



The Genron NPO

<http://www.genron-npo.net/en/>

Founded on November 2, 2001

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The Genron NPO is a certified non-profit membership organization,
which relies entirely on donations from individuals, corporations
and foundations.

The Genron NPO has been designated a specified public-interest
corporation under Japan's Income Tax Law, and therefore, donations
made to The Genron NPO are eligible for favorable tax treatment
and income tax deductions or refunds.

The Genron NPO
Create a Strong Democracy on the Strength of Debates



Strengthen democracy and civil society through the power of debate

The primary mission of The Genron NPO is to use the power of debate to strengthen Japan's democracy and civil society. A strong democracy calls on each citizen to grapple with political issues as stakeholders with a resolve to choose their country's future by themselves. To strengthen Japan's political system, and solve the challenges at home and abroad, citizens must first become stronger. A strong civil society means a society in which citizens voluntarily take action in order to tackle the challenges in society by themselves, and these efforts are respected.

The Genron NPO provides necessary materials to enable each citizen to think what Japan's politics and civil society should be like, and about the challenges facing Japan and other countries in the world that would allow them to make their own decisions. We organize opportunities to participate in such engaging discussions.

Using the strength of debate, The Genron NPO will create the momentum for problem-solving initiatives based on problem awareness in Japan.



Creating platforms for problem-solving debate since 2001

The Genron NPO launched the "Tokyo-Beijing Forum" in 2005 as a forum for civil diplomacy amid declining Japan-China relations. The forum has been held for the past 13 years while intergovernmental talks between the two countries stalled. In 2013, when the bilateral relationship soured further over the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands territorial dispute, The Genron NPO and its Chinese counterpart issued a consensus document, called the "No-war Pledge," to establish the forum as an important venue for private-sector diplomacy to fill the void left by the non-existent intergovernmental contacts.

In the same year, the "Japan-Korea Future Dialogue" was started, to be followed by the launch of the first "Japan-U.S.-China-South Korea" Joint Opinion Poll/Dialogue in 2015 and the "Japan-U.S. Dialogue" in 2017, in order to create a peaceful environment in Northeast Asia from a civil stance.

In 2016, The Genron NPO launched the "Tokyo Conference" international forum to discuss problems related to the international order and democracy, global governance and global issues by inviting representatives of leading think tanks in the world's 10 major countries which share the same values and norms. By stimulating discussions on these global issues, we are transmitting Japan's opinions to the rest of the world, while conducting dialogue with our foreign partners.

While upholding the belief that Japan's politics will be stronger only when voters are well-informed and committed, we have continued to evaluate political parties' manifesto campaign pledges for national elections and conduct regular reviews of the government's achievements of key policy targets since 2004. The results of our evaluations and reviews are reported by major media organizations to provide critical information for voters.

Transmitting opinions from Japan on democracy, peace in Asia and global issues

Reviving Japan's Democracy

In order to reinforce the functionality of democracy, representative democracy centering on elections, must work effectively as a cycle for problem-solving. To this end, we have been conducting evaluations of political parties' manifesto election pledges and reviews of the achievements of the government's policy targets on a regular basis. The evaluation and review process is made open to the public to provide a venue for voters to make judgments on key policies. In addition, we are assessing the state of diverse democratic systems in Japan and other Asian countries by means of joint opinion polls. We are holding debates with many overseas countries and making recommendations that are designed to make democratic systems function well.

Building Peace in Northeast Asia

The situation in Northeast Asia is unstable due to the rivalry between an emerging China and Japan and the United States.

The denuclearization of North Korea is not only a problem for the Korean Peninsula but also a process

that is indispensable for the construction of peace in this part of the world.

The Genron NPO has been grappling with the challenge of realizing peace in the region by maintaining Japan-China dialogue over a decade and through the Japan-South Korea dialogue started five years ago, and the four-nation joint opinion poll and dialogue, involving Japan, China, South Korea and the United States, which was just launched in 2017.

Addressing Global Issues

Amid the instability in the international order, diverse global issues are worsening. In developed countries, moves toward populism, public distrust of democracy and trade protectionism are all emerging. In such circumstances, The Genron NPO is addressing global issues in collaboration with the world's leading think tanks and proactively transmitting the contents of debates in Japan to the rest of the world, while engaging itself in the process of formulating international opinion on solutions of these global issues.

President's Message

We pursue active debate as stakeholders to tackle head-on the issues Japan is facing

In 2001, Japan was at an impasse, with a media that seemed to prefer unconcerned criticism in their news reporting, rather than taking on fundamental, long-term issues. I established The Genron NPO to change such a critical situation through the power of debate. Since then, The Genron NPO has been squarely tackling various issues confronting Japan and the world, together with many like-minded people.

Japan today is in a very dangerous situation and faces an uncertain future. Issues such as the rapidly aging population and mounting government debt are urgent, and dealing with them cannot be postponed. Nevertheless, no full-fledged action has been taken to overcome such risk factors.

Furthermore, the future of Northeast Asia surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly uncertain. North Korea's nuclear development program is a threat to the whole region and yet diplomacy seems to have very little to offer. The international order is becoming unstable: diverse global issues are worsening, and a populist surge and distrust of democracy are spreading in many advanced countries.

This will continue as long as people step aside and act only as onlookers. Each person must address the issues Japan and the entire world face as a "stakeholder," search for solutions through discussions and voice his/her opinions. Through such actions, people with the same commitment to take action to solve issues will come together, create dynamic momentum and generate healthy public opinion that can produce solutions. This is why I attach the utmost importance to the power of sound public opinion. The Genron NPO, are determined to continue efforts to address the issues Japan and the world faces by creating a venue for genuine debate where people can contribute as stakeholders.



Yasushi Kudo
President

As founder and president of The Genron NPO, he has been regularly conducting evaluation of political parties' election pledges and administration's performance. He established influential high-level dialogues, "Tokyo-Beijing Forum" and "Japan-South Korea Future Dialogue" In 2016, he launched the Tokyo Conference aimed at solving the global challenges and democracy.

How The Genron NPO was established

In 2001, when the administration of Junichiro Koizumi came to power, "Japan's politics will not change unless we, the voters, become stronger." "There should be a venue, a not-for-profit one, for high-quality, participation-style debate, which can provide voters with the appropriate materials to enable them to select their politics and future."

With these ideas in mind, Yasushi Kudo, who was then editor of "Ronso: Toyo Keizai," a monthly opinion magazine, established The Genron NPO. He felt a sense of crisis about the conventional media's barren and detached criticism, as if they were reporting the

news as "bystanders." Terming the situation "media depression," he emphasized the importance of addressing the mountain of issues Japan faces at home and abroad through serious debate.

Since then, The Genron NPO has been expanding the scope of its activities, ranging from the evaluation of key domestic policies and the solution of Asian and global issues to the creation of an environment for peace in Asia, and the reinforcement of civil society, as a network-style media and think tank organization that, unlike others, is joined by like-minded individuals.



The Genron NPO — a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank independent from government and any interest

The Genron NPO is a not-for-profit think tank that conducts activities independent and impartially from any government interest or specific concern. In order to maintain such independence and impartiality, The Genron NPO became the first organization in Japan to develop a self-evaluation system regarding its "non-political and non-religious" position, based on standards set by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the United States. The Genron NPO conducts an annual self-evaluation and releases the findings to the public. Furthermore, The Genron NPO's auditors evaluate the self-evaluation process and content, as well as the results.

In this manner, The Genron NPO makes its self-evaluation results and outside evaluation openly available to the general public. Making such information public indicates that The Genron NPO adopts a system in which the citizens ultimately decide whether its activities are in the public interest.

The Genron NPO's Self Evaluation

The Genron NPO has own evaluation method which consists of two evaluation processes which are negative check list to confirm non-political and non-religious position, also contents evaluation of 5* subjective standards. Every program is categorized to 8 fields and they are conducted self-evaluation by 18 evaluation categories of non-political and 12 categories of non-religious standards. The results is open with comments from 2 opinion supervisors. Our activities between April 2016 and March 2017 has passed all categories.

- ※ ① Certainty of purpose
- ② Certainty of position
- ③ Certainty of target
- ④ Certainty of methods for program establishment
- ⑤ Governance for decision-making and transparency

Comments from auditor

The self-evaluation result is audited each year. Auditors' comments are available to the public

Auditors

Takatoshi Kato (President, Japan Center for International Finance)
Yukie Osa (President, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan)



Takatoshi Kato
Auditor
President, Japan Center
for International
Finance

【Auditors' comments】
Points of excellence: The Genron NPO's evaluation process is being conducted appropriately and its content is valid. Furthermore, the results of the self-evaluation, including the decision-making process, are being documented in detail. An organization that publicizes its impartial evaluation is globally unique and it helps strengthen the credibility of its activities.

When conducting evaluations of government administrations and manifestoes, the evaluation criteria is specified, making its judgment criteria clear. The organization conducts surveys of experts in its process of evaluation, and has in place a system that voters can use to read or listen to the debates through video and text. Furthermore, when politicians participate in discussions with overseas experts, the organization invites speakers and panelists from different political parties to make sure the discussions do not concentrate on the opinion of one political party.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board members take part in various debate programs, provide their insightful opinions on issues, and make recommendations on our activities as a whole.

as of April 1, 2018



Yasushi Akashi
Chairman, International House of Japan; former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations



Masami Iijima
Chairman, the board of Directors of Mitsui & Co., Ltd.



Mistuo Ohashi
Supreme Counselor, Showa Denko k.k.



Kazuo Ogoura
Senior Advisor, Japan Foundation; former Ambassador to the Republic of Korea



Yoriko Kawaguchi
Fellow, Faculty of Global Studies of Musashino University; Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Environment



Takeshi Sasaki
Honorary professor, The University of Tokyo; former Professor, Gakushuin University



Akihiko Tanaka
President, the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS); former President of JICA



Yasuchika Hasegawa
Company Counselor, Takeda Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.



Ichiro Fujisaki
President, The America-Japan Society; former Ambassador to the USA



Hiroya Masuda
Advisor, Nomura Research Institute; former Minister of International Affairs and Communications



Yuji Miyamoto
Chairman, Miyamoto Institute of Asian Research; former Ambassador to the People's Republic of China



Toshiro Muto
Chairman, Daiwa Institute of Research; former Deputy Governor, Bank of Japan



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Honorary CEO and Chairman of the Board, Kikkoman Corporation

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Chair of the Board
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Founder and President, The Genron NPO



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Special Appointed Professor, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE)



Director
Takashi Matsumoto
President, Federation of National Public Service Personnel Mutual Aid Associations



Auditor
Tomomichi Tomiie
Executive Manager, Operation & Systems Department and Corporate Strategy Department of the Sumitomo Mitsui Asset Management Co., Ltd.

More than 500 prominent figures in Japan take part in our works

More than 500 opinion leaders in Japan such as business leaders, journalists, economists, government officials, politicians, and academia participate to The Genron NPO in their private capacity. Furthermore, nearly 8,000 members who registered with us pertain to constructing debates based on the shared sense of responsibility for the future of the country and relating to The Genron NPO's mission.

as of April 1, 2018



Shogo Aoki
Former National President, Junior Chamber International Japan



Yutaka Asahina
President & Representative Director, The Mainichi Newspaper Group Holdings Co., Ltd.



Toshihiro Iwasaki
President, The Investment Trusts Association, Japan



Masako Egawa
Professor, Hitotsubashi University



Hirohito Ono
Director, The Asahi Shimbun Editorial Board



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Hirohide Yamaguchi
Former Deputy Governor, Bank of Japan



Kenji Yumoto
Vice Chairman, Japan Research Institute, Ltd.



Yasushi Watanabe
Professor, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University

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Kazuto Uchida	Managing Executive Officer, MUFG Bank, Ltd.
Hitoshi Ogita	Senior Adviser, Asahi Group Holdings,Ltd.
Osamu Onoda	Former Lieutenant General, Air Self-Defense Force
Takatoshi Kato	President, Japan Center for International Finance; Former Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund
Shin Kawashima	Professor, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo
Yoji Koda	Former Commander-in-chief, Self Defense Fleet; Vice Admiral (Ret.)
Hiroshi Komatsu	Editor-in-chief, The Mainichi Shimbun
Kumi Sato	President, COSMO
Yoshihide Soeya	Professor, Keio University
Hideshi Tokuchi	Former Defense Vice Minister for International Affairs
Zenbei Mizoguchi	Governor, Shimane Prefecture
Hiroo Mori	Executive Vice President, Mori Building Co., Ltd.
Noboru Yamaguchi	Professor, International University of Japan

Tackling global issues and disseminating Japan's opinion to the world

Tokyo Conference

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Representatives from 10 global think tanks gather to discuss global issues at “Tokyo Conference”

As principles such as “individual freedom” and “democracy,” which have underpinned the international order, face severe challenges, The Genron NPO launched the “Tokyo Conference” in March 2017 to provide a permanent platform where representatives from think tanks from 10 major countries would gather to discuss the challenges the world faces.

The Tokyo Conference is a discussion platform where representatives of the leading think tanks from 10 major countries conduct debates on diverse issues facing the world in an open forum in Tokyo. The content of the discussions is broadly made available to civil society, as well as delivered as proposals to the chair nations of the G-7 Summit and the government of Japan, as well as international organizations. We believes Japan should take the leader in protecting and promoting principles such as individual freedom and democracy, the rule of law and multilateralism in order to resolve global issues.

During the Tokyo Conference, representatives of think tanks from 10 countries held discussions on how to protect and develop principles such as “freedom” and “democracy,” which are being undermined by strengthening populist and antiforeignism moves. The forum also addressed issues related to globalization and nations, as well as how to proceed with adjusting democracy.

“Tokyo Conference” List of Member Think Tanks

Brazil : Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV)
Canada : Center for International Governance and Innovation (CIGI)
France : French Institute of International Relations(IFRI)
Germany : German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
India : Observer Research Foundation (ORF)
Singapore : S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies(RSIS)
Italy : Institute of International Affairs (IAI)
Japan : The Genron NPO
United Kingdom : Chatham House / The Royal Institute of International Affairs
The United States of America : Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)



Council of Councils

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Disseminating opinions to the world as Japan's internationally acknowledged representative think tank

In 2012, The Genron NPO was selected as the only institution from Japan to participate in the international think tank network, the Council of Councils (CoC), which is comprised of the world's leading think tanks. Originally proposed by the U.S. Council of Foreign Relations (CFR), the CoC serves as an arena for think tanks to hold dialogues on issues related to global governance and international cooperation.

The Genron NPO came to be selected by the CoC for continuously holding independent, neutral discussions representing citizens, successfully holding the Tokyo-Beijing Forum annually since 2005 and for creating an innovative civil diplomacy model through international dialogues that are linked with public opinion polls. The Genron NPO has tried to recover ground by conveying the varying opinions of Japan to the world and has held active discussions to solve global issues on various international platforms.

Council of Councils Member Think Tanks

Argentina: Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI)
Australia: Lowy Institute for International Policy
Belgium: Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS)
Brazil: Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV)
Canada: Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)
China: Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS)
Egypt: Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies
France: French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)
Germany: German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
India: Observer Research Foundation (ORF)
Indonesia: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
Israel: Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)
Italy: Institute of International Affairs (IAI)

Japan: **The Genron NPO**
Mexico: Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (COMEXI)
Nigeria: Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA)
Poland: Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)
Russia: Institute of Contemporary Development (INSOR)
Saudi Arabia: Gulf Research Center (GRC)
Singapore: S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
South Africa: South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
South Korea: East Asia Institute (EAI)
Turkey: Global Relations Forum (GIF)
United Kingdom: Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs)
United States: Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)



Carrying out a new form of public diplomacy to build peace in Northeast Asia

Japan-U.S. Dialogue

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Building peace in Northeast Asia

Amid high tension over North Korea's nuclear and missile program, the region faces a historic turning point where concrete discussions must commence to build a peaceful order for the future. In order to encourage Japan and the United States to engage in debate to achieve peace in Northeast Asia, The Genron NPO launched a platform, Japan-U.S. Peace Conference in 2017.

In the Conference, the participants agreed that cooperation between the two allies, as well as sharing common goals in order to build a multinational channel of communication, was necessary to build peace in Northeast Asia. The conference resulted in the proposal of two objectives — that North Korea would not be allowed to possess nuclear weapons and that military intervention should be avoided — and discussions on how to resolve these two objectives.



Japan-U.S.-China-ROK Dialogue

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Four-party dialogue on the North Korean nuclear crisis

The Genron NPO has embraced the goal of creating a peaceful order in Northeast Asia and has since engaged in dialogues. In 2015, it collaborated with think tanks from the U.S., China and South Korea to conduct the first public opinion poll on peace and the future of Northeast Asia. Based on the results, representatives from the thinktanks gathered to hold the first Japan-U.S.-China-ROK four-party dialogue, and agreed to maintain a forum where people can gather to discuss regional issues and its future.

The four-party dialogue in 2017, participants agreed that they should not acknowledge North Korea as a nuclear power amid a increasing tension over neighboring North Korea's nuclear and missile ambitions.



Tokyo-Beijing Forum

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13-year-old venue for track II diplomacy between Japan and China that has a profound impact on the policymaking processes in both countries

When Japan-China relations were at their worst in 2005, The Genron NPO launched the “Tokyo-Beijing Forum” as a bilateral track II dialogue. This forum has met once a year even amid various difficulties in Japan-China relations for 13 years. The debates at the forum have been broadly reported by many media of both countries, and the forum has developed into an all-important, influential venue for track II dialogue in Japan and China.

In 2006, Shinzo Abe emphasized in an address the importance of Japan-China relations in this forum. Two months later, he made a surprise visit to Beijing as prime minister of Japan for the summit, and the bilateral relationship had significantly improved. In 2013, despite the increasing tension over territory, the 9th “Tokyo-Beijing Forum” adopted a “No-War Pledge,” exemplifying the firm determination of Japan and China to solve issues under whatever conditions through dialogue.

Joint Japan-China public opinion poll

The Genron NPO annually conducts opinion polls in Japan and China, which are no other

comparative survey that regularly follows Chinese people's opinions and views continuously over last 13 years. The findings have been utilized by many researchers, thinktanks and research institutes in the world.



The Japan-Korea Future Dialogue

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Open dialogue that strives to improve Japan-Korea relationship

Launched in 2013 jointly with East Asia Institute (EAI), the “Japan-Korea Future Dialogue” has been conducted to create new bilateral relations by overcoming the deep-rooted antagonistic sentiment. The forum is held publicly in a round-table format and is broadcasted over the Internet, there is no other dialogue that is so open to the public of both countries.

Prior to the forum, a joint opinion poll is conducted in both nations in order to grasp the

state of understanding to particular issues and perception of each other, aimed for promoting greater mutual understanding between Japanese and South Koreans.



Reflecting the opinions of constituents and citizens on democracy

Evaluation of Political Parties' Campaign Pledges

Providing essential information to voters through Japan's first political parties' campaign pledges evaluation

Political parties' campaign promises in their manifestoes before each election have become only wish lists with no verifiable targets, and are insufficient as political pledges to the electorate. We firmly believe that in order for Japanese politics to squarely face the pressing challenges and begin to move toward their solution, voters must become stronger.

To this end, we have been regularly examining the achievements of the government's key policies since 2004, while publicly releasing the results before each national election aimed for providing voters with information to judge diverse issues at home and abroad. It is desirable for political parties to compete with each other in resolving issues and for voters to make judgments in an environment in which they and the political parties are in a tense relationship.

In the general election in 2017, The Genron NPO released the results of its evaluation of the election pledges of seven major political parties. We also organized a series of open debates between our experts and the leaders of five major parties in charge of policy affairs. The debates were broadcast live on our Web site for public scrutiny.



Evaluation of Administrations' Achievements

100-day and one-year evaluations designed to clarify administrations' achievements and challenges for them

We evaluate an administration's policy achievements as its 100th day in office and the first anniversary of its inauguration. We examine the achievements in each policy area while considering whether the policy pledges in the latest manifestoes are being truly implemented and whether a major policy change has been made without an explanation to voters. For instance, Abe administration scored 2.40 points out of 5.0 regarding the achievements of 37 verifiable key policy areas in 2017.

At the same time, we conduct a survey to intellectuals about their evaluations and views

about achievement. Our project to regularly examine the achievements of an administration is winning high acclaim from overseas think tanks and media organizations.



Designing the future of democracy and civil society

Democracy Dialogue

Debating how to make democracy work in Japan, Asia and the world

Democracies around the world are facing many diverse challenges. To strengthen our democracy, The Genron NPO is organizing various debates to examine the present situation involving as many people as possible.

In 2017, we conducted opinion polls on the issues related to democracy. We also organized open discussions and broadcast the debates live on the Internet on such important issues as ways to safeguard democracy and make it evolve further, on relations between citizens and political parties, and the function of a problem-solving cycle, inherent in democracy, as well as the role of sovereign states in an age of globalization, the Internet versus conventional media, and the role of intellectuals and the media in resolving issues.

Asia Opinion Leaders Dialogue

Since 2016, The Genron NPO has organized the Asia Opinion Leaders Dialogue involving leading intellectuals from Indonesia, India, Malaysia, and

Japan. Also the joint opinion poll conducted in five Asian countries prior to the forum. Heated debate was conducted at the forum regarding populism spreading in Asia, mounting public distrust of the elite and the media, and other issues related to democracy.



Excellent NPOs Standards/Excellent NPO Award

Japan's first ever self-evaluation standards for NPOs

Most Japanese NPOs lack strong problem-solving skill and organizational abilities. As a result, many NPOs are unable to work as a truly reliable players in civil society for citizens hoping to try to voluntarily solve their problems.

Acknowledging such conditions, we examined the situation of the civil society and the activities of not-for-profit organizations. This enabled us to select three points as conditions: problem-solving ability, sustainability as an organization and citizens' participation. We defined organizations satisfying these conditions as "Excellent NPOs." Then, we developed and disclosed the systematic Excellent NPO Evaluation Standards as Japan's

first self-diagnosis tool for not-for-profit organizations. Based on the standards, we inaugurated the Excellent NPO Award in 2012 to discuss issues related to civil society in Japan.



Genron Studio and Expert Opinion Polls

The Genron NPO has facilitated numerous platforms, where citizens can participate as a stakeholder for problem-solving and deepen the understanding of issues.

The Genron Studio (Internet Discussion Program)
The Genron Studio consists of periodic discussions that look closely at how to deal with the key domestic and international issues, and what action should be taken to resolve. The content of the discussion is broadcast live and delivered directly to some 8,000 experts in the form of a digital newsletter. Public recordings are also held periodically.

Experts Opinion Polls
The Genron NPO conducts various surveys ahead of public forums and discussions at the Genron Studio in order to collect the opinions of experts on various issues. The results of the opinion polls are made available on the Web site as well as reflected in the discussions as a source of information that reveals the thoughts of opinion leaders from various fields of expertise.



Past video streams (2015-2017)

March 27, 2018 New approach to refugee protection amid global uncertainties	March 24, 2016 World economy must be realigned to counter China's economic slowdown
March 08, 2018 The future of globalization and liberal order	February 20, 2016 World struggles for new Middle East order following Iran's nuclear deal
March 07, 2018 Japanese experts call for Japan's stronger leadership in sustaining free and open world trade setup	February 20, 2016 Experts eye greater role for Japan in restoring stability to global political situation
July 14, 2017 Japanese experts see signs of new approaches to solving global issues at G-7 summit	January 30, 2016 Japan must bring energy policy in line with Paris climate accord, experts say
July 07, 2017 Trump a threat to world free trade, experts say	February 11, 2016 Experts call for better Japan-China relations to build peaceful order in Northeast Asia
March 06, 2017 What kind of solution strategies should we aim for with respect to the refugee issue currently shaking the world?	October 13, 2015 Japan's leadership in resolving global issues challenged
March 05, 2017 Experts warn of 'Trump effect' hitting world trade system	October 06, 2015 Media experts discuss Japan's inability to explain itself to the world
March 24, 2016 Approach may be bumpy, but hard landing for China economy unlikely, experts say	

The Genron NPO in Media

The programs of The Genron NPO was covered up 413 times by newspaper and broadcast programs in 2017

The Genron NPO has gathered attention from not only domestic but also from over the world. Especially, the achievements of peacebuilding among Northeast Asia such as “Tokyo-Beijing Forum”, “Japan-Korea Future Dialogue” and “Japan-US-China-ROK Dialogue” have been paid strong attention as new platforms of civil diplomacy practices.



▲ The workshop held in Brookings Institution gathered more than 150 of experts and journalists and the forum was broadcasted by national wide radio programs, C-SPAN and cable visions. (January, 2018)



▲ NHK "Japan-US Joint Poll on North Korea" (December, 2017)



▲ NHK "The 13th Tokyo-Beijing Forum" (December, 2017)



▲ Asahi National Broadcasting "The 13th Japan-China Joint Opinion Poll" (December, 2017)



▲ Asahi National Broadcasting "The 13th Tokyo-Beijing Forum" (December, 2017)



▲ Asahi National Broadcasting "The 13th Tokyo-Beijing Forum" (December, 2017)



▲ Asahi National Broadcasting "The 13th Tokyo-Beijing Forum" (December, 2017)



▲ Akitasakigakesinpo (December, 2017)



▲ Mainichi Newspapers (December, 2017)

Membership

The Genron NPO is an organization supported by members who sympathize with our mission

The Genron NPO is supported not only by its advisory board members and board of directors, but also by members who sympathize with its mission and make annual donations to the organization.

The Genron NPO’s decision-making body is the general assembly, which is attended by members who each have a vote and are deeply involved in deciding the direction the organization’s activities take. Events for members include the “Morning Forum” that invites key figures from political and economic circles, and “Policy Study Sessions” that discuss timely political themes with experts.

The general members can participate in the forums and “member gatherings” as supporters of the organization’s activities and exchange opinions among themselves.

Both the members and general members not only support The Genron NPO activities financially but also contribute in formulating debate by participating in the polls, as well as in the public and members-only forums.



[3 membership categories]

Premier membership Agree with the mission and participate to forums and discussions
General membership Be interested in and support programs
Student membership Be interested to participate to programs while belonging to academic institutions

[Past membership events] *Speakers’ titles are as of the dates of events

Morning Forum	Policy Study Groups
Speakers	Speakers
Fumio Kishida (Minister of Foreign Affairs)	Teruyuki Katori (Equal Employment,Children and Families Bureau)
Yasuhisa Shiozaki (Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare)	Hideshi Tokuchi (Former Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs)
Itsunori Onodera (Minister of Defense)	Shiro Yamasaki (Cabinet Secretariat, Director-General for Regional Revitalization of Headquarter for Overcoming Populatiton Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan)
Hiroshi Nakaso (Deputy Governor of the Bank of Japan)	Hisao Harihara (Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture,Forestry and Fisheries)
James M. Lindsay (Senior Vice President, Council on Foreign Relations)	Takashi Matsumoto (Former Vice-Minister, Cabinet Office)
Bruce Stokes (Director of Global Economic Attitudes, Pew Research Center)	Masanori Nishi (Former Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense)
Cheng Yonghua (Chinese Ambassador to Japan)	Yoji Koda (Former Vice Admiral, JMSDF)
Tsuyoshi Takagi (Minister for Reconstruction)	Shigeki Habuka (Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Cabinet Office)
Katsunobu Kato (Minister in Charge of Promoting Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens)	Koji Yano (Deputy Vice Minister for Ministry of Finance)
Hiroya Masuda (Former Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications)	
Glen S. Fukushima(Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress)	

Supporters

Our cooperate suppers and private foundations

The Genron NPO is grateful for the generous support it receives from companies and private foundations for below four projects.

The Genron NPO have been run by continuous supports from corporate supporters. (FY2017)



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Foundations The Henry Luce Foundation	 Toshiba International Foundation
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17 Years in Review

2001

- 8 The Genron NPO established
- 11 The Genron NPO incorporated as NPO organization



Some 100 political and business leaders, including then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, turned out at The Genron NPO's inaugural reception in October 2001.

2003

- 3 Convened symposium on "NPOs to Change Japan"
- Convened symposium on "How Japan Should Face Fast-Transforming Asia"
- 4 Survey on "Asian challenges" conducted
- 7 "Policy Evaluation Conference" launched
- 10 "Manifesto Evaluation Conference" initiated
- Publishes evaluation result of 1st Koizumi Cabinet's achievements
- 12 Symposium on "Exploring New Potentials for Japan-China Relations"



With the aim of materializing the manifesto-oriented politics, The Genron NPO held a news conference with policy experts in October 2003, and announced the result of the evaluation of the 1st Koizumi Cabinet's achievements.

2005

- 1 Agrees to team up with China Daily over joint project for public debates
- 2 Convened International symposium on "Japan's Alternatives Toward 2030"
- 5 Launches private-sector committee to study Hokkaido's self-reliance and rebirth
- 8 Launches evaluation result of the Abe Cabinet's achievements and evaluation of political parties'
- 8 Convened the 1st Beijing-Tokyo Forum
- Releases the result of the 1st Japan-China joint opinion survey
- 10 Publishes evaluation of the 2nd Koizumi Cabinet and evaluation of political parties' new manifestos



The 1st Beijing-Tokyo Forum was convened in August 2005 while anti-Japanese sentiment mounted in China, as shown by massive protest rallies in Beijing.

2007

- 2 Releases evaluation result of the first 100 days of the Abe Cabinet
- 3 Launches dialogue with Japan's prefectural governors
- "What Are Prefectural Governors' Challenges?"
- 7 Publishes evaluation result of the Abe Cabinet's achievements and evaluation of political parties'
- 8 Convened the 3rd Beijing-Tokyo Forum
- Releases result of the 3rd Japan-China joint opinion survey
- 11 Establishes "study group to evaluate not-for-profit Organizations"



The Genron NPO launched a series of dialogue with prefectural governors across the country in March 2007 to exchange views on "the self-reliance and management of local governments."

2009

- 1 Releases the evaluation result of the first 100 days of the Aso Cabinet
- 7 Organizes "open debate" session for policy inviting representatives from the Liberal Democratic Party and the DPJ
- 8 Publishes the evaluation result of the coalition government of the LDP and the DPJ
- 11 Convened the 5th Tokyo Forum
- 12 Releases the evaluation result of the first 100 days of the Hatoyama Administration



The Genron NPO organized a series of open debate key policy agendas in before the Lower House held. The debate meetings were live broadcast on the Internet with more than 10,000 users watching each.

2011

- 1 Convened the Citizens' Congress meeting to discuss Excellent NPO evaluation criteria
- 3 Launches debate on reconstruction from the 3/11 great earthquake
- Sets up "Genron Studio" for live broadcast of discussions on the Internet
- 4 Full-fledged renewal of The Genron NPO Web site completed
- 6 Convened a forum on "What's Wrong with Japanese Politics"
- 8 Convened the 7th Beijing-Tokyo Forum
- Publishes result of the 7th Japan-China joint opinion survey
- 12 Convened celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of The Genron NPO



The "Genron Studio" was set up in March 2011 to broadcast The Genron NPO-organized policy debates live to voters on the Internet, a new venue for public discussions.

2013

- 3 Attends the 2nd Council of Councils (CoC) annual meeting
- 5 Releases result of the Japan-Korea joint opinion survey
- Convenes the 1st Japan-Korea Future Dialogue
- 6 Releases evaluation result of the first 100 days of the Abe Cabinet
- Releases evaluation results of manifestos and questionnaire with candidates for the election
- 8 Releases result of 9th Japan-China joint opinion survey
- 10 Convened the 9th Beijing-Tokyo Forum
- 12 Launches "New Civil Diplomacy Initiative"
- Convenes the 2nd Excellent NPO Award Ceremony
- Releases evaluation result of the first year policy performance of the Abe Cabinet



"No War Pledge" adopted at the 9th Tokyo-Beijing Forum.

2015

- 1 Attends the CoC 7th Regional Conference at New Delhi
- 3 Holds the "Japan-Indonesia Democracy Dialogue"
- Organizes the "Civil Diplomacy International Symposium"
- 5 Attends the 4th Council of Councils (CoC) Annual Meeting
- Releases the result of the 3rd Japan-Korea joint opinion survey
- 6 Convened the Japan-Germany Joint Symposium
- Organizes the 3rd Japan-Korea Future Dialogue
- 10 Holds the Japan-U.S.-China-ROK Dialogue
- Publishes the results of the Japan-U.S.-China-ROK Opinion Poll
- Publishes the results of the Japan-China Joint Opinion Poll
- Convenes the 11th Tokyo-Beijing Forum
- 12 Released evaluation result of the three year policy performance of the Abe Cabinet



Opinions are exchanged on the goal and issues related to democracy pursued by Germany and Japan.

2017

- 1 TBS broadcasts "The power of opinion, the figure of democracy"
- 3 Establishes "Tokyo Conference 2017"
- 5 Convened "The 2nd Asia Opinion leader's dialogue"
- Attends the 6th Council of Councils (CoC) Annual Meeting
- 7 Releases result of the 5th Japan-Korea joint opinion survey
- convenes "The 5th Japan-South Korea Future Dialogue"
- 9 Releases result of Asia Democracy survey
- Convenes "The 3rd Asia Opinion leader's dialogue"
- 10 Releases the evaluation of year 5 policy performance of the Abe administration
- Releases evaluations of manifestos
- Convenes "Japan-U.S.-China-ROK dialogue"
- Convenes "Japan-U.S. conference"
- 11 Convened "Tokyo Conference" Pre-forum
- Convenes "The Genron NPO 16th Anniversary Reception"
- 12 Publishes the results of the Japan-China joint opinion poll
- Convenes "The 13th Tokyo-Beijing Forum"
- Releases the results of Japan-U.S. joint opinion poll



The Tokyo Conference served as a multilateral platform for pressing global issues and aimed to submit a proposal to G7 summit.

the 1st Koizumi Admin

the 2nd Koizumi Admin

the 3rd Koizumi Admin

the 1st Abe Admin

the Fukuda Admin

the Aso Admin

the Hatoyama Admin

the Kan Admin

the Noda Admin

the 2nd Abe Admin

the 3rd Abe Admin

the 4th Abe Admin

2002

- 1 Quality magazine "Genron NPO" published
- 4 Genron NPO members forum initiated
- 8 "Asia Strategy Conference" launched
- 9 Genron NPO's e-mail magazine launched



Serious discussion on Japan's strategy for the future was developed in "Asia Strategy Conference" launched in 2002.

2004

- 3 Organizes symposium on "Can Japanese NPOs Become Principal Players of Private Sector?"
- Convenes symposium on "Assessment of Japan's Power Structure"
- 5 Releases evaluation result of the 2nd Koizumi Cabinet and evaluation results of political parties' manifestos at the 1st Conference for the Verification of Election Pledges
- 9 Releases evaluation criteria for local administrations and evaluation of political parties' manifestos
- 11 Participates in "local manifesto evaluation congress"
- Publishes list of questionnaires for evaluation of local administrations' manifestos



The Genron NPO announced the result of the evaluation of the 2nd Koizumi Cabinet's achievements and the evaluation results of each political party's manifesto.

2006

- 2 Convened the 2nd private-sector committee for Hokkaido's self-reliance and rebirth
- 6 Releases result of the self-evaluation of The Genron NPO's all the activities
- 8 Convened the 2nd Tokyo-Beijing Forum
- Releases outcome of the 2nd Japan-China joint opinion survey
- 9 Convened "conference the evaluation of policy tasks for new government"
- 12 Genron Blog Booklet launched



Shinzo Abe's remarks served as the catalyst of resuming the suspended Japan-China summit meetings. It was an epoch-making development in that a non-governmental dialogue played a decisive role in improving the cold relations.

2008

- 2 Publishes the evaluation result of the first 100 days of the Fukuda Cabinet
- 6 Opens "Mini-Populus," a SNS forum on the Internet for open debate with the participation of citizens
- 7 Convened "Manifesto Forum" to examine policy directions of the Democratic Party of Japan's "Shadow Cabinet"
- 9 Convened the 4th Tokyo-Beijing Forum
- Releases the results of the 4th Japan-China joint opinion survey



Four Diet members of the Democratic Party of Japan conducted heated debate with some members of The Genron NPO's manifesto evaluation committee at a forum.

2010

- 4 Announces the evaluation criteria for NPOs
- Convenes the town meeting to exchange views with local citizens about affluent civil society
- 6 Publishes the evaluation result of the Hatoyama Administration and evaluation outcomes of the LDP's interviews with policy chiefs of political parties
- 7 Conducts a questionnaire with candidates for the Upper House election
- 8 Convened the 6th Tokyo-Beijing Forum
- Releases result of the 6th Japan-China joint opinion survey
- 10 Regular Journal as host
- 12 Genron renewed
- Releases evaluation result of the first 100 days of the Kan Cabinet



The Genron NPO released the evaluation for "Excellent NPOs," comprehensive criteria to examine the quality of not-for-profit organization's performance.

2012

- 1 Releases evaluation result of the first 100 days of the Noda Cabinet
- 3 Attends Council of Councils (CoC) held by the Council on Foreign Relations as a founding member
- 6 Releases result of the 8th Japan-China joint opinion survey
- 7 Convened the 8th Beijing-Tokyo Forum
- Convenes the 1st Excellent NPO Award Ceremony
- 12 Conducts an evaluation of achievements of the DPJ, an evaluation of manifestos for the general election, and a questionnaire with candidate for the general election.



Attends the inaugural Council of Councils meeting of the Council on Foreign Relations in March 2012, as its founding member from Japan.

2014

- 3 Organizes the "New Civil Diplomacy Initiative International Symposium"
- 5 Attends the 5th Council of Councils (CoC) Annual Meeting
- 7 Convened the 2nd Japan-Korea Future Dialogue
- Releases the result of the Japan-Korea joint opinion survey
- 9 Convened the 10th Beijing-Tokyo Forum
- Releases the result of the Japan-China joint opinion survey
- 12 Releases the evaluation results of party pledges for the Lower House election and the two year policy performance of the Abe Cabinet
- Commends the 3rd Excellent NPO Award



Agrees to hold the Beijing-Tokyo Forum for the coming 10 years at the 10th Tokyo-Beijing Forum with a new Chinese counterpart China International Publishing Group.

2016

- 2 Establishes "World Agenda Council", the platform to discuss international issues and release its results
- 3 Convened "Journalist Dialogues"
- Convenes "World Agenda 2016"
- 5 Attends the 5th Council of Councils (CoC) Annual Meeting
- Releases evaluation result of manifestos
- 8 Establishes "Asia Opinion leader's dialogue"
- 9 Convened "The 4th Japan-South Korea Future Dialogue"
- Convenes "The 12th Tokyo-Beijing Forum"
- 11 Publishes the result of Japan-Korea-China joint opinion survey
- Convenes "The 2nd Japan-U.S.-China-ROK dialogue"
- Convenes "The Genron NPO 15th Anniversary Reception"
- 12 Commends the 4th Excellent NPO Award
- Releases the evaluation of year 4 policy performance of the Abe administration



The Genron NPO established a platform for dialogue on diverse global issues by engaging world's top 10 thinktanks.

2018

- 1 Participates to the workshop of Brookings Institution, widely broadcasted by TV and radio in U.S.
- Commends the 5th Excellent NPO Award
- 3 Convened "Tokyo Conference 2018"



The Japan-U.S. joint opinion survey on North Korea nuclear issue was discussed in the workshop hosted by the Brookings Institute