

The Weekly Observer

October 19-23

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

Takaichi Reaches One Year Milestone in Office

On Wednesday, the **Takaichi Administration turned one year old.** Takaichi told reporters that, "**We have worked tirelessly over the past year**, driven by the belief that our mission is to steadily fulfill each and every campaign promise."

Takaichi emphasized that while measures to **address rising prices** would remain the top priority for her administration, it will also work to strengthen **intelligence capabilities** and transform its **security policy**.

Takaichi argued that the Japanese economy is on the upswing thanks to her **"proactive responsible fiscal policy"** approach, pointing to **nominal GDP nearing ¥700 trillion** and **wage hikes exceeding 5 percent** for the third consecutive year. She stated that, "Will we be able to break out of the stagnation — where wages have remained stubbornly low despite nearly thirty years of a deflationary economic structure — and embark on a path toward a virtuous economic cycle?"

PHP Vulnerabilities Expose Japan's "Cyber Emergency"

On Wednesday, **Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae** posted on X about the **vulnerabilities found in PHP,** which a majority of online websites run on, writing: **"Please make preparations so that these measures can be implemented as soon as possible… For example, temporarily suspending websites and other services is one effective measure for reducing risk."**

According to a tally by independent researchers, as of Thursday morning, **more than two hundred websites in Japan had announced that they were offline.**

On Friday, the **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Headquarters for National Cybersecurity Strategy** submitted policy recommendations to Takaichi, characterizing the current situation as the **"eve of a cyber emergency."** The LDP also called for the **proactive use of the "active cyber defense" law** to neutralize cyber threats and share information with the private sector.

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Cabinet Approval



57% (-2 pts.)

30% (+/- 0 pt.)

Yomiuri Shimbun (October 19)

State of the Economy

Trade Balance (April-Sept.):
¥2.82 trillion deficit
Imports: ¥66.28 trillion (+20%)
Exports: ¥63.46 trillion (+18%)
Both record highs since 1979 (comparable stats)

Consumer Price Index (Sept.):
102.3 (+2.1%)
Exceeded BOJ 2% target for the 1st time in 9 months
76.4% of 529 items saw price increase

Foreign Tourists (Sept.):
3.1 million (-5%)
2nd consecutive month in decline due to fuel prices rising (higher airfare)