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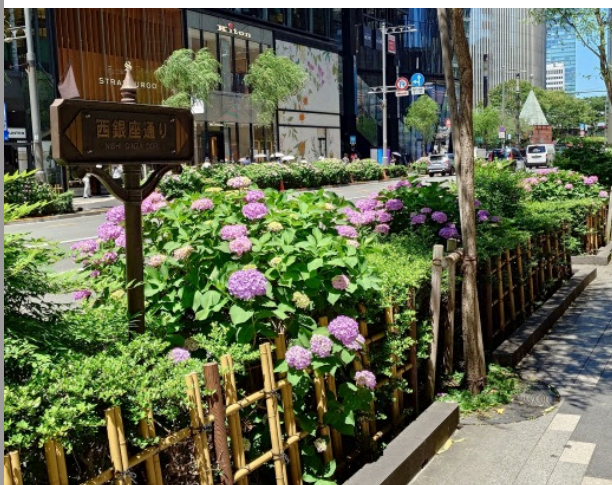


[The Nippon Foundation News] Rainy Season

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]

Previous Email Address: [info_global_communication@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp]



Typical rainy season scenes in Tokyo – hydrangea in bloom and cloudy skies

Greetings from The Nippon Foundation. Japan is generally said to have four distinct seasons – spring, summer, winter, fall – but many people will add *tsuyu* (literally “plum rain” but referred to as “rainy season”) as a fifth, in between but distinct from spring and summer. This year’s rainy season was officially declared to have begun in Tokyo on June 7, bringing slightly cooler temperatures and cloudy skies on most days along with frequent, although not constant, rain. This weather usually lasts for four to five weeks in each region, beginning in Okinawa in early May and ending in the northern part of the main island of Honshu in late July.

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News

1. **Launch of OCEAN STATES INITIATIVE Announced at Island States Ocean Summit** (June 5, 2026)
2. **Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds – Country and Society (6-Country Survey)** (April 6, 2026)
3. **World’s 1st Simultaneous Monitoring and Support for Multiple Autonomous Vessels** (March 27, 2026)

Launch of OCEAN STATES INITIATIVE Announced at Island States Ocean Summit

New, long-term framework for supporting island states



The Nippon Foundation, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the IOC of UNESCO, convened the inaugural Island States Ocean Summit in Tokyo on June 3-4, 2026. The outcomes of the Summit will contribute to future international discussions on biodiversity, climate change, and ocean governance, including at several upcoming international conferences.

Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds – Country and Society (6-Country Survey)

‘Large increase in Japanese respondents saying ‘My country has excellent leaders,’ while ‘Increase in immigrants’ rises among major issues



The 78th installment of the Awareness Survey of 18-Year-Olds was carried out during February 2026, asking young people aged 17 to 19 in six countries – Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, China, South Korea, and India – about their views on their countries’ present circumstances and future outlook, and their relationship with society.

World’s 1st Simultaneous Monitoring and Support for Multiple Autonomous Vessels

Commercial operations underway for Level 4 autonomous vessels



The MEGURI2040 Fully Autonomous Ship Program is using autonomous navigation to achieve stable transport for people and goods. All four of the project's vessels have passed inspection as autonomous vessels by Japanese authorities, and are able to operate autonomously. The world's first test of simultaneous navigational support for multiple autonomous was recently held.

[Full Article](#)

In Depth

Articles and analyses on themes related to areas in which the Foundation has a special interest.



[\[Field Notes\] Building Sustainable Systems in the Philippines](#)
(May 22, 2026)



[\[Deep-Dive\] EU-Japan Relations in a Changing Global Landscape](#) (May 7, 2026)

Yohei Sasakawa Blog

Honorary Chair of The Nippon Foundation



[I Call on International Community to Accelerate Efforts for World Without Leprosy with New Slogan: "The Last Mile Starts Now"](#)[2026/06/09]



[Honored to be Awarded Mongolia's Highest State Decoration by President Khurelsukh](#)[2026/06/02]



[28.7% of the World's Ocean Floor Now Mapped Under Seabed 2030 Project](#)
[2026/05/26]



[【Photo Diary】\(1\) A Trip to Italy, the Vatican and Brazil](#) [202605/12]

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