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The Senkaku Islands

Seeking Maritime Peace based on the Rule of Law,
not force or coercion

March, 2014

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



contents



(Photo: Tokyo Metropolitan Government)



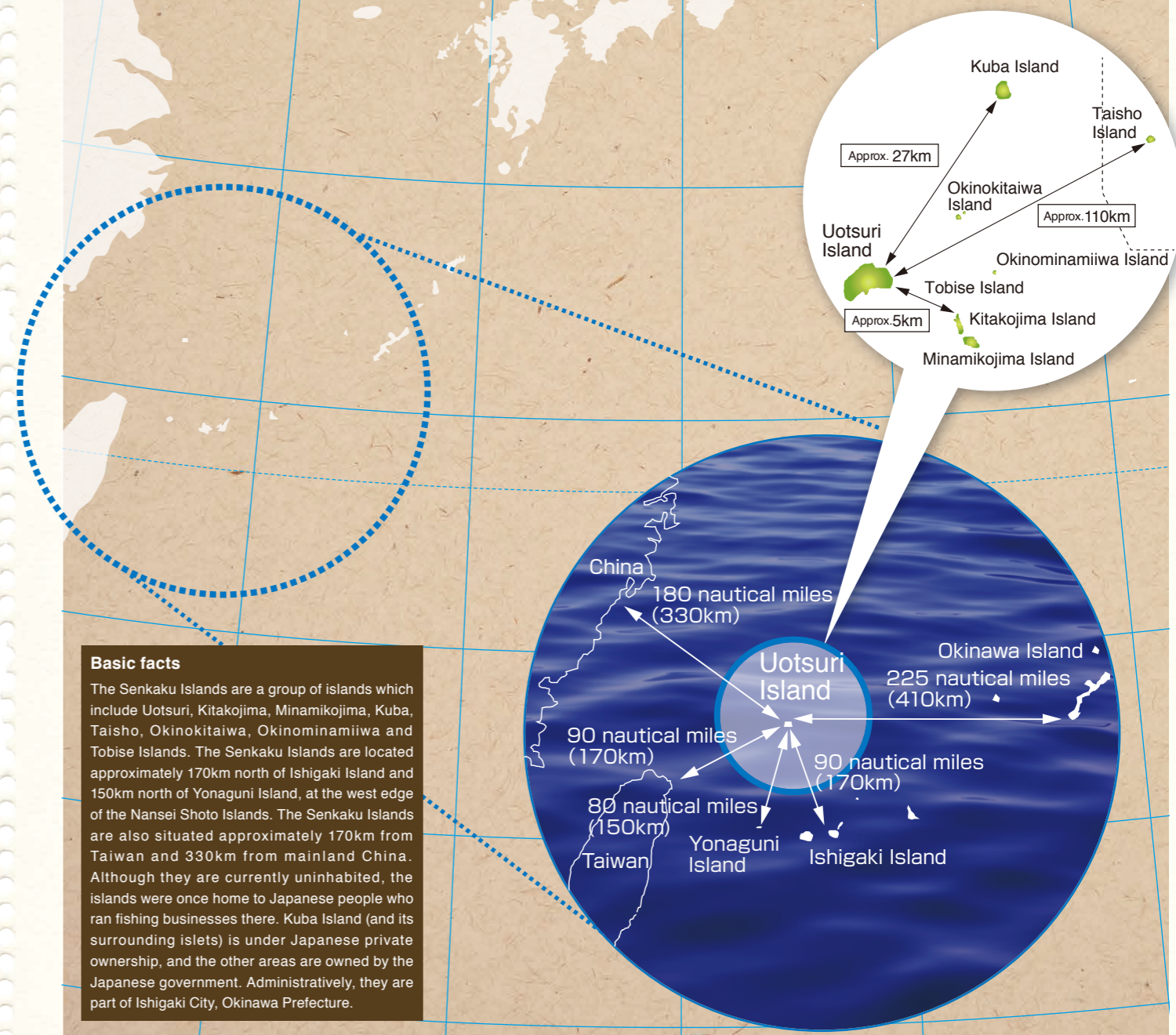
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Cover photo: Kyodo News

The Senkaku Islands

The Senkaku Islands are indisputably an inherent part of the territory of Japan in light of historical facts and based upon international law.

There exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands. Japan continues to strive for peace and stability in the region, to be established through the observance of international law.



Japan's sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands



The Senkaku Islands

Chronology of major events

- Japan has been exercising effective control over the Senkaku Islands for more than 120 years
- China began to claim sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands, escalating its assertion from the 1970s

Okinawa Prefecture launched investigation of the Senkaku Islands. At that time, Japan carefully confirmed that the Senkaku Islands were uninhabited, and not under the control of any other state.

1885

May

Letter of appreciation was sent from the consul of the Republic of China in Nagasaki, indicating that China recognized the Senkaku Islands as part of Okinawa in Japan.

1920

May

The UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) conducted a survey on coastal mineral resources. The report indicated the possibility of oil reserves existing in the East China Sea.

1969

June

The Okinawa Reversion Agreement was signed. The minutes to the agreement included reference to the area which includes the Senkaku Islands as part of the territories to be returned to Japan.

Taiwan (in June) and China (in December) officially asserted "territorial sovereignty" over the Islands for the first time in history.

1971

December

Two Chinese government ships intruded into Japan's territorial waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands.

2008

October

China established the "East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone," which stipulated "defensive emergency measures" by the Chinese Armed Forces.

2013

China began to argue and escalate unfounded claims over the Senkaku Islands

1895

January

The Senkaku Islands were incorporated into Okinawa Prefecture through a Cabinet Decision. The islands were then administered by Okinawa Prefecture.

1951

September

The San Francisco Peace Treaty was signed. The Senkaku Islands remained part of Japanese territory. The U.S. exercised its administrative rights over the Islands as part of the Nansei Shoto Islands of Japan. (Article 3)

1992

China established the "Law on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone." The law explicitly stated unfounded legal claim for the first time that the Senkaku Islands were the territory of China (which was not referred to at all in the 1958 Declaration on China's Territorial Sea).

2010

September

A Chinese fishing trawler collided with a Japan Coast Guard vessel. Following this incident, Chinese government ships intruded into the waters around the Senkaku Islands more frequently than before.

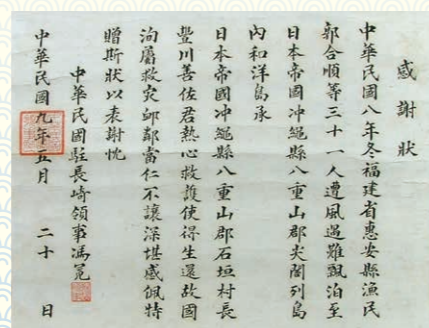
2012

September

Intrusions by Chinese government ships into Japanese territorial waters intensified, after the transfer of the ownership of the islands to the Japanese government. Anti-Japan demonstrations held in China. Aerial intrusions made in December for the first time in history.



A bonito processing factory run by Tatsushiro Koga. (Photo: Ms. Hanako Koga/the Asahi Shimbun Company)



Letter of appreciation from the consul of the Republic of China in Nagasaki, issued in May 1920, which includes a description that adds to the evidence that China recognized the Senkaku Islands as part of Okinawa Prefecture, Japan. (Yaeyama Museum, Ishigaki City, Okinawa, Japan)



The administrative rights of all of the islands within the area inside the straight lines on the map were returned to Japan in 1972 in accordance with the Okinawa Reversion Agreement. The Senkaku Islands are included in this area.



September 2010: A Chinese fishing trawler deliberately crashing into a Japanese Coast Guard patrol vessel off the Senkaku Islands. (Recorded by Japan Coast Guard)



April 23, 2013: Japan Coast Guard patrol vessels (right) on alert as they monitor a Chinese government ship (front left) that had entered Japan's territorial waters. (Photo: Asahi Shimbun Company/Jiji Press Photo, Ltd.)

Part 2 History of the Senkaku Islands



Incorporation of the islands into Japanese territory and control as part of Okinawa under international legal frameworks

● The Senkaku Islands have consistently been part of the territory of Japan, both historically and in accordance with international law. Since 1885, investigations of the Senkaku Islands had been conducted by the Government of Japan through the agencies of Okinawa Prefecture and other means.

Through these investigations, it was confirmed that the Senkaku Islands was not only uninhabited but also showed no trace of having been under the control of the Qing Dynasty (now China), or any other state. Based on this careful confirmation, the Government of Japan made a Cabinet Decision in January 14, 1895 to erect markers on the islands to formally incorporate the Senkaku Islands into the territory of Japan. This was accepted means of duly acquiring territorial sovereignty in accordance with international law.

In 1896, a Japanese entrepreneur named Tatsushiro Koga obtained permission from the Japanese government to

develop the islands, and many Japanese people moved there. Settlers ran businesses in dried bonito manufacturing, feather collecting and other activities. The islands counted more than 200 inhabitants at one point, and the government applied administrative measures such as land surveys and authorization to run businesses on the islands.

● Even during the period of the U.S. administration after World War II, the Japanese continued to be involved with the Senkaku Islands in academic research, the fishing industry and security patrols. In terms of academic research, a number of detailed field studies on the environment such as ecosystem of plants and animals have been steadily conducted by the Japanese government, Okinawa Prefecture and college researchers, including the first full-scale academic research by the University of the Ryukyus in 1953.

The Senkaku Islands as a historically-consistent territory of Japan under international law

● After the end of World War II, Japan's territory was legally defined by the San Francisco Treaty, which came into effect in 1952. In accordance with this treaty, the Senkaku Islands were not included in the territory in which Japan renounced, and placed under the administration of the United States as part of the Nansei Shoto Islands of Japan.

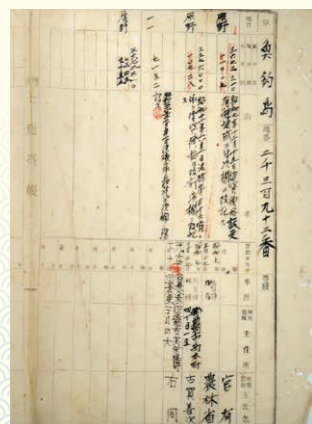
● The fact that the Senkaku Islands were part of the Nansei Shoto Islands can be recognized in the Provisions of the Government of the Ryukyu Islands in 1952, which clearly state the islands' latitudes and longitudes. Also, after the Amami Reversion Agreement was signed, Civil Administration Proclamation Number 27 of December 25, 1953, again officially identified the Senkaku Islands as part of the Nansei Shoto Islands. However, there was no protest from China whatsoever to assert that the Senkaku Islands were "part of Taiwan" at that time.

In 1972, the Okinawa Reversion Agreement was issued between Japan and the United States concerning the Ryukyu Islands and the Daito Islands. This agreement included the Senkaku Islands in the areas whose administrative rights were

reverted to Japan. These facts are solid evidence that the Senkaku Islands are part of the territory of Japan. They have been consistently treated as Japan's territory in systems of post-war order and under international law.

● In addition, it was not until in the 1970s, after potential oil reserves were identified around the Senkaku Islands, that China and Taiwan began to contest Japan's sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands, which was firmly established by international law. The claims by China and Taiwan concerning the territorial sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands were created through revisions of laws and documents, and were contradicted to attitudes of China and Taiwan themselves. There is thus no issue of the territorial sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands.

Since 1972, when the administrative rights to Okinawa, including the Senkaku Islands were returned to Japan, the Japanese government has conducted security patrols and enforcement in the seas around the Senkaku Islands, collected real estate tax from the private-owned areas and managed the state-owned areas in an appropriate manner.



① A land registration record of Uotsuri Island (1930's). This shows that the Government of Japan took administrative acts on the Senkaku Islands before the war period.



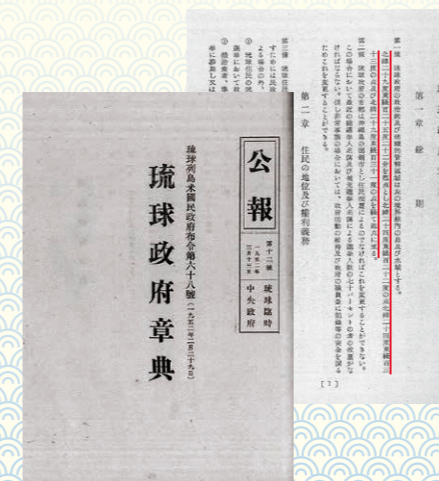
② Many Japanese settlers lived on the Senkaku Islands, founding a village called "Koga Village". (Photo: Ms. Hanako Koga/the Asahi Shimbun Company)



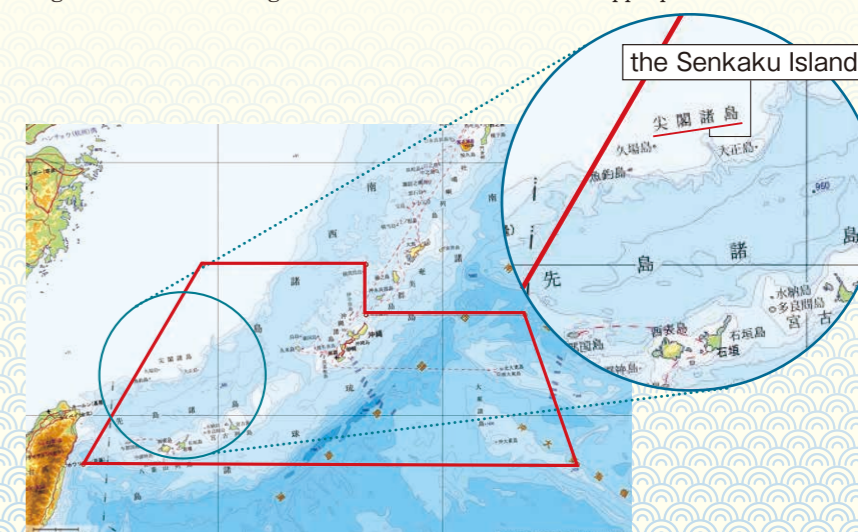
③ Research conducted by the University of the Ryukyus in 1971. The researchers found Kuroashi-Ahodori (Black-footed Albatross) on Kitakojima Island. (Photo: Mr. Kazuharu Shinjo)



④ Administrative marker built on a hill behind the former "Koga Village" on the northeast coast of Uotsurijima. There was no protest by China when the pole was built in 1969. (Photo: Yoshima Niirō)



Official Gazette announcing the Provisions of the Government of the Ryukyu Islands in 1952.



The administrative rights of all of the islands within the area inside the straight lines on the map were returned to Japan in 1972 in accordance with the Okinawa Reversion Agreement. The Senkaku Islands are included in this area.

Part 3 Challenges by China



China and Taiwan began to claim sovereignty over the islands after the discovery of the potential oil reserves in the East China Sea

● In the summer of 1968, Ryukyu authorities cracked down on illegal intrusions by Taiwanese people into the waters off the Senkaku Islands. Upon the request from the Japanese government, the United States carried out diplomatic demarche to the Taiwanese authorities of these incursions, and Taiwan stated without claiming that the Senkaku Islands are part of Taiwan, it would make efforts to ensure this did not happen again.

● In the autumn of 1968, experts from Japan, Taiwan, and the Republic of Korea conducted academic research in the East China Sea, with cooperation from the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE). The research indicated the

possibility of oil reserves in the East China Sea, attracting attention to the Senkaku Islands.

The May 1969 ECAFE report stated that: The most favorable part of the region for oil and gas is the 200,000 sq. km area mostly northeast of Taiwan. A high probability exists that the continental shelf between Taiwan and Japan may be one of the most prolific oil reservoirs in the world. A map in the report clearly described the islands as the "Senkaku Islands."

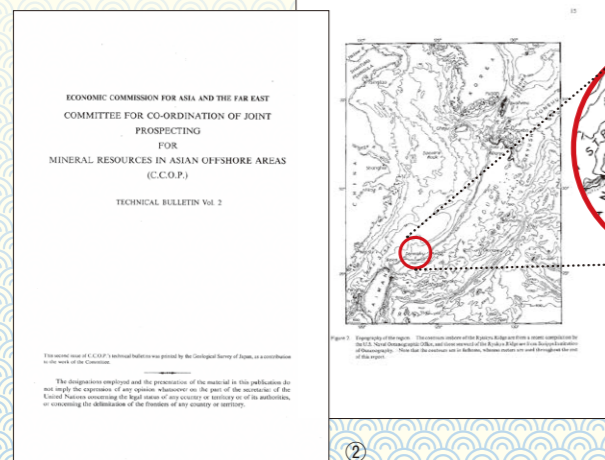
After the announcement of the study's results, China and Taiwan began to claim sovereignty over the islands for the first time. Neither state had made any claim to the Senkaku Islands whatsoever prior to this.



① Ryukyu authorities cracked down on illegal intrusions into the waters off the Senkaku Islands. (Photo: Kenji Higa)
② The "ECAFE Report" (May 1969) indicated the possible existence of oil reserves in the East China Sea. Despite the use of the name "Senkaku", no objection was made by China and Taiwan.



③ An article of Central Daily News of Taiwan, dated August 13, 1970. The islands were described as "the Senkaku Group of Islands", not "Diaoyutai".



②

● In August 1970, Taiwan began to express its interest in the Senkaku Islands, which escalated into the unfounded claims to the islands by Taiwan and China.

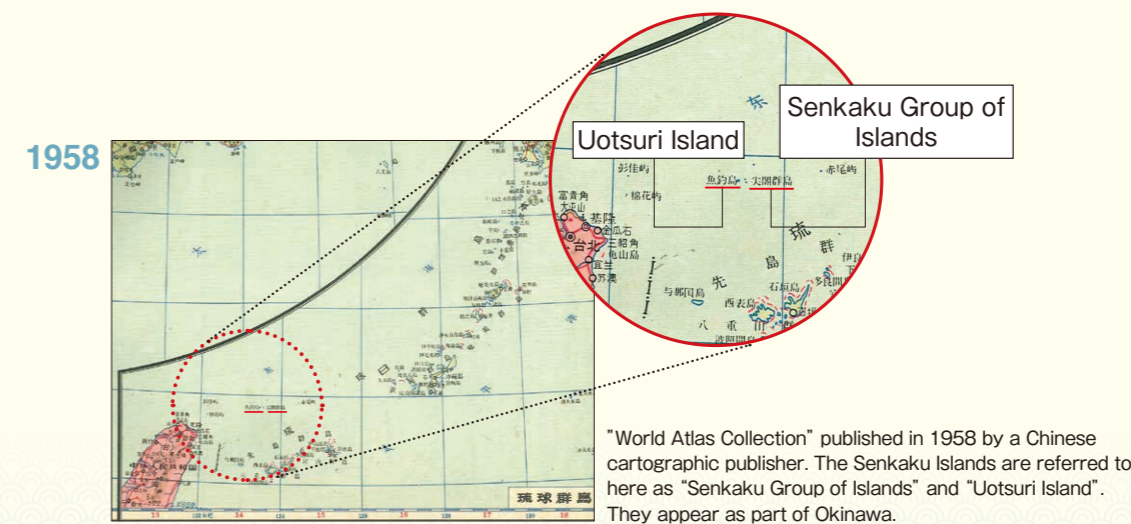
In December 1970, China's state-operated news agency, Xinhua News Agency, carried an article describing China's unfounded claims to the sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands.

Finally, sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands was officially declared by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in June 1971. Similar claims were made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in December 1971.

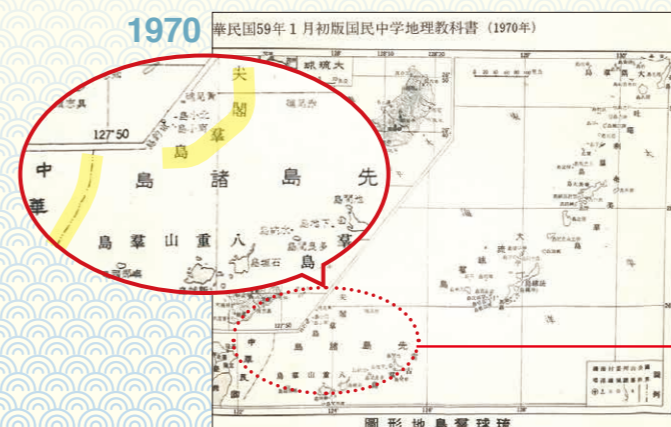
● Following this, China and Taiwan not only changed their laws and administrative areas, the countries also altered

textbooks, maps, and geographical texts to create their own claim to the sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands. However, they could not change the fact that they had never claimed sovereignty at any point in history - until the early 1970s.

During the Japan-China summit talks, which aimed for normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1972, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai mentioned the Senkaku Islands to Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, stating that "It became an issue because of the oil out there. If there wasn't oil, neither Taiwan nor the United States would make this an issue." From this, it is clear that the unilateral argument made by China was not based on international law or history, but on the potential existence of oil reserves.



"World Atlas Collection" published in 1958 by a Chinese cartographic publisher. The Senkaku Islands are referred to here as "Senkaku Group of Islands" and "Uotsuri Island". They appear as part of Okinawa.



A textbook from 1970 called the islands "the Senkaku Group of Islands". The border extends straight up north.



A textbook from 1971 changed the name of the islands to "Diaoyutai Islets". The border is curved to northeast.

Part 3 Challenges by China



The Senkaku Islands

China's maritime activities in the Asia-Pacific region and Japan's reaction

● In recent years, China has been intensifying its maritime activities in the oceans close to China, bolstered by its economic growth and expanding military force. For example, in the South China Sea, China took control of the Paracel Islands as a direct outcome of military conflict with South Vietnam in 1974. Then in 1988, China occupied Johnson South Reef in the Spratly Islands, which had been under control of Vietnam. In 1995, China occupied Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands, which was at that time controlled by the Philippines. Further, in 2009, China officially unveiled the so-called “nine-dotted line” for their claims of part of the South China Sea in a broad area for the first time without any legal grounds, and has continued to attempt to unilaterally change the status quo in the South China Sea by force or coercion ever since.

The situation surrounding the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea can be viewed as just one example of China's intensifying maritime activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

● In 1992, China enacted the “Law on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone,” decreeing by law for the first time that, in addition to the Paracel Islands and the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, the Senkaku Islands were also part of China's territory. In fact, its “Statement on China's Territorial Sea” of 1958 made no reference to the Senkaku Islands, and there was a clear change in China's position.

In December 2008, there was an incident in which two Chinese government ships suddenly intruded into the territorial waters of Japan surrounding the Senkaku Islands. The Japanese government used patrol boats from the Japan Coast Guard and diplomatic routes to deal with the situation in a resolute manner. The incident was not only an act in contravention of law, but also an indication that China had begun to challenge the status quo using force and coercion.

● Further, in September 2010, a Chinese fishing trawler in Japanese waters near the Senkaku Islands deliberately

crashed into Japanese Coast Guard patrol vessels.

And in August 2012, an illegal landing on the Senkaku Islands was made by civil activists from Hong Kong. The number of incursions by Chinese government ships into Japanese territorial waters has significantly increased since September 2012, with an average of four to five incidents each month (sometimes as frequently as seven or eight times a month).

● In December 2012, aerial intrusions by China began to occur as well. Chinese Government aircraft intruded into Japan's territorial airspace over the Senkaku Islands for the first time that month. In November 2013, China designated the airspace above the Senkaku Islands as the “East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone,” suggesting that this area was the territory of China. The Chinese government claims that any aircraft traveling through this zone must comply with the rules defined by China's Ministry of National Defense, and obliges aircraft flying in international airspace

to abide by its domestic procedures, and refers to the recourse to “defensive emergency measures” by Chinese Armed Forces in case where such aircraft does not follow the instructed procedures. This unduly infringes the freedom of flight in international airspace, which is the general principle of international law. As many flight routes of civil airplanes run across the airspace above the East China Sea, the Japanese government is deeply concerned about such measures from the viewpoint of its impact on the order and safety of civil aviation. Many other nations and regions including the United States, Australia, the Republic of Korea, and the EU have expressed the same concerns.

● Japan will act firmly and calmly to handle China's challenges concerning the Senkaku Islands, in order to maintain international order based on the rule of law, as provided by international law including the San Francisco Peace Treaty.



China's expanding influence to the East China Sea and the South China Sea.

1958

中华人民共和国政府宣布

(一) 中华人民共和国的领海宽度为12海里。这项规定适用于中华人民共和国的一切领土，包括中国大陆及其沿海岛屿，和同大陆及其沿海岛屿隔有公海的台湾及其周围各岛、澎湖列岛、东沙群岛、西沙群岛、中沙群岛、南沙群岛以及其他属于中国的岛屿。

1992

第二条 中华人民共和国领海为邻接中华人民共和国陆地领土和内水的一带海域。

中华人民共和国的陆地领土包括中华人民共和国大陆及其沿海岛屿、台湾及其包括钓鱼岛在内的附属各岛、澎湖列岛、东沙群岛、西沙群岛、中沙群岛、南沙群岛以及其他一切属于中华人民共和国的岛屿。

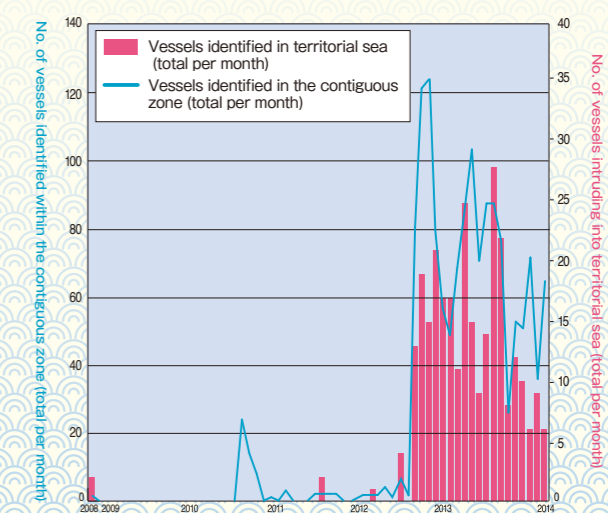
中华人民共和国领海基线向陆地一侧的水域为中华人民共和国的内水。

Comparison between the 1958 Statement on the China's Territorial Sea (above) and the 1992 Law on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone (below). Reference of the Senkaku Islands suddenly emerged in the below document.



① A Japanese Coast Guard patrol vessel monitoring a Chinese government ship. (Photo: Japan Coast Guard)
② A Japanese Coast Guard patrol vessel, “Suzuka”, monitoring around Uotsuri Island (Photo taken from a JCG patrol plane) (Photo: Jiji)
③ Crews of a Japanese Coast Guard patrol vessel “Yashima”, back from patrolling the Senkaku Island (at Yokohama marine base, on the morning of January 15, 2013). (Photo: Jiji)

The numbers of Chinese government and other vessels that entered Japan's contiguous zone or intruded into territorial sea surrounding the Senkaku Islands



Provided by Japan Coast Guard

Part 4 China and Taiwan's unfounded claims over the islands



The Senkaku Islands

Unfounded claim

1

“The Diaoyu and the islets belonging to it have been the sacred territory of China from ancient times.”

The truth

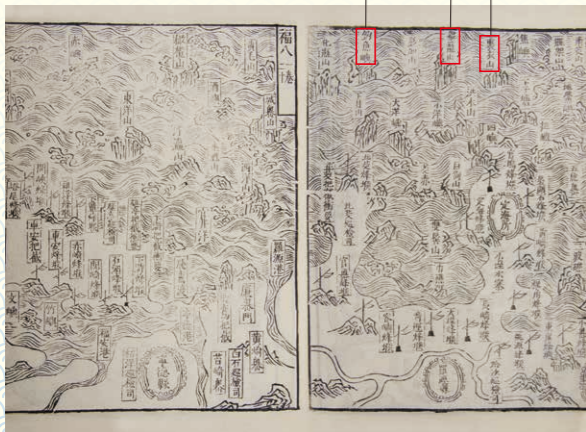
● China asserts that the Senkaku Islands have been the territory of China from ancient times. The Government of China and the Taiwan Authorities argue that China was first in the history to discover the Senkaku Islands, because there are descriptions of the Senkaku Islands in Chinese ancient documents and maps, and that the Senkaku Islands are located close to China geographically. However, it is not clear whether China really discovered the islands before other

countries. In any case, the mere discovery of an island or geographical proximity does not constitute valid basis for territorial sovereignty.

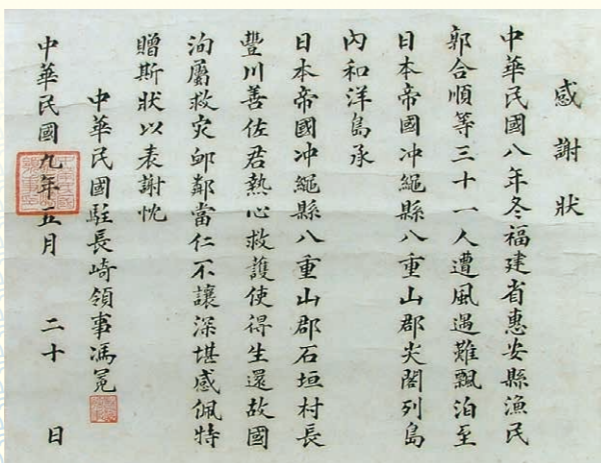
Under international law, continuous and peaceful display of sovereignty with a clear intention of possessing territory is deemed necessary for gaining territorial title. However, there is no evidence from China that the country ever had such effective control over the Senkaku Islands.

Islands which are said to be the Senkaku Islands.

Islands near Taiwan that were not incorporated at that time.



“An Illustrated Compendium on Maritime Security (Chou Hai Tu Bian).”



Letter of appreciation dated May 1920, sent from the consul of the Republic of China in Nagasaki. China recognized the Senkaku Islands as Japanese territory (Yaeyama Museum, Ishigaki City, Okinawa, Japan).

● None of the “ancient documents” China refers to can be considered grounds for sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands. For example, China argues that it demonstrated its sovereignty over the Senkaku islands, from the fact that a map in “An Illustrated Compendium on Maritime Security (Chou Hai Tu Bian)” from the 16th century shows islands which China claims are the Senkaku Islands. However, the map also depicts the islands appertaining to Taiwan, which were not incorporated to China at that period. This proves that this ancient document does not provide any support for China’s claim.

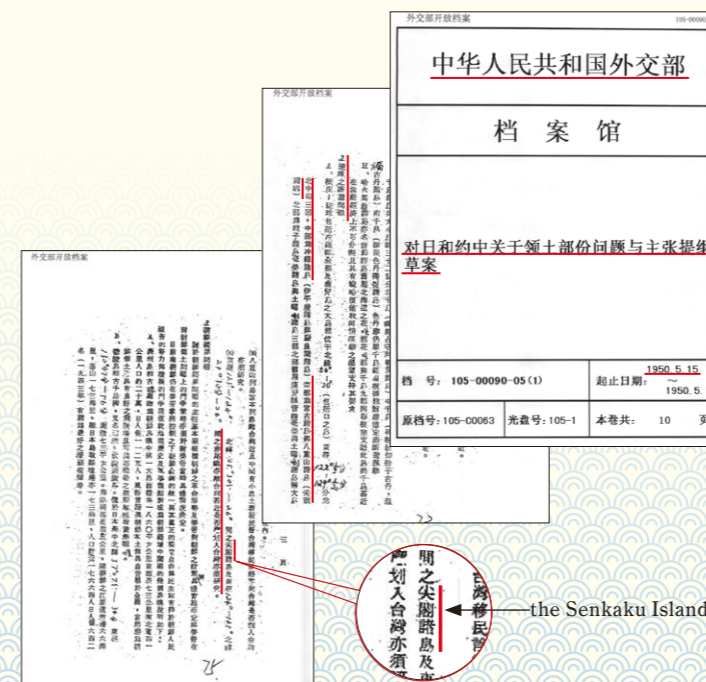
● Until the early 1970s, China consistently recognized the Senkaku Islands as part of Okinawa prefecture of Japan.

For example, a letter was sent from the consul of the Republic of China in Nagasaki to appreciate the Japanese citizens who rescued some Chinese fishermen from Fujian Province who were drifted around the Senkaku Islands in 1919. The letter clearly describes the location where they

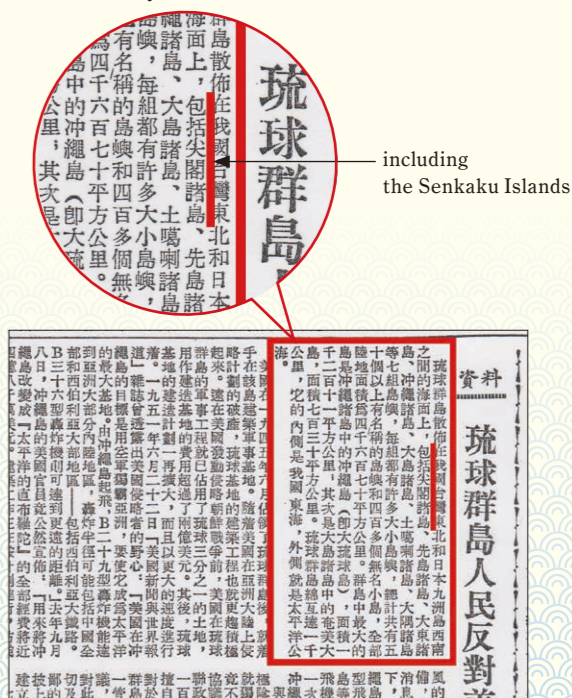
reached the shore as “the Senkaku Islands, Yaeyama District, Okinawa Prefecture, Empire of Japan.”

● Also, a record of an internal meeting on the Treaty of Peace with Japan held by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1950 refers to the Senkaku Islands as the “Senkaku Islands.” The Senkaku Islands were even mentioned in the discussion of Okinawa.

Further, from the 1950s onward, the U.S. military used part of the Senkaku Islands (Taisho Island and Kuba Island) for firing/bombing ranges while the islands were under the administration of the United States, but there is no record of China ever having protested it during that period. In addition, in 1953, an article in the People’s Daily, which is an organ of the Communist Party of China, explicitly included the Senkaku Islands among the Ryukyu Islands. This clearly demonstrates that China recognized the Senkaku Islands as Japanese territory at the time.



Record of an internal meeting held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, in 1950. The name the “Senkaku Islands” is used in the context of Okinawa, Japan. (Photo: Jiji)



An article in the People's Daily dated January 8, 1953, under the title of “Battle of People in Ryukyu Islands against U.S. Occupation,” wrote that the Ryukyu Islands consisted of seven groups of islands including the Senkaku Islands.

China and Taiwan's unfounded claims over the islands



Unfounded claim

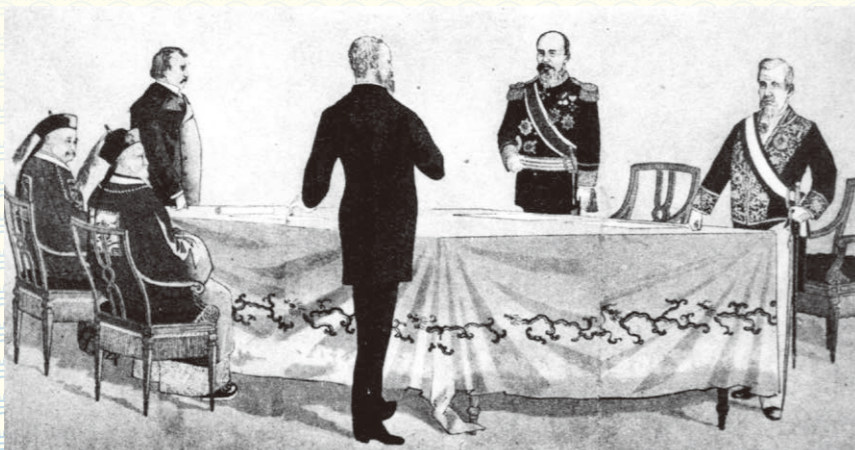
2

“Under the “Treaty of Shimonoseki” of 1895, the Senkaku Islands were ceded to Japan as part of Taiwan.”

The truth

- The Senkaku Islands were not controlled by China in 1895. China could not cede the area which was not under its control.
- Although the Treaty of Shimonoseki does not define the geographical limits of the island of Formosa and “the islands appertaining or belonging to Formosa” ceded to Japan by the Qing Dynasty of China, it is clear from the negotiation records that the Senkaku Islands were not included in the island of Formosa and “the islands appertaining or belonging to it.”
- Even before the Sino-Japanese War, from 1885 when Japan first began investigations about the Senkaku Islands, Japan had undertaken preparation to formally incorporate the

Senkaku Islands into the territory of Japan having carefully ascertained that no state including the Qing Dynasty of China had control over the Islands. Following the Cabinet Decision in January 1895, which was made before the conclusion of the Treaty of Shimonoseki, the Government of Japan incorporated the Senkaku Islands into Okinawa Prefecture and consistently treated the Islands as part of Okinawa Prefecture. The islands had never been an area under the jurisdiction of the Governor-General of Taiwan which was ceded to Japan after the Sino-Japanese War. As explained above, China recognized the Senkaku Islands as part of Okinawa, and did not consider them part of Taiwan.



April 17, 1895: Signing of the Treaty of Shimonoseki. (Image: Aflo)

Unfounded claim

3

“The Senkaku Islands were reverted to China as islands appertaining to Taiwan, based on the Cairo Declaration of 1943 and the Potsdam Declaration of 1945.”

The truth

- After World War II and until the early 1970s, China and Taiwan never once expressed a claim to the Senkaku Islands as “the islands appertaining or belonging to Formosa” to be reverted under the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Declaration. This shows that there are no grounds to support the above claim, which was made in retrospect.
- Further, there is no description regarding the transfer of the territorial sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands in the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Declaration. Besides,

they were political documents that stipulated the basic post-war settlement policy of the Allied Powers, and ultimate disposition of territory as a result of war is based on international agreements such as peace treaties, not political documents like these declarations.

- After the conclusion of World War II, it was the San Francisco Peace Treaty that legally dealt with the territory of Japan. Details about the treatment of the Senkaku Islands under the San Francisco Treaty can be found in Part 2.



Potsdam Conference. (Photo: Mainichi Shimbun)



Cairo Conference. (Photo: Yomiuri Shimbun)

Strengthening Japan and China's Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests



The development of the Japan-China relationship

● Through the Japan-China Joint Statement announced in September 1972, the Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed in August 1978, and the Japan-China Joint Declaration announced in November 1998, Japan-China relations have been securely developed over the years, creating a strong political foundation for shaping the future of our two nations.

In the belief that China's development as a responsible member of the international community would benefit the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, Japan has actively provided support for reform and developmental policies in China and for maintenance of key infrastructure which is essential for economic development, such as supplying ODA (Official Development Assistance) of more than 3.5 trillion yen. In addition, Japan has provided support in other areas such as education, medical care, and poverty

alleviation. In terms of grassroots activities, Japan has assisted poor communities in many regions of China in building schools and hospitals, and improving water supply systems.

● The economic relationship between Japan and China has greatly expanded, particularly because of the active support Japan provided to help China become a WTO (World Trade Organization) member. In 2013, the total trade value between Japan and China amounted to approximately 312 billion dollars. China is Japan's biggest trading partner.

Although there are still issues to be resolved between the two countries, such as concerns about food safety, it could be said that Japan and China have a mutually dependent economic relationship which will never be severed.

● In 1972, when diplomatic relations between Japan and China were normalized, the number of people travelling between the two countries that year was a mere 10,000. But now, 40 years later, the figure has dramatically increased and amounts to 5 million per year. There is a much greater amount of economic and cultural exchange, and the number of business people and exchange students spending time in both countries is also increasing.

● In May 2008, Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda invited Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, to a meeting in Japan. The two leaders reached a common understanding on various points related to the comprehensive promotion of "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests" and issued a joint statement.

The statement included expressions that affirmed Japan and

China's partnership, such as, "the two sides recognized that they are partners who cooperate together and are not threats to each other. The two sides again stated that they would support each other's peaceful development, and they shared the conviction that Japan and China, that uphold the course to peaceful development, would bring great opportunities and benefits to Asia and the world."

● Japan continues to place great importance on the Japan-China relationship. It is one of the most important bilateral relationships for Japan. The stable development of Japan-China relations will benefit not only the peoples of both countries, but also the international community. Japan will continue to promote the "Mutually Beneficial Strategic Relationship" with China from this broad perspective.



①



②



③

- ① September 29, 1972: Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka (second from left) and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai (center) sign the Japan-China Joint Statement. (Photo: Jiji Press Ltd.)
- ② Huanghua Port Construction Project. (Photo: JICA)
- ③ Xi'an Xianyang International Airport Terminal Expansion Project. (Photo: JICA)



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- ④ 2008: Japan's international search and rescue team providing assistance after the Sichuan earthquake. (Photo: Jiji Press Ltd.)
- ⑤ 2011: China's search and rescue team providing assistance after the Great East Japan Earthquake, in Oofunao, Iwate Prefecture. (Photo: Photoshot / aflo)
- ⑥ 2007: the First Japan-China High-Level Economic Dialogue held in Beijing, China.

Strengthening Japan and China's Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interests



Necessity of the cooperative relationship in the Asia-Pacific region

● In recent years, there has been a growing level of economic interdependence between countries in the East-Asian region, and a feeling of unity has steadily spread throughout the region based on common historical and cultural experiences. This has prompted the establishment of various mechanisms for regional cooperation.

In December 2008, Japan hosted the first Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit, held in Fukuoka Prefecture. This was the first Trilateral Summit held in Japan independently from other international conferences, and the three nations agreed to take turns hosting the subsequent summits. There have been five Trilateral Summits to date. With their geographic proximity and strong historical ties, plus the fact that the three nations account for one fifth of the world's economy, the relationship between Japan, China and the Republic of Korea is likely to undergo further development in the future.

The ASEAN+3 (Japan, China, ROK) summit meetings formed as a direct result of the Asian Currency Crisis have provided opportunities to promote working-level cooperation in finance, food safety assurance, education, tourism, and many other industries. At the 16th summit in October 2013, the countries reflected on the outcomes of their cooperation, and adopted a Revised APT Cooperation Work Plan with specific details for cooperation to be implemented in the future.

Further, with the objective of providing a forum for discussions of important issues faced by the East-Asian region and the global community, and to allow leaders to develop cooperation on regional common issues, the East Asian Summit (EAS) was established with membership from the 10 ASEAN states and Japan, China, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India, making a total of 16 members. Today, the EAS is used as a forum to allow heads

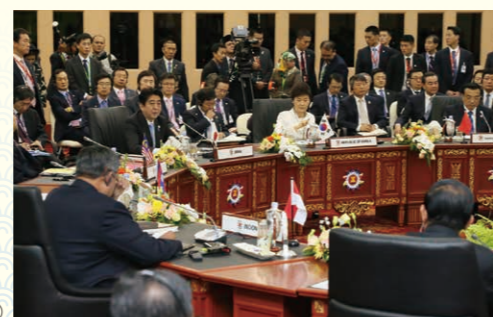
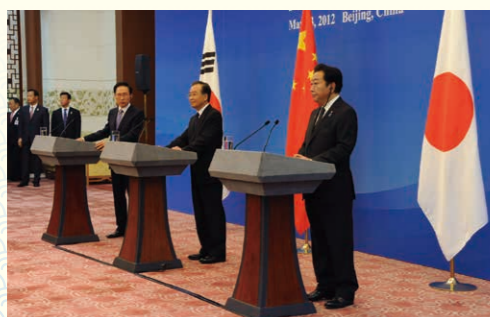
of state to discuss political and security issues to promote significant development, and to encourage practical cooperation in fields such as environment, energy, education, and youth exchange.

● At the EAS held in January 2007, a new initiative was announced that would invite approximately 6,000 youths mainly from EAS member countries (ASEAN, China, Republic of Korea, India, Australia, and New Zealand) to Japan each year for five years, for a large-scale youth exchange totaling 35 billion yen. Based on this announcement, the Japanese government launched the "21st Century Exchange Programme JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths)," and each member country and its government bodies cooperated to implement international exchange activities including receiving and sending students under the programme until 2012.

In January 2013, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, during his

visit to Indonesia, announced that a successive JENESYS programme would be implemented for 30,000 junior high, senior high, and university students from Japan, China, and other nations in the Asia-Pacific, in order to further promote exchange between the young people who will shape our future, and to encourage mutual understanding. The project was named "JENESYS 2.0," and aims to revitalize the Japanese economy by promoting potential interests towards Japan, increasing visitors to Japan, and at the same time, promoting global understanding on Japan's strengths and attractions as well as Japanese values.

● No matter what challenges may present themselves, Japan will continue to develop its relations with China and other related countries from a broad perspective, as a nation which plays an important role in maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the international community.



① May 13, 2012: the 5th Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit held in Beijing, China. (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)
② October 10, 2013: the 16th ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)
③ October 10, 2013: the 8th East Asia Summit held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



④ School exchange with students at Tokyo Visual Arts. (Photo: JICE)
⑤ Students experiencing kendo practice at a school in Hyogo Prefecture. (Photo: JICE)
⑥ Students experiencing observational and hands-on learning in the hot springs town of Kusatsu, Gunma Prefecture. (Photo: JOCA)

