

Provisional translation by FPCJ

# Japan-China Relations -Measures by Japan to Lessen Tensions

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## The Problem in the Discourse Space Between Japan and China Exposed by Prime Minister Takaichi's Response Regarding an "Existential Crisis"

- There is active debate within Japan regarding the circumstances under which Prime Minister Takaichi made her statement, whether its content was appropriate, and what conditions would even constitute an "existential crisis."

→ The polarization of Japan's discourse space continues to intensify.

→ Both those leaning left and right tend to pigeonhole themselves into simplistic frameworks like "anti-China" or "pro-China." They end up solely asserting their own legitimacy and attacking each other, perpetually unable to engage in constructive debate.

- The current Chinese government cannot possibly understand the significance of the debate in Japan, and under strict censorship, it is blocking diverse discussions within China.
- To comprehend China's actions, it is essential to understand key information, the nature of restriction of speech by the Chinese government and its affiliated agencies, and the narratives they construct.

## What Is Needed to Lessen Tensions in Japan-China Relations?

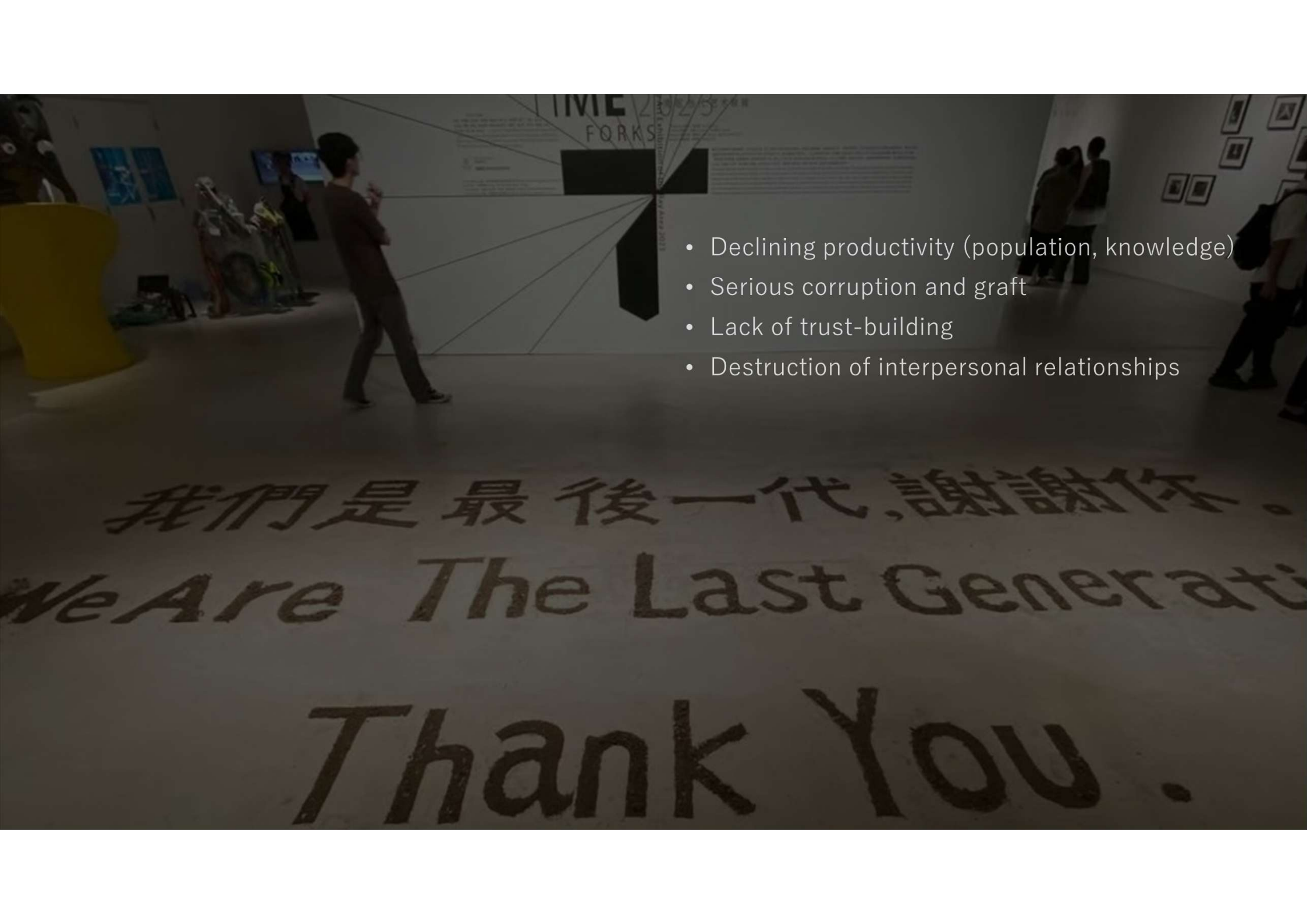
- The Chinese government's narrative is deliberate. If Japan is swayed by it, it will harm its national interests.
- Arguments Japan considers legitimate fall on deaf ears with the current Chinese government, and Japan must create narratives that counter China's narrative.
  - ( 1 ) Narrative to Counter the Resurgence of Militarism
  - ( 2 ) Narrative of Democracy
  - ( 3 ) Narrative of Autonomy and Independence

## **China's Society Rapidly Becoming Unstable Amid Economic Downturn**

**The Destruction of  
Humanity Has Also  
Reached Serious Levels**

- China's restriction of speech and ideas, coupled with its deteriorating economic situation, has reached severe levels.
- Surveillance and censorship permeate every corner of society. Even organizing a book club of five or six people to discuss social issues can lead to police interrogation. Police keep a close watch on activities addressing poverty, environmental protection, labor issues, feminism, homosexuality, and other topics held in bars, cafes, and other small activity hubs. Individuals with organizational skills are marked.
- Young people who resisted China's strict zero-COVID policy and speech restrictions were arrested in China, and fled overseas after their release
- Some struggle to adapt to life in a foreign land and suffer from depression, yet they support each other through daily life. Unable to return home, some live in precarious circumstances and have taken their own lives.
- Currently in Japan, there are Chinese individuals who cannot return to their homeland, including church officials, human rights lawyers, investigative journalists, liberal intellectuals, and socially conscious artists.



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- The image shows an art installation in a gallery. A large wall projection features a central black cross-like shape with lines radiating from its center. Above the shape, the text 'TIME 2025' and 'FORKS' is visible. To the left, a man in a dark shirt and pants is looking at the projection. In the background, other visitors are visible, and a large yellow sculpture is on the far left. The floor is covered with large, bold text in Chinese and English.
- Declining productivity (population, knowledge)
  - Serious corruption and graft
  - Lack of trust-building
  - Destruction of interpersonal relationships

我們是最後一代，謝謝你。

*We Are The Last Generation*

*Thank You.*

# The Background of the Recent Increase in Immigrants from Chinese- Speaking Regions to Japan

- China: Crackdowns on ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, intellectuals, and activists; further strengthening of restrictions on speech and surveillance systems through the zero-COVID policy
- Hong Kong: The enactment of the National Security Law led to the arrest of politicians, intellectuals, activists, and journalists; the closure of human rights and civic groups; and the introduction of a whistleblower system.
- Taiwan: As relations with China grow tense, there is a growing tendency to refrain from supporting human rights activists and others to avoid provoking China.
- Both China and Hong Kong are experiencing a significant deterioration in their economies, marked by rising corporate bankruptcies, increasing unemployment rates, falling real estate prices, and worsening fiscal conditions. Moving to Western countries is costly. Japan, with its weakening yen, offers cheaper real estate, lower prices, and more affordable tuition fees.
- There are also people seeking new business opportunities or jobs; those enrolling in language schools, universities, or graduate schools to change their life course; those leaving their home country temporarily or long-term to escape persecution; and those relocating for their children's education, among others.

# Development of Discourse Spaces and Public Spaces for Chinese in Japan

- They want to think, discuss, and express themselves together.
- Increasing numbers of Chinese bookstores, activity spaces, cafes, live music venues...
- Public Intellectual Lecture: Has the University of Tokyo replaced the Chinese University of Hong Kong?
- Documentary production & screenings
- Recovering vanishing folk history, projects to restore memories

# Lectures Held at the University of Tokyo Where Most Attendees Were Chinese

日本社会中的性別：  
日本女性地位低下之探究  
(日本社会におけるジェンダー：  
日本女性はなぜ社会地位が低いのか?)

CHIZUKO UENO

YINQI LI

主持人：李一諾 × 主講人：上野千鶴子  
社會學家，日本女性學、  
性別研究領域的開拓者、  
引領者及理論學家

2024 2.13-18:30  
東京都目黒区駒場3丁目8-1



中国知識人と交流を  
深めた私の半世紀

日時 09/17(火)  
17:30-19:15

劉燕子氏

ベリ・リンク氏 PerryLink

議題  
17:30-18:00 劉燕子氏による  
イントロダクション  
18:00-18:45 ベリー・リンク氏による  
記念講演  
18:45-19:15 パネルディスカッション  
(ベリー・リンク氏、  
劉燕子氏、阿古智子氏)

阿古智子氏

場所 | 東京大学駒場キャンパスII  
KOMCEE East K011  
東京都目黒区駒場4-6-1



Global China Dialogue

制度基因：中國制度與  
極權主義制度的起源

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2024 12/06

地點 | 東京都目黒区駒場東京大学駒場  
校区113号館2樓1223號室  
(東京都目黒区駒場3-8-1)





会場は日本なのに...中国国内“ライブ禁  
ロック歌手の歌を聞くためだけに多数の  
人來日し涙 日本人が知らない“中国”

372

5/31

友だち追加

FNNプライム



FNNプライムオンライン

4月下旬から約10日間かけて、あるロック歌手  
ツアーが日本全国5都市で行われた。全会場で  
チケットが完売し、1万人もの観客が涙を流し熱狂  
したが、コンサート会場にいた客の大半は中国  
だった。しかもわざわざこのコンサートを見る  
めだけに來日した人も多い。彼らはなぜ、多く

# People Who Come to Japan Seeking Freedom

- Music, movies, and talk shows banned in China are being held in Japan, leading to an increase in travelers visiting Japan.
- Freedom economy?

## To Reduce the Risk of War

## Analysis of Collective Memory and Identity

## Communication with People of Differing Perspectives

- China: Great Leap Forward and Anti-Rightist Campaign Generation / Cultural Revolution Generation / Tiananmen Incident Generation / COVID-19 and White Paper Movement Generation / Feminism, LGBTQ+, sexual minorities
  - Hong Kong: Umbrella Movement to Anti-Fugitive Offenders Bill Movement Generation / Post-movement political depression
  - Taiwan: Young generation pursuing diversity and autonomy, not “surrender or resistance”
  - Japan: Neutrality → Political taboos, lack of critical thinking, self-censoring democracy
- \*Interaction/Solidarity/Disconnection between social classes and generations
- \*As the participants pass away → Second generation, third generation. Newly created words, memories, post-memory
- \*All modern states have sought to support the legitimacy of their political systems and strengthen social cohesion and a sense of belonging by inventing, shaping, and stabilizing collective memory in some way (Hobsbawm and Ranger, 2012).
- Memories are selectively enhanced and forgotten.





**Youth Exchange Between China, Taiwan, Hong Kong,  
and Japan Now Possible in Tokyo**



# 80 Years After the War: Workshop on Memories of War in Tokyo

Amid tense cross-strait relations, young people from the Kinmen and Penghu Islands pursue the inheritance of war memories and cultural exchange.

A 93-year-old atomic bomb survivor and Nobel Peace Prize laureate answers questions from mainland Chinese students who experienced the trauma of social movements and learned a different history.

Chinese immigrants in Japan who strive to build public spaces despite carrying political trauma.

Japanese youth are beginning to take an interest in East Asian youth who strive to pass down memories of war and social movements.



**Transnational dialogues at University of Tokyo, June 2025**





## The History of Japanese Colonialism The Botan-sha Incident and the Taiwan Expedition



### “From Island to Island”

The complex dynamics of  
perpetration and victimization: The  
history of Malaysian-Taiwanese  
serving as Japanese soldiers in the  
South Seas

Discussions by students from  
mainland China and Taiwan

牡丹と琉球の悲歌—  
**青海原の先**

「百年の時を超えて —  
民族、歴史、そして海をめぐる深い対話」

台湾・牡丹社事件を描くドキュメンタリー | 東京初上映

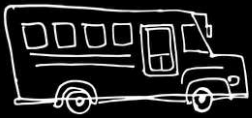
2025 **6/29** SUN. ① 14:00~17:00

東京大学 駒場キャンパス KOMCEE East K011

上映後トークセッション  
監督 | 胡皓翔 (ジョン・フー)  
東京大学 教授 | 阿古智子 (あこ・ともこ)  
ライター、編集者 | 平野久美子



# #航向 爱与和平



无论来自何方,身处何地,  
把手指放在手机闪光灯上,  
点亮一盏手指灯笼,  
记住TA的名字与遭遇,  
拒绝仇恨,航向爱与和平。



9月25日 纪念  
航平小朋友“头七”



今天我们这样告别航平  
*love and peace go on*

- 在社交媒体点亮“指灯笼”
- 晒出自己10岁的照片
- 给航平画一张他爱的昆虫图
- 给他的父母写封告慰的回信
- 在历史教科书里夹一朵花

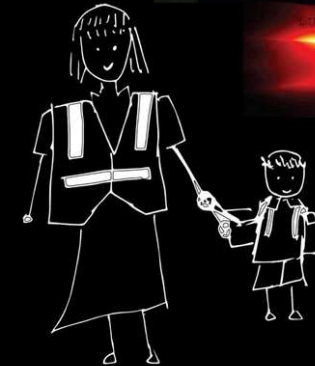
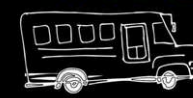
- # 为航平友平点亮手指灯笼
- # 你好航平小朋友
- # 给航平画只虫
- # 给沈女士/小山先生的回信
- # 终结仇恨教育

#航向爱与和平

## ともに行動しよう! デジタル灯笼プロジェクト

- 携帯電話を開いてフラッシュライトをつけましょう
- 指にライトをかざしましょう
- 写真を撮って、撮影地を記しましょう

ヘイトクライムにノーを!



デジタル灯笼を作って発信しましょう  
犠牲者を追悼し、私たちの悲しみを表し、ヘイトクライムに「ノー」を突きつけましょう

# Digital Lanterns: Campaign Against Hate Crimes

# Blocked on Chinese Social Media Within Three Days

今天 17:09  
群发失败



#航向爱与和平-9.25

今天 17:00  
群发失败



#航向爱与和平-9.25

此内容因违规无法查看，请前往草稿箱修改后重试



The invisible enemy of  
authoritarian and police  
states

**Fear**

Sharing suffering and  
empathy across  
generations and spaces

**Political depression**

The digital becomes  
real

**Regaining one's  
humanity**