



The Weekly Observer

July 17-21

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

PM Concludes Middle East Tour

Prime Minister Kishida Fumio visited **Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar** from July 16-18. The focus of the trip was confirming cooperation in various fields including **energy and decarbonization**.

In Saudi Arabia, the two sides agreed to **promote multifaceted cooperation** in areas like key mineral refinement. They also launched the **Lighthouse Initiative** to bring firms together to pursue clean energy projects.

In the UAE, the two sides launched an **Innovation Partnership**, which includes a new scheme for energy security and a framework to discuss **semiconductor and battery plant investment in Japan**.

In Qatar, the two sides agreed to **upgrade bilateral relations to a strategic partnership**.

Japan and India to Deepen Industrial Cooperation

On Thursday, METI Minister **Nishimura Yasutoshi** announced the **"Japan-India Industrial Co-Creation Initiative"** in Delhi, India.

The initiative aims to **deepen bilateral engagements** by jointly creating future industries through innovation, evolving existing industries, and developing new markets in Africa and other regions. Nishimura also announced the establishment of the **Industrial Cooperation Organization** for coordination.

Nishimura also held bilateral talks with related ministers and signed a **MOC to strengthen semiconductor supply chains** with the aim of reinforcing economic security. He said that chips are a good example of **essential collaboration between the two countries**.

Cabinet Approval



37% (-5 pts.)

50% (+4 pts.)

Asahi Shimbun (July 17)

State of the Economy

Economic Outlook (2023): 1.3% (-0.2 pts. from last assessment)

Trade Statistics (Jan.-June 2023): ¥6.96 trillion

Trade Statistics (June): ¥43 billion surplus
23rd straight month in surplus

CPI (June): 105 (+3.3%)
Remains above BOJ's 2% inflation target and overtakes U.S. CPI currently at 3%