



The Weekly Observer

September 28-
October 25

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Business Delegation Visits China

On Sunday, **former Minister for Foreign Affairs Iwaya Takeshi** led a delegation of the **Japan Association for the Promotion of International Trade (JAPIT)** to China. President since June, Iwaya stated that **"it is precisely when Japan-China relations are strained that it is important to seek a path toward improvement through dialogue."**

On Monday, Iwaya met with **Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi**. According to the Chinese press release, Wang emphasized the importance of normalizing ties, telling Iwaya that the **"most pressing issue for Japan is to promptly correct its leader's erroneous remarks and actions regarding the Taiwan issue."**

On Tuesday, Iwaya met with **Vice Premier He Lifeng**. He indirectly criticized the Takaichi Administration, stating that Japan-China economic relations have experienced "twists and turns" because "some Japanese politicians are attempting to justify militarism

and are on the verge of crossing a line regarding the Taiwan issue." He added that, **"I am confident that we can overcome these misguided words and actions and promote the development of economic and trade relations between our two countries."**

GOJ Launches Intelligence Reform Expert Panel

On Monday, the GOJ launched the expert panel concerning **intelligence reform**, a seventeen-member group led by University of Tokyo Professor Emeritus Watanabe Toshiya.

During the inaugural session, Takaichi revealed that the GOJ plans to craft its **first "National Intelligence Strategy"** by the end of the year, with the panel to compile its recommendations for medium- to long-term measures next January.

Takaichi stated that, **"We will steadfastly protect the safety of our citizens and our national interests. To that end, we believe it is essential to strengthen our nation's intelligence capabilities."**

Cabinet Approval



45% (+4 pts.)

44% (-4 pts.)

[Mainichi Shimbun](#) (September 28)

State of the Economy

Monthly Economic Report (Sept.): Maintained assessment that economy is "recovering at a moderate pace, while attention should be given to the effects caused from the situation in the Middle East and natural disasters."

BOJ TANKAN (Sept.):

DI, Large Manufacturers: +24 (+2)
DI, Large Non-Manufacturers: +35 (-2)

Employment Statistics (Aug.):

Jobs-to-applicants ratio: 1.18x
New job openings: -3.4% from August (2nd month in decline)
Unemployment: 2.5% (-0.1 % pts.)