

JAPAN LIBRARY

JAPAN LIBRARY A testament to the power of books

In Japan, under the auspices of free speech and press freedom, over 80,000 books are published every year, offering a diverse selection of literature for the nation's readers.

In this great ocean of books, we believe there are many works that should be enjoyed by not only a Japanese audience, but by a wider global audience as well. However, many such books, due to the language barrier and the limited number of translations, remain, for the most part, unread overseas.

Amid such a situation, the establishment of JAPAN LIBRARY promises to be a significant and welcome step toward creating more opportunities for people around the world to discover Japan's superb publications. JAPAN LIBRARY will make careful selections of publications from a wide range of fields and offer their English editions as gifts to public libraries and research institutions. Plans for e-book versions are also underway.

Japan possesses troves of timeless knowledge amassed across the ages—treasures that are distinctively Japanese that, nonetheless, transcend history and international borders.

JAPAN LIBRARY is loading these treasures onto ships we call books and venturing forth into the open sea. The voyage of these books will cover great distances over time, and reach a countless number of readers across the globe. And once it does, the treasures on board will shine anew, as these readers polish them with their own, distinctive intellects and sensibilities. This new shine—this new radiance—will surely light the way to the world's shared future.

With our faith firmly placed in such boundless powers of the book, we here at JPIC will endeavor to fulfill JAPAN LIBRARY's vision.

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Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture (JPIC)
(JPIC is supported by many companies and groups active in Japan's publishing circles)



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Titles of the First Five JPIC Publications

Flower Petals Fall, but the Flower Endures

The Japanese Philosophy of Transience



SEIICHI
TAKEUCHI

花びらは散る
花は散らない
竹内 整一 著
KADOKAWA 刊

ISBN 978-4-916055-48-4

Life is short and transient—Japanese people call this sentiment *mujokan*. However, what if we could sweep away the “despair” looming over the present age by proactively accepting this *mujo* (transience)? Perusing the thought of *mujo* from the perspectives of philosophy, literature, art and religion, Takeuchi delves into the view of life and death unique to the Japanese people who have shared “grief” and “pain” with each other, as well as into the very core of their underlying spirit. This book presents a full record of his “valedictory lecture” in commemoration of his retirement from the University of Tokyo.

If There Were No Japan

A Cultural Memoir



ROGER
PULVERS

もし、日本という国が
なかったら
ロジャー・パルバース 著
集英社インター
ナショナル 刊

©Shueisha International Inc.



ISBN 978-4-916055-44-6

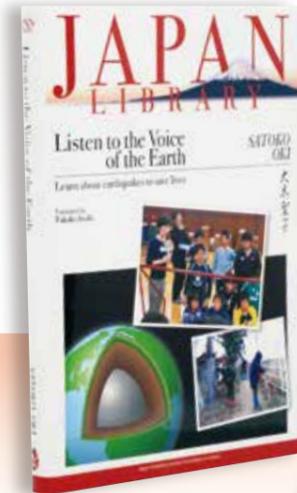
An award-winning writer and translator who has immersed himself in Japanese culture for half a century delivers a firsthand account of the country's customs and the profound changes occurring in contemporary Japanese society.

Originally published in Japanese, *If There Were No Japan: A Cultural Memoir* was acclaimed for its insights into Japanese life, bringing together aspects of history, culture and everyday life to paint an original and revealing portrait of the Japanese people and the pressing issues facing them today. This national bestseller was hailed as a roadmap for “innovation of the mind”—essential knowledge that could guide Japan out of the economic and psychological doldrums that have held sway for the past two decades.

During his decades of passionate engagement with Japan, Pulvers became close friends with many of the most gifted writers, filmmakers, actors and journalists in the country. Whether delving into ancient traditions or providing vivid accounts of contemporary customs, analyzing characters in Japanese fiction or recounting personal encounters with individuals, the author illuminates those inventive elements that have made Japanese culture and design the envy of the world—and that signal a way forward into the twenty-first century.

Listen to the Voice of the Earth

Learn about earthquakes to save lives



SATOKO
OKI

地球の声に
耳をすませて
大木 聖子 著
くもん出版 刊

ISBN 978-4-916055-45-3

“I wrote this book in the hope that readers will be able to save their own lives as well as those of the ones they love when an earthquake next strikes, so that the tragedy of March 11, 2011, would never be repeated.”—Satoko Oki

What our chatty planet teaches us

Would you be surprised to hear that there are scientists who listen to the Earth? Yes, the Earth does talk in many different voices—the voice of the air, the voice of the sea, the voice of volcanoes, and the voice of the Earth. Seismologists listen to the voice of the Earth.

We use high performance seismometers that do not miss the slightest muttering by the Earth that human ears cannot hear. That way, we can learn about what causes earthquakes and even what it is like inside the planet.

Earthquakes occur because it is hot inside the planet—because the Earth is dynamic. We cannot escape earthquakes as long as we live on the Earth. But from listening to the planet, seismologists have discovered what causes earthquakes and how we can live with them to protect our lives.

Saving the Mill

The amazing recovery of one of Japan's largest paper mills following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami



RYOKO
SASA

紙つなげ!
彼らが本の紙を
造っている
佐々 涼子 著
早川書房 刊

ISBN 978-4-916055-47-7

When Machine 8 goes down, the Japanese publishing industry goes down with it.

On March 11, 2011, one of the largest earthquakes in human history struck offshore of northeast Japan, triggering a massive tsunami that devastated surrounding coastal areas. One of the many victims of this epic disaster was Nippon Paper Industries' Ishinomaki Paper Mill, which was so flooded and covered in debris that it was completely shut down. NPI provided around 40% of the paper used by Japan's publishing industry and its Ishinomaki mill—home to one of the largest paper machines in the world—was its core production facility. Loss of this plant would have been a devastating blow. When the factory's leader Hiromi Kurata announced that the mill would be producing paper again in just six months, few believed him. The city of Ishinomaki still had no power, no gas, and no water. Even finding food and shelter was a challenge for many, and the plant was so covered in debris that large parts were still inaccessible. Even so, the burden of saving their company, their city, and even the Japanese publishing industry had been placed on the shoulders of the mill's employees. Their story is a monument to the indomitable spirit of the Japanese worker.

Tree-Ring Management

Take the Long View and Grow Your Business Slowly



HIROSHI
TSUKAKOSHI

リストラなしの
「年輪経営」
塚越 寛 著
光文社 刊

ISBN 978-4-916055-46-0

Hiroshi Tsukakoshi is the chairman of a *kanten* manufacturer that is far from the bustle of Tokyo amid the natural beauty of Nagano prefecture. His desire has been to build the kind of company that makes its employees happy and makes a contribution to society by doing so. His philosophy is to take the long view, growing his business slowly and steadily through “tree-ring management.”

“Over the last 20 years, no one has left the company because they were unhappy,” Tsukakoshi declares. His unique management principles include such ideas as “rapid growth is the enemy” and “the essence of management is creating fans.” His approach has resulted in rising sales and profits for half a century since the company's founding, and his company welcomes a steady stream of visiting executives and analysts from major corporations, including Murata Manufacturing and the Toyota Group. Chairman Tsukakoshi's philosophy of seeking steady growth over the long term will enlighten businesspeople around the world about a better way to manage corporations.

JAPAN LIBRARY publications will be donated principally to overseas universities, research institutions, public libraries, and other worthy organizations. We look forward to publishing more books in the future and hope you look forward to reading them.

If you have any requests on Japanese books that you would like to have translated, please contact us at the following e-mail address: japanlibrary@jpica.or.jp