



Afternoon Alert - Friday, September 16, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

TV Asahi led with a report that the GOJ is considering having the Japanese public pay a total of 8.3 trillion yen through additional charges on their electricity bills to be used for decommissioning the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, compensation for those affected by the nuclear accident, and decommissioning other nuclear plants. Other top news included follow-up reports on the soil and water problems at the new fish market under construction in Toyosu.

## SECURITY

### Fukuoka High Court says Onaga's rescindment of landfill permit was "illegal"

NHK reported this afternoon that the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court ruled this afternoon that it was "illegal" for Governor Onaga to revoke former governor Nakaima's approval for landfill work in Henoko. The network said since the Okinawa prefectural government is set to file a final appeal with the Supreme Court, the GOJ is unlikely to resume the landfill work for the time being.

### U.S., Japanese defense chiefs confirm Senkaku vicinity falls under scope of Security Treaty

All networks reported at noon that visiting Defense Minister Inada met with Secretary of Defense Carter at the Pentagon on Thursday. NTV said Inada explained that China's intrusions into Japanese waters are "totally unacceptable." Secretary Carter reportedly expressed concern and said that the Senkaku Islands fall under the scope of Article 5 of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. The network said the two defense chiefs also agreed to condemn North Korea's provocations and

strengthen multilateral cooperation, including bilateral cooperation between the U.S. and Japan. National papers also published similar stories online, noting that Secretary Carter “supported and welcomed” Inada’s explanation that the SDF has already begun training personnel bound for international peacekeeping operations abroad for the new mission of going to the defense of foreign troops in the event that they come under attack. The Japanese minister told the press afterward, however, that no official decision has been made that such a mission will be performed by SDF members in South Sudan.

Fuji TV also reported that before her meeting with Secretary Carter, Inada flew on an Osprey in a Washington suburb and received a briefing about the aircraft from U.S. military officials. She also observed an F-35C fighter. The network said the defense chief delivered a speech in English, during which she said: “North Korea presents a serious security threat as it continues to actively advance its nuclear and missile programs.”

- [Pointing lasers at aircraft expected to be prohibited](#) (The Japan News)
- [GSDf troops receiving full-fledged training for new missions](#) (Mainichi)
- [Coordination underway for DM Inada to visit Okinawa on Sept. 23-24](#) (Sankei)
- [U.S. says GOJ decided to use GSDf helicopter for helipad construction](#) (Okinawa Times)

## **POLITICS**

### **Conspiracy bill not to be submitted in fall Diet session**

Most papers reported online on press remarks this morning by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, who said the Abe administration will not submit a bill to make conspiracy a crime in the upcoming Diet session to be convened on Sept.26. “It is not included in the list of bills prepared for the extraordinary session,” said Suga. Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hagiuda officially told the Lower House Rules Committee later that the GOJ does not plan to submit the conspiracy legislation in the upcoming session. The papers speculated that the bill will instead be submitted in the regular Diet session to be held in January next year so that political capital can be concentrated on passing the TPP legislation at an early date.

### **Renho to tap former PM Noda as DP secretary general**

All networks reported at noon that newly elected DP President Renho is making final arrangements to tap former PM Noda as the party’s secretary general.

### **New DP leader vows to unseat LDP**

Newly elected Democratic Party President Renho appeared live on NHK's "News Watch 9" and TV-Asahi's "Hodo Station" on Thursday evening to speak about her approach to confronting the "gigantic" LDP, underscoring that the largest opposition party will present "constructive counter-proposals and alternative ideas" under her leadership instead of merely criticizing the Abe administration. Rather than defining the DP as a "liberal" organization, Renho said it will be a party for "middle-income" Japanese. She apologized for misleading her party colleagues and the public by providing inaccurate information on her dual citizenship, explaining that she has already taken the necessary steps to relinquish her Taiwanese citizenship. While noting that the DP's electoral cooperation with the Japanese Communist Party will be maintained in principle, Renho said the DP will never form a coalition government with the JCP. She noted that she plans to run for the Lower House in the future.

- [Prime minister's schedule on September 16](#) (Nikkei)
- [Renho: From newscaster to politician](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Democratic Party must unite under Renho to return to power](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Renho](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan eyes abdication bill as soon as 2017](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cartoon: Toyosu fish market](#) (Mainichi)

## **AMBASSADOR**

### **[Ambassador Kennedy holds talks with justice minister](#)**

Asahi wrote that Ambassador Kennedy held talks with Justice Minister Kaneda on Thursday at his office. The ministry said that concerning the GOJ's plan to submit to the Diet a revised bill that would make conspiracy a crime in order to strengthen counterterrorism measures, the Ambassador told the minister that she is encouraged by the news that the bill may be submitted to the upcoming extraordinary Diet session. The Ambassador reportedly added that the U.S. will offer whatever cooperation it can. NHK and Nikkei ran similar stories online.

## **SCIENCE**

### **[U.S., Japan, South Korea to enhance cooperation for curing cancer](#)**

Nikkei reported online that the health ministers of the U.S., Japan, and South Korea will assemble in New York on Sept.19 to confirm greater trilateral coordination in finding a cure for cancer by conducting joint research and sharing technical data with the goal of identifying innovative

approaches to treatment. Vice President Biden, who heads the White House “Cancer Moonshot” initiative, will deliver a speech at the meeting.

## INTERNATIONAL

- [“Seiron” column: ASEAN maritime nations should create consultative mechanism](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Donald Trump](#) (Asahi)

## ECONOMY

- [Japan’s economy struggling to grow: chief executives](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Income gap shrinks slightly, MHLW survey](#) (Asahi)
- [Even if Monju axed, N-fuel cycle plan to stay](#) (The Japan News)

## EDUCATION

- [Private spending on universities in Japan over twice OECD average](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Questions remain on fairness, practicality of new university entrance exam](#) (The Mainichi)

## SOCIETY

- [Record number of child abuse cases in Japan in 1st half of 2016](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Victims of child porn double in Jan.-June](#) (The Japan News)

## TV PROGRAMS

### **Tokyo Olympics promoted at Rio closing ceremony**

NHK’s “Close-up Gendai Plus” on Thursday reported on the closing ceremony of the Rio Olympics, during which Tokyo Governor Koike received the Olympic flag. Four Japanese designers who worked on the 8-minute Tokyo performance appeared on the show and talked about how they created the video and performance to promote Tokyo to the world following various scandals involving the 2020 Olympics, including the logo plagiarism issue.

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