

# TOKYO UPDATES

Connecting You with Tomorrow



*Tokyo Updates, an online magazine, features the latest fresh perspectives and insights into developments in Tokyo.*

*This includes daily life topics or leading-edge initiatives addressing SDGs and urban challenges.*

*So much is happening in Tokyo on a daily basis —we cover everything from business to technology; arts to culture; food to health; lifestyle and more.*

*Come to Tokyo and you could be our next story!*



Photo credit: National Diet Library, Japan

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# Find Out Your Favorite Story!



## Making Sustainability Delicious and Affordable with Vertical Farming

As agricultural costs rise and environmental pressures grow, competition for sustainable food production is intensifying. Founded in 2016, Oishii Farm is advancing vertical farming as an alternative to conventional agriculture, establishing a research center in Japan in 2025 to pursue a unique blend of agriculture, marketing, and technology.



## Water Supply Independent of Plumbing: A New Normal for Sustainable Water Infrastructure

As global water issues intensify, Tokyo-based ENELL is developing water infrastructure independent of plumbing through air-to-water technology. Its off-grid "mugen-sui" converts air, rainwater, and river water into safe drinking water without chlorine or other chemicals—technology from Tokyo now reaching the world.



## New York and Tokyo Celebrate Their Sister City Relationship

In 2025, Tokyo and New York marked the 65th anniversary of their sister city relationship. Representatives from New York attended the G-NETS meeting at SusHi Tech Tokyo 2025, underscoring continued cooperation with Tokyo to address shared global challenges.



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## Pioneering the Future of Tokyo's Startup Ecosystem Through Finance and Technology

With a mission to create new flows of capital for a new industrial structure, Fivot is building innovative financial mechanisms through proprietary technology. Winner of 1st Place in the Financial Innovation Category at the Tokyo Financial Award 2024, CEO Abe Shogo discusses the potential and future of Tokyo's startup ecosystem.



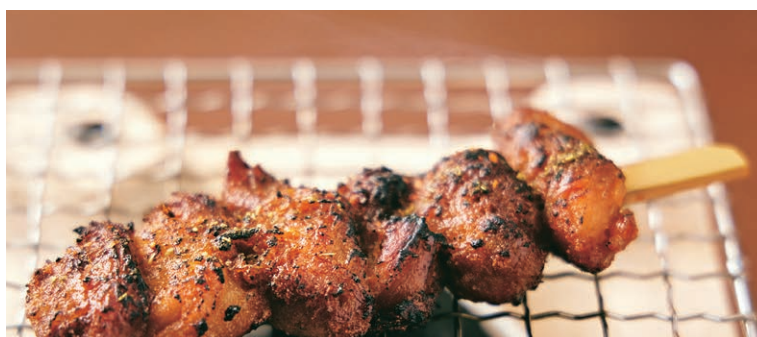
## Aiming to be Asia's Financial Hub

Founded in 2019, FinCity.Tokyo is Japan's first public-private partnership promoting Tokyo globally as an international financial hub. Chairman Nakaso Hiroshi discusses projects that bridge companies and investors, and the challenge of establishing Tokyo as a global financial hub driving sustainable economic growth.



## Funding the Future: Japan's Women-First Startup Fund

WPower Fund I, Japan's first venture fund focused on women entrepreneurs, aims to close the gender gap in startup investment. Co-founder Kathy Matsui of MPower Partners shares her vision to make Tokyo a global center of innovation.



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## Tokyo High School Students Find Meaning, Explore Cultural Roots via Bonsai Care

Bonsai captivates all ages with its beauty and cultural value. At Tokyo Metropolitan Horticultural High School, bonsai club members keep this tradition alive, leading workshops and passionately sharing their craft. Delve into their passion for bonsai.



## Soaking In Tokyo's Rich Sento Culture

For centuries, *sento* bathhouses have been vital to neighborhoods across Tokyo. Before home bathing became common, people washed and soaked there. Today, *sento* remain an affordable way to refresh body and mind, offering a unique cultural experience that reveals the richness of Tokyo's *sento* culture.



## Sharing Traditional Edo Culture Through AI

As AI rapidly spreads across business, research, and personal use, tools versed in local contexts and cultures remain limited. In Japan, Tokyo-based startup Sakana AI is addressing this gap by developing AI models tailored to Japanese culture and society.



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## Unleashing Color: How Art Is Transforming Society in Ginza

HERALBONY LABORATORY GINZA is an experimental space that transforms works by artists with disabilities into products, reshaping social perceptions of "difference." Born from a family story, Heraldbony promotes inclusion through art and has expanded to Paris.



## Learning from Traditional Life in Japan at The Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum

The Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum relocates and exhibits buildings of high historical value, tracing the evolution of the city and everyday life since the Edo period. Set on vast grounds, it displays 30 restored structures.



## The Future of Tokyo's Fashion Scene, as Seen by Young Designers

Two Tokyo fashion contests hosted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government have spotlighted emerging young designers. Post-graduation, they pursue creation with a vision to make Tokyo a global fashion hub. We explore their goals, activities, and the future of Tokyo's fashion scene.



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