

Opening Special Features

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From Heisei to Reiwa: Ceremonies of the Accession to the Throne

On May 1, His Majesty the Emperor of Japan acceded to the Throne, and the era name changed from Heisei to Reiwa. This marked the first imperial succession by abdication in approximately 200 years.

The most important ceremony of the Accession to the Throne is the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden (State Hall), in which His Majesty the Emperor proclaims his enthronement and receives felicitations from representatives in Japan and overseas.

Japanese and foreign guests were invited to the Ceremony of the Enthronement at the Seiden held on October 22. While heads of State, envoys, their spouses, and others from 160 countries and organizations attended the Heisei imperial succession, the Reiwa imperial succession was represented by 191 countries, organizations, and others. Foreign guests also attended the Court Banquet after the Ceremony of the Enthronement and the Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister and his spouse.

With many foreign dignitaries visiting Japan, the events offered an opportunity to acquaint a wider circle of people across the globe with the linkages between the Imperial Family and the world.

Books of celebration for the new Emperor were opened at approximately 230 Japanese Embassies, Consulates, and other missions overseas.

Messages congratulating His Majesty's accession to the Throne were received from all over the world, including royal families and dignitaries with ties to the Imperial Family who signed the books of celebration.



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress
(Photo: Imperial Household Agency)



Message from Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain (left) and the Prime Minister of Thailand signing a book of celebration at the Embassy of Japan in Thailand (right)



His Majesty the Emperor proclaiming his enthronement, October 22
(left: The Imperial Throne for the Emperor; right: The August Seat of the Empress)

* Photos on page 3: Secretariat for the Ceremonies of Imperial Succession, Cabinet Office



Imperial Palace (left is the State Hall where the Ceremony of the Enthronement at the Seiden was held)



Court Banquet after the Ceremony of the Enthronement for foreign guests, October 22 (top); Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister and his spouse, October 23 (bottom)



Japanese traditional arts were performed to deepen guests' understanding of Japan's traditional culture, both at the Court Banquet after the Ceremony of the Enthronement (top) and the Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister and his spouse (bottom).



Key Events of the Accession to the Throne

- May 1: Accession to the Throne by His Majesty the Emperor
- October 22: Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor at the Seiden
Court Banquet after the Ceremony of the Enthronement (Day 1: Foreign guests)
- October 23: Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister and his spouse
- November 10: Imperial Procession by motorcar after the Ceremony of the Enthronement



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress receiving blessings from the people during the Imperial Procession by motorcar after the Ceremony of the Enthronement, November 10

For messages from foreign dignitaries who attended the Ceremonies of the Accession to the Throne
<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/content/kansou.pdf> (Japanese only)





G20 Osaka Summit

The G20 Osaka Summit held on June 28 and 29, 2019 was the largest summit ever held in Japan's diplomatic history. This special feature outlines the outcomes and initiatives of the G20 Osaka Summit.
(See Chapter 3-3-2(3))

What is the G20?

The Group of Twenty, or the G20, was established as a forum that brings together the leaders of major developed and emerging countries to address economic and financial issues in the wake of the global financial crisis in September 2008. The GDP of the G20 members represents over 80% of the entire global economy. Continuing to gain in importance as the "premier forum for international economic cooperation," the G20 discusses not only the world economy and trade but also other global issues, such as development, climate change and energy, and health, every year under a rotating presidency.

Japan's First Presidency of the G20

In 2019, Japan assumed the G20 presidency for the first time and hosted the G20 Osaka Summit as well as eight ministerial meetings across the country. At the G20 Osaka Summit hosted by Prime Minister Abe, leaders engaged in lively discussions on themes involving a complex mix of diverse national interests, such as international trade, global environmental issues, and the digital economy. The Osaka Leaders' Declaration was adopted as an outcome document.



G20 Osaka Summit, June 28, Osaka (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Presidency Press Conference, June 29, Osaka

Key Outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit

The G20 Osaka Summit produced many outcomes. For example, leaders confirmed the principles of free trade and agreed on reforming the WTO, taking into account the spate of trade disputes that has raised questions about the international free trade system. In addition, leaders shared the concept of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), which will become the foundation for data use. The G20 also demonstrated to the world its strong commitment to many issues, including through the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" for reducing marine plastic litter. Furthermore, the "Osaka Track" was launched to advance international rule-making for data governance.



Working Lunch
June 28, Osaka
(Photo: Cabinet
Public Relations
Office)

Food served at the working lunch
(White rice from Fukushima
on the bottom left)
June 28, Osaka



Showcasing Japan to the World

The G20 Osaka Summit provided a valuable opportunity to showcase Japan to the world by extending hospitality and introducing Japanese food and culture to the participating leaders.

With consideration for the diverse cultural backgrounds of the guests and the wide range of tastes, world-class Japanese fusion cuisine was served at the leaders' dinner and working lunch that all the guests could enjoy. Under the theme of "the Integration of Sustainability and Gastronomy," the menu was prepared under the supervision of Mr. Tsuji Yoshiki, the head of the Tsuji Culinary Institute Group (which runs a culinary institute and other schools). Efforts were made to promote the appeal and safety of Japanese food products, using a vast range of ingredients from the local Kansai region while also incorporating ingredients from areas recovering from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Leaders and their partners were offered hospitality tailored to their individual needs. Questionnaires were conducted to understand participants' preferences, allergies, and religious dietary restrictions, and multiple menu options were served including halal. In addition to translating the menus on the table into the native languages of all leaders and their partners, other considerations were also made to ensure a leisurely and pleasant dining experience. The impeccable service provided by a group of butlers selected from all over Japan received praise from participants.

In the Cultural Program held before the dinner, leaders and their partners enjoyed performances on the theme of "Tradition and Diversity of Japan" by Mr. Nomura Mansai, Mr. Tsujii Nobuyuki, and Ms. Nakamaru Michie. During Mr. Tsujii's piano performance of "Flowers Will Bloom," the background images showed the tragedy of the Great East Japan Earthquake, reconstruction efforts to date, and messages of appreciation for the assistance extended by the G20 members.



Cultural Program performances
June 28, Osaka

Pianist Tsujii Nobuyuki (top),
Kyogen performer Nomura
Mansai (middle), and
opera singer Nakamaru
Michie (bottom)



Government Exhibition Booth at the International Media Center (left) and Live Kitchen (right)

At the International Media Center

The International Media Center at the G20 Osaka Summit venue was installed with the Government Exhibition Booth to introduce Japan's innovative technologies.

"Live Kitchen," where foods were prepared in front of foreign reporters, provided samples of Osaka delicacies, such as *takoyaki* octopus balls and *kushikatsu* deep-fried skewers, as well as Japanese sake.

Such firsthand experiences helped deepen the foreign media's understanding of the appeals of Japan.

Following the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The G20 Osaka Summit was followed by the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in November that culminated the year of Japan's G20 presidency. The meeting reaffirmed the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit and served as a springboard for concrete initiatives in 2020 and beyond. Going forward, the G20 members are expected to translate the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit into concrete actions. Japan will continue to exert leadership in the G20 with Saudi Arabia, the G20 presidency in 2020.



Dinner hosted by Foreign Minister Motegi
November 22, Nagoya



Foreign Minister Motegi handing over the presidency mallet to Saudi Arabia
November 23, Nagoya



TICAD7

Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation

You might have heard of TICAD7 in 2019. There may be readers who know that it is an international conference on Africa but are not familiar with the details.

This special feature presents TICAD7 which was held in Yokohama in August.
(See Chapter 2-7-1)

What is TICAD?

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is an international conference on Africa's development initiated by Japan in 1993. It supports African development under the basic principles of African ownership and international partnership.



Heads of State, Government and delegation attending TICAD7, August 28 (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

The Government of Japan will put forth every possible effort so that Japanese private investment in Africa increases further.



Prime Minister Abe delivering a keynote address at the Opening Session, August 28

TICAD7: Theme and Overview

- TICAD7 was held from August 28 to 30 in Yokohama. It gathered more than 10,000 people, including 42 African leaders as well as representatives of international organizations, partner countries and NGOs for discussions on Africa's development.
- Prime Minister Abe co-chaired TICAD7 with President El-Sisi of Egypt (Chair of the African Union [AU]). Deputy Prime Minister Aso served as acting chair of Japan. Attendees from the Government of Japan included Foreign Minister Kono, other ministers concerned.
- Under the theme of Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation, discussions took place on the three pillars of the economy, society, and peace and stability. In particular, business promotion was the main focus of discussion at TICAD7, based on requests from Japanese private companies and the African side. For the first time in TICAD's history, private companies from Japan and Africa participated as official partners.
- At the closing session, the Yokohama Declaration 2019 was adopted, and the Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 was announced as an accompanying document. In addition, the Government of Japan released a document called TICAD7: Japan's Contributions for Africa, which outlines Japan's support measures.

Bilateral Summit and Foreign Ministers' Meetings with Africa

On the margins of TICAD7, Prime Minister Abe held 47 meetings and Foreign Minister Kono held 25 meetings with the heads of African countries and international organizations, foreign ministers, and others. At the meetings, leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations, cooperation in the international arena including United Nations Security Council reform, and issues concerning North Korea. African leaders and other representatives expressed appreciation for Japan's contribution to Africa through the TICAD process.



Meeting with President Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa, August 28 (top)



Meeting with President Talon of Benin, August 30 (right)
(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

The Third Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize

On August 30, on the occasion of TICAD7, the Third Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize Award Ceremony and the Commemorative Banquet were hosted by Prime Minister Abe in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. Approximately 170 people attended these events. The Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize was established in memory of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi to honor individuals or organizations who have made outstanding achievements in the fields of medical research and medical services in Africa. The Third Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize was awarded to Dr. Muyembe-Tamfum from the Democratic Republic of the Congo for his research on Ebola and other deadly viruses and his efforts for human resources development in the field of diseases control, and to Dr. Omaswa from the Republic of Uganda for his dedication to human resources development in the field of health and medicine as well as building of health system.



Prime Minister Abe and Dr. Muyembe-Tamfum at the award ceremony



Toast by His Majesty the Emperor at the commemorative banquet



Dr. Omaswa delivering an address at the commemorative banquet

A Variety of Activities at TICAD7

A variety of events were held at TICAD7 with lively participation by citizens, contributing to the promotion of friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Africa.



African leaders were greeted by a wadaiko (Japanese drums) performance. Welcome reception co-hosted by the Prime Minister and the Mayor of the City of Yokohama, August 28 (above)

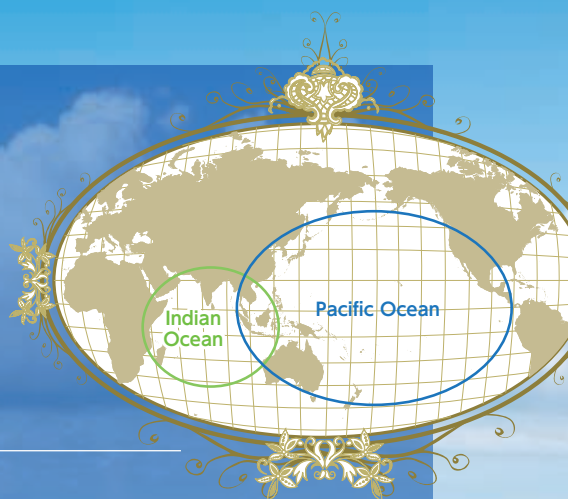


Women in kimono with African-countries-inspired designs offered hospitality—Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister, August 29 (left)

Elementary school students gifted paintings to an African ambassador to Japan—Yokohama "One School, One Country" Program, August 27
(Photo: City of Yokohama) (below)

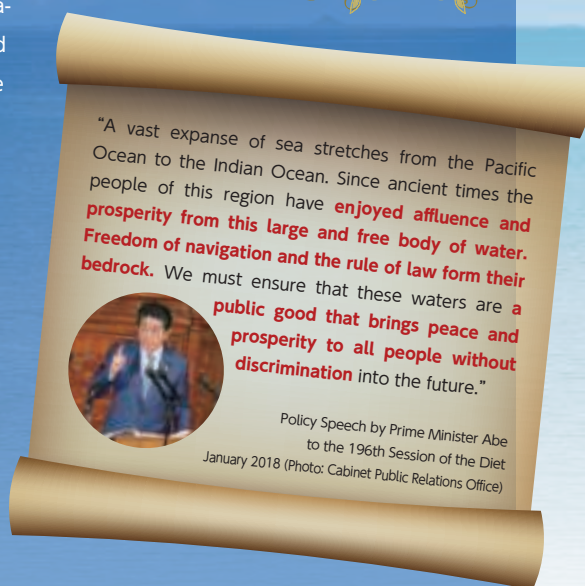


Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)



The Indo-Pacific region, which stretches from the Asia-Pacific across the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa, is the core of the world's vitality and supports more than half of the world's population. At the same time, it is a region which has seen complex power relations at work and has experienced drastic shifts in the regional power balance. The region faces a variety of threats, such as piracy, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, natural disasters, and illegal fishing.

The core idea of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) concept is to establish a rules-based international order and consolidate principles such as free trade, freedom of navigation, and the rule of law, which are essential for the stability and prosperity of the region. Together with like-minded countries that share the vision of FOIP, Japan is vigorously leading efforts to this end.



Japan's Vision for FOIP

Shift in the global power balance: an increasingly complex and uncertain world

- Continued stability and prosperity for people across the region cannot be brought about by force or coercion, but only by maintaining and reinforcing the rules of the international community so as to secure the international order.
- It is necessary to craft new rules to meet the challenges of a changing world and emerging needs.

The importance of the Indo-Pacific Ocean: "International public goods"

- Dynamism created by the confluence of the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean is an engine of the economic growth of the entire world.
- The international community as a whole will benefit from the maintenance and reinforcement of the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.

FOIP is an open and inclusive concept

- The concept of FOIP does not intend to create new institutions or compete with existing institutions.
- No single country can maintain or enhance the rules-based international order alone. Japan works with a broad range of partners who share the vision of FOIP; no country is excluded from partnership.

Efforts and Cooperation on FOIP in Other Countries and Regions

In collaboration with FOIP-related activities of partners, Japan promotes the vision of FOIP by evoking a sense of ownership based on each vision, with a shared belief in the fundamental principles such as the rule of law.

UK

- Strengthening cooperation on (i) maritime security, (ii) quality infrastructure, and (iii) cyber security including 5G (Japan-UK Summit Meeting in January 2019)

France

- "France and Security in the Indo-Pacific" (Published in June 2018, revised in May 2019)
- Agreed to materialize cooperation mainly on the three pillars of (i) freedom of navigation and maritime security, (ii) climate change, the environment and biodiversity, and (iii) quality infrastructure (Japan-France Summit Meeting in June 2019)

Germany

- Confirmed cooperation toward achievement of FOIP (Japan-Germany Summit Meeting in February 2019)

Italy

- Agreed to work together to develop concrete cooperation for maintaining and strengthening FOIP (Japan-Italy Summit Meeting in April 2019)

European Union (EU)

- "Connecting Europe & Asia: The EU Strategy" (September 2018)
- Agreed to cooperate toward improving the connectivity between Europe and the Asia-Pacific region (Japan-EU Summit in April 2019)
- Prime Minister Abe attended "the Europa Connectivity Forum." Signed "The Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between Japan and the European Union" (September 2019)

Pacific Island countries

- PIF (Pacific Islands Forum) leaders welcomed Japan's contribution through "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" (PALMB* in May 2018)
* The 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- Announced "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific" (AOIP) (June 2019)
- The leaders shared the view to promote a rule-based Indo-Pacific region that is free and open. Welcomed Japan's explicit support of AOIP, and encouraged Japan to undertake cooperation with ASEAN in the key areas outlined in AOIP (Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2019)

India

- "Act East" policy
- Published "India-Japan Development Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific" (Japan-India Summit Meeting in October 2018)
- Published "Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative" (November 2019)

Australia

- The leaders affirmed that the two countries share a vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, and shared the view on working together for regional stability and prosperity (Japan-Australia Summit Meeting in November 2018).
- "A free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific" (Prime Minister Morrison's foreign policy speech in June 2019). Promote "Pacific Step-up" in the Pacific Island region.

Canada

- Agreed to further strengthen the strategic partnership under the vision of FOIP (Japan-Canada Summit Meeting in August 2019)

U.S.

- Announced concrete cooperation to maintain and reinforce FOIP (Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in September 2018, visit of Vice President Pence to Japan in November 2018, Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in May 2019)
- Published "Indo-Pacific Strategy Report" (June 2019) and "A Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Advancing a Shared Vision" (November 2019)

Mekong countries

- Published "Mekong-Japan Cooperation Projects in Synergy with Japan's policy to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific" (Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in October 2018)
- The Mekong countries welcomed Japan's commitment to support the efforts made by the Mekong countries in line with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) (Joint Statement of the Mekong-Japan Summit in November 2019)

New Zealand

- Agreed to materialize the partnership in achieving FOIP in coordination with New Zealand's "Pacific Reset" policy regarding the Pacific Island region (Japan-New Zealand Summit Meeting in September 2019)

Red: Efforts of each country/region Blue: Cooperation between each country/region and Japan

Japan's efforts and cooperation toward FOIP

- Promoting policy on maritime order and sharing insights on maritime law with the international community
- Rule-making to expand a free and fair economic area (TPP11 Agreement, Japan-EU EPA, Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement, Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement, etc.)
- Enhancing connectivity over the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean ("G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment," development of the East-West and Southern Economic Corridors in Southeast Asia, etc.)
- Enhancing governance (capacity building assistance in fiscal policy and public debt management, etc.)
- Ensuring maritime security and marine safety (providing equipment and human resource development for maritime law enforcement in Southeast Asian coastal countries, etc.)

Maritime order

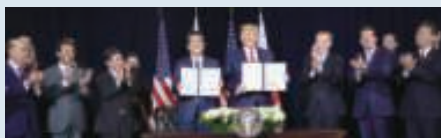


Foreign Minister Motegi advocating the importance of maintenance and reinforcement of the marine order at the 1st Tokyo Global Dialogue (December 2019, Tokyo)

Rule-making to expand a free and fair economic partnership



Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11 Agreement)
—The 1st TPP Commission in January 2019, Tokyo (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Signing of the Joint Statement on Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement (September 2019, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Enhancing connectivity between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean



North-South Highway in Viet Nam (Photo: JICA)



Sihanouville Port in Cambodia (Photo: JICA)