The year 2019 is full of uncertainty. The U.S.-China trade war started by President Donald Trump seems to be accelerating with no signs of abating. Whether Trump will meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for a second time remains to be seen. How Brexit will turn out and how populist sentiments across Europe will play out in the European Union’s parliamentary election in May will set the future course of the EU. Tensions between Japan and South Korea over the decades-old territorial issues between Japan and Russia are holding the attention of foreign policy experts. In many ways, major policy issues that were left unsolved in 2018 may have to be carried by world leaders in 2019. Some experts say the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, that began Jan. 21, will be the first good opportunity for these issues to be discussed among the world’s top political and business leaders.

It is always hard to predict what bilateral or multilateral issues will capture the most attention in Davos — mainly because we live in such volatile and uncertain times,” said Lee Howell, a member of the WEF’s Managing Board.

“As the two largest economies in the world, U.S.-China relations will always warrant close attention in trade, but also technology and climate change policy. Given where the stock markets are now in both countries, I would expect much more attention on trade disputes between the U.S. and China in the new year,” Howell said.

Davos conference participants will certainly have a full agenda to discuss. Over 5,000 global leaders from government, society, academia, the arts and media will gather under the theme “Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.”

Last year, Trump’s participation in the WEF meeting made world headlines, as it was the first for a sitting U.S. president since Bill Clinton attended in 2000. At the annual meeting, Trump told the full packed with global elites that he would “always promote America first,” as he expected other world leaders to do for their own countries. “America first does not mean America alone, when the United States grows, so does the world,” he said.

This year, the American president, who is currently involved in a series of issues at home ranging from a border wall with Mexico to reintroducing trade woes with many countries over tariffs, said he will not attend the Davos conference. However, if he were to participate at the last minute, his possible remarks would likely capture global media attention.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was the only missing figure among Group of Seven leaders last year, is expected to return to Davos for the first time since 2014. On the macroeconomic front, the International Monetary Fund and other international institutions expect the global growth rate in 2019 to be somewhat moderate. However, many agree that escalating tensions between Washington and Beijing on trade, as well as political challenges such as Brexit, could weigh heavily on the global economy this year.

In what appears to be a good indicator of how closely the American and Chinese economies are linked, stock prices plunged in the U.S. at the start of the new year after Apple Inc. lowered its revenue expectations due to the ensuing China-South Korea trade war. These issues, if left unaddressed, will lead to big trouble down the road.”

“The political risk outlook for 2019 is reasonably good,” said Numata in announcing this year’s Top Risks report earlier this month. “But nearly all of the geopolitical developments that matter are now trending in the wrong direction. That’s unprecedented in my lifetime. These issues, left unaddressed, will lead to big trouble down the road.”

Experts are concerned about the spread of populism and say that many political leaders have become myopic and cannot think of longer-term strategies. Because of that, Davos’ uniqueness can offer a different kind of discussion. They say “not all global leaders will come to Davos as politicians who have to go through elections. So, I hope these leaders don’t focus on their private sectors but work to create a framework, which will enable international policy coordination,” Numata said.

The Japan Times
David Howell, a World Economic Forum executive, during a recent interview with The Japan Times.

"We will need a new framework for an optimal future society. These four elements will transform the world, quickly and the current system, and the current order will be transformed," he said. For example, China’s National Health Commission introduced a new approach to addressing elements of ‘Globalization 4.0’ partly related to more open and shared growth and the impact of new technologies.

This year’s G20 summit will be held in Osaka on June 28-29, and various meetings of the finance ministers and central bank governors’ meeting, the foreign ministers’ meeting and other ministerial meetings will also be held in the city as well as the G20 media centers and various other locations across the country.

"You could say, for instance, that Prime Minister Abe has been working ever since he took office in 2012 to address challenges, and Abe brought stability and continuity to Japanese policies."

"I want the center to be a headquarters for an aging society and the declining population of rural areas."

"I want the center to be a headquarters for an aging society and the declining population of rural areas."

The center also held the Data Policy Dialogue Series on Sept. 25 and the Mobility Dialogue Series on Oct. 16. Many decision-makers, including government officials, attended those meetings, helping important decisions to be made quickly, Suga said.

In addition to the Group of 20 meeting in Osaka in June, as well as various G20 ministerial meetings across Japan, there will be many related international conferences held in Japan this year.

For example, Business 20 will be held in Tokyo in March, while the Osaka May summit will also take place in Tokyo in May. Suga said that the center will contribute to reaching agreements during such gatherings.

"I want the center to be a headquarters for an aging society and the declining population of rural areas."
Looking toward a digital future for a globalized society

Maki Eda discusses her vision of creating a platform for the World Economic Forum

The commercialization of human genome data may accelerate scientific research.

Chief Representative Officer of the World Economic Forum’s Japan Office Makiko Eda has held a number of leadership roles, including as a representative officer of the World Economic Forum in the United States. She was chosen for creativity and leadership, and using those resources to do something new is important to me,” she said.

The Women’s Empowerment Index, which ranks countries on education, political empowerment and economic participation, shows that Japan’s female labor market is lacking. It compares well on education — 8th in the world — but 119th in economic participation, which recognizes earnings and ability to work.

Eda cited the example of the NGO Kiva, which funds microloans in developing countries. She said that Kiva’s popularity has increased overall, as has its influence. However, she noted that the organization’s ability to spread its message has not been enough to prevent it from failing, and that it is still one of many organizations that are not able to make a difference.

The National Women’s Agenda, a coalition of women’s organizations, is currently working on a report on the progress of women’s rights in Japan. Eda said that it is important to continue working on this issue, as Japan has a long way to go before achieving gender equality.

Eda also highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration. She mentioned the World Economic Forum’s Young Global Leadership program, which brings together young leaders from around the world to work on global challenges.

Eda said that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is important for Japan to continue to be a leader in global affairs, and that it is 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Japan Night will return to Davos once again to offer participants of the 2019 World Economic Forum meeting the opportunity to savor some of the finest Japanese cuisine.

The annual event, to be held on Jan. 23 at the Central Sporthotel Davos, is among the most popular side events at the international conference, drawing hundreds of attendees. The evening is arranged by The Japan Night Organization Committee, comprised of representatives of 28 major companies and a university, with special support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, as well as The National Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives Associations.

This year’s buffet features a variety of traditional washoku (Japanese cuisine) dishes such as succulent sushi and crisp vegetable tempura, as well as rich miso soup and savory egg custard.

For dessert, Takanori Murata, a Paris-based wagashi (traditional Japanese confections) master, plans to offer authentic traditional Japanese sweets, including dorayaki (pancakes filled with red-bean paste) and sakura mochi (sticky rice cake).

On the entertainment front, shamisen (a three-stringed banjo-like instrument) player Hibiki Ichikawa is expected to fly from London to perform at the venue.

Guests this year are expected to include government leaders and business executives to academics, experts and journalists—attended the event when Japanese chefs from around the world performed cooking demonstrations and offered traditional cuisine, including a shabu-shabu hot pot and grilled wagyu. The event also featured a bento with delicacies such as rice cooked with various ingredients, wagyu boiled in soy sauce and sugar, as well as a scallop and kelp salad, all served in a specially designed box.

According to agriculture ministry data, the number of Japanese restaurants abroad spiked from about 24,000 in 2006 to around 118,000 in 2017. Ministry data also shows exports of agricultural, fishery and forestry products, along with processed food, also reached a record of ¥807 billion in 2017.
Shifting to a decarbonized society amid climate change

Since the adoption of the Paris agreement in December 2015, the role of non-state players with the aim of making a decarbonized society has become more significant than ever. Non-state parties include companies, local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and others who are currently taking the lead in cross-sectoral climate change discussions.

However, things began to change when the U.S. withdrew from the agreement. Following this, similar movements to establish cross-sectoral organizations of non-state players have been taking hold in other countries. Japan is also part of this global trend. In July 2018, the Japan Climate Initiative (JCI), a group of non-governmental partners fighting against climate change, was launched. The JCI was established based on the recognition that a transition to a decarbonized society yields new opportunities for growth and development. It started with the founding members of 105 organizations, including leading companies in fields such as information and communications technology, finance, construction, housing, energy, food and retail, as well as local governments, consumer organizations, think tanks and NGOs.

Despite the establishment of the JCI, it is difficult to say that Japan is currently a leader in global climate action compared to other leading countries. However, considering that the Paris agreement was signed a year ago, the realization of a decarbonized society will require the participation of all parties. The JCI is expected to be a strong driver.

Japan also needs to enhance its actions. As part of its actions to seek dialogue and collaboration with similar actions in other countries, the JCI participated in the We Are Still In coalition and hosted JCAS 2019. The event was also a great opportunity to promote efforts within and between sectors.

The JCI's activities have already begun. To create momentum, in October, the JCI hosted the Japan Climate Action Summit (JCAS) in Tokyo with the participation of corporate CEOs, leaders of local governments and other representatives of organizations engaged in pioneering efforts.

As part of its activities to seek dialogue and collaboration with similar efforts in other countries, the JCI has begun to share its efforts and will also take the opportunity of the G20 summit being held in Osaka in June to further expand its activities.

Climate change is also to be discussed at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September and the COP24 U.N. Climate Change Conference in Poland in December. The JCI will continue these efforts and will also take the opportunity of the G20 summit being held in Osaka in June to further expand its activities.
Japan’s outlook for G20
Innovative ideas to address global challenges

Japan looks to enhance ‘Smart Society’ by integrating innovations and technology, making the most of artificial intelligence and robots, and concentrating on solutions to common issues.

A s Japan faces various social and economic challenges, including an aging population, as well as economic and energy issues, Japan is poised to find solutions to share them with other countries that are also expected to be confronted with these complex problems.

The upcoming G20 summit in Osaka, Japan, will provide further cooperation among all members, including both governments and nongovernmental organizations, towards future societies that realize both economic growth and solutions for such issues.

The annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, will likewise be an opportunity for world leaders to address these growing challenges as the conference area will delve into the topic of “Shaping a New Framework for Global Cooperation,” preparing for the arrival of “Globalization 4.0” (described by the Fourth Industrial Revolution).

As the G20 presidency immediately after the Buenos Aires summit in December, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated Japan would seek to realize a “human-centered future society” in the cross-cutting areas.

“Japan is determined to lead global economic growth by promoting the trade and investment, achieving both economic growth and reduction of disparities, and contributing to the development agenda and other global issues with the SDGs (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) at its core,” Abe said.

In addition, we will lead discussions on the supply of global commons for realizing global growth such as quality infrastructure and the supply of global commons for realizing environmental protection, the prime minister noted at the U.N. General Assembly.

For example, on dementia — where treatment is not yet available — people in South Africa are largely unaware of their diagnosis, even though it is a global health issue. The prime minister said that Japan should also look to global growth such as climate change and ocean plastic waste.

Japan also seeks to make society where all people, including the young, the elderly and people with disabilities, can actively participate. These understandings are essential in bringing about further growth and prosperity.

The world economic outlook is increasingly uncertain. It’s essential to get to the heart of what can bolster future growth. Keys to overcome these barriers are the four elements of trade, innovation, empowerment and quality infrastructure.

These keys are highlighted by the prime minister who will likely dominate international discussions throughout 2019.

Champion of free trade
At an event that has expressed economic prosperity after World War II, a trade route free and open international economic systems, Japan has not only been a champion, but also a consistent supporter of free trade.

In his speech at the U.N. General Assembly in September, the prime minister said “Japan, the country that enjoyed the greatest benefits of the post-World War II era, is now contributing to the welfare of underprivileged countries, even those who may not share the same view with us in the current political climate.”

One recent event involving the country’s commitment to promoting free trade is the Japan-G7 Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

In July in Tokyo, Japanese and German trade ministers agreed on the EPA, which is expected to come into force on Feb. 1, 2019. The EPA route to a large, free and advanced economic area with some 560 million people accounting for about 17 percent of the world gross domestic product and 40 percent of world trade.

Another recent development is the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, also known as CPTPP, that Japan and 11 other countries have signed to further promote regional integration and facilitation of trade.

The party enters into force on Dec. 30, 2018, and represents about 15 percent of global GDP and covers about 500 million people.

In addition, Japan has strengthened its commitment to the Asian Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, negotiations with 17 other countries, including the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members, China and India. Underprivileged, the agreement would create an economic zone covering about half of the world’s population and about 30 percent of global GDP and world trade.

To order to expedite and liberalize the trade of the 21st century on the vast region extending from Asia-Pacific to the Indian Ocean, the countries that have created the system and reap the greatest benefits from that system — that is, every country, like Japan — must lead the effort, the prime minister said in the U.N. General Assembly.

Advancing innovation
In addition to promoting free trade, accelerating innovation is essential to pull the global economy along.

In chief of state innovation, Japan seeks to create “Smart Society,” a concept addressed in the country’s 2017 Growth Strategy released in June of the same year. It is a current move toward the innovations of “Industry 4.0” and a model of data, cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics — all emerging strengths — are incorporated.

The scale would provide solutions to global social challenges, and also present a model where anybody, anywhere can live their life through innovation.

One example is the work of the WERE Global Innovation Council on Human Enhancement and Longevity. Makoto Suzuki led host of efforts that aimed to make the field of life extension science.

As considers the field of “Industry 4.0” as well as “Smart Society,” he notes that innovation will be the world’s key to dealing with the coming super-aged society. According to Suzuki, Japan could make the lead in “healthy longevity,” in researching and developing new medical devices and robots to assist nursing care personnel, among other things including challenges on extraterrestrial missions.

Another important role Japan has to play is on antimicrobial resistance. The government and scientists are engaging in international discussions on new medications.

For example, on dementia — where treatment is not yet available — people in South Africa are largely unaware of their diagnosis, even though it is a global health issue. The prime minister said that Japan should also look to global growth such as climate change and ocean plastic waste.

Japan seeks to export its shinkansen technology, which is known for its safety and stability. The government has already been doing so for decades.

However, it is crucial that the country also promotes its shinkansen technology to the advanced countries to ensure maximized benefits and keep the public under control.

At the G20 meeting in Osaka, Japan, the prime minister noted at the U.N. General Assembly.

Medical innovation could contribute to the enhancement of human life.

Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
President Makoto Suzuki believes Japan can export solutions at the forefront of various research such as regenerative medicine.

Cyberdyne Inc.’s HAL Lumbar Type for Care Support is designed to mitigate risks of back pain. (©PHOTO: CYBERDYNE)
Kaleidist K. President Yukiko Tsukahara, who serves as the executive director of the W20 Japan, has been active for many years in promoting the left-side movement coordinated by the agency’s voluteers. Above: Greenhouse Gas Observing Satellites. JAXA.

Japan’s outlook for G20

Ensuring sustainable growth amid demographic change

Continued from page B6

Women 20 (W20) in March. The W20 is an expansion of group works with an emphasis on gender equality, launched in 2015 during the G20 summit in Turkey. The group’s aim is to ensure the gender equality in the world. The W20 holds meetings on a regular basis and releases reports on various issues related to gender equality. 

Tsukahara, who also serves as the executive director of the W20 Japan Meeting Committee, said the Japanese government and the W20 Japan have made meaningful contributions to the promotion of gender equality in the world. The W20 Japan has been active in promoting gender equality in Japan and the world. 

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Japan has much to contribute to the environmental issues, including sharing technology related to renewable energy.

W20 Japan, under the “Expanded Partnership for Global Growth” project, has been working to promote gender equality in the world. The W20 Japan has been active in promoting gender equality in Japan and the world.

Left: Akiko Suzuki, director of public relations for G20 Japan.

Okinawa Prefecture in 2010, in order to promote local economic development in the country. The W20 Japan has been actively involved in the promotion of gender equality in Japan and the world. The W20 Japan has been active in promoting gender equality in Japan and the world.

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Left: Akiko Suzuki, director of public relations for G20 Japan.
Japan Night reception to serve a selection of Gold Prize-winning sake

Sin sushi of Fukushima Prefecture’s sake will be served to complete the fest at the annual Japan Night reception during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2019 — one of the events that VIPs from around the world attending the conference look forward to the most.

Fukushima, one of the major rice-producing prefectures in Japan, is known for flavorful sake, which hosts heavily on the stable brewing of quality rice.

At the Annual Japan Sake Awards 2018, one of the most prestigious sake competitions that dates back to 1911, Fukushima had 193 brands of sake make the Gold Prize. Out of 853 entries submitted from across Japan, 232 were awarded the Gold Prize, and Fukushima, together with Hyogo Prefecture, topped the list of Gold Prize-winners by percentage.

Fukushima has been the prefecture to win the most Gold Prizes for consecutive years, marking a record since 1916 when records were first kept. It was also a product of Fukushima, the Okama-adama Aizu-shi 2017 made by Ohkama Sake Brewery, a venerable sake manufacturer established in 1716, that was selected as one of the winner of the Champion Sake Award in the International Wine Challenge (IBC) 2018, out of a record number of 4,635 entries in the sake category.

The Okama-adama Aizu-shi, competes with the finest sake in the world that has been highly evaluated internationally within and across the Japan sake industry.

The brewery stands on the premises of about 120 square meters, almost as large as a two-bedroom apartment at the foot of Mount Adatara. It is also a sake made using the mountain’s fresh subsoil water.

Five other sake brands to be served at the Japan Night include the Gold Prize-winning Junmaishu Daiginjo by Ninku Shuzo; Momo no Namida by Tomotsugi Brewery; Sparkling Toyosuki by Toyosuki Brewery; Sixto Aizuminsai Daiginjo by Aizuminsai Brewery; and Aizuminsai Junmaishu (slow pressing) method with a pleasant aroma.

Japanese soup stocks are made of a combination of many dried ingredients such as kelp, shiitake mushrooms, kombu (kelp-based stock), sauerkraut and flying fish. Each ingredient has its own umami, whereas abundant minerals in hard water makes the umami taste the other hand, the strong hardness of dashi or soup stock.

Umami is the fifth of the five tastes after sweetness, sourness, bitterness and saltiness. From a chemical standpoint, phytic acid, inosinic acid and paralamic acid are the three major elements of umami.

According to Tatsumi, it is soft water that effectively extracts the umami of these ingredients, whereas abundant minerals in hard water washes the essential knowledge when making dashi. The characteristics of the water used defines a dashi’s umami traits.

According to Tatsumi, it is soft water that effectively extracts the umami of these ingredients, whereas abundant minerals in hard water washes the umami.