 29, the birthday of the Emperor Showa, who reigned from 1926 to 1989), Constitution Memorial Day (May 3, the day on which Japan's current (1947) constitution took effect), Greenery Day (May 4, dedicated to appreciating nature), and Children's Day (May 5, an ancient festival that celebrates children and wishes them happiness). Because Constitution Memorial Day fell on a Sunday this year, an extra holiday was observed on May 6, giving many people a five-day weekend. One of the activities most popularly associated with Children's Day is flying *koinobori* carp streamers. The streamers fluttering in the wind look like fish swimming upstream, representing good wishes for children to grow up to be strong and healthy. After this succession of holidays, however, Japan's next public holiday doesn't arrive until Marine Day, on the third Monday of July.

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## Agreement Concluded for The Nippon Foundation – JFA Children's Support Project

*To build on each organization's resources and strengths*



**JFA × 日本財団**

**未来を担う子どもたちのための包括連携協定締結**

The Nippon Foundation and the Japan Football Association concluded a comprehensive agreement on March 17 to work even more closely together to achieve a society in which all children have their own dreams for the future and are able to pursue

challenges. Under this agreement, the two organizations will use their networks, public relations capabilities, and other resources and strengths to accelerate and expand their activities to date.

[Full Article](#)

## Japan's 1st RORO Autonomous Vessel Certification

*'Hokuren Maru No. 2' connects Kushiro and Hitachi*



The Ro-Ro container ship Hokuren Maru No. 2, one of the MEGURI2040 Fully Autonomous Ship Program's four Stage 2 ships, has completed autonomous navigation demonstration testing and was certified and passed inspections as an autonomous vessel by relevant Japanese authorities on January 27 and February 9. This was Japan's first Ro-Ro vessel to pass these inspections, and is now able to enter commercial service using autonomous navigation functions.

[Full Article](#)

## Field Notes

Insights into the quickly shifting demands placed on global society. Articles highlighting our work, as well as Japan's diverse landscape of social innovation.



[Entrusting a Mission: Sharing Governance Beyond Funding](#) (April 23, 2026)



[Restoring Access to Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing People](#) (April 15, 2026)



[Autonomous Seas: Protecting Lives and Strengthening Japan's Maritime Future](#) (April 9, 2026)

## Sasakawa Ryoichi: A Life

# SASAKAWA



**SATO SEIZABURO**  
Hara Fujiko, translator

Written by Sato Seizaburo and translated by Hara Fujiko, this critical biography of The Nippon Foundation's founding Chairman Ryoichi Sasakawa was originally published in 2006. The entire book is now available for free in PDF format, along with an introduction by the author's son titled "The Man Who Overcame the Modern Japanese Dilemma," in the Deep Dive section of our website.

Sasakawa Ryoichi: A Life

## Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Honorary Chair of The Nippon Foundation





[The Sasakawa Peace Foundation Launches New Center for Peace Mediation in Asia](#)[2026//05/01]



[The Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census Discovers at Least 38 New Marine Species on Japan's Least Explored Deep Seafloor \(1\)](#)[2026/04/23]



[【Photo Diary】 \(1\) Visit to India](#) [2026/04/17]



[Ceremony to Open New Sasakawa Memorial Hall at Leprosy Sanatorium in Taiwan](#) [2026/04/10]

[Yohei Sasakawa Blog Top Page](#)

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