### History of NHK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Mar. 22 First radio broadcast by Tokyo Broadcasting Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Aug. 20 Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya broadcasting stations merge to form Nippon Hoso Kyokai (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Nov. 5 First nationwide radio broadcast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Jun. 1 Science &amp; Technology Research Laboratories established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Apr. 6 Second radio network goes on air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Jul. 1 International radio broadcasts begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Jun. 10 First educational TV broadcast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Sep. 10 First television broadcast in color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Sep. 23 First experimental transmission via satellite between Japan and the US breaks the news of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Oct. 10 Broadcasts of the Tokyo Olympic Games, the first Olympics in history to be aired via satellite and in color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Oct. 11 Launch of the JAPAN PRIZE, an international contest for educational media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Nov. 1 First FM radio broadcast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Jul. 21 Live TV coverage of the first person to set foot on the moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Dec. 17 Sound multiple broadcasts begin on TV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Nov. 29 First teletext service begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Jul. 1 Full-scale satellite broadcasting services begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Nov. 25 Text broadcasts of NHK’s “Hi-Vision” HDTV system begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Apr. 2 Launch of international television channel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Oct. 31 NHK World TV begins 24-hour broadcasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Nov. 1 The International Telecommunication Union approves Hi-Vision as an international studio standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Dec. 1 Digital satellite broadcasting begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Feb. 1 Opening of NHK Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>May 8K (Super Hi-Vision) unveiled at Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Apr. 1 One-Seg service for mobile receivers begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Nov. 15 Live Hi-Vision transmission from space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Aug. Hi-Vision used as international signals at the Beijing Olympic Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Dec. 1 Launch of “NHK on Demand”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Jul. 24 Analog broadcasts end (with exception of areas most severely affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Nov. 31 Analog broadcasts end in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Aug. The ITU recommends 8K as an international standard for ultra-high definition television systems for production and international program exchanges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Sep. 2 “NHK hybridcast” service commences, enabling broadcast digital TV to be integrated with internet-based content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Aug. 1 4K/8K test satellite broadcasting begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Oct. 1 4K/8K Ultra-HDTV (Super Hi-Vision) satellite broadcasts begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Apr. 1 Full launch of “NHK Plus” online service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I am MAEDA Terunobu and I became president of NHK in January this year. I see it as my responsibility to ensure NHK fulfills its role in providing rich and high-quality programming that reaches all across the country in order to contribute to public welfare, in accordance with the Broadcast Law. I respectfully ask for your support.

This fiscal year began against the backdrop of the coronavirus global pandemic. This previously unknown virus has threatened people’s health and livelihoods, while unreliable information related to it has caused social unease. NHK, as a public service media organization, with a mission to protect lives and livelihoods, is doing everything in its power to provide audiences with useful broadcasting and services including maintaining broadcasts and delivering accurate information quickly as well as high-quality enjoyable programs to help people through these difficult times.

Recently it seems that natural disasters are occurring every year and the scale and scope of those disasters are growing. Delivering information to ‘protect lives and livelihoods’ is a core mission of NHK. We are working to deliver disaster reduction and prevention information in a way that when danger draws near, people will take those messages to heart and act upon them in order to protect their lives.

With the convergence of broadcasting and the internet continuing, the new “NHK Plus” online service fully launched in April this year, with continuous simultaneous streaming of terrestrial television broadcasts and a program catch-up service. Viewers are now able to watch programs via computers and smartphones ‘anytime, anywhere, as many times as you like’. As a public service media organization, NHK will utilize all of its broadcasting platforms - television, radio and the internet - to fulfill its role as a ‘core component of social infrastructure for information’ trusted by viewers.

Next year, the postponed Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 will take place. With the eyes of the world on the events, NHK will use this opportunity to provide the highest standards in broadcasting and services on an unprecedented scale, with the ultra-high-definition images and immersive sound of the “BS4K” and “BS8K” channels as flagships. In addition, the international broadcast channels “NHK WORLD-JAPAN” will also work to utilize the internet effectively in order to bring the charms of Japan and deeper mutual international understanding to an even wider audience.

And going forward, as we continue our efforts to provide the kind of high-quality broadcasting and services that only NHK can deliver, we will implement reforms with a sense of urgency to realize a more creative and efficient organizational operation to respond to the trust and expectations of all our viewers. We hope that your expectations for our future will be as high as ours.
NHK's Origins

Since the Broadcast Law and Wireless Telegraphy Law took effect in 1950, Japan's broadcasting industry has developed through the coexistence of the public broadcaster NHK and commercial broadcasters. NHK's origins go back to the Tokyo Broadcasting Station, which transmitted the first radio broadcast in Japan on March 22, 1925. Initially incorporated as the nationwide broadcasting organization Nippon Hosō Kyōkai, NHK was reestablished under the terms of the Broadcast Law in 1950 as the nation's public broadcaster.

Independence

NHK's mission as a public broadcaster is to deliver impartial, high-quality programs. Programs should never be influenced by the government or private organizations. NHK considers it to be the corporation's responsibility to provide a wide range of programs that are balanced, without the influence of ratings or third-party interests.

Receiving Fee System

The receiving fee system ensures NHK's financial independence, which guarantees the editorial independence and impartiality. Viewers are not asked to pay to access specific programs, but to support the operations of NHK as a whole. The fees are the main source of income for NHK, making up nearly 100% of the total. The Broadcast Law stipulates that receiving fees shall be paid equally by every household and business in Japan with a television set.

Receiving fees (tax included)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of contract</th>
<th>Until Sep.30, 2020</th>
<th>Beginning Oct.1, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terrestrial Contract</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account transfer/ Credit card</td>
<td>¥1,260</td>
<td>¥1,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal order</td>
<td>¥1,310</td>
<td>¥1,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satellite Contract</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account transfer/ Credit card</td>
<td>¥2,320</td>
<td>¥2,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal order</td>
<td>¥2,280</td>
<td>¥2,140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Satellite contract includes fee for terrestrial contract
* Receiving fee in Okinawa Prefecture is different from that in the rest of Japan
* Viewers can choose their payment cycle every two months, every six months, or every year

Organization

Becoming an Even More Trustworthy Source of Information, Shaping the Future with the Power of Creativity.

NHK Affiliates

The NHK affiliates, as members of the NHK Group, support and complement NHK operations in different fields. Their basic role is to strive together with NHK in the creation of a rich and diverse broadcasting culture.

The NHK Group is committed to enhancing its collective capabilities and putting its operations on a more sound footing for the sake of efficiency and ensuring the quality of public broadcasting in Japan.

Principal Affiliated Organizations (Fiscal 2020)

Subsidiaries

- NHK ENTERPRISES, INC.
- NHK COCULATION, INC.
- NHK GLOBAL MEDIA SERVICES, INC.
- NHK CULTURE CENTER, INC.
- JAPAN INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING INC.
- NHK BUSINESS SERVICES INC.
- NHK PROMOTIONS INC.
- NHK ART, INC.
- NHK TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Public Service Groups

- Broadcasting Satellite System Corporation
- NHK Communications Training Institute
- NHK Academy of Distance Learning
- NHK Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo
- NHK World

Affiliated Organizations

- Health and Welfare Groups
- NHK Mutual Aid Association

National Diet

- Approves NHK's budget

Government

- Appoints governors

Financial Independence

Receiving fees

Audience
What You Need, When You Need It  Your Life with Public Service Media

NHK announced its new Three-Year Corporate Plan for fiscal years 2018 to 2020 in January 2018. The plan begins with six core public values that NHK strives to pursue, such as "Provide Accurate, Fair, Impartial Information" and "Create High-quality Cultural Experiences" to achieve its mission as a public service media provider. To accomplish these values, the plan also sets five major objectives to fulfill its role as a core component of social infrastructure for information.

NHK's Six Core Public Values

These core values will guide NHK as we strive to achieve our mission as a public service media provider.

Five Major Objectives

1. Continue to Evolve as a Public Service Media Provider
   A. Deliver clear, in-depth and dependable information on issues of public concern in a timely fashion.
   B. Contribute to safer, more secure communities through expanded reporting aimed at preventing disasters, reducing their impact, and providing support after they occur.
   C. Enrich viewer experience by offering unique, diverse content using cutting-edge technology.
   D. Strengthen Japan’s global connections.

2. Contribute to Local Communities
   Convey the unique cultural, historical, social and natural features of Japan’s less-familiar places.

3. Look to the Future
   A. Bring the very highest standards of broadcasting and other services to Tokyo 2020.
   B. Encourage involvement and collaboration.

4. Promote the Understanding of Our Viewers
   Ensure that receiving fee payments are borne fairly.
   Reduce the receiving fee on the basis of the medium- and long-term prospects for revenues and expenditures to restore equitability for viewers. (November 2018 Revised Plan)

5. Strive to Promote Creativity, Efficiency, and Trust
   A. Establish a work environment in which innovation can thrive.
   B. Work to promote highly efficient, transparent management practices.
   C. Strengthen group-wide risk management to maintain public trust in NHK’s media operations.

Income and Expenditure Plan for FY2018-2020

This plan is subject to change in response to social, economic and other circumstances. The annual plan for revenues, expenditures and operations for each fiscal year is subject to the approval of the national Diet.
NHK leads the way as the global pioneer of research and development on 8K Ultra-HDTV. The ultra-high definition visual images and three-dimensional sound give the viewer the sensation of being inside the scene.

NHK launched BS8K, the world’s first regular 8K broadcast, on December 1, 2018 along with BS4K. BS4K is NHK’s vanguard channel for ultra-high definition image quality, showcasing broad programming in the compelling qualities of 4K. NHK is expanding the simultaneous broadcast of programs produced in 4K on both BS4K and conventional 2K channels, to create more opportunities for people to experience the attractions of 4K and promote its further dissemination.

4K and 8K broadcasts combine ultra-high definition video with multichannel sound. The multichannel sound is as compelling as being at a live avenue, or out in the wilds. 4K has a 5.1 channel sound system. 8K has a 22.2 multichannel sound system—a three-dimensional sound system with channel configuration on top, middle and bottom layers. It provides a considerably stronger sense of presence and reality than the sound from conventional TVs.

On-Air Programs

**BS4K**

- **“Taiga Drama “Awaiting Kirin””**
- **“Nature Wonder Land”**

**BS8K**

- **“Okavango: A Flood of Life”**
- **“Experience the National Treasures”**
- **“Dinosaur Kingdom Japan in 8K”**
- **“Recreations of Legendary Musical and Theatrical Performances”**
  - Bernstein Conducting Beethoven’s 9th Symphony

Ultra-High Definition Images

A TV screen consists of many tiny, gleaming dots, called pixels, which together form text or moving images. The key to the beauty of the TV images lies in how many pixels there are. 4K TV has horizontal lines of 3,840 pixels and vertical lines of 2,160. The corresponding figures for 8K are 7,680 and 4,320, respectively. The sense of really being in the scene is so much higher than with conventional HDTV because there are so many more pixels.

High Dynamic Range (HDR)

By capturing images with a wide dynamic range and reproducing them on compatible displays, HDR technology can reproduce scenes with a much sharper contrast and specular highlights. For example, simultaneous reproduction of shade and sunlit areas. These had been difficult to achieve in conventional television systems.

Wide-Color-Gamut

A wide-color-gamut means that almost all the colors of the world around us can be reproduced just as we see them with our own eyes. The multicolor portion of this diagram shows the full color range of human vision. The black lines mark the color range of conventional HDTV, which cannot reproduce certain colors. The white lines show the wide-color-gamut of 4K and 8K.

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  - Bernstein Conducting Beethoven’s 9th Symphony
NHK WORLD-JAPAN

NHK WORLD-JAPAN is NHK’s international service on TV, radio and the internet, transmitting the latest stories from Japan and Asia to the world.

**TV**

**English Language Channel**

NHK WORLD-JAPAN broadcasts news and a variety of programs in English round the clock on television, delivering an array of information on Japan and Asia to the world. The channel is available via satellite, cable and other services to about 380 million households in approximately 160 countries and regions as of March 2020. On the internet, programs can be viewed simultaneously to broadcasts on personal computers, smartphone apps etc.

**Improvements in 2020**

Bringing you the latest news from various sources

Every hour on the hour, we bring you the latest news with Japanese and Asian perspectives. The coverage includes reports from our brand-new New York studio. In times of disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons, NHK WORLD-JAPAN will reinforce the collaboration with NHK General TV (domestic television channel) and distribute news on social media to provide the information necessary to secure viewers’ safety.

Entering the new “cohabitation” age -Japanese society and its legacy-

We will focus more on producing programs that feature foreigners from various countries living in Japan. We also broadcast programs aiming to answer the questions that foreigners have about Japan, as well as introducing disaster prevention tips needed to live in a country that faces many natural disasters. There will also be more programs that tackle global issues from Japanese and Asian perspectives.

Some programs will be offered in multi-lingual versions, and more programs will be produced to suit digital platforms.

High quality content, born from collaborations with the domestic channels

We will produce English versions of NHK’ s programs on medical and health topics, in which overseas viewers have always shown a high degree of interest. A selection of NHK’s high-quality domestic documentaries, drama series, and the programs produced by NHK’ s local stations will also have English versions made of them.

**Broadcasts in 17 Languages**

NHK WORLD-JAPAN disseminates TV and radio news and programs on the internet both simultaneously to broadcasts and on-demand in 17 languages. Users who download the official free app can access the services easily, anytime, anywhere on smartphones, tablets etc. Some programs are also now being provided with subtitles in Chinese, Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese and other languages for on-demand services. Program information, news and short videos are distributed on social media. A Turkish service is available on our website, too, in addition to the 17 foreign-language services. (The services differ depending on the language.)

Visit the following URL for broadcast times and frequencies: [www.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/information/brochure](http://www.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/information/brochure)

**Radio**

NHK WORLD-JAPAN offers current information and reports from Japan on radio in 17 languages, which ranges from the latest news to information on Japanese technology, culture and lifestyle, etc., as well as Japanese lessons. The service is being enhanced to suit varying media environments, using medium wave, FM frequencies, satellite radio, and the long-standing shortwave broadcasts. The service also reacts flexibly in times of disaster and other emergencies to deliver the latest news. It also shares knowhow on reducing risks of disaster damage that can be applied in other countries and contribute to the safety and peace of mind of listeners worldwide. For foreign visitors to and residents of Japan, the service is linked to NHK Radio 2 to deliver the latest information in various languages.

**Internet**

NHK WORLD-JAPAN uses automatically translated multi-lingual subtitles on most of the live-streamed television programs.

Available in: Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, Indonesian, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese

Japanese-language services

**NHK WORLD PREMIUM**

NHK WORLD PREMIUM broadcasts news and informational programs, as well as drama, music, children’s, and sports programs.

**NHK WORLD RADIO JAPAN**

We provide information in order to ensure the safety and comfort of Japanese living abroad.
News Reporting

Learning from the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, NHK constantly strengthens the facilities and systems required to make the broadcasts that protect people’s lives and livelihoods from every kind of disaster.

Footage from helicopters and remote-controlled cameras is highly effective in conveying the situation immediately from the scene. Helicopters and cameras provided constant, real-time images of the tsunamis that followed the Great East Japan Earthquake. NHK has 15 helicopters and also operates remote-controlled cameras, including simple webcams, at about 800 locations. NHK is currently also improving the relay links with its helicopters and installing more robotic cameras in order to keep on making the broadcasts that reduce disaster damage.

NHK has ensured, too, that back-up operations are in place should the NHK Broadcasting Center in Tokyo ever go off air in the event of an earthquake striking directly beneath the capital. In such a situation, NHK Osaka Station will assume Tokyo’s nationwide news broadcasting functions. In addition to those seamless broadcasts from Osaka, systems are being put into place, and drills performed, to ensure information will keep on coming out from the Tokyo metropolitan area as well. Improvements are being made, too, to the content of broadcasts, always to save people’s lives. Whenever a tsunami or major tsunami warning is issued, NHK broadcasts announcements worded in the strongest terms to urge people to evacuate without delay. NHK has prepared screen captions, too, keeping them as concise and simple as possible, for use together with the tsunami and other warnings. The core principle is every instruction has to be understood at a glance or at first hearing. Additionally, NHK has implemented a strong “local-first” policy by which the regional stations of affected areas will take the initiative in broadcasting the local news that helps residents respond effectively and evacuate if necessary. The regional stations provide the place names and details of evacuation shelters as precisely as possible, and reporters and meteorologists interpret the latest disaster situation in real time. In these and other ways, every effort is being made to provide the very fullest local information.

NHK is taking steps, too, to enhance its ability to deliver accurate updates about disasters, evacuations, and other vital information not only via television and radio but also on the Internet, smartphone apps and data broadcasts. The regional broadcasting stations provide full local coverage by means of not only TV and radio news services but also L-shaped on-screen data information bars, data broadcasting, websites and other media. To convey disaster-related news to Japan’s rising numbers of foreign residents, NHK is working to broadcast news-flash superimpositions in English and introduce foreign viewers and listeners to the services of NHK WORLD-JAPAN.

Global Network

Conveying world news promptly and clearly

Increasing globalization has brought ever-rising viewer interest in international news. From the coronavirus pandemic and its economic impact to the latest developments in the U.S. presidential election, where President Trump is now seeking re-election, the uncertainties still surrounding North Korea in the aftermath of the U.S.-North Korea summits, Japan’s relations with China and South Korea, Brexit, U.S.-Iran relations, and the still raging civil war in Syria, NHK reports global developments promptly and clearly as an important plank of its public service media mission. Eighty-four correspondents provide round-the-clock news coverage from NHK’s 31 reporting bases around the world. The core principle is to cover the stories on the ground and report directly. NHK also maintains emergency deployment teams of reporting and technical staff on constant standby to cover disasters and other major incidents overseas. NHK’s global news network is constantly being enhanced.

Overseas General Bureau System

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Programs .. TV

General TV

As the main television service of NHK, General TV delivers the news that underpins public safety and peace of mind through autonomous, independent, unbiased and non-partisan broadcasts. This channel fulfils its public media role by providing the fair and equitable news and programs that serve as a compass for society, together with appealing programs across a wide range of genres from entertainment and culture to sport. It conveys the latest developments at home and abroad relating to the novel coronavirus, its social impact and what is being done to support people’s livelihoods. It tackles social issues through diverse campaigns, produces programs that touch people’s hearts, and develops new content for the young, internet generation. General TV is currently enhancing its nationwide sharing of local stories, too, and upgrading its regional services.

BS 1

Positioned as “the information channel with a live feel,” BS1 provides a rich array of programs from sport to documentaries, and from international to regional stories. The channel relays the latest international news on the novel coronavirus, and full details of the ongoing response to the disease in every region of Japan. BS1 has been heavily involved in the build-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 through various related programs, and is also adding more regional content to its nationwide service.

BS Premium

BS Premium broadcasts a wide range of intelligent, entertaining programs to satisfy more individual tastes. This is the place for the large-scale, authentic, first-class, vanguard programming that encompasses the genres from space and nature to the performing arts, intellectual interests and hobbies.

Educational TV

The core fields of Educational TV are education and welfare, but the channel also provides foreign-language study, cultural, hobby, food, health and programs across a wide range of subjects to satisfy the desire of people of all ages to know and to learn. The channel is moving forward with the strategic linkage of its programs and internet services to expand its viewing base among children and young adults. Our goal is to offer broadcasts that will enrich and assist people in their lives.

Award-Winning Programs

NHK keenly takes part in many international competitions with a view to achieving a richer broadcasting culture. It has earned considerable acclaim and numerous awards for the subjects, composition, quality of its images, and so on, in its programs. The recognition has led to a number of NHK programs being aired abroad.

The programs of NHK Radio 1, Radio 2 and FM broadcasts are also streamed live on Radiru ★ Radiru, NHK’s Internet radio service. The service was launched in September 2011 for use in places where radio reception was poor. Starting with the nationwide Radio 2 service and regional Radio 1 and FM services of the Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Sendai areas, the regional Radio 1 and FM services of the Sapporo, Hiroshima, Matsuyama and Fukuoka areas were then added in September 2016 to make it possible to enjoy broadcasts from all over the country in clear sound via Radiru ★ Radiru Internet radio.

A catch-up service for some programs was then introduced in November 2016. The text Yomu Radiru service for some content followed in October 2018. In addition, following a test distribution begun in October 2017, NHK commenced full streaming of Radio 1 and FM on “Radiko”, an internet radio service operated by commercial radio stations, in fiscal 2019.

NHK is aiming to restore radio as a key part of many people’s lives via smartphones and computers, and NHK Radio will continue enhancing its Internet services in pursuit of this goal.

Radio 2 supports lifelong learning with programs that satisfy the listeners’ wide-ranging appetite for new knowledge. Internet links are giving ever more people opportunities to learn anywhere, anytime. Radio 2 is also enhancing its foreign-language news and program services for Japan’s ever more cosmopolitan society.

Radio 1 is the core audio service charged with supporting people’s safety and peace of mind by providing information that protects people’s lives and lifestyles. It broadcasts wide ranging programs and rich local information to meet the expectations of people of all ages. NHK is also enhancing “Radiru ★ Radiru” Internet radio, “Yomu Radiru” and other digital services.

In times of disaster or other emergency, FM Radio broadcasts detailed information about essential lifeline and other services for the affected communities in tandem with Radio 1.

For people with vision difficulties, NHK Online serves as a gateway, too, for the live streaming of disaster information simultaneously to broadcasts for access anytime and anywhere in an emergency. NHK Online has been thoroughly revamped with the launch of the NHK Plus service. The changes include a new, shared header for all NHK Online sites, improved links to the NHK Plus and the NHK Plus service. The changes include a new, shared header for all NHK Online sites, improved links to the NHK Plus and NHK News Web, new-look program schedule charts, etc. NHK Online serves as a gateway to broadcasts for access anytime and anywhere in an emergency.

To viewers who have signed receiving fee contracts at no extra cost. As the way everybody is viewing content continues to shift, with broadcasting as our central pillar, we will appropriately utilize the internet to allow all our viewers to easily access content. We believe it is important for NHK to fulfill its role as a trusted “core component of social infrastructure” by expanding the opportunities to view content and creating an environment where viewers can watch “anytime, anywhere and as many times as you like”, suited to a variety of lifestyles. In a media environment which is undergoing great change, we believe that NHK Plus is an important service in fulfilling that role. NHK Plus delivers subtitled programming, programming with text commentary, bilingual programming and those with a sub-audio channel.

Launched in 1995, NHK Online is a comprehensive website for news, weather information, TV and radio schedules, details of program highlights, and individual program pages. It also gives details of upcoming events, explains how to obtain a receiving contract, provides management information, has a section for audience inquiries, and includes a screen reader function for people with vision difficulties. NHK Online serves as a gateway, too, for the live streaming of disaster information simultaneously to broadcasts for access anytime and anywhere in an emergency. NHK Online has been thoroughly revamped with the launch of the NHK Plus service. The changes include a new, shared header for all NHK Online sites, improved links to the NHK Plus and NHK News Web, new-look program schedule charts, etc. NHK Online serves as a gateway to broadcasts for access anytime and anywhere in an emergency.

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NHK is also enhancing its foreign-language news and program services for Japan’s ever more cosmopolitan society.

It broadcasts wide ranging programs and rich local information to meet the expectations of people of all ages. NHK is also enhancing “Radiru ★ Radiru” Internet radio, “Yomu Radiru” and other digital services.

Funding for the programs of NHK Radio 1, Radio 2 and FM services is provided by the receiving fees from viewers who have signed receiving fee contracts at no extra cost. As the way everybody is viewing content continues to shift, with broadcasting as our central pillar, we will appropriately utilize the internet to allow all our viewers to easily access content. We believe it is important for NHK to fulfill its role as a trusted “core component of social infrastructure” by expanding the opportunities to view content and creating an environment where viewers can watch “anytime, anywhere and as many times as you like”, suited to a variety of lifestyles. In a media environment which is undergoing great change, we believe that NHK Plus is an important service in fulfilling that role. NHK Plus delivers subtitled programming, programming with text commentary, bilingual programming and those with a sub-audio channel.

Launched in 1995, NHK Online is a comprehensive website for news, weather information, TV and radio schedules, details of program highlights, and individual program pages. It also gives details of upcoming events, explains how to obtain a receiving contract, provides management information, has a section for audience inquiries, and includes a screen reader function for people with vision difficulties. NHK Online serves as a gateway, too, for the live streaming of disaster information simultaneously to broadcasts for access anytime and anywhere in an emergency. NHK Online has been thoroughly revamped with the launch of the NHK Plus service. The changes include a new, shared header for all NHK Online sites, improved links to the NHK Plus and NHK News Web, new-look program schedule charts, etc. NHK Online serves as a gateway, too, for the live streaming of disaster information simultaneously to broadcasts for access anytime and anywhere in an emergency. NHK Online has been thoroughly revamped with the launch of the NHK Plus service. The changes include a new, shared header for all NHK Online sites, improved links to the NHK Plus and NHK News Web, new-look program schedule charts, etc. NHK Online serves as a gateway, too, for the live streaming of disaster information simultaneously to broadcasts for access anytime and anywhere in an emergency.

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NHK Science & Technology Research Laboratories (NHK STRL)

As the only research institute in Japan specializing in broadcasting technology, one role of NHK Science and Technology Research Laboratories (NHK STRL) is to contribute to the development of broadcasting culture through research and development. Throughout its history, NHK STRL has promoted R&D on new broadcasting systems including satellite broadcasting, Hi-Vision (HDTV), digital broadcasting and 8K Ultra-HDTV(Super Hi-Vision); contributing to the development and advancement of broadcasting. Today, NHK STRL continues to work on broadcasting technology R&D, ranging widely from basic to applied, on topics including spatial imaging technologies with 3D television, AR and VR, universal services, intelligent program production, and next generation broadcasting devices.

Spatial Imaging

NHK STRL is conducting research on new spatial imaging that will provide new viewing experiences, using 3D television, AR and VR technologies. This includes research on 3D television formats such as integral TV, which produces natural 3D images that can be viewed without requiring special glasses, on high-resolution VR video that is highly realistic and immersive, and on new television viewing styles using AR, such as watching in your living room virtually with your friends and actors in remote places by integrating their images into your environment.

8K Ultra-HDTV(Super Hi-Vision)

We are working on the research and development of cameras, production equipment, transmission devices, displays, and recording devices to achieve a full-featured 8K system.

Full-Featured 8K

Our research and development aims at realizing a full-featured 8K system displaying images with a high resolution of 8K, a high frame rate (HFR) of 120Hz, a wide color gamut (WCG), and a high dynamic range (HDR) with 22.2 multichannel sound.

Transmission Technologies

We are developing advanced terrestrial broadcasting technologies which can provide UHDTV services. Our aim is to achieve the advanced terrestrial broadcasting by combining new video coding technology with the technology for transmitting more information than current digital broadcasts.

Universal Services

NHK STRL is also conducting research on universal service technologies that use various methods to enable all people, including the elderly and disabled, to enjoy broadcasts in more comfort. This includes R&D on technology that generates CG sign-language animations for weather and sports information, and an audio description generation technology that can automatically generate sports commentary from game data.

Intelligent Program Production

NHK STRL is conducting R&D on technologies that will support efficient program production, using AI and other technologies to extract useful program production information from the large volume of video, audio, and text being handled by broadcasting stations, and social media data. We are also conducting R&D on a technology that will automatically add color to black-and-white video, and a production system that will transcribe audio from program contributions using speech recognition.

Internet Technology for Broadcast Services

We are conducting R&D on technologies that enable viewers to easily enjoy watching programs on mobile devices via the internet, technologies that provide useful daily life services by linking program viewing with user behavior, and technologies that efficiently produce programs using the IP network.

Hybridcast and Device-Linking Services

We are engaged in research to seamlessly connect broadcasting services to daily life activities. For instance, we are working on the development of device-linking protocols and libraries to link TV-based Hybridcast applications to smartphones or IoT devices used daily by viewers.

Devices for Next-generation Broadcasting

NHK STRL is conducting research on high-capacity, high-speed transfer holographic memory, thin and light flexible OLED (organic light-emitting-diode) display, and display devices that can represent high-quality 3D images.

International Standardization and Contributing to Society

We are also actively participating in domestic and international standardization activities, and our research results are also being used in various fields beyond broadcasting, such as science and medicine.
Supplying Programs

With the aim of promoting mutual understanding and assisting cultural and educational development in ODA (Japan's Official Development Assistance) recipient countries, NHK offers programs to broadcasters in developing countries and others through NHK International. Funded by the Japan Foundation, NHK supplied 2,124 programs to 18 countries around the world, including those in Asia, Africa and Latin America in fiscal 2019.

Program Sales and Acquisitions

NHK acquires and broadcasts wide-ranging media content from other countries, including films, dramas, documentaries, entertainment programs, classical music and animations. NHK also supplies diverse programs overseas through NHK Enterprises (NEP) and other entities. In the 2019 fiscal year, NHK provided 4,100 programs ranging from documentaries to dramas to broadcasters in 37 countries and regions worldwide. The animations, "RADIANT Season 2" and "Welcome to Demon School Iruma-kun", were distributed globally, while morning drama serials such as "Mampuku", "Natsuzora: Natsu’s Sky" and "Half Blue Sky" enjoyed high popularity in Asia and the United States. Major documentaries such as "Dynamic Genomes" and "ANTARCTICA - The Frozen Time Capsule" were also particularly well received.

International Co-Productions

Since 1980, NHK has undertaken co-production projects with broadcasters, production companies and distributors from all parts of the world. With nearly 1,200 programs in its co-production catalogue, NHK continues to open up a new horizon in the field of international co-productions. In an effort to create large scale programs with leading-edge technology and innovative style, NHK is constantly seeking co-production partners.

Global Partners

Connections with Broadcasting Organizations Around the World

Cooperation with Overseas Broadcasting Unions

– Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) –

The ABU was formed in 1964 under the initiative of NHK and others and aims to advance broadcasting in the Asia-Pacific region that is home to over 4 billion people. As of February 2020, it has 262 members in 71 countries and regions. As a key member of the group, NHK cooperates in the areas of programs and technology to promote international contribution through broadcasting. ABU’s activities include the ABU Robocon (ABU Robot Contest) that was launched under NHK’s initiative; Asiavision, a program where member broadcasters exchange news footages; co-production and exchange of children’s dramas and documentaries; as well as the exchange of technological information. In November 2019, NHK hosted the ABU General Assembly, which was held in Tokyo. NHK also serves as a key member of Public Broadcasters International (PBI). It also engages in exchanges with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

JAPAN PRIZE

International Contest for Educational Media

Established by NHK in 1965, the JAPAN PRIZE is an international competition recognizing excellence in educational media content. By awarding outstanding works submitted from around the world and supporting the realization of ideas for educational television programs, the JAPAN PRIZE aims to contribute to enhance the quality of educational content around the world, as well as international understanding. The 2020 contest will take place from October 30 to November 6.

http://www.nhk.or.jp/prize/english/

International Co-operation / Acceptance of Trainees

NHK has signed cooperation agreements, cooperation memorandums and memorandums for exchanging news materials with 67 broadcasters in 48 countries and regions as of February 2020.

NHK also welcomed 13 foreign trainees from nine countries in fiscal 2019. We have accepted 3,325 trainees from 146 countries and regions to date.

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NHK Public Relations

Serving Our Audience

NHK Plus Cross SHIBUYA

Opened in the high-rise building directly connected to Shibuya Station on November 1, 2019, this is the new, permanent space for discovering what is new at NHK, the public service media provider. Some 330,000 people visited in the first four months from the grand opening, including many in the younger age ranges. A wide variety of content has been shown, including special, tech-rich exhibitions using footage and information from NHK programs such as ‘Chico Will Scold You!’ and ‘NHK Special’, live-audience radio broadcasts from the on-site studio, and workshops presented by program staff.

Campaigns and Events for a Better, Safer Society

Broadcasting footage and other materials accumulated through the decade since the Great East Japan Earthquake are helping with disaster prevention and reduction initiatives and keeping memories of disasters alive. NHK Heart Exhibition, NHK Welfare Sumo and region-specific welfare events are helping to realize an inclusive society where everyone can live a rich and fulfilling life. NHK joins with the Community Chest of Japan, Japanese Red Cross Society and others in December each year to organize the NHK Year-end/ New Year Overseas Assistance fund-raising campaigns. Calls for donations are also organized in response to major disasters at home and abroad.

Linking Broadcasting and the Internet

NHK contributes to society through the production and broadcast of programs that support disaster prevention, reduction and recovery, and tackles wide ranging challenges from developmental disorders and care to suicide prevention. Rich use is also made of links between broadcasting and the internet. The NHK Heartnet Welfare Information website distributes information on care, medical and other themes in connection with related broadcasts. NHK makes full use of both broadcasts and the Internet in our increasingly connected, global world, and introduces key domestic and international issues through special events. Each local station also produces programs and campaigns suited to the needs of its region.

NHK Broadcasting Culture Research Institute

The NHK Broadcasting Culture Research Institute is unique as a comprehensive organ for broadcast-related research operated by a broadcasting station. Established in 1946, the institute performs diverse survey and research functions, including studies of broadcast programs, broadcasting situations around the world, and the public nature of broadcasting, together with surveys of audience opinions and trends. In the 2020 fiscal year, surveys and research focused on the core themes of the latest media trends and prospects in this age of increasing fusion of broadcasting and telecommunications services; recording and handing down the richness of broadcasting culture and laying the foundations for its further development; and gauging public opinion in our age of ever expanding individual diversity. The findings of the institute’s studies and surveys are disseminated through various media, including publications such as ‘NHK Monthly Report on Broadcast Research’, ‘NHK Data Book: The World’s Broadcasting’, and ‘The NHK Yearbook’, together with online blogs, Twitter and other internet platforms, as well as releases and announcements made in broadcasts. The institute also systematically gathers and collates materials relating to the history of broadcasting.

NHK Museum of Broadcasting

Established in 1956 as the world’s first museum dedicated to broadcasting, the museum’s attractions include a broadcasting history zone, hands-on experiences, and the Mount Atago 8K Theater. This is a fun place for visitors to learn about and deepen their understanding of the culture and history of broadcasting. The museum also operates a public program library as well as a library for books and other documents as research and study resources that are open to all. More than 5 million visitors have passed through the doors since it first opened.

NHK Archives

NHK began radio broadcasting from the Tokyo broadcasting station back in March 1925. Following the war, NHK began television broadcasting in 1953 as Japan Broadcasting Corporation. NHK Archives is a collective term referring to the programs produced during more than 90 years of radio broadcasting and 60 years of television broadcasting; their scripts and records concerning the programs; materials used to make the programs; as well as the database system that preserves them and the archive facility located in Kawaguchi City in Saitama Prefecture. The open program library is a free service that gives the public access to more than 10,800 representative programs (including around 600 radio programs) from among all the programs aired by NHK in the past. They include rare sound sources dating from the inception of broadcasting, popular television dramas and animations, and travelogues that capture long-forgotten sceneries. Additional programs that can be viewed are made public each month. They may be enjoyed through special audiovisual terminals set up at 57 NHK facilities including your local broadcasting stations.