

Politics
Society

Travel
Community

High Tech
Sports

Business
Peoples

Culture
Life & Leisure

Education
World

E-Learning
台灣新聞

Editorial

Truth must come before reconciliation

We fully endorse the decision by President Chen Shui-bian to order... [\[Full story\]](#)

Opinion

Posada case is ultimate hypocrisy

In the war on terrorism, there are terrorists and freedom fighters..... [\[Full story\]](#)

Perspective

With no clear risk assessment, organ donors leap in the dark

Healthy people who donate organs to those desperate for transplants..... [\[Full story\]](#)

Forum

Looking at the development of the film industry(part 2)

Lin Lee-ling (deputy secretary general of the European Union... [\[Full story\]](#)

Kabayan

Looking at the development of the film industry(part 2)

Lin Lee-ling (deputy secretary general of the European Union... [\[Full story\]](#)

World

Sunday, May 22,
2005

Tokyo governor lands on islands at center of dispute with PRC

2005-05-21 / [Associated Press](#) /

Waving a Japanese rising sun flag, Tokyo's outspoken nationalist governor landed on a pair of Pacific islets at the center of a dispute with China yesterday, in a trip likely to aggravate already tense relations between the two nations.



Tokyo Governor Shintaro Ishihara, right, surveys the area after landing on Higashi Kojima, one of the two Okinotorishima islets, about 1,730 kilometers south of capital Tokyo, during an inspection tour yesterday./associated press

Governor Shintaro Ishihara arrived at one of the cement-covered outcroppings after a one-day journey at sea and kissed a plaque bearing the islets' name: "Okinotorishima, Japan." He also released fish from a boat near the islet.

TV networks aired footage of Ishihara referring to China as "Shina" - the derogatory term used during Japan's occupation of the country in the 1930s and 40s.

"No matter what Shina says, we have all this here," he said, referring to the plaque and other construction on the islet. "We should show them that."

"We should think about ways to more actively use this territory for fishing as an economic activity," Ishihara told national broadcaster NHK, after snorkeling around the islet. He also said officials were considering plans to build an ocean thermal energy conversion facility - which would convert the heat naturally stored in seawater into energy -

on top of the islet's reef.

China claims rights to oil and other undersea resources around Okinotorishima, arguing that the outcropping - which Japan has fortified with extensive cement embankments against the encroaching waves - is too small to qualify as an island that Japan can use to delineate its exclusive economic zone.

Japan, however, says the islets are full-fledged islands, meaning that Tokyo can lay exclusive claim to the natural resources 200 nautical miles from its shores into the Pacific. Okinotorishima is legally part of Tokyo, so Ishihara was there to back up Japan's side in the dispute.

On Thursday, Ishihara was welcomed by about a hundred villagers and members of the Self Defense Forces, when he arrived on Chichijima island on a SDF flying boat before switching to a chartered ship bound for Okinotorishima. Chichijima lies about 900 kilometers northeast of the disputed area.

Japan is gearing up efforts to claim its sovereignty over the islets.

Last week, Japan said it will construct a 1 meter by 1.5 meter billboard on one of the islets declaring in Japanese: "Okinotorishima, Japan's southernmost island ... managed by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport."

The Transport Ministry also plans to build a helipad on a manmade structure just off Okinotorishima, about 1,730 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, during maintenance work in June.



 [Back to Top](#)