



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, October 4, 2016

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, NTV, and Fuji TV gave top play to reports on a press conference held today by Japanese biologist Yoshinori Ohsumi, who won this year's Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for discovering the mechanism of autophagy, a process in which cells in the body break down and recycle themselves. Other top news included reports on the approaching typhoon.

POLITICS

PM Abe says he is not considering dissolving Lower House

NHK reported that PM Abe said at a Lower House Budget Committee session today that he is “not thinking at all” about dissolving the Lower House, while he also said his right to dissolve the Lower House will not be constrained even before the review of Lower House electoral constituencies expected by next May. The network said the premier made this comment in response to a question by DP lawmaker Yuichi Goto, who pointed out that any dissolution of the Lower House prior to electoral district reform would represent a state of unconstitutionality.

- [Prime minister's schedule on October 3](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Oct. 3](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [DM Inada comes under fire at Lower House Budget Committee](#) (Mainichi)

- [Rezoning of constituencies to hinge Lower House dissolution strategy](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe says holding LDP Convention in March not related to dissolution of Lower House](#) (Mainichi)
- [Ruling, opposition parties differ on legislation for Emperor's abdication](#) (Yomiuri)

SECURITY

- [Komeito lawmaker: Futenma base commander says Marines will go anywhere for training](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Interview with Atsugi base commander Bushey](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [PM Abe defends SDF's new PKO duty](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Interview with ex-Vice Foreign Minister Saiki on the Northern Territories negotiations](#) (Asahi)
- ["Seiron" column: PM Abe's policies toward Russia counterproductive](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Japan and U.S. should work together to rescue abductees](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Strictly enforce security legislation while considering SDF risks](#) (The Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [Abe vows to carry out reforms to promote IoT](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gov't to call on 21 countries, regions to improve regulations on farm imports](#) (Nikkei)
- [Keizai analysis: Gov't to be tested on promoting diverse work styles](#) (Nikkei)
- [Nearly 70% of full-time female workers not hoping for promotion: survey](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Three leading institutions in Japan join forces in AI research](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

SCIENCE

Environment minister calls for “strong-arm tactics” for swift approval of Paris Agreement bill

NHK reported online that Minister for the Environment Yamamoto told reporters today that he intends to ask for the swift adoption of a bill calling for Diet approval of the Paris Agreement on global warming at the current extraordinary Diet session by saying that “unlike an ordinary agreement, strong-arm tactics are needed in Diet deliberations,” such as changing the schedule for the deliberations. He also reportedly expressed caution about Japan’s delay by saying he feels strongly that Japan needs to move quickly because the EU solidified its stance faster than expected.

In a related story, NHK reported that the LDP held a joint meeting of its foreign affairs division and other divisions today, during which the participants confirmed that the party will seek swift parliamentary approval of the necessary bill to ratify the Paris accord by the UN Climate Change COP22 summit, slated to begin in November. LDP member Seishiro Eto reportedly pointed out: “The United States and China beat us to it. Considering the fact that Japan proudly called for the early ratification of the Paris Agreement as the host nation of the Ise-Shima Summit, we need to act fast.”

- [Kawasaki to host international base for R&D](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

SOCIETY

Former senator speaks about disability legislation

Saturday morning's Okayama-based Sanyo Shimbun published a report on a speech delivered at Okayama University on Sept. 30 by former Senator Tom Harkin, during which he spoke about the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which the Japanese parliament emulated when enacting its own statute in April to address discrimination against people with disabilities. He explained that in drafting the ADA, he called for concrete measures such as making streets more accessible in addition to prohibiting discrimination. When asked how to strengthen the Japanese law, the senator said: "Disabilities are just a natural part of human beings, not something to hide or be ashamed of.... You should ask people with disabilities what they think."

OPINION POLLS

- [Highlights of the September 2016 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)
-



[USAGE POLICY](#) [ABOUT THIS SITE](#) [FAQ](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

U.S. Embassy Tokyo Media Analysis and Translation Team