
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, October 24, 2017

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 led with a report that this morning the cabinet endorsed a plan to invite President Trump as a "distinguished guest on an official working visit" for three days from Nov. 5 to 7. The network said this will be the President's first visit to Japan as the U.S. leader, adding that in addition to holding a summit with Prime Minister Abe and meeting with the families of the Japanese abductees, the President will also meet with the Emperor and Empress.

NTV gave top play to a report on a collision between a truck and a train at a railroad crossing in Nagano this morning, saying there were no injuries. TBS continued to report on the damage caused by Typhoon Lan. Fuji TV led with a report on the first cabinet meeting since the Lower House election. TV Asahi reported on the prospects of the opposition parties joining forces following the general election.

INTERNATIONAL

Suga comments on President Trump's planned visit to Japan

NHK reported at noon that the cabinet endorsed a plan to invite President Trump as a "distinguished guest on an official working visit" for three days from Nov. 5 to 7, quoting Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga as telling reporters this morning: "President Trump's visit to Japan presents a great opportunity to discuss various issues faced by the international community amid the increasingly tough security environment in the region, including North Korea, and once again demonstrate to the world the strong ties of the U.S.-Japan alliance." In response to a question from a reporter that some are pointing out that it will be problematic from the viewpoint of crisis management for the two leaders to play golf amid rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula, Suga responded by saying: "The environment is extremely severe, but it is also extremely important for them to deepen their

friendship while ensuring crisis management."

- [Gist of Abe-Trump teleconference on Oct. 23](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan taps new ambassadors to Saudi Arabia, Ghana](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

Analyzing the Lower House election

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the recent general election that resulted in an overwhelming victory for the LDP. The program analyzed every speech given by Prime Minister Abe during the election campaign using "text mining" techniques, saying that the premier used the word "Japan" 208 times, "North Korea" 201 times, and "election" 180 times during the campaign. The premier mentioned North Korea three times on average in each of his speeches. In addition to using such words as "missile," "threat," "pressure," and "crisis," the premier highlighted his North Korea policy. Exit polls also showed that people who voted for the ruling parties welcomed Abe's measures against the North.

The program also found that Abe highlighted the achievements of Abenomics, using such terms as "small- and mid-sized companies," "money," and "record-high." NHK political reporter Iwata said that North Korea was a good tool for winning more votes amid increased public interest in North Korea and Abe needed to earn strong public support in order to implement robust diplomacy as the tension over North Korea is likely to intensify. The reporter also noted that Abe highlighted his deep ties with President Trump and other world leaders.

The program also reported on the results of its analysis of speeches by Party of Hope leader Koike and Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan leader Edano, saying that while Koike used the words "hope," "women," and "consumption tax" frequently, Edano used such words as "democracy" and "honest." Iwata said that while the Party of Hope leadership remained open to joining forces with the LDP, the CDPJ was able to gain support from voters opposed to the ruling parties by clearly demonstrating its position against the ruling coalition.

The program also said that although constitutional revision was included in the LDP's election pledges, Abe refrained from talking about the issue during the election campaign. Iwata said the premier did this not because he wanted to earn more votes but because it made more sense strategically to focus on issues related to the people's lives.

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 23, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of PM Abe's news conference on Oct. 23](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Major policies in new LDP-Komeito coalition agreement](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan's general election in four charts](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Much of LDP's success rests in electoral system itself](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Foreign reactions to Japan's general election result](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: LDP election win no mandate for amending Constitution](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Abe's landslide win dims prospects for would-be successors](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Election victory creates stark differences within LDP factions](#) (Nikkei)
- [Koike not resigning as Party of Hope chief, blames "iron ceiling" for LH election debacle](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Party of Hope badly shaken by election losses, criticism of leader Koike mounts](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan's risk-averse youth lean heavily conservative](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [CDPJ Edano has no plan for opposition realignment](#) (Nikkei)
- [JCP to discuss with CDPJ nomination vote for prime minister](#) (Nikkei)
- [Interview with CSIS senior fellow about general election result](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kasumigaseki sees "good and bad aspects" in ruling camp's election victory](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

High-level TPP meeting to be held in Chiba next week

NHK reported on its website that Economic Revitalization Minister Motegi told reporters today that a high-level TPP meeting will be held in Urayasu, Chiba, for three days from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, and expressed hope for progress in the discussions toward reaching a broad agreement at the APEC summit slated for next month in Vietnam. Motegi was quoted as saying: "This will be the last working-level meeting before APEC next month. I hope to move forward the discussions for working out the details toward a broad agreement at APEC. I hope progress will be made in the discussions."

- [TPP negotiators to meet in Japan next week ahead of APEC summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe cabinet faces various economic issues after Lower House election](#) (Yomiuri)

- [U.S. stepping up pressure through managed trade](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's efforts for early TPP effectuation enter critical stage after Lower House election](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Toshiba gains shareholder approval for crucial chip unit sale](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Mitsubishi will spend big to fill Japan data storage vacuum](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SCIENCE

- [Tokyo to become carbon-free on 4 days during 2020 Games](#) (Jiji Press)

SOCIETY

- [SDGs, justice and female leaders](#) (The Japan Times)

SECURITY

GOJ to request relocation of “rare” coral in Henoko

TBS reported at noon that following the discovery of rare coral in waters off Henoko, Nago, the GOJ is planning to seek from the Okinawa Prefectural Government permission to relocate the coral. The network said that permission from the Okinawa governor is required in order to relocate rare coral and that the GOJ is planning to make a request sometime this week. According to the network, the Okinawa government will evaluate the request for up to 45 days before reaching a decision.

Twelve F-35A fighters to be deployed to Kadena

Jiji Press reported that U.S. Air Forces, Pacific, announced the deployment of 12 F-35A stealth fighters to Kadena AB in Okinawa. Jiji said although the U.S. Marines' F-35B fighters were deployed to Iwakuni AB in January, this is the first time for the Air Forces' F-35A fighters to be deployed in the Asia Pacific region. According to Jiji, about 300 airmen from the 34th Fighter Squadron stationed in Utah will be deployed to Kadena on a six-month rotation.

- [S. Korea, Japan, U.S. begin 2-day joint missile tracking exercise](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

CCS Suga reiterates GOJ plan to move forward with Henoko project

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on remarks made to the press on Monday by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga. Asked about the possible impact of the Sunday general election on the ongoing FRF construction work at Henoko, the government spokesman stated that the GOJ is moving forward with Futenma relocation based on its assessment that Henoko is the only solution in

view of the need to remove the danger at Futenma and ensure the deterrence of the U.S.-Japan security alliance. Suga added that there will be no change in the GOJ policy of implementing the construction by giving consideration to the local environment.

- [U.S. forces took soil samples from site of helicopter incident](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
-

