

---

 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, January 25, 2018

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](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports that the temperature in Tokyo this morning fell to minus four degrees Celsius for the first time in 48 years.

## INTERNATIONAL

### U.S. imposes new sanctions on individuals and entities related to North Korea

NHK reported at noon that the U.S. Treasury Department announced on Wednesday that it has imposed additional sanctions on 9 entities, 16 individuals, and 6 vessels for their involvement in North Korea's ongoing development of weapons of mass destruction and for financing the Kim regime. The network said Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said in a statement that "the U.S. government is targeting illicit actors in China, Russia, and elsewhere who are working on behalf of North Korean financial networks, and calling for their expulsion from the territories where they reside," adding that his remarks were also aimed at urging China and Russia to take further actions.

### Leader-level U.S., Japan, ROK meeting under consideration

Asahi ran a report from Seoul claiming that it has learned from several sources that the United States, Japan, and South Korea are studying the possibility of holding a trilateral leader-level meeting by taking advantage of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics. The paper conjectured that the idea is intended to reconfirm the U.S.-ROK alliance and security cooperation between the three nations in response to North Korea's conciliatory approach toward South Korea. The paper wrote that Seoul may express reservations because Pyongyang will likely react strongly. The paper also wrote that the United States has informally sounded out Japan on the idea of Vice President Pence, Prime Minister Abe, and President Moon holding talks when the Vice President and PM Abe visit

South Korea to attend the opening ceremony for the Olympics on Feb. 9. The paper speculated that the U.S. made the proposal because it is concerned about its alliance with South Korea and trilateral security cooperation with Tokyo and Seoul.

- [US nudged Abe toward Olympics visit](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe prioritizes Japan-U.S.-ROK cooperation in decision to go to PyeongChang Olympics](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP members fear Abe's going to PyeongChang Olympics may send wrong message](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Tension between Japan, South Korea may flare up again](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Abe's plan to attend Winter Games a chance for dialogue](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Abe calls for closer cooperation on DPRK issue in telephone talk with Dutch prime minister](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, China lawmakers find mutual understanding important](#) (Jiji Press)

### **GOJ opens permanent exhibition in Tokyo of documents related to Senkakus and Takeshima**

NHK reported that the GOJ has opened a permanent exhibition of documents related to the Senkaku Islands and Takeshima inside a facility located in Hibiya Park, Tokyo, in an effort to send the message at home and abroad that the islands are integral part of Japanese territory. During an opening ceremony, Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs Esaki reportedly said: "Takeshima has been illegally occupied by South Korea for more than 60 years, and Chinese submarines have been spotted inside Japan's contiguous zone near the Senkaku Islands. As the situation surrounding our territory is becoming severe, I believe that the exhibition will serve as a center for conveying a message about our territorial sovereignty. We hope to hold rotating displays and enhance the exhibition." According to the network, the permanent exhibition includes copies of documents showing the Japanese cabinet endorsed a plan to incorporate the Senkaku Islands into Japanese territory in 1895 and a panel explaining how Takeshima was illegally occupied by South Korea.

- [Japan opens museum in Tokyo exhibiting materials about disputed isles](#) (Kyodo News)

<b>ECONOMY</b>
----------------

**Kawasaki Heavy Industries receives biggest-ever order for New York subway cars**

NHK reported this afternoon that Kawasaki Heavy Industries announced on Thursday that its U.S. subsidiary has received an order worth 400 billion yen to build up to 1,612 cars for the New York subway. The network said this is the biggest order the company has ever received. Kawasaki is planning to deliver the new cars starting in 2020. According to the network, Kawasaki has already delivered 2,200 cars to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority in New York, adding that about 30% of the subway cars in the city are already made by Kawasaki. The network reported that Hitachi Ltd. has also reportedly received consecutive orders to build high-speed rail cars in the UK, saying that Japanese makers are expanding their railway business overseas, where the market is expected to grow.

- [Trade surplus stays in the black at 2.9 tril. yen](#) (The Japan News)
- [Keidanren to name four business executives as vice chairmen](#) (Nikkei)

#### POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 24, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of representative interpellations at Lower House plenary session, Jan. 24](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP's Nukaga faction calling for change in faction leader](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP to decide on draft amendment for Article 9 "in time for party convention," Komura](#) (Yomiuri)

#### OPINION POLLS

- ["Including SDF in Constitution" not gaining ground among public, media outlet polls](#) (Mainichi)

#### SECURITY

- [MSDF to conduct joint drill with French military vessel](#) (Asahi)

#### EDUCATION

### **Embassy's "Girls Unlimited Program" empowers Japanese middle, high school students**

This is the second year for the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to organize a girls' empowerment program for Japanese middle and senior high school students. In 2015, the video sharing website "YouTube" launched a campaign called "#DearMe" (To myself in those days) to send a message of support to

young women to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8. Former First Lady Michelle Obama and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy also posted videos for the campaign, which led the Embassy to launch the program. Last year's the "#GO GIRL!" program consisted of four installments. This year, the "Girls Unlimited Program," which means, "infinite possibilities of girls," is being held from September to February with six installments. Thirty-five girls in grades 7-12 who were selected from some 200 applicants have been participating in the program. The goal of the program is to "know yourself, find dreams and goals, and acquire leadership." Students listen to lectures given by female leaders from various fields, including astronaut Yamazaki Naoko, and engage in group discussions with adult mentors who have participated in U.S. State Department's exchange programs.

- [Girls Unlimited Program \(1\): It's our turn to change the world for the better](#) (Asahi)
- [Girls Unlimited Program \(2\): Finding a clue to become a good leader](#) (Asahi)
- [Why don't more Japanese study abroad? The cost and the hassle, survey shows](#) (The Japan Times)

## SOCIETY

### **Camp Kinser elementary school pupils to present origami cranes to Okinawa battlefield**

NHK reported on its website that a teacher and 14 pupils at an elementary school located on Camp Kinser, Okinawa, are planning to make 1,000 origami cranes, or "senbazuru," in cooperation with local Japanese schools and deliver them to Maeda Kochi, a site of intense fighting during the Battle of Okinawa 73 years ago. The network said the pupils met with Urasoe Mayor Matsumoto today and asked him to place boxes to collect origami cranes at local schools in Urasoe. Ayano Shimojo, who teaches Japanese at the school, was quoted as saying: "By folding the origami cranes, I hope the children will be able to visit the battlefield, learn about its history, and pass this knowledge on to others."

The network added that Kinser Elementary School has been promoting peace education through such activities as having pupils deliver origami cranes to Chibichiri-gama Cave where many Okinawans were forced to commit mass suicide during the war, following an incident last September in which the cave was vandalized by minors.

### **Law offers strays protection, but shelters are crowded with reprieved animals**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that although the number of cats and dogs being put down in Japan has declined since the revision of the Animal Protection Law six years ago, municipal animal shelters and animal rights groups are having difficulty managing the growing number of cats and

dogs as a result. Infectious diseases are spreading at some centers because they have no choice but to keep many dogs in a single cage.

- [U.S. citizen indicted on charge of drug smuggling](#) (Asahi)

## AMBASSADOR

### **“Tennessee and Japan share a deep friendship and partnership,” says former Japanese Ambassador to U.S. Fujisaki**

The Tennessean published on Wednesday an [op-ed](#) by Ichiro Fujisaki, the president of America-Japan Society and Japan’s ambassador to the U.S. from 2008 to 2012. Fujisaki wrote in part: “The ties between Tennessee and Japan run deep. Three U.S. ambassadors to Japan have hailed from the Volunteer State: the current ambassador, William Hagerty IV, Howard Baker Jr., who served from 2001 to 2005, and Luke Wright, who served from 1906 to 1907.... Tennessee and Japan have a true friendship, and it is that friendship that brought me to the state twice as ambassador of Japan to the United States.... Those U.S. ambassadors...knew the importance of strengthening the bonds between the United States and Japan. They understood that the U.S.-Japan alliance remains the cornerstone of economic and political security in the Asia-Pacific region.... Without a doubt, the United States and Japan share a unique bond based on common values, and the connection between Tennessee and Japan is truly special....I know that together, the U.S.-Japan alliance will continue to thrive on its shared values, promoting peace, friendship and prosperity that will continue to benefit Tennessee.”

---