The challenges confronting Japan are staggering—a falling birthrate, an aging population, the depopulation of rural areas, the uncertain future of nuclear energy, the rise of China. Japan is at the forefront of these emerging global issues, which cannot be effectively addressed with existing measures or by mimicking the policies of other governments. What Japan—and other countries—needs to face the same challenges—needs are novel and innovative policy options.

Seeing these challenges as an opportunity to gain a head start on working out policy solutions, the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research—an independent, private, non-profit think tank—underwrites rigorous research to offer concrete policy proposals that will result in realistic changes.

As a leading think tank in a country at the forefront of emerging global challenges, we will continue to offer the world a choice of policy blueprints for tomorrow.
Japan’s Preeminent Think Tank Offering Innovative Policy Options to Meet Emerging Global Challenges

The Aims of the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research

As a world-class think tank conducting independent research and rigorous analysis, our mission is to become an influential voice in the global policymaking community and contribute to the realization of a better society.

Rigorous Analysis and Quality Research Leading to Real-World Impact

Turning Challenges into Opportunities

The fact that Japan is at the forefront of emerging social challenges gives us an advantage in working out their solutions. As a boutique think tank, we will be selective in the issues we address and explore those issues from a broad, non-prescriptive perspective.

Leveraging Research Results into Policies for a Better Society

To ensure real-world impact, we will actively respond to policy proposals from legislators, government officials, scholars, and journalists, as well as reach out broadly to the general public.

Developing the Next Generation of Leaders in Countries around the World

One of our missions is to identify and nurture leaders of the future, both in Japan and around the world. We undertake the programs below to develop outstanding human resources capable of engaging with issues from a broad perspective and creatively pursuing the right path.

Tokyo Foundation Policy Research Fellowship

The program provides fellowships to young, highly promising researchers who can be expected to make a major contribution to policymaking in Japan. They will receive stipends from experts at the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research for up to five years to gain a grounding in public policy and be offered opportunities for collaborative research with experts from around the world and in cooperation with government policymakers. The program will be implemented for a period of 14 years.

Sylff Association

The Sycamore Society Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (Sylff) is a global fellowship program for graduate students in humanities and social sciences. It offers opportunities to students in 65 countries through the training of Japanese-language teachers and provision of fellowships to students pursuing Japanese-related studies. Since 2007, the Sylff Association has been launching fellowships for the next generation of leaders among all nationalities. The more than 20,000 students who have received fellowships to date continue to be eligible for additional support from the Association.

https://www.sylff.org