
Major International Events

Major International Events

January 1, 2005-December 31, 2005

Domestic	International
January	
	<p>6 The Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on the Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami is held in Jakarta, Indonesia. From Japan, Prime Minister Koizumi and Foreign Minister Machimura attend the meeting.</p> <p>9 In Sudan, a final and comprehensive peace agreement is concluded in Nairobi between the Bashir administration and anti-government Sudan People's Liberation Army, putting an end to a civil war of over 20 years in the south of the country.</p> <p>The Palestinian Authority holds a presidential election. Mr. Abbas, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), turned out to have won on the 10th.</p> <p>10 In Ukraine, victory of Mr. Yushchenko in recast presidential ballots is officially determined by the Central Election Commission.</p>
14 Foreign Minister Machimura holds talks with Foreign Minister Lavrov of Russia in Moscow.	
18-22 The United Nations (UN) World Conference on Disaster Reduction (In Kobe, Hyogo, Japan).	18 Secretary of State-designate of the United States (US), Dr. Rice, identifies North Korea and five other countries as "outposts of tyranny."
19 Prime Minister Martin of Canada visits Japan and holds talks with Prime Minister Koizumi. Mr. Martin makes a state call on Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress on the 20th.	
20 Foreign Minister Machimura holds talks with British Foreign Secretary Straw in Tokyo.	20 Inauguration of the 2nd term of US President Bush.
21 The 162nd Ordinary Session of the Diet is convened.	
26 Japan's annual trade with China in 2004 (including Hong Kong) amounts to 22.2 trillion yen, surpassing trade with US for the first time since the end of World War II (latest press release of the Trade Statistics of Japan).	26-30 The World Economic Forum (WEF) holds its annual meeting in Davos (the Davos meeting). Political and business leaders from around the world discuss the world economy, poverty, Africa and other themes of a wide range.
North Korea sends Japan a memorandum as of January 24 that includes its stance on the results of the tests conducted by Japan on bone fragments which North Korea claims are a part of Ms. Megumi Yokota's remains. North Korea again requested Japan to return the bones. In response, Japan releases on the same day a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) press secretary noting that North Korea's response is extremely unconstructive.	30-31 The Assembly of the African Union (AU) decides on the creation of the committee of 15 AU member countries on reform of the UN Security Council.
	Iraq holds an election for its National Assembly to set up the country's transitional government. Iraq's first election after the fall of the Hussein government.

Domestic		International	
February			
		1	King Gyanendra dismissed the entire Cabinet of Prime Minister Deuba and issued decrees for the state of emergency.
		2	US President Bush states in his State of the Union Address his intention to confront autocratic governments, indicating that he seeks to “end tyranny in the world” and promote the “spread of freedom.”
4	Japanese government formulates the Medium-Term Policy on Official Development Assistance (ODA).	4	In Ukraine, Acting Prime Minister Tymoshenko is overwhelmingly approved as Prime Minister by the Verkhovna Rada or the parliament. A new Cabinet begins.
		5	Prime Minister Sharon of Israel and President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority hold talks in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, expressing an end to violence.
		6	In Thailand, a general election of the Lower House results in 75% of the seats secured by the ruling Thai Rak Thai party led by Prime Minister Thaksin.
10	Japanese government sends a document to North Korea to defy the country’s criticism that the results of the tests conducted by Japan of bone fragments claimed to be remains of Ms. Megumi Yokota, a victim of North Korea’s abductions, are sheer fabrications. Japan again demands that North Korea immediately return the abductees and provide a full account of all the abductees whose safety remains unknown.	10	North Korea’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, in protest to the country being identified as an “outpost of tyranny,” announces an “indefinite suspension” to the country’s participation in the Six-Party Talks on North Korean issues and that the country has manufactured nuclear weapons to defend itself.
		14	In the Philippines, a series of terrorist bombings kills 12 and injures about 120 in Makati in Metropolitan Manila and two other cities on Mindanao Island. In Beirut, Lebanon, a massive explosion considered to be from a car bomb kills 23 including former Prime Minister Hariri and injures about 100.
		16	The Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change enters into force to prevent global warming.
		17	Iraq’s electoral commission announces the final results of the vote counting for the National Assembly: The United Iraqi Alliance of the Shiite sect becomes the ruling party, winning 47.6% of the votes.
19	Japan-US Security Consultative Committee (2+2) in Washington, D.C.	20	Prime Minister Sharon of Israel signs an order that the disengagement plan would be launched on July 20 from the entire Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and four settlements on the West Bank.

Domestic	International
	<p>21 Chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission Kim Jong-Il holds talks in Pyongyang with Head of the International Liaison Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Wang Jia Rui: Chairman Kim says he will agree to the Six-Party Talks anytime when conditions are met and that there is no need to distract from the framework of the talks.</p> <p>21-22 The Committee of 15 of the AU holds unofficial talks and decides on a proposal demanding that Africa have at least two permanent seats in the UN Security Council.</p> <p>22 Prime Minister Howard of Australia announces the dispatch of about 450 troops to Al-Muthanna in Southern Iraq to train Iraqi troops and maintain security. He says the security service will also be of help to Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) in their activities for humanitarian reconstruction assistance.</p>

March	
1	<p>President Roh Moo Hyun (of the Republic of Korea) states in his speech to commemorate the March 1 Independence Movement Day in Seoul that Japan must look closely into the facts of its past, express heartfelt apologies and remorse, and offer compensation where necessary for reconciliation.</p> <p>2 North Korea issues a memorandum that the country is not restricted by the moratorium on launching missiles at present.</p> <p>7-8 The Executive Council of the AU, at its extraordinary session in Addis Ababa, adopts the recommendations submitted in Swaziland in February and decides on the creation of the Committee of ten AU member countries.</p> <p>13 In Kyrgyzstan, run-off parliamentary elections produce on March 14 the sweeping victory of the pro-President Akaev bloc. This fuels rallies by opposition supporters to demand the resignation of the president and denounce the elections as invalid.</p> <p>14 China holds the 3rd session of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC): adopting the Anti-Secession Law, the report on government activities, the budget bill for fiscal 2005, among others. A plenary meeting of the previous day elects President Hu Jintao as the chairman of the state's Central Military Commission.</p> <p>After the session, Premier Wen Jiabao announces at a media conference the "three principles" for relations with Japan and the "three proposals" to improve them.</p>
14	<p>In the Strait of Malacca, an armed group of more than ten members assaults a Japanese-registered tugboat, abducting two Japanese and another crew, all of whom are safely rescued by Thai maritime police on the 20th.</p>
16	<p>The prefectural assembly of Shimane approves a municipal ordinance bill to designate February 22</p>

Domestic		International	
	as the Day of Takeshima. The ROK protests on March 17 by calling the designation “not simply a territorial issue but is nothing short of a denial of the history of our national liberation” in a statement issued by the National Security Council (NSC) Standing Committee.		
19	Foreign Minister Machimura holds talks with US Secretary of State Rice in Tokyo.		
21	UN Secretary-General Annan says if the UN Security Council agrees on adding six more countries to its permanent members, of two seats to be allocated to Asia, “of course one goes to Japan.”		
		22	The European Council agrees to review the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) which requires each member state to keep its government deficit below 3% of its GDP, including its flexible operation.
		23	In Kyrgyzstan, opposition supporters occupy police stations and municipal offices in southern provinces. Further occupying the presidential office and other central government establishments on March 24, the oppositions declare the seizure of the government. Opposition leader and former Prime Minister Bakiev announces reelection, while the supreme court rules the nullification of the parliamentary elections. A temporal parliament on March 25 nominates Acting Prime Minister Bakiev as Acting President.
25	The 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan (EXPO 2005) convenes.		
26	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with President Chirac of France, jointly adopting the Declaration for a New Japan-France Partnership.		
		28	A magnitude 8.7 earthquake hits the Indian Ocean with the seismic center in the west of Nias Island, Indonesia.
		31	The UN Security Council refers the situation of Darfur, western Sudan, to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

April			
1	Agreement between Japan and the United Mexican States for the Strengthening of the Economic Partnership enters into force.		
		2	Pope John Paul II passes away.
		3	The Iraqi National Assembly elects Dr. Hasani as its speaker. Dr. Hasani, a Sunni Muslim, is the incumbent industrial minister of the interim government of Iraq. On April 6, it elects leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Talabani as president of

Domestic

- 7 Foreign Minister Machimura holds talks with ROK Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Ban Ki Moon in Islamabad over issues on Takeshima and history textbooks issued in Japan, agreeing on the recognition that their talks serve as an opportunity to lead Japan-ROK relations back to the normal track.
- 9 Crowds in Beijing, China, pelt stones at the Japanese Embassy and the ambassador's residence. Some Japanese firms and other establishments also suffered damage. Japan's Vice-Foreign Minister Yachi and Foreign Minister Machimura lodge strong protest in succession to the Chinese side. (Violent activities in protest also break out on April 2 to 3, 9 to 10, 16 to 17, and 24. On April 16, the Consulate-General in Shanghai suffered damage by pelted stones.)
- 10 Foreign Minister Machimura lodges a protest to Chinese Ambassador Wang Yi and requests for apologies, reparation for damages, measures to prevent recurrence of incidents, and punishments of the assailants, in connection with these violent activities against Japanese diplomatic and commercial establishments in China.
- 10-12 The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) convenes the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in Okinawa.
- 17 Foreign Minister Machimura visits China (until April 18), holding talks with Foreign Minister Li

International

- the Iraqi Transitional Government and appoints Interim President Yawar and another as vice presidents. On April 7, President Talabani officially takes office and Interim Vice President Jaafari is appointed as prime minister.
 - 4 President Akaev of Kyrgyzstan, having fled to Russia due to political turmoil at home, signs a document validating his resignation as of April 5.
 - 7 A direct bus route opens in Kashmir for the first time since the First Indo-Pakistan War, through the Line of Control (LoC) in the region dividing the disputed territories of India and Pakistan.
 - 14 China's exports of goods in 2004 amounted to 593.4 billion US dollars, up 35% from the previous year, while its imports of goods reached 561.4 billion US dollars, up 36%. The country's exports outperformed those of Japan to become the world's 3rd largest in amount. Exports and imports combined, China became the largest trading country in Asia, according to the annual report of 2005 issued by the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- The UN Commission on Human Rights adopts the resolution of the situation of human rights in North Korea submitted by Japan and the European Union (EU). The resolution, adopted in three consecutive years, has a stronger tone than that of the previous years by urging the immediate return of foreigners abducted by North Korea.

Domestic	International
Zhaoxing and State Counselor Tang Jiaxuan. The two countries agree on ending new offerings of yen loans in mutually satisfactory manners by 2008, when China hosts the Olympic games, symbolizing the progress of economy and society.	
22 Prime Minister Koizumi expresses his “feeling of deep remorse and heartfelt apologies” for the past colonial rule and aggression by Japan at the Asian-African Summit in Jakarta. He also announces that Japan would double its ODA to Africa in the three years to come.	19 In the Roman Catholic Church, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger is elected as the 265th Pope, under the papal name of Pope Benedict XVI. The election is conducted through a conclave by the Sacred College of Cardinals.
23 Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao in Jakarta.	
24 Australia’s advance unit of 43 troops arrives in Samawah, southern Iraq, where Japan’s SDF is engaged in activities for humanitarian reconstruction assistance. Australia’s major units arrive in Iraq in stages by the middle of May, totaling 450 troops.	
27 The Japanese government recognizes Mr. Minoru Tanaka as a victim of abduction by North Korea: now the government list of abductees holds 16 names of 11 cases.	25 Bulgaria and Romania sign the Accession Treaty to the EU in Luxembourg, aiming at their entry in January 2007.
29 Prime Minister Koizumi visits India and Pakistan (from April 28 to 30) and holds talks with Prime Minister Singh of India and signs Japan-India Joint Statement in Delhi. Prime Minister Koizumi further signs the Japan-Pakistan Joint Declaration in Islamabad, Pakistan.	26 Syria completes withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon: 29 years of the Syrian military presence in Lebanon ends.
	28 The Iraqi National Assembly approves the list of the Cabinet members: the Transitional Government is officially inaugurated.
	29 A visit to China by Chairman Lien Chan of Kuomintang (KMT), Taiwan’s largest opposition party. He holds talks with General Secretary Hu Jintao of the CPC.
	30 In Cairo, a series of suicide bombings and gun shootings break out, targeting foreign tourists near the Egyptian Museum and other spots. Three culprits, including two women, are killed. Nine people, including four foreigners, are injured.

Domestic		International	
May			
2	<p>Prime Minister Koizumi attends the Japan-EU Summit with Prime Minister Juncker of Luxembourg and President Barroso of the European Commission. Prime Minister Koizumi expresses opposition to the lifting of the EU's arms embargo on China. He holds talks with Prime Minister Balkenende of the Netherlands in Leiden.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Machimura holds talks with US Secretary of State Rice in Washington, D.C.</p>		
3-4	<p>Foreign Minister Machimura attends a Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He serves as the lead speaker at a discussion on development.</p>	3	<p>The Iraqi Transitional Government is officially inaugurated, with a swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Jaafari and other Cabinet members.</p>
		5	<p>The UK Labour Party wins a general election in the UK for the House of Commons, retaining its government rule for the 3rd consecutive term, the longest for the party.</p>
6	<p>Foreign Minister Machimura hosts the Japan-EU Troika Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kyoto.</p>	6-7	<p>The 7th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Kyoto: Foreign Minister Machimura holds bilateral talks with ROK Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Ban Ki Moon and Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.</p>
7	<p>Foreign Minister Machimura holds talks with Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing of China, who is visiting Kyoto to attend the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.</p> <p>Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress pay a state visit to Norway and a visit to Ireland (through May 14).</p>	7	<p>In Myanmar, explosions hit three locations almost simultaneously in the capital Yangon, killing 23 and injuring 173.</p>
8	<p>In Iraq, a group of security consultants, including a Japanese, is assaulted in the suburb of Hit, west of Baghdad (as of March 2006, the Japanese consultant remains unaccounted for).</p>		
9	<p>Prime Minister Koizumi attends the Ceremony of the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the End of World War II in Moscow; holds talks with President Putin of Russia.</p>	11	<p>In Afghanistan anti-US demonstrations break out in eastern regions, triggered by an article of Newsweek magazine that a US army examiner insulted the Holy Koran of Islam by flushing the writing into a toilet. Protests spread to entire Afghanistan on May 12, and farther to Palestine, Pakistan, Indonesia and other Islam communities in the world on May 13 and afterwards, causing deaths by firing of US soldiers and other incidents. On May 15 Newsweek announces that the article was false and apologies for the events.</p>
		13	<p>In Uzbekistan, armed groups assault a prison and other facilities in Andijan city located in the eastern</p>

Domestic		International	
17-23	Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi visits Japan to attend programs at EXPO 2005.		part of the country, triggering massive anti-government riots. Security forces cope to put down the armed groups. Some reports claim hundreds of civilian deaths and injuries due to the operations.
23	Speaker of the Senate of Canada, Mr. Hays, visits Japan. He holds talks with Foreign Minister Machimura; on May 24, has audience with Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress and holds talks with Ms. Ohgi, President of the House of Councillors of Japan.		The US and North Korean officials have contact in New York (also on June 6 and 30).
25	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with Prime Minister Abdullah of Malaysia in Tokyo and confirms that an agreement in principle has been reached on the major elements of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).		
30-31	The 2nd Japan-China Consultations on the East China Sea and Other Matters (in Beijing).	27	The 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)(starting from May 2) ends in New York, having failed to create any documents on substantial issues.
31	Foreign Minister Machimura holds talks with Foreign Minister Lavrov of Russia in Tokyo.	29	France goes for a referendum on the ratification of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (TCE): it results in rejection, with 54.67% voting against and 45.33% voting in favor.

June			
		1	The Netherlands goes for a referendum on the ratification of the European Constitutional Treaty: it results in rejection, with 61.6% voting against and 38.4% voting in favor.
2	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with Prime Minister Clark of New Zealand in Tokyo.	6	British Foreign Secretary Straw announces the freeze of the referendum on the ratification of the European Constitutional Treaty, initially scheduled in the 2nd half of 2006.
7-11	Foreign Minister Machimura visits Brunei, Viet Nam, and Cambodia.	9	A Defense Ministers' Meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels approves support for AU troops in their peacekeeping activities in Darfur, western Sudan, as NATO's first commitment in Africa.
		16	The EU Summit Meeting in Brussels decides an indefinite postponement of the deadline for the

Domestic

- 19 Prime Minister Koizumi visits Iwo Jima as the first incumbent prime minister and attends the Memorial Service for the War Dead hosted by the government.
- 20 Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with ROK President Roh Moo Hyun in Seoul and concurs on the establishment of the 2nd phase of the Japan-ROK Joint Historical Research Program; and an increase of daily flights between Haneda and Gimpo Airports from 4 to 8 flights daily.
- 22 Foreign Minister Machimura holds talks with Foreign Minister Lavrov of Russia in Brussels.
- 23 Foreign Minister Machimura attends the Group of Eight (G8) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in London: holds talks with US Secretary of State Rice and British Foreign Secretary Straw.
- 27-28 Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress pay a visit to Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, US.
- 27 Senior Vice-Foreign Minister Aisawa attends the UN High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development in New York; expresses Japan's resolve toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and joins discussion about the mobilization of developing countries' domestic resources for development. He also holds talks on reform of the UN and the Security Council with UN officials and the permanent representatives of some member countries.

International

- ratification process of the European Constitutional Treaty, initially scheduled in October 2006: a decision in response to the rejection by France and the Netherlands of the ratification.
- In Cambodia, a group holes up in an international school in the northwestern province of Siem Reap, holding about 30 children from various countries including Japan as hostages. A Canadian preschooler is killed before the group is arrested.
- 17 Presidential election in Iran: a run-off vote on June 24 results in the victory of Tehran Mayor Ahmadinejad, a conservative hard-liner, beating the Head of the Expediency Council Rafsanjani.
- 21 Prime Minister Khai of Viet Nam makes the first visit to the US by a Vietnamese leader since the end of the Viet Nam War and holds talks with President Bush in Washington, D.C.
- 22 About 80 countries express support for Iraq at the Iraq International Conference in Brussels.
- The 15th Meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, held in New York, elects Professor Yanai of Chuo University and six other candidates as judges for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

Domestic		International	
July			
1	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with Prime Minister Khai of Viet Nam in Tokyo.	1	The Bundestag of Germany passes a vote of no confidence on Chancellor Schröder; President Köhler dissolves the Bundestag on July 21 and announces that a general election will be held on September 18 (in Berlin). President Putin of Russia and President Hu Jintao of China hold talks in Moscow (from June 30) and sign the Joint Declaration on the International Order in the 21st Century.
		2	An armed group abducts Egypt's Ambassador-designate to Iraq, Mr. Sherif, in Baghdad. A group led by a suspected terrorist Zarqawi and identifying itself as "al-Qaeda Organization for Jihad in Mesopotamia" issued a statement that it killed him.
		4	The Assembly of the AU in Sirte agrees on a common position on UN Security Council reform, which includes the demand for a veto for Africa.
		5	The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) holds a summit meeting and announces a joint statement that includes a call for the limitation of the period of the US military presence in Central Asia.
6	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with Prime Minister Martin of Canada in Gleneagles.	6-8	Prime Minister Koizumi attends the G8 Summit Meeting in Gleneagles, UK. The agenda includes Africa and climate change.
7	The Group of Four (G4) countries submit their proposal on reform of the UN Security Council to the UN General Assembly. Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with President Putin of Russia in Gleneagles.	7	Central London is hit by four serial terrorist bombings against its bus and subway services, which kill 52 and injure about 700.
		9	The US and North Korean officials meet in Beijing. North Korea subsequently announces that it will return to the Six-Party Talks.
		10	Kyrgyzstan holds a presidential election. The victory of Prime Minister and Acting President Bakiev is confirmed on July 11.
11	Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress visit EXPO 2005.		
12	US Secretary of State Rice, visiting Japan, makes a courtesy call on Prime Minister Koizumi and holds talks with Foreign Minister Machimura in Tokyo.	12	ROK announces an "important proposal" that it is ready to supply power of 2-million kilowatts through its own route to North Korea on condition that Pyongyang agrees on the complete abandonment of its nuclear development program (the proposal also includes cancellation of the light water reactor project planned by the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization [KEDO]).

Domestic

- 14 Concerning resource development issues in the East China Sea, the Government of Japan permits Japanese companies to establish test drilling rights in waters east of the median line between Japan and China.
 - 17 Foreign Minister Machimura attends the G4 Foreign Ministerial Meeting and other events in New York.
 - 19 Foreign Minister Machimura visits Singapore; pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong; and holds talks with Foreign Minister George Yeo.
 - 20 Their Imperial Highnesses The Crown Prince and Princess visit EXPO 2005.
 - 25 Foreign Minister Machimura attends the meeting on UN Security Council reform between the G4 and AU Foreign Ministers; the G4 presents possible alternatives; and the AU agrees to take them home for deliberation, including the issue of a veto.
 - 27 Senior Vice-Foreign Minister Aisawa attends the ASEAN plus Japan, China and the ROK (ASEAN+3) Foreign Ministers Meeting in Vientiane. The meeting confirms that the East Asia Summit Meeting at the year end will be joined by 16 countries, with India, Australia, and New Zealand newly added to ASEAN+3.
- The "Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean

International

- 16 Prime Minister Jaafari of the Iraqi Transitional Government visits Iran, as the first Iraqi leader to visit the country since the Iranian Revolution of 1979. Prime Minister Jaafari holds talks with President Khatami of Iran on July 17 to seek cooperation in resuming the social order in Iraq.
- 18 US President Bush holds talks with Indian Prime Minister Singh in Washington, D.C. and they agree on civil nuclear cooperation and other issues.
- 20 The annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Ulsan: Japan submits its plan on the 2nd whaling research in the Antarctic Ocean.
- 21 The People's Bank of China (the Central Bank) announces with immediate effect that it has decided to reevaluate the yuan, which has actually been pegged to the US dollar.
- 23 In Egypt, three locations are hit by suicide bombings simultaneously in Sharm El Sheikh, which kill 88 and injure about 200. The acts are claimed by an Al-Qaeda-linked organization in Sharm and Egypt (Abdullah Azzam Brigades).
- 26-29 The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting is held in Vientiane.
- 26 The fourth round of the Six-Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear issues is held in Beijing.

Domestic	International
<p>Development and Climate” is set up as a framework of new cooperation to counter global warming, joined by Japan, Australia, China, India, the ROK, and the US.</p> <p>29 Senior Vice-Foreign Minister Aisawa attends a Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), which adopts the Chairman’s Statement expressing the hope for progress of the Six-Party Talks toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula (in Vientiane).</p>	

August

<p>2 The House of Representatives adopts a Parliamentary Resolution on the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, which expresses deep regret over “the grave suffering brought on the people of Asia and other various countries by acts of Japan during a certain period in the past.”</p>	<p>4 The Assembly of the AU at an extraordinary session in Addis Ababa agrees on maintaining its common position on UN Security Council reform.</p>
	<p>4-5 Deputy Foreign Minister Yabunaka attends the Regional Ministerial Meeting on MDGs in Asia and the Pacific; expresses Japan’s resolve for achieving the MDGs in the region; and joins discussions at theme-specific meetings (in Jakarta).</p>
	<p>5 The EU3 (the UK, France and Germany) presents Iran a comprehensive proposal: an approval of constructing a light water reactor in return for the suspension of Iran’s nuclear enrichment program, aimed at solving the country’s nuclear issues. The proposal is rejected by Iran on August 6 in the Foreign Ministerial spokesman’s comment.</p>
	<p>7 The fourth round of the Six-Party Talks is adjourned.</p>
<p>8 The House of Councillors rejects bills related to postal privatization; 108 votes in favor and 125 votes against; Prime Minister Koizumi dissolves the House of Representatives in response.</p>	<p>8 Iran notifies the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it will resume uranium conversion activities, and removes the seal of the facility on August 10. The IAEA adopts a resolution by consensus urging Iran to reestablish full suspension of its uranium enrichment-related activities at a Special Meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors on August 11.</p>
<p>9 Economic and Fiscal Policy State Minister Takenaka says the economy is moving out of a plateau in the monthly economic report for August; a similar view is also given by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Fukui; an upward trend of economy is declared simultaneously by the government and the BOJ.</p>	
<p>15 A Cabinet decision is given to a statement by Prime Minister Koizumi to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II: that Japan</p>	<p>15 The Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) sign a comprehensive peace agreement aiming for an election in April 2006 and</p>

Domestic		International	
	will tie up with China and the ROK to maintain peace and pursue development in Asia.		the establishment of an autonomous government, as a milestone for nearly 30 years of struggles for independence in the Aceh Province, Indonesia (in Helsinki).
18	Visit to Japan by seven presidents and vice-presidents of the System of Central American Integration (SICA) member and associate member countries; Japan-Central America Summit Meeting is held.	17	Israel begins to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the northern part of the West Bank, as Prime Minister Sharon gave the existing Jewish settlers an order to leave; their compulsory evacuation is completed by August 23.
		18-25	In Bangladesh, small bombs explode simultaneously at various locations including the capital Dhaka, killing at least two and injuring more than 150.
			China and Russia jointly launch a massive military exercise, the "Peace Mission 2005," in Shandong Peninsula, China, etc.
		29	Large-scale Hurricane Katrina lands on southern US; causing devastating damage in New Orleans and other areas.

September

1	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with Prime Minister Thaksin of Thailand in Tokyo and confirms that an agreement in principle has been reached on all major elements of the EPA. The Japanese government issues countermeasures concerning the Byrd Amendment of the US.		
2	China holds the Meeting Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War (through September 3). President Hu Jintao of China refers to Japan-China relations during his speech.		
3	In Afghanistan, two bodies of a male and a female found in the southern province of Kandahar are identified as two Japanese missing since August.		
11	The 44th general election of the House of Representatives is held.	9	Egypt holds its first ever multiple candidate presidential election. Incumbent President Mubarak wins.
		12	The Israeli Defense Forces completes the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and other areas where they have been stationed since the 3rd Middle East War in 1967, and the Palestinian Authority deploys its security forces there.
		13	The US-China Summit Meeting in New York.

Domestic	International
<p>14 The grand bench of the Supreme Court finds unconstitutionality in the ruling of an appeal hearing of a case filed by 13 plaintiffs who say it is against the Constitution that Japanese nationals staying abroad are not able to vote for national elections; they demanded the confirmation of the breach of the Constitution by the relevant provisions of the Public Offices Election Law and compensation from the government.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Machimura attends the Summit Meeting of the UN Security Council in New York on counter-terrorism measures and prevention of conflicts in Africa.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Machimura attends a special meeting on development funds and reiterates his resolve to achieve the MDGs.</p>	<p>14-16 The 2005 World Summit, participated by leaders of about 190 countries, adopts an Outcome Document that includes comprehensive plans to reform the UN (in New York).</p>
<p>15 Prime Minister Koizumi addresses the 2005 World Summit in New York, laying out his vision of a new UN in the 21st century and reiterating his resolve to seek permanent membership for Japan on the Security Council.</p>	
<p>17 Foreign Minister Machimura attends the UN General Assembly in New York and holds talks with US Secretary of State Rice; British Foreign Secretary Straw; Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov; French Foreign Minister Douste-Blazy; Italian Foreign Minister Fini (on September 16); Canadian Foreign Minister Pettigrew; and ROK Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Ban Ki Moon (on September 16). Mr. Machimura achieves the Japan-EU Troika Foreign Ministers' Meeting.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Machimura addresses the 60th session of the UN General Assembly, calling for an early decision on Security Council reform.</p>	<p>18 Afghanistan holds elections for the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House) and provincial councils.</p>
<p>20 Foreign Minister Machimura announces that Japan and North Korea have concurred to the resumption of governmental dialogue between the two governments.</p>	<p>Germany holds the election for the Bundestag.</p> <p>19 The fourth round of the Six-Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear issues, convened on September 13 for the first time in about 5 weeks, ends with a joint statement comprising the commitments by North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and to return to the NPT and IAEA safeguards, etc.: the first multinational document toward the settlement of nuclear issues.</p>

Domestic

- 21 The 163rd Special Parliamentary Session is convened, following a general election of the House of Representatives; electing Mr. Koizumi as the 89th prime minister; and establishing the 3rd Koizumi Cabinet.

- 25 EXPO 2005 ends, with total visitors of about 22 million people.

- 30 The 3rd Japan-China Consultations concerning the East China Sea and Other Matters (in Tokyo, through October 1).

International

- 21-23 The 4th session of the Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in New York.

- 23 The People's Bank of China (the Central Bank) announces with immediate effect that it has changed the fluctuation range of the yuan against currencies other than the US dollar, such as the yen and the euro, from 1.5% to 3% in both upward and downward from the previous day's closing prices.

- 24 The IAEA Board of Governors finds Iran's non-compliance with the IAEA Safeguards Agreement and adopts a resolution urging Iran to implement transparency measures and reestablish its suspension of uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities.

- 27 The UN releases a report on the situation of human rights in North Korea, urging it to expeditiously respond to Japan's claim that there are a number of victims abducted by North Korea who are still alive there and that they should be returned to Japan immediately; ensure reliable and objective verification of its claim concerning the alleged deaths of Japanese nationals whose whereabouts are unknown; and resume dialogue to solve the problem.

October

- 3 The Japan Coast Guard determines that a fishing boat capsized off Nemuro City, Hokkaido on September 28, was hit by an Israeli-registered vessel *Zim Asia*.

- 1 Bali, Indonesia, is hit by simultaneous suicide bombings at 3 locations, which kill 20, including one Japanese, and injure more than 100.

- 6 A summit meeting of the Central Asia Cooperation Organization (CACO), joined by Russia and 4 Central Asian countries, decides the merger with the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC) (in St. Petersburg).

- 6-7 The Senior Officials Meeting of the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza is held in Washington, D.C., proposed by President Bush to prevent the spread of new types of influenza, participated by senior officials from more than 80 countries and representatives of international organizations.

Domestic	International
<p>11 The postal reform bills are passed at the plenary session of the House of Representatives. The bills are approved after passing at the plenary session of the House of Councillors on October 14.</p>	<p>8 North-eastern areas of Pakistan are hit by a magnitude 7.6 earthquake, which claims more than 73,000 lives lost due to collapsed buildings and landslides in the country, as well as in India and Afghanistan (two Japanese are among the dead, one among the injured).</p>
<p>17 Prime Minister Koizumi visits Yasukuni Shrine.</p>	<p>8-10 The CPC convenes the 5th plenary session of the 16th Central Committee.</p>
<p>26 The amendment bill for the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law is approved at the plenary session of the House of Councillors, making the law effective for one more year.</p>	<p>10 Germany's two major parties, the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD) agree on establishing a grand coalition administration headed by the CDU leader Merkel, as Germany's first female chancellor.</p>
<p>27 Foreign Minister Machimura holds talks with ROK Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Ban Ki Moon in Tokyo to once again explain the basic stance of Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to Yasukuni Shrine. The two ministers concur on progressing frank dialogue especially at times like this occasion.</p>	<p>15 Iraq goes for a referendum to approve a new constitution.</p>
<p>28 Foreign Minister Machimura holds talks with US Secretary of State Rice in Washington, D.C.</p>	<p>24 US President Bush appoints Chairman Bernanke of the President's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) as the successor of Chairman Greenspan of the Board of Governors of the US Federal Reserve.</p>
	<p>The UN Security-Council adopts Presidential Statement to support the start of a political process to determine Kosovo's future status.</p>
	<p>26 The SCO holds a meeting of prime ministers which prepares 10 sets of documents including agreements on inter-bank cooperation and interaction in providing mutual assistance in emergency situations (in Moscow).</p>
	<p>27 In France, violence by youths breaks out in disadvantaged areas, triggered by the death of two youths while being chased by police in a suburb of Paris. The violence spreads nationwide .</p>
	<p>28-30 President Hu Jintao of China visits North Korea and holds talks with Chairman Kim Jong-Il of the DPRK National Defense Commission. President Hu highly values the joint statement of the fourth round of the Six-Party Talks on North Korea and confirms that the fifth round will be held as scheduled in November.</p>

Domestic

- 29 Japan-US Security Consultative Committee (2+2) in Washington, D.C.
- 31 The 3rd Koizumi Cabinet is established. Foreign Minister Aso assumes office.

International

- 29 India's capital Delhi is hit by serial bombings at 3 locations, which kill 67 and injure 298.

November

3-4 A Governmental Consultation between Japan and North Korea is held in Beijing: concerning the abduction issue, Japan once again demands: (1) return of the abductees living in North Korea; (2) investigation of facts; and (3) handover of those suspected to have been involved in the abductions. Japan also proposes a framework of future discussions on the matters. North Korea maintains its stance that the abduction issues have been settled, but also shows understanding for Japan's continued engagement in the issues.

- 6 Former Peruvian President Fujimori arrives at an airport in the Chilean capital Santiago. Chilean police, upon request by the Peruvian government, holds him in custody at a hotel next day (in Santiago).
- 7 The government of Myanmar announces its plan to relocate the functions of the capital from Yangon to Pinmana, central Myanmar.

In Kashmir, one of 5 routes crossing India and Pakistan is opened for rescue activities in the local areas heavily devastated by a major earthquake.
- 9 Jordan's capital Amman is hit by suicide bombings at 3 locations, which kill 60 and injure about 100. A statement claiming responsibility is announced on November 10 by a group calling itself the "al-Qaeda Organization for Jihad in Mesopotamia."
- 10 UN Secretary-General Annan appoints Mr. Ahtisaari, former President of Finland, as his Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo.
- 11 The fifth round of the Six-Party Talks on North Korea, held since November 9, is adjourned. China's Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, who chairs the Talks, announces the chairman's statement as the foundation for the discussions toward the fulfillment of the joint statement adopted in the fourth round. North Korea is strongly opposed to the US measures against money laundering (in Beijing).
- 13 The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), consisting of 7 countries including India and Pakistan, ends the 2-day program of its 13th summit meeting in Dhaka, after principally adopting the plans for the entry of

Domestic		International	
14-16	Foreign Minister Aso and Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Nikai visit the ROK to participate in the Ministerial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Foreign Minister Aso holds bilateral talks with ROK Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Ban Ki Moon, US Secretary of State Rice, and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov (in Busan).	14	Afghanistan as a member and participation of Japan and China as observers. In Srinagar, the summer capital of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, gun battles break out between armed fighters and police. The fighters' group occupies a hotel, resulting in 5 deaths and 17 injuries, including a Japanese man among those injured.
16	US President Bush visits Japan and holds talks with Prime Minister Koizumi in Kyoto.	17	The UN General Assembly's 3rd Committee adopts the resolution on the situation of human rights in North Korea jointly proposed by Japan, the EU, the US, and other countries (in New York).
18-19	Prime Minister Koizumi visits the ROK to attend the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting; holds bilateral summit meetings with ROK President Roh Moo Hyun, Chilean President Lagos, and Canadian Prime Minister Martin. It is decided to launch negotiations on an EPA at the Japan-Chile summit meeting in Busan.	19	The APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (from November 18) ends after adopting the Initiative on Preparing for and Mitigating an Influenza Pandemic and stand-alone statement to help advance the WTO negotiations currently in deadlock (in Busan). In Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Rajapakse takes office as the country's 5th president after winning the presidential election on November 17.
21	Prime Minister Koizumi holds talks with Russian President Putin in Tokyo.	19-21	US President Bush visits China and holds talks with President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao.
24	Iraq's Foreign Minister Zebari visits Japan; holds talks with Foreign Minister Aso (on November 24) and makes a courtesy call on Prime Minister Koizumi (on November 25).	21	Uzbekistan's Defense Ministry announces the official closure of a US military base in Hanabad in the southern region of the country.
		22	The German Bundestag elects the CDU leader Merkel as the new chancellor. She is also the first woman to lead the country and the first chancellor from former East Germany after the country's unification.
		23	The Liberian election committee in Monrovia announces that the country's presidential run-off election is won by Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a former UN employee. She becomes the first democratically-elected female president in Africa.

Domestic	International
<p>28 The 11th conference of the Parties meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 1st meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol are held in Montreal (through December 9). The participants decided to start dialogue on a framework for future cooperation involving countries such as the US.</p>	<p>27 The Government of Myanmar extends the house arrest under the Law Safeguarding the State from the Danger of Subversive Elements of Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi for a further 6 months.</p>

December

<p>2 Foreign Minister Aso holds talks with US Secretary of State Rice in Washington, D.C.</p>	
<p>3 Foreign Minister Aso holds talks with US Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld in Washington, D.C.</p>	
<p>5 Iraqi Prime Minister Jaafari visits Japan and holds talks with Prime Minister Koizumi.</p>	
<p>6 Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Akiko Yamanaka is named Parliamentary Secretary for human rights including the issue of abductions by North Korea. The post of “Ambassador in charge of Human Rights” is newly established and assumed by Ambassador to Norway and Iceland Fumiko Saiga.</p>	
<p>7 Foreign Minister Aso delivers a speech entitled “Asian Strategy As I See It.”</p>	
<p>8 The Japanese government decides to revise the Basic Plan on the Law Concerning the Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq, including extending for one year the period of dispatch of the SDF.</p>	
<p>8-10 Foreign Minister Aso visits Malaysia to attend the ASEAN+3, Japan-ASEAN and The East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers’ Meetings. He holds bilateral talks with ROK Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Ban Ki Moon and other participants in Kuala Lumpur.</p>	
<p>11-14 Prime Minister Koizumi visits Malaysia to attend the ASEAN+3, Japan-ASEAN and the EAS Summit Meetings. He holds talks with participating leaders in Kuala Lumpur.</p>	<p>10 The IAEA and its Director General, Dr. ElBaradei, receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. ElBaradei and Chair of the IAEA Board of Governors, Ambassador Amano, representing the Agency, attend the Peace Prize Ceremony in Oslo.</p>

Domestic		International	
12	Japan announces the resumption of imports of beef from the US and Canada. The US and Canada also announce the resumption of imports of beef from Japan (Canada on December 9).	12	The ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting is held. Attending Prime Minister Koizumi confirms the cooperation toward the formation of an "East Asian community."
13	Prime Minister Koizumi and Prime Minister Abdullah of Malaysia sign the EPA and attend the opening ceremony of the Malaysia-Japan University center (MJUC) in Kuala Lumpur.	13-18	The 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong is attended by Foreign Minister Aso, Senior Vice-Foreign Minister Kaneda, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Nakagawa, and Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Nikai. A Ministerial Declaration is adopted on the final day (December 18).
		14	The EAS is held for the first time and adopts a declaration noting that EAS could play a significant role in the formation of an East Asian community in the years to come. Discussions cover counter-measures for avian influenza, issues on natural disasters and energy resources (in Kuala Lumpur).
		15	The Iraqi National Assembly goes for an election as a milestone toward the first full-fledged administration after the war in Iraq.
		16	The UN General Assembly for the first time adopts the resolution on the situation of human rights in North Korea. The resolution expresses its serious concern over the grave human rights violations by North Korea. It also refers to the abductions of Japanese citizens as "all the unresolved questions relating to the abductions of foreigners" (in New York).
		19	In Aceh, Indonesia, the GAM completes the disarmament process pursuant to a comprehensive peace agreement with the Indonesian government signed in August 2005. In Afghanistan, the parliament is convened for the first time since 1973, completing the political process (in Kabul).
		20	The UN General Assembly and the Security Council simultaneously adopt resolutions concerning the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).
		21	In Tanzania, President Kikwete is inaugurated.
		22	The Interim Arab Parliament, consisting of 22 member countries and bodies of the Arab League, holds its first meeting in the League's headquarters in Cairo.
		23	The UN General Assembly adopts the budget for FY2006-2007, with limited authority for expenditure. The General Assembly will act on the expenditure of the remaining funds, taking into account the progress in management and Secretariat reform.

Domestic

24-25 A Governmental Consultation between Japan and North Korea is held in Beijing. It is concurred that comprehensive and parallel discussions between the two sides will be carried out by the end of January 2006 as much as possible, focusing on (1) discussions concerning the abduction issue; (2) discussions on security issues; and (3) normalization talks.

International

