### Reference

#### History of the Senkaku Islands as part of Japan's territory in the prewar era

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- Background before the incorporation and utilization after the incorporation.

#### Senkaku Islands under administration by the US and the return of Okinawa

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- Office of Policy Planning and Coordination on Territory and Sovereignty (July 15, 2020)

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**The Senkaku Islands**

Office of Policy Planning and Coordination on Territory and Sovereignty

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**National Museum of Land, Air and Sea**

**JAPAN’S TERRITORY AND PEOPLE’S HOPES:**
**LINKING IN TO THE NEXT GENERATION**

Adress: 1st floor, Toranomon Mitsui Building, 3-8-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Basic position of Japan

There is no doubt that the Senkaku Islands are clearly an inherent part of the territory of Japan, in light of historical facts and based upon international law. Indeed, the Senkaku Islands are under the valid control of Japan. There exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands. Japan will act firmly and calmly to maintain its territorial integrity. Japan continues to strive for peace and stability in the region, which is to be established through the observance of international law.

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1 History of the Senkaku Islands as part of Japan’s territory in the prewar era
   - Background before the incorporation and utilization after the incorporation.

2 Senkaku Islands under administration by the US and the return of Okinawa

3 Japan’s initiatives to protect our territory

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Dec. 1971: China began to create its own claims unfoundedly.

The Senkaku Islands were incorporated into the territory of Japan in 1895 and have consistently been part of the Japanese territory since then. The Islands were occupied by the US Forces in the final stages of World War II, and placed under the US administration by the San Francisco Peace Treaty, while being treated as the Japanese territory. In June 1971, the Okinawa Reversion Agreement was signed by Japan and the United States, which provides the return of the administration of the Senkaku Islands as part of the Ryukyu Islands and the Daito Islands from the United States to Japan. Later, in December, the People’s Republic of China (China) expressed its first-ever international claims that the Senkaku Islands are the territory of China. There was no previous record of China asserting any such claims, which suggests that China was only driven to such action by the release of a report, in the 1960s, of potential oil reserves in the East China Sea.

China has thus far repeatedly incursions into Japan’s territorial sea around the Senkaku Islands. It has never administrated them as a state nor does it provide any grounds for its claims based on international law. Indeed, the Senkaku Islands are under part of the territory of Japan, in light of historical facts and based upon international law. There exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands.

China has made repeated incursions into Japan’s territorial sea around the Senkaku Islands.

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1 Senkaku Islands
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   - Areas surrounding the East China Sea and the Senkaku Islands before the Islands’ incorporation into the Japanese territory (1895-95)
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- 1895: Placed under the jurisdiction of Okinawa Prefecture
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- Dec. 3, 1902: Incorporated into Tonoshina Village
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1 Senkaku Islands under administration by the US

- Sep. 1945: Initiation of the administration over Okinawa by the US Military Government
- Sep. 1950: Establishment of US Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands and the Ryukyu Government of the Ryukyu Islands
- 1952: Ordinances by the US Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands (USCAR) include the Senkaku Islands in the area of Ryukyu

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- the Late 1960s: Worsening border incursions around the Senkaku Islands
- May 1969: A report on the potential oil reserves is made public
- Jun. 17, 1971: The Okinawa Reversion Agreement is concluded. The area of return includes the Senkaku Islands
- Dec. 30, 1971: First official statement by the Government of the People’s Republic of China
- Unfounded and unique territorial claims over the Senkaku Islands
- May 15, 1972: Entry into force of the Okinawa Reversion Agreement
1 History of the Senkaku Islands as part of Japan's territory in the prewar era
   Background before the incorporation and utilization after the incorporation.

1 Senkaku Islands – uninhabited islands ruled by no country

Areas surrounding the East China Sea and the Senkaku Islands before the Islands' incorporation into the Japanese territory

Until the second half of the 19th century, the Senkaku Islands were uninhabited islands around the Ryukyu Islands that belonged to no country around the Ryukyu Islands. After the Meiji Restoration in 1868, Japan modernized its administrative organization domestically and was actively making efforts to enhance its status in the modern international community, such as by resuming unequal treaties signed with other nations, at a time when western powers were advancing into Asia. As the situation around the East China Sea had become more volatile, the Meiji Government faced critical challenges in clarifying the status of peripheral islands including the Senkaku Islands. Such challenges become even more critical in the 1880s, when tension was increasing with the growing presence of western powers in Eastern Asia, exemplified by the outbreak of the Sino-French War (1883-85) and the Port Hamilton Incident (April 1885).

2 Situation in the Senkaku Islands

The Senkaku Islands were used as a navigation marker for vessels passing through the East China Sea. The existence of the Islands was known, as they appeared in documents and maps of the Ryukyu Dynasty (see Fig. 1). There is a record of a member of the Ryukyu royal family landing on them around 1819 and that of Ryukyu people approaching the islands.

Nevertheless, the Senkaku Islands, which were uninhabited, were never administered by any other country before Japan incorporated them into its territory in 1895.

2.1 Scroll of the Ryukyus depicting a navigation route

This is a scroll that depicts a navigation route between Naha Port in the Ryukyu Dynasty and Fuzhou Island (Fig. 2).

An Excerpt

"I have disembursed four Kan'ei coins. The prefecture of Kuba and Uotsuri.

A total of 78 Itoman residents went to the islands, for which I disbursed four Kan'ei coins.

On this basis, we would like to ask that the government incorporate the islands and propose that the Government incorporate the Senkaku Islands into the jurisdiction of Yaeyama Island Office.

Proposal from Okinawa Prefecture for the Government of the Yaeyama Islands-Kuba Island

Documents confirming the Yaeyama Islands-Kuba Island

On November 29, 1890 (Meiji 23), the Yaeyama Island Office has requested the Government to incorporate the islands.

Proposal from Okinawa Prefecture to the Government for the Incorporation of uninhabited islands; Kuba and Uotsuri Islands

In this document, a total of 78 people proposed that the Government take the initiative to incorporate the islands into the Yaeyama Islands.

Excerpt

"On November 29, 1890 (Meiji 23), the Yaeyama Island Office has requested the Government to incorporate the islands into the jurisdiction of the Yaeyama Island Office. Okinawa Prefecture proposed that the Government incorporate the Senkaku Islands into the jurisdiction of Yaeyama Island Office. In the Meiji Constitution, the authorities were attempting to regulate these activities.

Proposal from Okinawa Prefecture to the Government

Okinawa Prefecture proposed that the Government incorporate the Senkaku Islands into the Japanese territory to regulate fishery operators.

The Government of Okinawa Prefecture proposed again that the Government incorporate the Senkaku Islands into the jurisdiction of the Yaeyama Island Office. The background of this was that Okinawa Prefecture had long proposed that the Government incorporate the islands into the jurisdiction of Yaeyama Island Office.

Okinawa Prefecture Police

Okinawa Prefecture Police for Fiscal Year 1891. This report was issued in order to the Police in December 1891 to the Senkaku Islands. In the Senkaku Islands, Okinawa Prefecture Police was established to prevent and control any land disputes that threatened the national sovereignty of the islands.

Excerpt

"The Government of Okinawa Prefecture requests that the local police office incorporate the Senkaku Islands into the jurisdiction of Okinawa Prefecture Police for Fiscal Year 1891. The police office is required to incorporate the islands into the jurisdiction of Okinawa Prefecture Police."

Investigation on the Senkaku Islands and increasing needs for administrative control

Proposal from Okinawa Prefecture to the Government

The People's Republic of China asserts that China (PRC) discovered and named the Senkaku Islands, simply because the Chinese Emperors' Ming and Qing Dynasties went through the Senkaku Islands when dispatched to China.

However, it is not clear that China really "discovered" or "named" any islands. It is clear that the setting of islands, dispatched once every few decades by the Chinese Dynasty, near the Senkaku Islands constitutes "utilization" of the islands. None of these constitute grounds to support China's territorial claims. Under international law, continuous and peaceful use of sovereignty with a clear intention of possessing territory is deemed necessary for gaining territorial title. However, it is certain that China's rights were not supported by any substantial evidence. Therefore, even though China claimed the Senkaku Islands, the islands are not China's 'discovered' or 'named' islands.

1. Diaoyu Dao is China's Inherent Territory

The table "utilized" in the Chinese argument is the result of the Chinese argument in the sense that the Senkaku Islands were just looked at as a navigation marker by the Chinese Dynasty. The PRC also asserts that China used the Senkaku Islands, simply because the Chinese Emperors' Ming and Qing Dynasties went through the Senkaku Islands when dispatched to China.

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2. The meaning of "coastal defense area" is not clear. The mere appearance of island names on charts and maps in books related to coastal defense cannot be regarded as grounds for territorial sovereignty.

The PRC asserts that China "has placed the islands under its jurisdiction," based on the grounds that documents in the 16th and 17th century depict that the Senkaku Islands were part of the coastal defense of Ming Dynasty. However, in the argument of the PRC, there is no explanation of what "coastal defense area" means. The mere appearance of island names on charts and maps in books related to coastal defense cannot be regarded as proof of those islands being held as territory.

3. The distinction of colors on ancient maps is not sufficient grounds for territorial sovereignty.

The PRC asserts that maps made in the 16th to 17th centuries included the Senkaku Islands in the Chinese maritime area. However, the grounds for this assertion is only that the islands and the Chinese emperor used the same color on the maps, which cannot be considered to be proof of territorial sovereignty.

As mentioned above, the PRC does not provide any effective grounds, in accordance with international law, to support its claim of territorial sovereignty, and has asserted that the Senkaku Islands are "Inherent Territory," based on its unilateral logic, without regard for international law.

4 Let's see China's Argument - Inherent territory -

(1) China's argument - Inherent territory -

1. Diaoyu Dao is China's Inherent Territory

Diaoyu Dao is China's Inherent Territory

Diaoyu Dao has not been discovered, named and utilized by China.

Diaoyu Dao has long been under China's jurisdiction.

China and foreign maps show that Diaoyu Dao belongs to China.

The People's Republic of China asserts that China (PRC) discovered and named the Senkaku Islands, simply because the Chinese Emperors' Ming and Qing Dynasties went through the Senkaku Islands when dispatched to China. The PRC also asserts that China used the Senkaku Islands, simply because the Chinese Emperors' Ming and Qing Dynasties went through the Senkaku Islands when dispatched to China. However, it is not clear that China really "discovered" or "named" any islands. It is clear that the setting of islands, dispatched once every few decades by the Chinese Dynasty, near the Senkaku Islands constitutes "utilization" of the islands. None of these constitute grounds to support China's territorial claims. Under international law, continuous and peaceful use of sovereignty with a clear intention of possessing territory is deemed necessary for gaining territorial title. However, it is certain that China's rights were not supported by any substantial evidence. Therefore, even though China claimed the Senkaku Islands, the islands are not China's 'discovered' or 'named' islands.

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As mentioned above, the PRC does not provide any effective grounds, in accordance with international law, to support its claim of territorial sovereignty, and has asserted that the Senkaku Islands are "Inherent Territory," based on its unilateral logic, without regard for international law.
2 Incorporation into Japan's territory

January 14, 1895 (Meiji 28)

Cabinet decision to incorporate the Senkaku Islands into the jurisdiction of Okinawa Prefecture, and erect national markers for the need to regulate fishing operator

In the following year of January 1895, when the Senkaku Islands were incorporated into Japan's territory, Tatsushiro Koga, seafood merchant from Fukuoka Prefecture, was permitted to use for free of rent the state-named four islands, Minami-kojima, Kita-kojima, Kuba, and Uotsuri Islands, and engaged in the development of those islands. In March 1897, Tatsushiro Koga dispatched 35 workers to the Senkaku Islands to start the project of collecting feathers of albatross and the development of the islands. The development started from Kuba Island, and the project of collecting feathers expanded, which led to the sharp decrease in the number of abalates. In 1903, experts were invited to conduct research in each island.

By 1903 several houses were built in Kuba Island, and a hut and stone fence was built on the sand beach in northwestern Minami-kojima Island. Photo (1) shows the situation in Minami-kojima Island, with three main land Japanese style boats on front, and a Chinawan style "Sakura" boat left behind, which indicates that the island was used as a fishing base. Meanwhile, the project of collecting feathers of albatrosses struck, and Tatsushiro Koga started the businesses of producing stuffed birds of small-sized eggs such as soy sauce, and also fishing bonitos and producing dried bonitos. In Uotsuri Island, a factory of producing dried bonitos was built (photo (2)). A photo remain new, which appeared to have taken with a research mission for rock phosphate led by Futakawa Yuutaro (photo (3)).

In 1908, the project of producing dried bonitos ran smoothly, while the number of residents on the islands amounted to 248 of 90 households.

II. Japan Stole Diaoyu Dao from China

In the process of incorporating the Senkaku Islands in 1895, the PRC confirmed that they were not under the control of any other state.

The PRC states that the "report went in secrecy" within the Japanese Government in 1895, Japan "could not act impetuously," taking in consideration the possibility of "ruining China's aspiration if existing national marks," because the Senkaku Islands had Chinese names.

As explained above, Japan carefully confirmed that no other nation ruled the Senkaku Islands, prior to issuing the Cabinet decision of incorporating the Senkaku Islands.

Moreover, after the incorporation of the islands into the Japanese territory in 1895, although China appeared to have recognized the activities of the Japanese were-growing conspicuous, Japan effectively controlled the Senkaku Islands.
May 31, 1897 (Meiji 30)

Applicable areas for certain laws

On May 31, 1897, the Management and Disposition systems related to land were also reformed. Measurements were also taken of all the islands in Okinawa Prefecture to produce official system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements were taken of all the islands in Okinawa Prefecture to produce official system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects). In these projects, measurements organizational reform from 1899, beginning with the reform of the land system (land consolidation projects).
Senkaku Islands under administration by the US

After the war, Okinawa was placed under military control by the US Forces. In accordance with the San Francisco Peace Treaty, the territorial sovereignty of Okinawa including the Senkaku Islands remained in Japan, and the administration was executed by the US. The US recognized the Senkaku Islands as part of Okinawa from the time of the war. Under administration by the US, the Senkaku Islands were placed under the jurisdiction of the Yaeyama Islands. The same status regarding land-owners of the four Senkaku Islands, possession by fishing operations, the implementation of academic surveys, among other matters, was basically maintained in the same form as from the time before the war.

1945 - Establishment of the administration over Okinawa by the US Military Government

On September 7, 1945, by the signature of the Instrument of Surrender in the Ryukyu Islands, the US military government of the Ryukyu Islands started over the Nansei Shoto south of 23 degree latitude. The Amami Islands, Okinawa, and the Sakishima Islands were under military administration, in which the administrative organization was established, centering on the Okinawa Civil Administration consisting of local residents. This represented no change from the period in which the Senkaku Islands still belonged to Karigaki Town (City).

1946 - The San Francisco Peace Treaty enters into effect, and Okinawa is formally placed under administration by the US

With the entry-into-effect of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, the Senkaku Islands were formally placed under the administration by the US, as “Nansei Shoto south of 23° north latitude.”

1950s - The US Forces conclude land-lease contracts for military reserve with the land-owner of Kuba Island

Kuba Island, designated as a bombing range, was owned by Zenji Koga from the time prior to the war. The US Forces were required to lease the island as a military reservation. In 1950, the US concluded a comprehensive lease agreement with the Government of the Ryukyu Islands for the land used by the US Forces. At this time, many land-lease contracts were concluded for land for use by the US Forces, including Kuba Island.

Area of the Ryukyu Islands shown by Civil Administration Ordinance No. 68 (Provisions of the Government of the Ryukyu Islands) (February 29, 1952)

Area of the Ryukyu Islands shown by Civil Administration of the Proclamation No. 27 (Geographic Boundary of the Ryukyu Islands) (December 25, 1952)

Cases demonstrating that the US (US Forces) was executing administration over the Senkaku Islands

The US included the Senkaku Islands in the area of the Ryukyu Islands from the time of the war.

The first activity report by the United States Military Administration of the Ryukyu Islands No.1 SENKAKU-GUNTO in the area of the Ryukyu Islands

The US Forces concluded land-lease contracts for military reserve with the land-owner of Kuba Island

The Senkaku Islands under administration by the US and the return of Okinawa

On September 7, 1945, by the signature of the Instrument of Surrender in the Ryukyu Islands, the US military government of the Ryukyu Islands started over the Nansei Shoto south of 23 degree latitude. The Amami Islands, Okinawa, and the Sakishima Islands were under military administration, in which the administrative organization was established, centering on the Okinawa Civil Administration consisting of local residents. This represented no change from the period in which the Senkaku Islands still belonged to Karigaki Town (City).
In the late 1960s, the illegal entry by the Taiwanese into the Senkaku Islands became a problematic issue, and the Government of the Ryukyu Islands started enforcement in consultation with USCAR. This was a time when the Japanese Government was conducting surveys, and the situation around the Senkaku Islands was beginning to change. This change became all the more conspicuous in the lead up to the Okinawa Reversion Agreement, signed on June 17, 1971. The People’s Republic of China (PRC) and Taiwan suddenly began to claim territorial sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands, which they had never done before.

In 1950, the late Tetsuo Takara (from Ishigaki Island, former President of the University of the Ryukyus, Doctor in Agriculture) conducted academic survey trips to the Senkaku Islands in 1952, 1953, 1963, and 1968 with research corps including local researchers who were mainly from the Senkaku Islands. After that, Prof. Takara conducted academic survey trips to the Senkaku Islands in 1959, 1969, and 1978, and further academic surveys were conducted by Okinawa Development Agency, contributing to the accumulation of academic knowledge, including the discovery of indigenous species of albatross and other animals and plants.

Academic research after the war started on fishing boats headed for the Senkaku Islands. In 1958, the late Tetsuo Takara (from Ishigaki Island) travelled to Uotsuri Island and conducted the first academic survey after the war, embarking on fishing boats heading for the Senkaku Islands. After that, Prof. Takara conducted academic survey trips to the Senkaku Islands in 1952, 1953, 1963, and 1968 with research corps including local researchers who were mainly from the Senkaku Islands. Further academic surveys were conducted in 1971 by the University of the Ryukyus, and in 1979 by Okinawa Development Agency, contributing to the discovery of indigenous species of albatross and other animals and plants.

In 1969, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), the United Nations, published a report, stating that: The Senkaku Islands are clearly described in the ECAFE Report, 1969. In September 1969, USCAR proposed to erect warning boards that conflicted with that of USCAR, Treasury Department, and the US Department of Justice, stating that: The United States had never expressed their objection to the fact that the Senkaku Islands are an inherent part of Japan. It was not until the 1970s, after the report of the research by ECAFE in the mid-1960s, that the PRC Government and the United States started to make their unique assertions over the Senkaku Islands. They had never expressed their objection to the fact that the Senkaku Islands were an inherent part of Japan, in accordance with Annex 3 of the San Francisco Peace Treaty.

Academic research after the war started on fishing boats headed for the Senkaku Islands. In 1958, the late Tetsuo Takara (from Ishigaki Island) travelled to Uotsuri Island and conducted the first academic survey after the war, embarking on fishing boats heading for the Senkaku Islands. After that, Prof. Takara conducted academic survey trips to the Senkaku Islands in 1952, 1953, 1963, and 1968 with research corps including local researchers who were mainly from the Senkaku Islands. Further academic surveys were conducted in 1971 by the University of the Ryukyus, and in 1979 by Okinawa Development Agency, contributing to the accumulation of academic knowledge, including the discovery of indigenous species of albatross and other animals and plants.

In 1950, the late Tetsuo Takara (from Ishigaki Island, former President of the University of the Ryukyus, Doctor in Agriculture) conducted academic survey trips to the Senkaku Islands in 1952, 1953, 1963, and 1968 with research corps including local researchers who were mainly from the Senkaku Islands. After that, Prof. Takara conducted academic survey trips to the Senkaku Islands in 1959, 1969, and 1978, and further academic surveys were conducted by Okinawa Development Agency, contributing to the accumulation of academic knowledge, including the discovery of indigenous species of albatross and other animals and plants.

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June 17, 1971

The Okinawa Reversion Agreement is concluded

The area of return includes the Senkaku Islands

Japan and the US signed the Okinawa Reversion Agreement, in accordance with which the administration over Okinawa was returned to Japan. The Twenty-Ninth Minutes of the agreement provide that the geographic scope of the return is the area specified by USCAR Proclamation No. 27 (December 25, 1953), which includes the Senkaku Islands (right).

May 15, 1972

The Okinawa Reversion Agreement enters into effect

In accordance with the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement, Kuba and Taisho Islands are provided as bombing ranges

Upon entry into effect of the Okinawa Reversion Agreement with the US, the administration over Okinawa was returned to Japan. At this time, the Kuba and Taisho Islands were provided to the US Forces as bombing ranges.

May 15, 1972

The Okinawa Reversion Agreement enters into effect.

In accordance with the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement, Kuba and Taisho Islands are provided as bombing ranges.

No.7

A report on the potential oil reserves is made public


No.7

Entry into any of the Ryukyu Islands including this island, or their territorial Waters other than as authorized by the U.S.

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In 2019, the number of days that Chinese Government-owned vessels are identified in the contiguous zone is the highest ever (282 days). For 64 days from April 12 to June 14 in 2019, Chinese Government-owned vessels continued navigating in the contiguous zone, which broke the past record of 43 days from August 9 to September 20, 2014.

Since September 2016, the intrusion into the territorial sea by a fleet of four Chinese Government-owned vessels has been identified frequently, whereas a fleet of three vessels had been more commonly identified before then.

In recent years, the activities by Chinese Government-owned vessels have been identified almost everyday in Japan's contiguous zone around the Senkaku Islands. Moreover the incidents of violation into Japanese territorial sea have been occurring. In such circumstances, the Japan Coast Guard deploys its patrol vessels, while taking other measures, in the determined policy line of firmly protecting our territory and territorial sea, and thereby continue to act calmly and firmly in order to prevent escalation of the situation in collaboration with related organizations.

**Graph: Situation concerning Chinese Government vessels in the maritime area surrounding the Senkaku Islands (as of December 31, 2019)**

- In 2019, the number of days that Chinese Government-owned vessels are identified in the contiguous zone and the number of total vessels identified there are both the highest ever (282 days, 1,097 vessels).
- For 64 days from April 12 to June 14 in 2019, Chinese Government-owned vessels continued navigating in the contiguous zone, which broke the past record of 43 days from August 9 to September 20, 2014.
- Since September 2016, the intrusion into the territorial sea by a fleet of four Chinese Government-owned vessels has been identified frequently, whereas a fleet of three vessels had been more commonly identified before then.

At the same time as the return of Okinawa, the 11th Regional Maritime Safety Headquarters, Maritime Safety Agency (currently Japan Coast Guard) was established, resulting in the start of the surveillance of the Senkaku Islands and its surrounding maritime area. In 1979, the Okinawa Development Agency conducted academic surveys and feasibility studies on potential development in the Senkaku Islands. Administrative management has continually been exerted over the islands to date.