



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, September 28, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Noon News

Most networks led with reports on the first debate between PM Abe and Democratic Party President Renho at the plenary session of the Upper House today.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Hiroshima town receives thank you letter from President Obama

The Hiroshima-based Chugoku Shimbun wrote that the town of Kumano, Hiroshima Prefecture, received a thank you letter from President Obama on Sept. 27 for a gift it gave him when he visited Hiroshima in May. The town of Kumano is famous for the production of high-quality brushes, so it presented the President with a set of makeup brushes made there using traditional techniques. The letter, which was signed by the President, was delivered via the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo together with a letter from Ambassador Kennedy.

### Senior DOS official indicates possibility of additional sanctions on DPRK

Kyodo reported on congressional testimony given on Tuesday by Assistant Secretary of State Russel, who disclosed that the U.S. and the EU are considering imposing additional sanctions on North Korea on account of its nuclear test conducted earlier this month. The USG official reportedly noted that one of the options will be to prevent the Kim regime from conducting financial transactions with foreign partners. The article speculated that Pyongyang may be denied access to the Belgium-based Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), a global provider of secure financial messaging services.

- [Editorial: Candidates fail to lay out clear vision for U.S. in first debate](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan shuns U.S. freedom of navigation scheme](#) (The Japan News)
- [China investigating 10 more companies for transactions with North Korea](#) (Yomiuri)

## SECURITY

- [Wiretaps to be used in more cases](#) (The Japan News)
- [Okinawa municipal assemblies pass protest resolutions on aircraft crash](#) (Ryukyu Shimpō)

## ECONOMY

- [Labor reform panel to draw up action plan in current fiscal year](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Analysis: Labor reform panel prioritizes improving working conditions over productivity](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Panel must come up with viable plan to enact labor reforms](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Can Japan continue fast breeder reactor development through cooperation with France?](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Gov't and Narita Airport present proposal on extending flight hours](#) (Mainichi)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on September 27](#) (Asahi)
- [Gist of Lower House representative interpellations, Sept. 27](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe says he would "like to join hands" with Muneo Suzuki](#) (Sankei)
- [LDP General Council becoming more active](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Abe gov't should remain humble when speaking about 'future'](#) (The Mainichi)

- [Editorial: Ruling, opposition parties must hold active debate on constitutional revision](#) (The Japan News)
- [Diet debate on constitutional revision gets off to rocky start](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cartoon: Abe and extraordinary Diet session](#) (Asahi)

## EDUCATION

- [Editorial: Originality is more important than ranking for universities](#) (Sankei)

## SOCIETY

- [Zaitokukai ordered to pay damages for defaming Korean resident of Japan](#) (Japan Times)

## TV PROGRAMS

### **Toyosu fish market issue**

Tokyo Governor Koike appeared live on NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Tuesday evening. She talked about problems plaguing the new fish market to be built in the Toyosu waterfront area. She stressed that it is important to separate the issues of safety and governance. In terms of governance, Koike pointed to the vertically segmented administrative system in Tokyo and the fact that it is not clear who is responsible for what. She also criticized Tokyo government officials' lack of awareness of whose money is being used to build the facilities. The governor added that she plans to set up a new council to share the necessary information.