

# Poland-Japan Foundation

*2025 year newsletter*



# Poland-Japan Foundation

## Year 2025 - Building Bridges in Times of Global Challenges

The year 2025 was a special and symbolically significant time for the Poland-Japan Foundation. Its unique character stemmed from key events such as the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, the 19th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, as well as Poland's presidency of the Council of the European Union, which strengthened Poland's international standing.

In a world marked by geopolitical tensions, dynamic technological changes, and social challenges, we consistently pursued our mission—to build lasting bridges between Poland and Japan. Below, we present the most important events and initiatives that together shaped this exceptional year.

# EXPO 2025 Osaka

## *Shared Story about the Future*

One of the key moments of the past year was the presence of the Poland–Japan Foundation in the context of the World Expo 2025 in Osaka. The President of the Foundation, Radosław Tyszkiewicz, visited the event site, paying particular attention to the Polish Pavilion, which was visited by over one million guests.

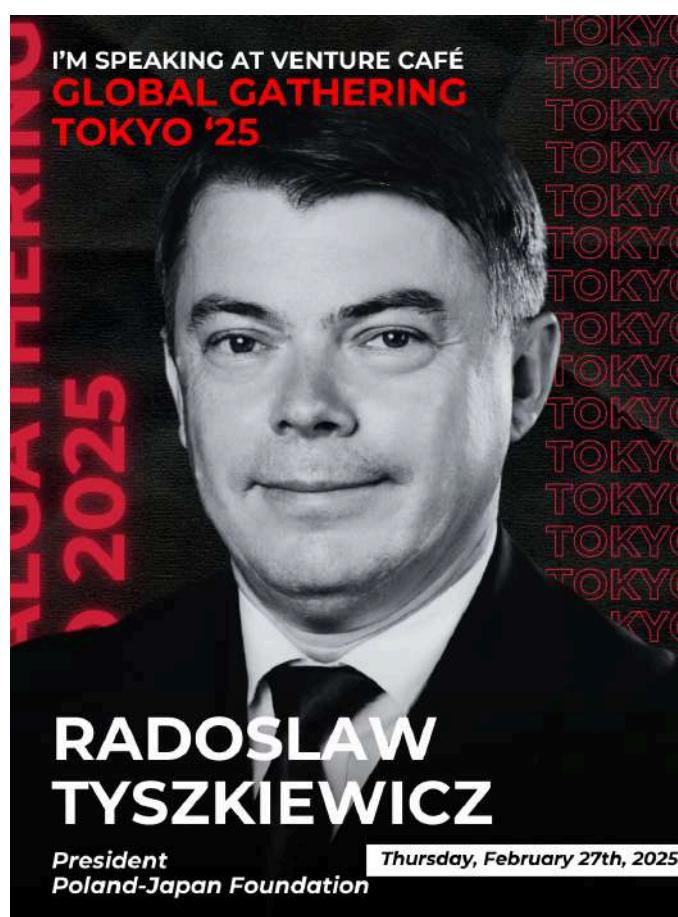
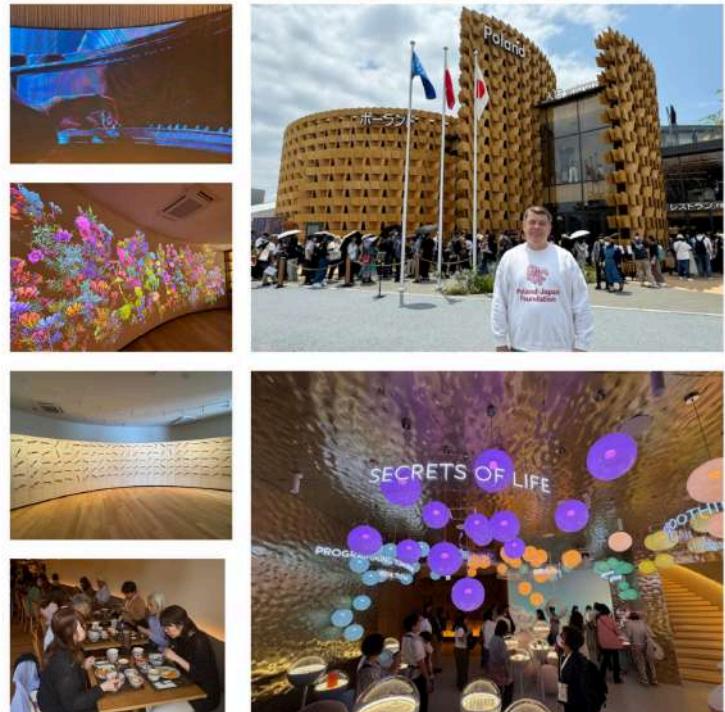
The Foundation actively engaged in accompanying EXPO events, supporting promotional initiatives, information campaigns, and activities aimed at building Poland's image as a partner open to dialogue, cooperation, and joint reflection on the future in relations with Japan

EXPO 2025 in Osaka became a global platform for dialogue, within which the Foundation co-created the narrative around Poland's presence by producing the animation

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiJGI-j\\_f8M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiJGI-j_f8M)

oraz the film "Poland at EXPO 2025 Osaka":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QDxxGIJHDA>



## Innovation, Economy, and International Cooperation

During the international *Venture Café Global Gathering Tokyo* conference, the Foundation took part in the debate on global innovation trends. The Foundation President's speech in the Innovation Without Borders session emphasized the importance of cooperation between Europe, Japan, and the Central and Eastern European region as a space for new ideas, technologies, and entrepreneurship.

# New Strategic Partnerships



The Poland-Japan Foundation has joined the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ), which brings together over 600 companies and 3,000 professionals.

This membership opens up new opportunities for business cooperation and strengthens efforts to develop Poland-Japan-U.S. relations.

We have become a member of the Japan National Press Club, one of the key media institutions in Japan. Membership in the JNPC provides the Foundation with access to the Japanese media environment, participation in prestigious events, and enhances the visibility, credibility, and international recognition of its cultural, educational, and scientific activities.



We have signed a memorandum of cooperation with CEETC, launching a partnership aimed at economic development and the strengthening of business relations. The cooperation will include, among others, trade, logistics, education, new technologies, investments, business tourism, and the creative industries.

*Thanks to these steps, the Foundation strengthened its position as a platform for dialogue connecting business, expert, and journalistic communities.*



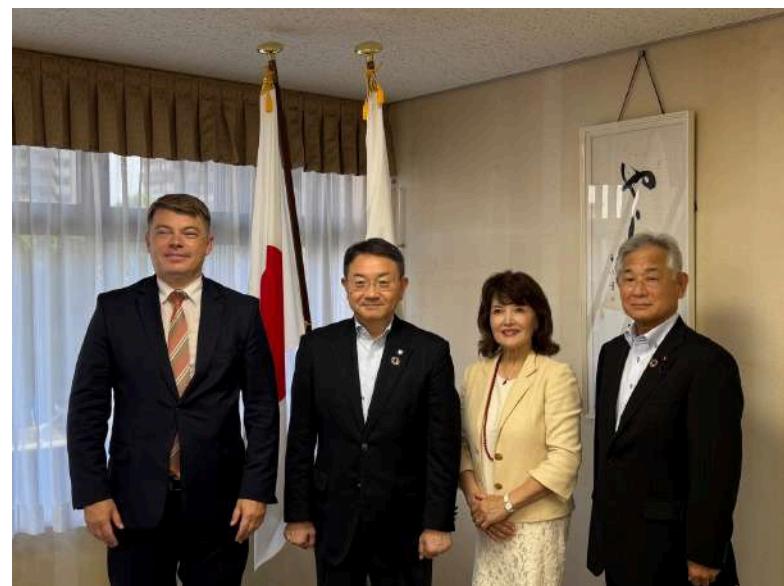
## Local diplomacy and intergovernmental cooperation

The Foundation has consistently developed relations with Japanese and Polish local governments, viewing cities and regions as natural ambassadors of international relations.

During a meeting with the Mayor of Tokyo's Meguro Ward, Eiji Aoki, and representatives of the Meguro Ward-Poland Friendship League; the parties discussed prospects for cooperation, the implementation of potential joint projects, and opportunities to undertake initiatives fostering deeper Polish-Japanese relations, with particular emphasis on the role of Meguro Ward. For many years, the ward has actively supported the promotion of Poland, among other reasons due to its special role associated with hosting the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tokyo.

The visit to Hamamatsu in Shizuoka Prefecture and the meeting with the city's mayor, Yusuke Nakano, were devoted to exploring opportunities for future cooperation between the Foundation and this Japanese city.

Particular emphasis was placed on relations between Hamamatsu and Warsaw, as well as on the role of the music of Frédéric Chopin as an important element linking the two cities. Cooperation between the cities has continued uninterrupted since the 1990s, and the construction of the Act City complex, together with a replica of Warsaw's Chopin monument, stands as one of its most significant symbols.



The meeting with Tomohide Karita, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Hiroshima, provided an opportunity to discuss prospects for future cooperation aimed at developing Polish–Japanese relations in the fields of culture, science, and the economy, taking into account the specific characteristics of the Chūgoku region. Hiroshima—a city that symbolizes peace, known for its active engagement in international diplomatic and civic initiatives—offers a unique space for the implementation of projects of a humanistic and intercultural nature.



The Foundation has begun building relationships and developing contacts with the dynamically growing region of Japan, Hokkaido. During discussions with representatives of the Hokkaido prefectural authorities, plans for cooperation were discussed, focusing primarily on the implementation of cultural projects and youth exchange programs. Hokkaido is of particular importance to Poland, both because of the presence of a small Polish community and the legacy of Bronisław Piłsudski—a researcher of Ainu culture and the brother of Józef Piłsudski.

During talks with representatives of the authorities of Warsaw and Kraków, the long-standing and close relations of both cities with Japan in the fields of culture and the economy were highlighted; the potential for joint projects aimed at further strengthening Polish–Japanese relations was discussed, as well as issues related to the promotion of the cities and regions during Expo 2025 in Osaka.



# Music and Art

*A Universal Language of Understanding*



In October, a unique concert titled "Melodies of Friendship: Poland x Japan" took place in Tokyo, organized under the patronage of the Poland-Japan Foundation. The audience was able to immerse themselves in the subtle sounds of the flute, the deep resonance of the cello, and the warm tones of the piano, which together created a moving story of friendship and mutual understanding. The event brought together both lovers of classical music and enthusiasts of Polish-Japanese cultural cooperation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PF2rGr3wfj8>

## Concerts and Musical Events

Music has remained one of the most important pillars of the Foundation's activities.

In May, at the Ota Civic Plaza in Tokyo, the Poland-Japan Foundation organized a unique spring piano concert. The event was dedicated to promoting Poland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the upcoming 19th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition. The performance by Ms. Yuki Satomi was met with an enthusiastic reception from the audience. The pianist captivated listeners with her masterful interpretations of works by Fryderyk Chopin and other Polish composers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HdluZAEK0A>



As part of the promotion of the 19th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, the Poland-Japan Foundation has prepared a colorful, energetic comic book entitled "The Minute Waltz," which introduces the figure of Fryderyk Chopin and the magic of his music.

# Exhibitions and Artistic Projects

The Foundation also supported and promoted other events presenting Polish and Japanese culture, which created a space for encounters, emotions, and dialogue between Polish and Japanese audiences.

The Poland–Japan Foundation promoted the exhibition “Young Poland: Polish Art 1890–1918”, presented at the National Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto. Showcasing over 130 works by outstanding Polish artists from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries; the exhibition offered a unique opportunity to present to the Japanese public the richness and originality of Polish art of the Young Poland period, as well as its dialogue with Japanese culture.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lme28TaqFO0>

The image consists of two parts. On the left is a promotional poster for the exhibition. The title 'YOUNG POLAND' is at the top in large, serif capital letters, followed by 'Polish Art' in a script font, and '1890-1918' in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below the title is the Japanese text '若きポーランド—色彩と魂の詩1890-1918' and '京都国立近代美術館' [岡崎公園内]. At the bottom of the poster is a small reproduction of a painting. On the right is a reproduction of the painting 'Olga Boznańska: Girl with Chrysanthemums' (1894). The painting shows a young woman with curly hair, wearing a dark, high-collared coat, holding a large bunch of white chrysanthemums. The background is a soft, greyish-blue.

# InSight FarEast

The Spaces of Silence | Japan & South Korea

Partners & media patronage



The Poland–Japan Foundation provided media patronage for the photographic and social project “InSight FarEast.” Its aim is to promote the historical and cultural heritage of Far Eastern countries and to introduce the history and culture of Japan to the Polish public through a series of seminars, a cycle of articles, and photographic exhibitions.

The Poland–Japan Foundation provided patronage for and promoted the event “Japanese Culture in an Engaging Style” in Racibórz.

# OGIMACHI NIGHT MUSEUM

・扇町ナイトミュージアム・

The Poland–Japan Foundation supported the Ogimachi Night Museum—a unique series of nighttime exhibitions in Osaka combining art, performance, and contemporary Japanese culture.

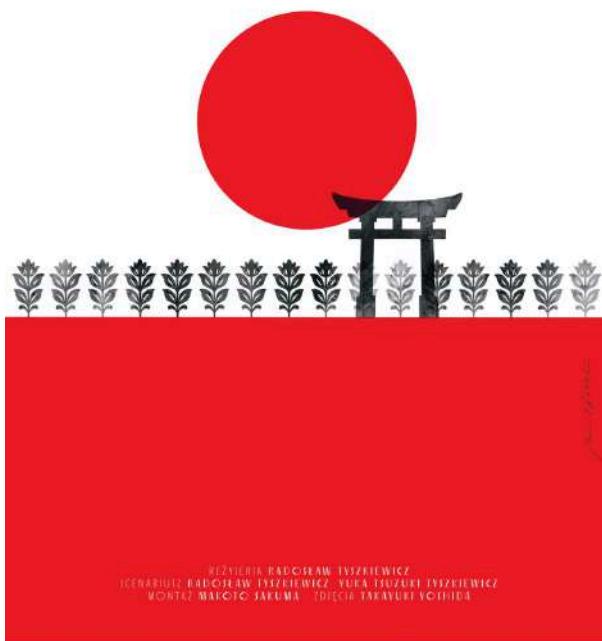
The Poland–Japan Foundation provided patronage and promotion for a trombone recital by Polish artists in Tokyo. The program included works by distinguished Polish and international composers.

# Film as a Story About Relationships and People

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO2Hm5-YI8A>

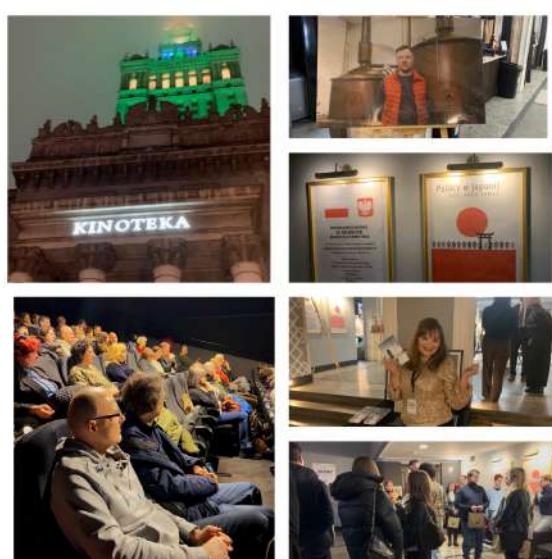
The most important film project of the Poland–Japan Foundation in 2025 was the documentary “Poles in Japan: Life, Passion, Success.” The production is dedicated to Poles living in Japan—their passions, career paths, and successes achieved in the Land of the Rising Sun. The film portrays a modern Polish diaspora, its active participation in Japan’s social and economic life, and its real contribution to building lasting bridges between the two countries. An important element of the documentary’s visual identity is the poster designed by Andrzej Pągowski—one of the most outstanding Polish creators of film posters.

POLACY W JAPONII  
ŻYCIE PASJA SUKCES



Subsequent screenings were held in Poland, including on December 27 at the Kinoteka cinema in the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. The screening took place to a full house and became a starting point for inspiring Polish–Japanese discussions after the showing. The Foundation’s film year concluded with a screening at the Fama Club in Białystok on December 29.

The film’s premiere screening took place on October 30 at the EuroLive cinema in Tokyo’s Shibuya district. It attracted a large audience, including representatives of the Polish community, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tokyo, the diplomatic corps, the business community, the media, and friends of Poland in Japan.



During EXPO Osaka 2025, a Polish–Japanese meeting of the film industry was held, organized by the Polish Film Institute (PISF) and the Visual Industry Promotion Organization (VIPO), with the participation of representatives of 26 film companies from both countries. The event aimed to present the achievements of Polish and Japanese cinematography, facilitate the exchange of experience, and foster discussions on financing and co-productions. The meeting was attended by Radosław Tyszkiewicz, President of the Poland–Japan Foundation, who promoted the documentary “Poles in Japan: Life, Passion, Success.”



# History, Memory, and Humanistic Values

The Foundation continued activities related to history, recalling the shared past of Poland and Japan and emphasizing that courage, solidarity, and empathy form the foundation of Polish-Japanese relations—both in the past and today.

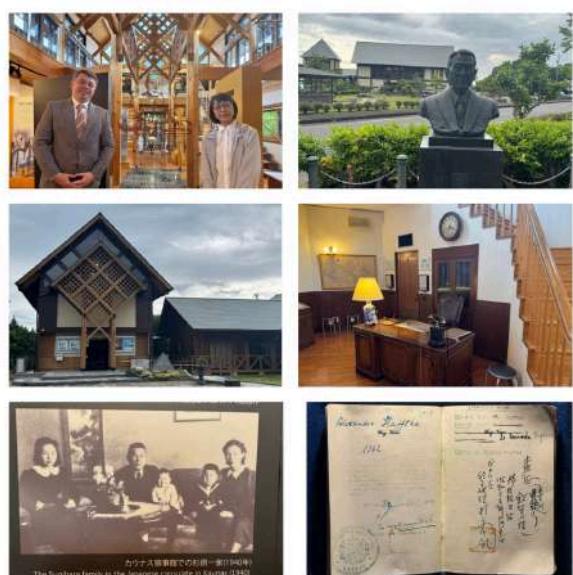
On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Radosław Tyszkiewicz, President of the Foundation, visited the Auschwitz Peace Museum in Shirakawa, Fukushima Prefecture. The museum, operating since 2003 as a non-profit organization, presents the history of the camp and conducts educational activities, which have so far reached approximately 50,000 visitors. The Poland-Japan Foundation became a supporting member of the museum.

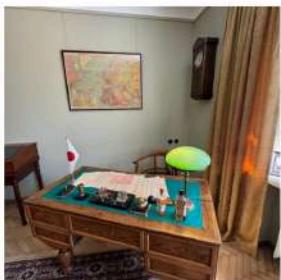


Radosław Tyszkiewicz, President of the Foundation, visited memorial sites dedicated to Chiune Sugihara—a Japanese diplomat whose actions during World War II became a symbol of civil courage, empathy, and solidarity. Serving as Vice-Consul of Japan in Kaunas, Lithuania, Sugihara issued thousands of transit visas, the so-called “Visas for Life,” in defiance of his government’s decisions, saving many Jews from the Holocaust, including numerous Polish citizens.

Radosław Tyszkiewicz, President of the Foundation, appeared as a speaker at the event News and Music: “The 80th Anniversary of the End of World War II: Reconciliation in Europe and Asia.” The discussions focused on reconciliation in Europe and Asia, including relations between Poland, Germany, and France, as well as between Japan and South Korea. Musical performances highlighted the role of culture and music in building peace beyond language barriers.

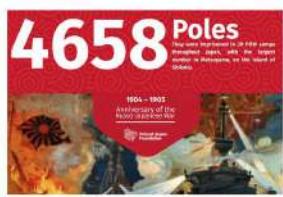
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEK9ssR6x4M>





Discussions at the Chiune Sugihara Museum in Yaotsu, Gifu Prefecture, and at the Sugihara House Museum in Kaunas, Lithuania, concerned the possibility of establishing cooperation and implementing joint educational and cultural projects aimed at commemorating Sugihara. These projects aim at deepening Polish–Japanese historical relations. The Foundation seeks to more broadly disseminate the story of Chiune Sugihara both in Poland and in Japan, treating it as a universal message of moral responsibility, courage, and goodwill toward others.

A meeting between the President of the Poland–Japan Foundation and the Director of the Sybir Memorial Museum took place at the museum in Białystok. The talks concerned plans to strengthen cooperation in the fields of education, culture, and the commemoration of shared history, as well as the implementation of joint projects. The museum's collection includes approximately 5,000 exhibits, including items related to Japan, such as a photograph of Polish Siberian children rescued with the help of Japan and materials concerning Bronisław Piłsudski. In 2024, a museum delegation participated in ceremonies in Japan marking the 100th anniversary of the evacuation of Polish children from Siberia, visiting, among others, museums in Tokyo, Tsuruga, Osaka, and Kobe, as well as memorial sites dedicated to the "Siberian children."



The Poland–Japan Foundation carried out two informational and promotional campaigns on social media. The first campaign was connected with Poland's participation in Expo 2025 in Osaka. The second campaign was dedicated to commemorating the 120th anniversary of the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War. Its aim was to highlight the historical significance of this conflict for Poland and to emphasize shared Polish–Japanese experiences.

# Poland–Japan Think Tank

In 2025, the Foundation established its own think tank, which became a new space for expert dialogue and strategic reflection on the future of Poland–Europe–Japan relations. In the same year, we published the following publications:

- Towards EU–Japan Relations: A Strategic Partnership at a Pivotal Juncture: <https://polandjapanfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Towards-EU%20%93Japan-Relations.pdf>
- The EU AI Act and the Japan's AI law share the same a human centric approach but only one of them has teeth: <https://polandjapanfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/The-EU-AI-Act.pdf>
- Unlocking Opportunities for Japanese-European Cooperation in the Global South: <https://polandjapanfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Unlocking-Opportunities-for-Japanese-European-Cooperation-in-the-Global-South.pdf>
- A means to an end and an end in itself: <https://polandjapanfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/A-means-to-an-end-and-an-end-in-itself.pdf>
- Challenges and Opportunities Opened by the Rising Biotechnology and Bioeconomy in the Context of Japan: <https://polandjapanfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Challenge-and-Opportunities.pdf>



23 July 2025

**Towards EU-Japan Relations:  
A Strategic Partnership at a Pivotal Juncture**

Erik Lenhart and Michael Tkacik

## Introduction

The 30th EU-Japan Summit, held in Tokyo on July 23, 2025, marked a historic milestone in the strategic partnership between the European Union (EU) and Japan. Against a backdrop of Japan's domestic political turmoil, shifting global trade dynamics, and escalating geopolitical tensions, the summit delivered an unprecedentedly comprehensive [joint statement](#), signaling a deepening of cooperation across security, economic, climate, and digital domains. This analysis evaluates the summit's outcomes, the challenges posed by Japan's internal instability and global pressures, and strategic recommendations for sustaining this critical partnership in a multipolar world.

## Key Outcomes: A Maturing Strategic Partnership

The 2025 summit built on the foundations laid by the 2023 summit, shifting from broad commitments regarding shared values and multilateralism to concrete, institutionalized mechanisms with clear timelines and deliverables. This evolution reflects a partnership equipped to address interconnected global challenges, positioning the EU and Japan—representing nearly a quarter of global GDP and 20% of world trade—as pivotal players in promoting a rules-based international order.

### 1. Security and Defense: Operational Integration

The summit marked a transformative leap in security and defense cooperation, moving beyond dialogue to operational integration. Key initiatives include:

- Japan-EU Defense Industry Dialogue: A platform to foster collaboration on defense technologies, interoperability, and joint R&D in dual-use technologies.
- Security of Information Agreement (SIA): Formal negotiations to enhance secure data-sharing, critical for addressing hybrid threats and cybersecurity.
- Expanded Scope: New focus areas such as space security, countering foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), maritime security, and non-proliferation, aligning with international law and UN frameworks.
- Joint Exercises: Commitments to joint training, capacity-building, and coordination in multilateral forums, reflecting the interconnected security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

These developments underscore a shared recognition of the nexus between European and Indo-Pacific



During his visit to Hokkaido, the President of the Poland–Japan Foundation, Radosław Tyszkiewicz, met with Professor Norihiro Naganawa, Director of the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center (SRC) at Hokkaido University—one of the world's leading centers for research on Central and Eastern Europe, which also plays an important role for Poland. The discussion focused on prospects for cooperation, including the implementation of joint projects and support for the newly emerging think tank of the Poland–Japan Foundation.

At a meeting with representatives of the Japan Foundation in Tokyo, possibilities for deepening relations and identifying new areas of cooperation were discussed. The talks focused on joint cultural, educational, and academic projects that could contribute to further strengthening Polish–Japanese relations. An important topic was also the potential involvement of the Foundation in the international conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS), planned for 2026 in Poznań.



# Foundation Development



The Poland-Japan Foundation has relocated its headquarters in Poland and now operates from the modern Concept Tower office building in the rapidly developing Wola district – the heart of Warsaw's business and cultural life. We have been joined by a large group of advisors and volunteers who actively support the implementation of our activities and initiatives with their knowledge, experience, and dedication.

We are delighted to introduce Ania – a dynamic character created by the talented young Japanese artist known as KAMU, who has become a symbol of the Poland-Japan Foundation. Ania embodies energy, optimism, and youthful freshness, perfectly reflecting the uniqueness of modern Polish-Japanese ties and the building of strong and lasting relationships between Poland and Japan.



**Poland-Japan  
Foundation**



# With the Future in Mind

The year 2025 showed that the dialogue between Poland and Japan has enormous potential, and the Poland-Japan Foundation is playing an increasingly important role in it – as an initiator, partner, and facilitator of cooperation. We thank all our partners, institutions, artists, scientists, and friends of the Foundation for their trust and shared journey.

The New Year 2026 brings a new beginning and new opportunities. The Poland-Japan Foundation wishes you health, peace, and the energy to pursue your passions and plans.

May 2026 favour dialogue and the further deepening of relations between Poland and Japan.

Happy New Year!

