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Tokyo seeks assurance of safety after crash

# Japan wants U.S. Ospreys grounded

KANAKO TAKAHARA  
STAFF WRITER

Japan asked the U.S. to suspend flights of Osprey aircraft until the safety of the type is ensured, Defense Minister Minoru Kihara said Thursday, after an Osprey crashed into the sea off Yakushima island in Kagoshima Prefecture the day before with at least one crew member confirmed dead.

The U.S. had not issued a response over the operation of Ospreys at the time of writing.

The U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa Prefecture continued its operation of Osprey aircraft after Wednesday's incident, causing local residents to voice their concern. Ospreys are also stationed at the U.S. military's Yokota base in Tokyo.

A senior Defense Ministry official said during an Upper House committee on diplomacy and defense on Thursday that the government had confirmed 14 Osprey takeoffs and landings at the Futenma base from the time of the crash through 7 a.m. Thursday.

Liberal Democratic Party lawmaker Masa-hisa Sato, a former Ground Self-Defense Force commander, said the government should make sure that the U.S. grounds the Osprey to avoid angering local residents.

"Otherwise, it would have a negative impact on the (Osprey's) deployment in Saga as well as the operation at the Yokota base," Sato told the parliamentary session.

The GSDF plans to deploy 17 Ospreys to Saga Airport by July 2025, as part of Japan's island defense strategy. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said there are currently no plans to change course. There are currently 14 Ospreys deployed at the GSDF's Kisarazu base in Chiba Prefecture.

At around 2:40 p.m. on Wednesday, a CV-22B Osprey deployed at the Yokota Air Base in Tokyo crashed into the sea off Yakushima with eight crew members on board. A male member was found several kilometers from the crash site. He was rushed to a hospital but was confirmed dead. It is the first death in Japan involving the Osprey.

The U.S. Air Force said the cause of the incident is currently unknown.



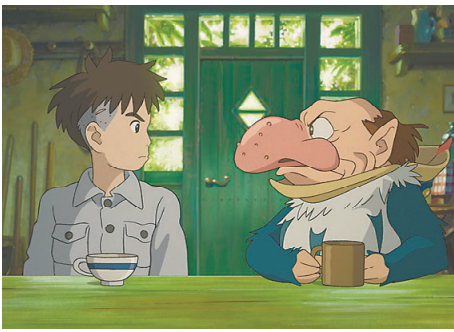
A Japan Coast Guard ship and helicopter search the area on Thursday where a U.S. military Osprey aircraft crashed off Yakushima in Kagoshima Prefecture a day earlier. KYODO

The U.S. had initially explained the incident to the Japanese government as an "unplanned landing," suggesting that the pilot had control of the tilt-rotor aircraft until the last minute, but later rephrased it as a "crash," Kihara said.

The Self-Defense Forces and the Japan Coast Guard are on an around-the-clock search and rescue mission. Hisashi Matsumoto, parliamentary vice minister of defense, left for Yakushima on Thursday to act as a liaison between the central



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## Panel submits final report on trainee program

ANIKA OSAKI EXUM  
STAFF WRITER

A panel of experts submitted its final report on the reassessment, scrapping and redesign of the controversial foreign technical intern program to Justice Minister Ryuji Koizumi on Thursday.

After roughly a year of meetings, the cumulative report contains recommendations on a newly designed policy — tentatively referred to as the "Training and Employment System" — for lawmakers who now have the task of creating specific policy measures.

The government made clear its intent to review the system by convening the expert panel in late 2022, in response to calls that the system was the cause of foreign worker abuse and related human rights violations. Eventually, it announced the planned replacement of the program by the start of the 2024 fiscal year.

According to the final report, the panel advocates for a system that would move away from the old program's focus of transferring technical skills to developing countries, to securing and developing vital foreign human resources to address the labor shortage Japan currently faces amid a shrinking population.

Discussions and conversations have primarily revolved around establishing a new system aimed at securing and nurturing human resources, centered on three perspectives: "protection of foreign nationals' rights," "career advancement for foreign nationals," and "a safe, secure, and inclusive society," the panel's chair and president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Akihiko Tanaka, said in a statement earlier this month.

Within that vision, the panel's recommendations include decreasing the financial burden of trainees who are often saddled with debt due to starting costs, improving and standardizing oversight, expanding the scope of job transfers, creating a clear framework for career development and pathways to higher-level visa status, and improving both foreign nationals' integration into society and Japanese language proficiency.

According to Tanaka and other representatives, a large point of discussion for the panel was the restrictions that should be imposed on workers who wish to transfer jobs after arriving and starting work in Japan, especially because there are concerns that easing

# Henry Kissinger, controversial American diplomat, dies at 100

REUTERS

Henry Kissinger, a controversial Nobel Peace Prize winner and diplomatic powerhouse whose service under two presidents left an indelible mark on U.S. foreign policy, died on Wednesday at age 100, Kissinger Associates said in a statement.

He died at his home in Connecticut.

Kissinger had been active past his centenary, attending meetings at the White House, publishing a book on leadership styles and testifying before a Senate committee about



Henry Kissinger  
REUTERS

global events while serving as secretary of state under Republican President Richard

the nuclear threat posed by North Korea. In July, he made a surprise visit to Beijing to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In the 1970s, he had a hand in many of the decade's epoch-changing

Nixon. The German-born Jewish refugee's efforts led to the diplomatic opening of China, landmark U.S.-Soviet arms control talks, expanded ties between Israel and its Arab neighbors, and the Paris Peace Accords with North Vietnam.

Kissinger's reign as the prime architect of U.S. foreign policy waned with Nixon's resignation in 1974. Still, he continued to be a diplomatic force under President Gerald Ford and to offer strong opinions throughout the rest of his life.

While many hailed Kissinger for his bril-

liance and broad experience, others branded him a war criminal for his support for anti-communist dictatorships, especially in Latin America. In his latter years, his travels were circumscribed by efforts by other nations to arrest or question him about past U.S. foreign policy.

His 1973 Peace Prize — awarded jointly to North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho, who declined it — was one of the most controversial ever. Two members of the Nobel committee resigned over the selection, and questions arose about the U.S. secret bombing of Cambodia.

Ford called Kissinger a "super secretary of state" but also noted his prickliness and self-assurance, which critics were more likely to call paranoia and egotism. Even Ford said, "Henry in his mind never made a mistake."

"He had the thinnest skin of any public figure I ever knew," Ford said in an interview shortly before his death in 2006.

With his dour expression and gravelly, German-accented voice, Kissinger was hardly a rock star but had an image as a ladies' man, squiring starlets around

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## Sakura Stage to cap Shibuya redevelopment

KATHLEEN BENOZA  
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As part of what's regarded as a once-in-a-century redevelopment of Tokyo's renowned Shibuya district, the Shibuya Sakura Stage complex is set to be what Tokyu Land Corporation calls the final puzzle piece, putting an accent on the transformation around the iconic station area.

The newly built facility is part of an ambitious urban renewal endeavor by Tokyu in the area around Shibuya Station, which commenced with Shibuya Hikarie in 2012 and was followed by Shibuya Stream in 2018 and the development of Shibuya Scramble Square and Fukuras in 2019.

With the development in the Sakuragaoka district, famed for its cherry blossom slope, Tokyu is aiming to elevate the allure of Shibuya, said Hiroaki Hoshino, the company's president and CEO.

The Sakuragaoka district has faced challenges due to its location, cut off from other parts of Shibuya by Route 246 and the Yamanote Line tracks, resulting in lower foot traffic. Sakura Stage is intended



to improve access to the area.

Overall, Hoshino said the goal is not only to increase Shibuya's appeal but also to contribute to boosting Tokyo's global stature.

Yasuhiro Kurokawa, Tokyu's head of urban development for Shibuya and the Sakura Stage project, said the development of Shibuya as a regional hub has received a positive response from people abroad but that language barriers have made it difficult to communicate the significance of their work globally.

**A view of a plaza within Shibuya Sakura Stage, what Tokyu Land Corporation is calling the final puzzle piece in its redevelopment of the area around Shibuya Station.**  
LOUISE CLAIRE WAGNER

"We are often told that (our work) should be used more as a model for development on a global scale," Kurokawa said. But he said the company has lacked a platform to convey these ideas and that even when they have tried, it's been challenging to get the message across.

But he said the company believes they can get over these challenges with Sakura Stage.

Tokyu sees the project as fitting into Shibuya's broader evolution, including how it has been widely perceived as being a youth-centric area. The developer contends that Shibuya can cater to residents and visitors of all ages. That falls in line with Shibuya Ward's own goals. Mayor Ken Hasebe has said he wants the ward to become more mature and sophisticated.

Kurokawa said media attention on events like Halloween — Shibuya has traditionally been the site of boisterous celebrations — have contributed to the misunderstanding.

"We have to create a town where everyone, with their diverse backgrounds, regardless of age, can find it livable and enjoyable," he said.

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