



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, January 24, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All broadcasters led with reports that Tottori Prefecture has requested the assistance of the SDF as more than 100 cars have been stranded for hours on a state road there due to heavy snowfall.

## ECONOMY

### President Trump signs presidential order withdrawing U.S. from TPP

All networks reported at noon that President Trump signed a presidential order on Monday formally withdrawing the U.S. from the TPP, saying that it will now be extremely difficult to put the trade deal into force. The network said many members of the Cabinet commented on the news, quoting TPP Minister Ishihara as telling reporters this morning: "We continue to think that a free trade system based on free, fair, and common rules is the source of global economic growth.... We just need to sit down and seek the understanding of the U.S." Farm Minister Yamamoto said: "I don't think it will have any effect... The new administration has just been launched, and we expect that once the overall picture becomes clear, his view toward the TPP will change." Foreign Minister Kishida said: "I think he understands the importance of free trade.... It is important that we maintain communication between the U.S. and Japan."

Concerning President Trump's comment criticizing Japan's auto trade with the U.S. by saying that it is "not fair," Economic Minister Seko said: "In reality, there are no tariffs on American cars in Japan. Also, we do not treat American cars any differently than Japanese cars in areas other than tariffs."

Meanwhile, PM Abe reportedly said during Diet interpellation this morning that he thinks that "President Trump understands the importance of free and fair trade" and that he will "sit down with him and call for his understanding of the strategic and economic significance of the treaty." The premier also said: "The new rules that developed into a treaty after years of negotiations will be a role model for future trade negotiations, and we expect them to become a global standard for the 21st century." The network also said the premier also expressed hope to conclude high-quality agreements, including RCEP and an EPA with the EU.

- [Japan left talking to wall after Trump dumps TPP](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ballooning decommissioning costs for nuclear fuel cycle facilities](#) (Nikkei)
- [Asia-Pacific scrambles to save TPP after Trump's blow](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Commentary: Glimpses of Ford behind Trump's Japan bashing](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Nikkei tumbles below ¥19,000 after Trump inauguration](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan to cut red tape on self-driving tests](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [70% of Japanese businesses in Mexico benefiting from NAFTA, JETRO survey](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Trump casts dark shadow over annual wage negotiations in Japan](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [MOF, FSA, BOJ officials meet to assess international financial situation](#) (Mainichi)
- [GOJ-owned satellite data to be released to the public free of charge](#) (Nikkei)
- [Lenders seen propping up Toshiba at least through February](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Financially troubled Toshiba may set up holding company](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Effectiveness of iPS cells in safety tests for new drugs confirmed](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ono, BMS, Merck reach early settlement of dispute over Opdivo](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Takata must give full explanations about defective air bag inflators](#) (The Japan News)

## SCIENCE

### **GOJ alarmed by Trump's intention to eliminate measures against global warming**

Asahi reported online on press remarks this morning by Environment Minister Yamamoto, who commented on President Trump's plan to repeal the Climate Action Plan that was formulated under the Obama administration by saying: "We are very concerned.... The Trump administration cannot turn this global trend around. U.S. companies and states are taking measures [to address climate change]. The federal government cannot underestimate such moves."

## INTERNATIONAL

### **White House press secretary points out need to defend international waters in South China Sea**

NHK reported at noon that White House Press Secretary Spicer said during his official first press conference on Monday that the U.S. will need to defend its interests in international waters in relation to China's maritime advancement in the South China Sea. On the artificial islands China is building in the area, the press secretary was quoted as saying: "If those islands are in fact in international waters and not part of China's property, then we will make sure that we defend international territories from being taken over by one country."

### **High expectations for William Hagerty as ambassador**

NTV's "News Every" ran a report yesterday on William Hagerty, who is rumored to be Trump's pick for the next U.S. ambassador to Japan. The program speculated on whether Hagerty would be as reliable as his two predecessors, Ambassador Roos and Ambassador Kennedy, who capitalized on their close bonds with President Obama to mobilize the U.S. military for Operation Tomodachi after the 3/11 triple disaster and realize his landmark visit to Hiroshima. The program claimed that as a successful U.S. diplomat to Japan, Hagerty would need to have strong administrative skills, deep understanding of Japan, and direct communication channels with the White House. NTV senior commentator Oguri argued that if nominated, Hagerty would need to play a key role in shaping bilateral relations under the Trump administration because the President will probably be critical of Japan on trade and defense.

The show claimed that Hagerty appears to be rather friendly toward Japan, airing footage showing him saying several years ago when he was Tennessee's commissioner of economic development: "The relationship that we have with our friends in Japan... it's Tomodachi.... [There] could not be a country that has a more significant impact on Tennessee than Japan." According to the report, Hagerty visited Japan multiple times and successfully persuaded 79 Japanese firms to set up operations in Tennessee when he was responsible for the state's economic development. Former Boston Consulting Japan President Hori, who was Hagerty's supervisor when he was working in Tokyo as a business consultant in the early 1990s, said that having someone like him, who knows

and loves Japan, as U.S. ambassador would be advantageous since he could serve as a “cushion” between Japan and the “tough” U.S. leader. Hori claimed that Hagerty “volunteered” for the post of U.S. ambassador to Japan.

An American man who reportedly used to work for Hagerty praised him by saying: “He has a very open-minded personality. He understands that to be successful in negotiations you must, at the end of the day, end the deal with everyone feeling really good.” According to Oguri, an unnamed senior MOFA official expressed a cautious view on whether Hagerty would be able to deal with such thorny issues as Japan’s host nation support for the U.S. military and policy coordination vis-à-vis China by saying: “His ties with Japan have centered on business. He has no connections with Japanese bureaucrats and politicians. We can’t tell if he will prove to be successful.”

- [\*\*‘It’s not fair,’ Trump says of Japanese auto trade\*\*](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [\*\*Mega-trade deals on the brink of collapse\*\*](#) (Nikkei)
- [\*\*Analysis: New U.S. administration’s “bottom line diplomacy” alarms Japan\*\*](#) (Yomiuri)
- [\*\*Editorial: Trump should not divide the world\*\*](#) (The Mainichi)
- [\*\*S. Korea’s Hwang calls for “wisdom” over comfort women statue\*\*](#) (Kyodo News)
- [\*\*U.S. debt will ultimately defeat the great American military\*\*](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [\*\*Treaty experts named to work on relations with Russia\*\*](#) (Nikkei)

## SECURITY

### [\*\*Resignation of top deputy in Okinawa to deal heavy blow to Onaga\*\*](#)

Today’s major Okinawa papers reported heavily on the resignation of Okinawa Vice Governor Ageda to take responsibility for an influence-peddling scandal. Okinawa Times projecting that Governor Onaga’s grip on power will weaken since Ageda had played a key role in negotiations with the central government on Futenma relocation and used his connections with local politicians and opinion leaders to implement the governor’s policies. Ryukyu Shimpo conjectured that following the departure of the “tough negotiator,” Governor Onaga will be on his own in dealing with the Abe administration’s plan to step up its “high-handed” approach to proceeding with the FRF construction off Camp Schwab.

- [\*\*Gov’t mulls review of National Defense Program Guidelines\*\*](#) (Mainichi)

- [Japan Coast Guard to offer maritime security program to students from seven countries](#) (Sankei)
- [Okinawa USMC relocation to Guam might be accelerated](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [USFJ keeps no statistics on DUI cases committed on U.S. bases](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Detention of Okinawa activist sparks cries of political oppression](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Calmly discuss bill to counter terrorism without extreme arguments](#) (The Japan News)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 23](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of representative interpellations at Lower House plenary session, Jan. 23](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [DP's attack on PM Abe in the Diet focuses on foreign policy](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Analysis: Abe is spreading his wings leftward](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## SOCIETY

- [Survey suggests middle-aged withdrawn people in dire need of help](#) (The Mainichi)

## OPINION POLLS

- [56% say "no need to hasten Diet debate" on constitutional amendment, Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)

## TV PROGRAMS

### ["Amakudari" emerges once again](#)

Monday's NHK "Close-up Gendai Plus" took a close look at "amakudari," the illegal practice of giving high-profile positions in the private and public sectors to retired bureaucrats. According to the GOJ's Reemployment Surveillance Commission, MEXT officials have systematically carried out the practice 38 times over the last four years, including fabricating false explanations and colluding to tell

the same story in order to cover up the practice. The program said private companies tend to accept "amakudari" because they want to establish or maintain strong ties with MEXT. An expert pointed out that punitive measures should also be taken against entities that accept "amakudari" in order to eradicate the problem. Another expert said the commission should swiftly investigate other government ministries and agencies as well.

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