



THE JAPANESE AND RICE

In Japan, rice is more than just a food. As the main staple of the national diet since antiquity, rice not only provides nourishment, it also defines landscapes, provides employment, and informs cultural practices and values ranging from festivals and rituals to the *mottainai* spirit of wasting nothing and the very notion of *wa* (harmony). In this month's Feature, we take a look at a few examples of Japanese interactions with rice.

Photo: Courtesy of The Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association