



# EXPLORING SPACE

“Japan is contributing to the resolution of global issues through its space technology,” says Wakata Koichi, astronaut and Vice President of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), in our Interview on the following pages. Japan’s strength, according to Wakata, “lies in its technology: explorers such as Hayabusa2 and rockets with high launch success rates.” Japan’s technological strength in the field is also underpinned by a long and broad fascination with outer space among ordinary people, which is another focus of this month’s issue of *Highlighting Japan*, “Exploring Space.”