



# The Weekly Observer

August 7-11

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

## Ex-PM Aso Visits Taiwan

LDP Vice President and former Prime Minister Aso Taro traveled to Taiwan from August 7-9, becoming the **highest-ranked ruling party official to visit** since Japan and Taiwan severed diplomatic ties in 1972.

Aso met with **President Tsai Ing-wen** and **Vice President Lai Ching-te**, the ruling party's presidential candidate. He told Tsai that Japan and Taiwan should continue to assist each other when necessary.

Aso also delivered a speech, stating that the **Taiwan Strait is "gradually tilting toward a time of emergency,"** and that Japan, Taiwan, the United States, and other like-minded nations must show a **"determination to fight"** to deter war.

## Japan Marks Anniversary of A-bomb Droppings

Japan marked the **78<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the U.S. atomic bombing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Kishida attended the memorial ceremony in Hiroshima and reiterated that **Japan will continue striving for a "world without nuclear weapons."**

**Hiroshima Mayor Matsui Kazumi** and **Nagasaki Mayor Suzuki Shiro** both urged the **abolition of nuclear weapons**. Matsui said that the world must confront the reality that nuclear threats today reveal the **"folly of nuclear deterrence theory."**

## GOJ to Complete My Number Review in November

On Tuesday, Kishida instructed the Cabinet to **complete the comprehensive My Number system review by the end of November**. The interim review showed **1,069 errors** in data linkage.

## Cabinet Approval



**37%** (-4 pts.)

**59%** (+2 pts.)

JNN (August 7)

## State of the Economy

### Economy Watchers Survey (July):

54.4 (+0.8 pt.)

Economy recovering at "moderate pace"

### Current Account Balance (Jan.-June):

¥8.13 trillion (+1.1%)

### CGPI (July):

119.3 (+3.6%)

Rate of increase down 0.7 pt.

### Real Wages (June):

-1.6% (5<sup>th</sup> straight month)