

## ***The Weekly Observer***

April 28-May 2, 2025

*The 170<sup>th</sup> edition of the weekly newsletter aggregating news on Japanese politics. This week focuses on the second round of Japan-U.S. tariff talks, Ishiba's diplomatic travel to Southeast Asia, lawmaker visits during Golden Week, Foreign Minister Iwaya's diplomatic travel during Golden Week, Defense Minister Nakatani's discussions on shipbuilding with U.S. Navy Secretary John Phelan, Constitution Memorial Day, discussions over an inflation relief package, Ishiba's participation in RENGO's May Day convention, the BOJ's decision to maintain policy interest rates, the Japan-U.K. quantum memorandum, plans to expand the Chiang Mai Initiative, the impact of yen appreciation on corporate current earnings, and more.*

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## **I. News of the Week**

### **1. Second Round of Japan-U.S. Tariff Talks Held**

- On Thursday U.S. time, Japan's chief tariff negotiator Akazawa Ryosei [met](#) with U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent, Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer for the second round of tariff negotiations in Washington, D.C.
- Akazawa reiterated that the tariffs are “extremely regrettable” and strongly urged a reconsideration of the series of measures. He once again emphasized the important contributions Japan has made to the U.S. economy.
- The two governments [agreed](#) on the following points:
  - Both sides engaged in consultations in a candid and constructive manner and made progress towards reaching an agreement at an earliest possible opportunity;
  - Both sides deepened discussions including on expanding trade between the two countries, non-tariff measures, and economic security, as examples; and
  - After having intensive consultations at the working level, both sides will coordinate towards holding the next ministerial-level consultations from mid-May onwards to have intensive discussions.
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) that the U.S. side proposed a deal framework around its reciprocal tariffs and Japan lowering non-tariff barriers around auto and expanding imports of U.S. agricultural products. The GOJ reportedly refused to move forward without a commitment from the U.S. side to remove all tariffs, not just reciprocal tariffs.
  - The next working level meeting is expected to take place on May 2, with Akazawa [stating](#) that the next ministerial meeting will take place in the second half of this month.
  - They are [reportedly aiming](#) to strike a deal on the framework by the G7 Summit in Canada next month. The GOJ looks to finalize everything before the July 9 deadline for the ninety day suspension and before the Upper House election.
  - Minister of Finance Kato Katsunobu [said](#) on a TV program on Friday that the GOJ could use its U.S. Treasury bonds (Japan is the largest holder) as a negotiating chip in negotiations with the United States.
- Prior to the meeting, the GOJ had [reportedly considered](#) measures to address U.S. concerns, including raising the ceiling on preferential handling procedure system (PHP) for imported cars from under five thousand a year (raised from two thousand

- as a result of pre-TPP negotiations). The GOJ also [considered](#) lowering safety inspection standards to meet U.S. standards, though it maintains that Japanese standards are consistent with internationally recognized standards.
- The discussions came after U.S. President Donald J. Trump [announced](#) a partial tariff exemption for auto parts used in the manufacturing of U.S. vehicles. The measure will be in place for two years and designed to move manufacturing to the United States.
  - Trump also [said](#) during his one hundred day rally event in Michigan the same day that, “We have many Honda's coming in, and they're coming in. let them build their cars here. We don't want to build them in Japan. We love Japan.”
  - On Friday, Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru spoke with Akazawa and [commented](#) that while there were deep, constructive talks, Japan and the United States have not found a point of agreement yet. On the possible June agreement, Ishiba said that the GOJ has no plans to sacrifice national interest for a speedy deal.
    - Ishiba [said](#) on a TV program that Japan “absolutely cannot accept” the additional 25 percent auto tariffs, adding that while Japan will make efforts to reduce its trade surplus with the United States, this will not happen at the expense of employment in the country.
    - Akazawa [told](#) reporters upon his return to Japan that the GOJ cannot accept a negotiated deal without the reconsideration of all tariff measures, including the auto and steel and aluminum tariffs that the U.S. side reportedly is not considering as part of any deal.
    - Main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) leader Noda Yoshihiko [said](#) that while it is important to want a deal as soon as possible, the Japanese side “should not reveal its hand too quickly and negotiate in a way that makes us lose our footing in the negotiations.”
  - The Nikkei Stock Average [rose](#) ¥378.39 to ¥36,830.69, largely led by rising U.S. stock prices and the weakening yen, even rising over ¥500 and creeping closer to a milestone of ¥37,000. Investors were reassured by the lack of interest in currency during the tariff negotiations that the yen will continue to depreciate.
    - A *Nikkei* poll of domestic auto parts manufacturers [found](#) that around 70 percent of firms feel the cost of U.S. tariffs, of which 55 percent are considering passing prices onto consumers to cushion rising costs.

- Toyota, Honda, Mazda, and Subaru [announced](#) their respective sales in the United States in April, a collective increase by 11.8 percent from April 2024 to 464,372 vehicles, as consumers look to buy amid the auto tariffs taking effect.

## 2. Ishiba Heads to Southeast Asia

- Ishiba [traveled](#) to Vietnam and the Philippines from April 27-30 to discuss security cooperation in light of shared challenges in the region.
- In Vietnam, he met with Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, President Luong Cuong, President of the National Assembly Tran Thanh Man, and General Secretary To Lam. With Chinh, he [discussed](#) the impact of the U.S. tariffs and China's retaliatory actions on the global economy and the multilateral trading system. The two also agreed to set up a vice ministerial foreign and defense policy dialogue (2+2).
- The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade [signed](#) a memorandum of cooperation on the promotion of bilateral cooperation projects for energy transitions, reaffirming the Asia Zero Emissions Community (AZEC) principles and joint projects in decarbonization.
- In the Philippines, Ishiba [met](#) with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who stated that the relationship between the two countries "are now in a golden age." The two agreed to commence negotiations on an Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) to reinforce operational security cooperation, as well as to promote cooperation in the areas of official security assistance and defense equipment and technology.
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Tuesday that Japan and the Philippines will hold the first trilateral coast guard exercises with the United States off Japanese coasts off of Kagoshima. During his visit, Ishiba visited the Philippines Coast Guard.
- On Wednesday, Ishiba [met](#) with representatives of Japanese companies in the Philippines in industries like precision instruments and electronic components to discuss the impact of the U.S. tariffs on business activities. He also [laid](#) a wreath at a cenotaph for the Japanese war dead in the outskirts of Manila.

## 3. Lawmakers Travel During Golden Week

- During this year's Golden Week holidays, Diet members [traveled](#) across the world, mainly in Asia and North America. The locations reflect each individual's priority areas and possible rekindling of support from domestic voter bases.
- LDP Secretary General Moriyama Hiroshi [led](#) a delegation of the Japan-China Parliamentarians' Friendship Union to Beijing, where the group met with Zhao Leji,

chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, on Tuesday. Moriyama urged for the new lease of pandas, the swift resumption of seafood imports, and [voiced](#) concerns about China's rare earths export control measures.

- Former Komeito chief representative Yamaguchi Natsuo [met](#) with Liu Jianchao, head of the Chinese Communist Party's International Department, on Wednesday, in which Yamaguchi emphasized the importance of party-to-party dialogue and engagements in areas like education, culture, and sports.
- LDP policy chief Onodera Itsunori, Rep. Koizumi Shinjiro, C. Onoda Kimi, and CDP lawmaker Genba Koichiro [attended](#) an event in Washington, D.C., on Monday to discuss Japan-U.S. relations amid the tariff negotiations. Onodera urged for a swift agreement in order to focus on security cooperation.
- Ex-Economic Security Minister Takaichi Sanae [met](#) with Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te in Taipei, where she stated that both sides must continue to boldly pursue cooperation in areas like security including economic security and democracy promotion. She [added](#) that both sides should cooperate on security as one country cannot protect itself in this day and age.
- The LDP Youth Division [visited](#) Taiwan from April 29-May 3, meeting Lai and Joseph Wu Jaushieh, secretary-general of the National Security Council, discussing economic security cooperation in the context of sea lane security.

#### 4. Foreign Policy Developments

- On Friday, Ishiba [held](#) a summit telephone talk with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, discussing a wide range of economic issues like the impact of the U.S. tariffs on the global economy and multilateral trade system. Ishiba also said that LNG Canada is an important project for energy security.
- Minister for Foreign Affairs Iwaya Takeshi [met](#) with French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot during his visit to France, reaffirming the shared recognition that the security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific is inseparable and confirmed close cooperation on the situation in Ukraine and in East Asia including North Korea.
- On Thursday, Iwaya [met](#) with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, sharing the view about the necessity of the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the improvement of the critical humanitarian situation in Gaza. They agreed to continue diplomatic efforts to achieve a two-state solution and to strengthen bilateral coordination.

- On Wednesday, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Funakoshi Takehiro [met](#) with U.S. Ambassador-Designate George Glass to convey the GOJ's position following the indictment of a U.S. military servicemember for sexual assault in Okinawa in March 2025. He strongly urged the U.S. to strengthen discipline and prevent recurrence.
- On Monday Iwaya [delivered](#) a statement at the General Debate of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference, stating how engaging in sincere dialogue and constructive discussion can create wisdom, even in an increasingly divided world, to fulfill responsibilities to find common ground and maintain the NPT architecture, the only universal framework for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and to advance toward a world without nuclear weapons.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) [issued](#) a statement on April 25 urging South Korea to immediately take appropriate measures to remedy the status of its breaches of international law, following a district court decision in favor of a bereaved family of a former comfort woman against the GOJ to pay compensation and denying the application of the principle of State immunity under international law.

#### 5. Defense/Security Developments

- On Friday, the Ministry of Defense (MOD) [announced](#) that Minister of Defense Nakatani Gen will travel to Sri Lanka and India from May 3-6 to discuss maritime security and defense equipment and technology cooperation.
- On Monday, Nakatani [met](#) with U.S. Navy Secretary John Phelan, agreeing to closely coordinate on the promotion of defense industrial cooperation, including the joint maintenance and development of U.S. naval warships in Japan.
- Phelan [told](#) *Nikkei Asia* that it was a “no brainer” to choose Japan and South Korea as his first foreign destinations considering the centrality of shipbuilding to his mission. He said that the U.S. and Japan could “try to build (joint operation) into both our commercial and military shipbuilding,” as China continues to outstrip the United States in shipbuilding capacity.
- Nakatani [met](#) with U.S. Ambassador-Designate Glass, agreeing to further strengthen the alliance by enhancing deterrence and response capabilities through the improvement of command and control and joint training exercises.
- On Saturday, the JASDF [held](#) a ceremony marking the deployment of three U.S. made F-35A stealth fighter jets to JASDF Komatsu Air Base in Ishikawa starting April, the first time F-35As have been deployed on the Sea of Japan side of the country (Aomori's Misawa Air Base only). There are plans to continue strengthening air defense in the area with F-35B deployment to Nyutabaru Air Base in Miyazaki.

6. Momentum for Constitutional Revision Wanes Under Minority Rule

- May 3 marked the seventy-eighth anniversary since the promulgation of the Japanese Constitution. Discussions have become [normalized](#) in the Diet as an opposition-led Commission on the Constitution is more willing to talk specifics.
- However, the differences between the pro-amendment and pro-constitution forces remain stark, with the pro-amendment forces no longer holding the necessary supermajority in the Lower House to trigger the amendment process.
- According to the latest NHK poll, 39 percent of respondents [support](#) amending the Constitution, while 17 percent see no need to do it. The support rate has steadily gone up several percentage points since 2018. A majority of respondents who said “yes” believe the changing security environment warrants amendments.
- Ishiba [delivered](#) a video message at a pro-amendment forum, pointing out that the Constitution has never been amended in its history and that “we need to review it decisively, discuss it, and leave it to the judgment of the sovereign peoples.” He [pointed out](#) that the emergency situations clause and inserting the JSDF into the language of Article Nine will be the top priorities.
- Among the major parties, the LDP, Ishin, and Democratic Party for the People (DPFP) [issued](#) statements supporting the amending of the Constitution, while the CDP, Komeito, Japan Communist Party (JCP), and *Reiwa Shinsengumi* opposed or advocated for careful discussions on the matter.

7. Political Parties Continue to Debate Inflation Relief Package

- Political party leaders [commented](#) this week on inflation relief measures, with Ishiba questioning on Wednesday whether the CDP’s proposed temporary consumption tax cut would truly benefit low-income earners. He added that the administrative burden of changing the taxation system could outweigh the benefits.
- Komeito Chief Representative Saito Tetsuo [said](#) Saturday that he hopes to craft an economic package in July to include in the Upper House campaign manifesto. He [indicated](#) that a consumption tax cut is one option to consider.
- On Wednesday, Komeito Secretary General Nishida Makoto [indicated](#) that the LDP and Komeito agree on the need to formulate an economic package in response to soaring prices and U.S. tariffs. Ishiba seemingly contradicted this statement, [suggesting](#) that there are no plans at the moment to formulate a package.



- CDP leader Noda [indicated](#) Tuesday that his party plans to submit legislation as early as the next extraordinary Diet session to lower the consumption tax temporarily to zero percent for one year on food items.
- Noda [indicated](#) that funding for the consumption tax cut could come from raising the progressive income tax rate, pointing out that some millionaires need to be taxed more to finance the campaign pledge.
- DPFP leader Tamaki Yuichiro [said](#) Sunday that the “effects (of the consumption tax) are not that big,” pointing out that the political capital expended to revise the consumption tax law would be greater than the economic effects of the tax cut, which would be around ¥20,000 per year per person.

#### 8. Other Political Developments

- On Friday, Noda [said](#) at a press conference that “while it’s good to say do it, are they willing to completely support it,” speaking about other opposition parties demanding that the main opposition party submit a no-confidence motion against the Cabinet.
- On Wednesday, the CDP [submitted](#) legislation to the Lower House to revise the civil code, in an effort to introduce separate surnames for married couples. The proposal allows married couples to choose their surnames and for their children to take the surname determined at the time of marriage if parents choose separate surnames. *Mainichi* [reported](#) that the DPFP will submit separate legislation soon.
- On Sunday, Ishiba [attended](#) the Japanese Trade Union Confederation’s (RENGO) annual May Day convention, [stating](#) that the tariffs could have a “major impact on domestic industry” and that the GOJ will “strongly appeal to the U.S. to review the measures to ensure that the momentum for wage increases is not dampened.”
- This is the third consecutive year a sitting prime minister has attended the event, with both Ishiba and RENGO President Yoshino Tomoko agreeing to coordinate toward raising the average wage rate in the country.
- Noda [hinted](#) that the situation will not end with a no-confidence motion against the welfare minister if the GOJ fails to submit legislation to reform the pension system. The LDP has communicated that a bill will be submitted by the end of the month.

#### 9. Bank of Japan Maintains Interest Rates, Lowers Growth Outlook

- On Thursday, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) [decided](#) to maintain the guidance target for next-day uncollateralized call rates (policy rate) at 0.5 percent, the [second consecutive meeting](#) that the interest rate was kept as is.

- Meanwhile, the BOJ [revised downward](#) real GDP growth rate in FY 2025 and FY 2026 from 1.1 percent to 0.5 percent, and 1 percent to 0.7 percent, respectively, from January 2025. The Bank took into account the impact of U.S. tariff measures and the current price and economic outlook.
- The rate of increase of the consumer price index (CPI) excluding fresh food items was also revised downward for three years (2025-2027) from 2.4 percent to 2.2 percent, 2 percent to 1.7 percent, and 1.9 percent in 2027.
- The Bank assessed that there is particular risk with how “extremely uncertain” trade and other policies in each jurisdiction will evolve and how overseas economic activity and prices will react to them.
- BOJ Governor Ueda Kazuo [explained](#) that there remains uncertainty over how the U.S. tariff situation will play out and that was why the Bank lowered its economic assessment. The BOJ’s report suggested that it would continue to raise the policy interest rate and adjust the degree of monetary accommodation according to whether the outlook for economic activity and prices will be realized.

#### 10. Economic Security and Tech Developments

- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Friday that Japan has been late to the game of attracting researchers from the United States amid budget cuts at educational institutions, with government-affiliated institutions noting concern over the Trump Administration’s reaction to taking away researchers from the country. Only Hokkaido University has made preliminary moves to create space to bring in U.S. researchers.
- On Thursday, Seven & i Holdings [announced](#) that it signed a non-disclosure agreement with Canadian supermarket operator Alimentation Couche-Tard, with the latter agreeing not to proceed with a hostile takeover. Seven & i still aims for growth of the business independently, meaning discussions will continue over a potential merger and acquisitions deal.
- On Wednesday, Minister in charge of Economic Security Kiuchi Minoru [met](#) with European Commissioner for Trade Maroš Šefčovič, agreeing to discuss cooperation in areas like diversification of critical minerals supply chains important to electric vehicle manufacturing.
- On Monday, Kiuchi and U.K. Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation Patrick Vallance [signed](#) a memorandum of cooperation on R&D in quantum technologies, which will set up a dialogue to exchange the latest research findings, a policy dialogue on security-related issues, and cooperation on international standards.

- On Saturday, Ishiba [heard](#) the latest information on generative AI at the University of Tokyo. He reiterated that the GOJ will continue to support the AI industry and that AI can be [utilized](#) for regional revitalization.
- The Iwate Industrial Promotion Center [set up](#) a semiconductor talent development center called “I-SPARK” in Kitakami City, the first ever industry-government-academia effort to develop chip-related talent in the private sector. The center has two Tokyo Electron and one Applied Materials chip manufacturing equipment as the centerpiece of its facilities.

#### 11. Key Economic/Financial Developments

- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Wednesday that ASEAN, Japan, China, and South Korea plan to expand the Chiang Mai Initiative from financial assistance to deal with short-term liquidity crises to also dealing with pandemics and natural disasters. The countries plan to sign an agreement to revise the initiative in Milan, Italy, on May 4.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) [announced](#) that the volume of stockpiled rice going to retailers as of April 13 was 3,018 tons, just 1.4 percent of the total released government stockpile. It is taking time for pick-up merchants to purchase the stockpiled rice, while wholesalers are having trouble keeping up rice polishing with the amount of rice coming to them.
- METI [announced](#) its “five principles for board of directors,” which are: 1) establish growth strategies, 2) encourage appropriate risk-taking, 3) manage from a medium- to long-term perspective, 4) ensure appropriate decision making processes and systems, and 5) ensure the effectiveness of CEO nominations and compensation. METI [recommends](#) medium- to long-term and sustainable improvement of profitability and capital efficiency as ways to raise earning potential.
- METI Minister Muto Yoji [traveled](#) to Malaysia and Thailand from April 27-30, discussing industrial cooperation between Japan and ASEAN in both countries. In Thailand, the first Energy and Industry Dialogue yielded an agreement on cooperation in electric vehicles, promotion of circular economy, and competitive supply chain development. In Malaysia, Muto discussed cooperation in areas like AI and next-generation vehicles with the chair of the Japan-ASEAN ministerial.
- On Monday, the GOJ [finalized](#) its draft implementation guidelines for the new skill development visa program replacing the technical intern trainee program, which will cap employment of foreign workers in eight metropolitan areas and raise the cap for rural areas to promote regional revitalization and labor mobility across the country.

- *Nikkei* [reported](#) that at least one hundred companies' (mainly SMEs) stock prices have been manipulated as a result of customer accounts at brokerage firms getting hijacked. The hackers simultaneously placed buy and sell orders at high prices to raise stock prices, which is highly likely to have violated the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act.

## 12. State of the Economy

- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Friday that the yen's appreciation — expected to hit ¥143 to the dollar in March 2026 compared to ¥150s — could be a headwind for Japanese companies and cut back current earnings for main companies by approximately ¥2 trillion.
- The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) [announced](#) that the seasonally adjusted jobs-to-applicants ratio in March went up 0.02 point to 1.26 times, as inbound tourism [increased](#) jobs in the lodging and catering sectors, while applicants decreased as wage hikes improved labor conditions. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) [announced](#) that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 2.5 percent, up 0.1 point from the previous month.
- MIC announced that the average unemployment rate last year was 2.5 percent, up 0.1 point from the previous year and the first improvement in two years as the number of employed women [increased](#) to a record high of 30.92 million.
- On Thursday, the Cabinet Office (CAO) [announced](#) that the consumer confidence index in April was 31.2, down 2.9 points from the previous month. All categories — overall livelihood, income growth, employment, and willingness to buy durable goods — went down and [contributed](#) to the fifth consecutive month in decline. The assessment was lowered to “remained weak.”
- On Wednesday, METI [announced](#) that the seasonally adjusted industrial production index in March fell 1.1 percent from the previous month to 101.1, the first time in two months the index [dropped](#) as the automobile and electrical and information and telecommunications machinery industries performed poorly. Out of fifteen industries, the index for ten industries fell. The assessment remained at “fluctuates indecisively.”
- On Monday, NHK [reported](#) that a survey of wholesalers found that seven out of thirteen of them said “the rice shortage situation has not improved.” The average cost of rice per five kilograms in the week leading up to April 20 rose for the sixteenth consecutive month to ¥4,220, up ¥3 from the previous month.

## II. Public Opinion Poll

- An *Asahi* poll [released](#) on Saturday found that the Ishiba Cabinet's approval rating was 34 percent, up four points from the April survey, while disapproval was 54 percent, down two points. [More questions and answers from the link above]
  - 26 percent of respondents said that they voted for the LDP in the PR portion of last year's Lower House election; 23 percent said they did not vote; 15 percent said the CDP; 10 percent said the DPFP; 7 percent said *Ishin*; 6 percent said Komeito; 4 percent said *Reiwa*; 3 percent said the JCP; 2 percent said the *Sanseitō*; and 1 percent each said the Japan Conservative Party and the SDP.
  - 28 percent said they would vote for the LDP in the PR portion of the upcoming Upper House election; 17 percent said the DPFP; 16 percent said the DPFP; 10 percent said unknown; 8 percent said *Ishin*; 7 percent said *Reiwa*; 5 percent said Komeito; 4 percent said the JCP; 2 percent said other parties; and 1 percent said *Sanseitō*, the Japan Conservative Party, and the SDP.
  - 52 percent of respondents said that they are somewhat interested in politics; 25 percent said they are somewhat disinterested; 17 percent said they are very interested; and 5 percent said they are not interested at all.
  - 49 percent of respondents said that they do not really have faith in politics; 31 percent said they have some faith; 18 percent said they have no faith; and 1 percent said they have strong faith.
  - 49 percent of respondents said that they believe massive reform to politics, the economy, and society are necessary, while 49 percent said they believe things can be kept the same.
  - 53 percent of respondents said that they agree Japan is a "silver democracy," while 43 percent said they disagree with that characterization.
  - 63 percent of respondents said that they do not believe support measures for the socially vulnerable and minorities have gone too far, while 32 percent said they believe it has gone too far.
  - 47 percent of respondents said that there are no options they want as coalition partner for the LDP; 21 percent said *Ishin*; 20 percent said the DPFP; 15 percent said CDP; 14 percent said Komeito; 6 percent said *Reiwa*; 2 percent each said the JCP and *Sanseitō*; and 1 percent each said the Japan Conservative Party, the SDP, or other political parties.
  - 50 percent of respondents said that they believe the opposition parties should cooperate in fielding candidates in the Upper House election, while 44 percent said they do not believe this is necessary.
  - 48 percent of respondents said that they somewhat approve of the second Abe Cabinet; 29 percent said they somewhat disapprove; 11 percent said they strongly disapprove; and 9 percent said they strongly approve.
  - 48 percent of respondents said that they do not believe democracy is rooted in Japanese society, while 46 percent said they believe it is rooted in society.

- The survey also collected data on the latest approval ratings of political parties.

| <b>Political Party</b>          | <b>Approval Rating (%)</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Liberal Democratic Party        | 26 (+3)                    |
| Constitutional Democratic Party | 10 (+3)                    |
| Japan Innovation Party          | 5 (+2)                     |
| Komeito                         | 4 (+1)                     |
| Japan Communist Party           | 2 ( $\pm 0$ )              |
| Democratic Party for the People | 12 ( $\pm 0$ )             |
| Reiwa Shinsengumi               | 5 (+2)                     |
| Suffrage Party (Sanseitō)       | 1 ( $\pm 0$ )              |
| Japan Conservative Party        | 1 ( $\pm 0$ )              |
| Social Democratic Party         | 1 (+1)                     |
| Independent (No Party)          | 32 (-5)                    |