This special issue of Highlighting Japan focuses on the momentous and event-filled Heisei Era that concludes this year. During the past three decades, Japan has been at peace with the world, and offered vital assistance to other nations in Asia and far beyond despite suffering major natural disasters at home. It has also blossomed into a dream destination blending technology, hospitality, artisanry and whimsy that draws tens of millions of travelers a year. We also talk to Japan’s first female astronaut and fill you in on some of the era’s most positive trends in work-life balance, particularly in the lives of Japanese fathers.

Photo by Fujisan World Cultural Heritage Council