

(Attached Document)

Overview of the 48th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM48)

(1) Overview of the Meeting

The 48th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM48) will be held in Hiroshima City from May 11 to 21, 2026. This marks the first time Japan has hosted the meeting in 32 years, since 1994.

As an original signatory and a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty, Japan has actively contributed to discussions regarding Antarctica. At this meeting, discussions will focus on ensuring transparency in Antarctic activities, addressing the recent increase in tourism, and the impacts of climate change on the Antarctic region, with the aim of further strengthening the forward-looking Antarctic Treaty System.

(2) Japan's Antarctic Observation Activities and Nature Conservation Efforts

On the first floor of the Hiroshima International Conference Center, the venue for the meeting, informational display will be installed to showcase Japan's Antarctic observation activities and nature conservation efforts in Antarctica.

(3) Regarding Press Conferences, etc.

Japan believes it is important to enhance transparency regarding the activities of various nations in Antarctica. Accordingly, in order to inform the public about the discussions at ATCM48, press conferences will be held after the opening of the meeting and after the closing of the meeting.

In order to cover ATCM48, members of the press are required to apply for and obtain a "Press Pass" in advance. Further details regarding the application procedure are available at the link below.

- Press Conference Dates and Times: May 12, 2026 (morning, following the opening session) and May 21, 2026 (evening, after the closing session)

- Application for Press Pass for the 48th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM48) (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan website)
https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/pagewe_000001_00359.html

(4) Regarding Related Meetings

The following meetings will be held in conjunction with ATCM48. All of these meetings will be closed to the public.

- Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty

- Joint Workshop of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and the Scientific Committee on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (SC-CAMLR) on Climate Change and Monitoring

Note that the Joint CEP/SC-CAMLR Workshop, where experts will present and discuss specific topics, is being held for the first time in 10 years.

(Reference 1) Antarctic Treaty

1. Adopted in 1959 by 12 countries, including Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and the Soviet Union (at that time), and entered into force in 1961.
2. As of April 2026, there are 58 contracting parties.
3. It applies to areas south of 60 degrees south latitude and contains the following main provisions:
 - Peaceful use of the Antarctic region (prohibition of the construction of military bases, the conduct of military exercises, etc.) (Article 1)
 - Freedom of scientific research and promotion of international cooperation (Articles 2 and 3)
 - Freeze on territorial claims in the Antarctic region (Article 4)
 - Prohibition of nuclear explosions and disposal of radioactive waste (Article 5)

(Reference 2) Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)

Countries that actively conducting scientific research activities in Antarctica are granted as Consultative Parties (29 countries). The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) is a forum where Consultative Parties discuss the peaceful use of the Antarctic region, the promotion of scientific research, and the protection and conservation of living resources. The ATCM is held approximately once a year on a rotating basis among the Consultative Parties. At the ATCM, meetings of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) are also held in accordance with the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.

(Reference 3) Website for the 48th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM48) (Information, events, media registration, etc. : Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan website)

https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/pagewe_000001_00354.html