



The Weekly Observer

Jan. 2-6

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Nishimura-Raimondo Meeting

On Thursday, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Nishimura Yasutoshi met with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo in Washington.

The two discussed the importance of working together to **promote and protect critical and emerging technologies**, including through R&D and **export controls**, as to support technological competitiveness and to address shared interests.

Executives from **IBM** and **Rapidus** joined the meeting to share an overview of their semiconductor R&D collaboration.

PM's New Year Speech

In his New Year address on Sunday, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio said that he aims to

overcome this difficult age to usher in a new era for Japan.

He identified 2023 as the year to address "**issues for which responses cannot be delayed**," including **reviving the economy** and taking on the unprecedented challenge of a **declining birth rate**.

Japan and the U.S. to Establish a Taskforce on Human Rights

Japan and the United States plan to establish a **taskforce** regarding the **removal and prevention of human rights violations within supply chains**.

METI Minister Nishimura and USTR Katherine Tai will sign an MoU soon. **METI, MOFA, USTR, DHS, and Commerce** will take part in the taskforce. It aims to **inform firms** about policies and legislation regarding human rights in supply chains.

Cabinet Approval



-% (-)

-% (-)

COVID-19 Cases (NHK, Jan. 6)

Total Cases: 30.04 million

Total Deaths: 58,952

Daily (Japan): 245,542 (+158,618)

7-Day Ave.: 133,867 (-13,505)
(0.80x from last week)

Deaths: 456 (+209)

Daily (Tokyo): 20,720 (+11,534)

7-Day Ave.: 12,793 (-2,065)
(0.76x from last week)

Vaccination Progress (Jan. 6)

First dose: 81.4%

Second dose: 80.4%

Third dose: 67.7%

Omicron dose: 36.2% (+1.2%)