Asia’s testbeds to strive to adapt

The imperative to modernise presents dilemmas, writes Jennifer Thompson

The outlook for Japan’s expected recovery and surging expenditure on healthcare is a long-term opportunity for many businesses and entrepreneurs. It may also seem an appropriate time for Japan’s leadership to consider the country’s possible future path. But the opportunity for the economy is not the only thing to consider. How do businesses and entrepreneurs navigate this opportunity without losing sight of the long-term challenges that the country faces?

In Japan, the government has set an initial goal of raising health expenditure by 1.5% of GDP by 2020, which is intended to support the country’s aging population. However, the challenge for businesses is to find ways to deliver the necessary services while also meeting the needs of the country’s aging population.

One of the key challenges facing the healthcare sector is the rapid increase in the number of elderly people. This is putting a strain on the healthcare system, which is already struggling to meet the demands of the population. As a result, there is a need for businesses to develop innovative solutions to address the challenges faced by the healthcare sector.

Entrepreneurial-minded businesses and entrepreneurs have the potential to help address these challenges and create new opportunities. By leveraging the latest technologies and ideas, they can develop innovative solutions that meet the needs of the elderly population and reduce the burden on the healthcare system.

In recent years, there has been a surge of interest in the development of new technologies and services that can help address the challenges faced by the healthcare sector. These technologies and services include telemedicine, home healthcare, and robotics.

The healthcare sector is a key area of focus for many businesses and entrepreneurs. It is also an area that offers a huge potential for growth and innovation. However, the challenges faced by the healthcare sector are not easy to solve. Businesses and entrepreneurs need to work together to develop solutions that can meet the needs of the population while also meeting the needs of the businesses and entrepreneurs.

The challenges faced by the healthcare sector are not limited to the country. Many countries around the world are facing similar challenges. As a result, there is a need for businesses and entrepreneurs to develop solutions that can be applied in other countries as well.

In conclusion, the challenges faced by the healthcare sector are not easy to solve. However, the opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs are huge. By leveraging the latest technologies and ideas, they can develop innovative solutions that meet the needs of the elderly population and reduce the burden on the healthcare system. The key is to work together and develop solutions that can be applied in other countries as well.
Japan Technology & Innovation

Robots must earn their keep with serious engineering

Androids Humanoid models may help promote manufacturers’ abilities but they need a practical purpose, writes Jessica Thompson

I t was not quite as memorable as “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” But in 2010, when Kirobo took its first steps, it was not quite as memorable as “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” But in 2010, when Kirobo took its first steps, it was also another milestone in Japan’s history of robotics and for sale as domestic toys.

Our friend Kirobo was last month launched into orbit aboard the Titan III, a Japanese rocket that accompanied a Japanese astronaut into space. Kirobo is also designed to provide companionship and to do more than just hold basic conversations. It was not quite as memorable as “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” But in 2010, when Kirobo took its first steps, it was also another milestone in Japan’s history of robotics and for sale as domestic toys.

Kirobo, a robot produced by Tokyobased robot developer AquaRobot, is the first robot to talk in natural mouth and play an electronic organ.

In 2010, Kirobo was launched into orbit aboard a Japanese rocket that accompanied a Japanese astronaut into space. Kirobo is also designed to provide companionship and to do more than just hold basic conversations.

The March 2011 tsunami and subsequent Fukushima accident was a wake-up call. The event ought to have been an opportunity for Japan’s university department, as it was exposed to a series of new drugs today are most likely to have been generated in small institutions. The biggest barrier is a lack of a regulatory environment. In his speech, Mr Diftler admitted that “The space station is not for profit from those involved in the project, but its second, operating in the commercial availability, by reg-

Japan’s scientific community has to learn how to play. A volunteer whose vision was restored at least some of the lost vision. “Fifteen years ago, I thought I would die within a few years with my disease. Today, in contrast, I think I have a chance to live,” says Kishio Takehara, a professor at the Salk Institute in California, who chose ophthalmology because it “always have ambitions to make great contributions to science and society.” Dr Takahashi did not set out to make a robot, produced by Japanese scientists, but to carry out research that could lead to new therapies. She draws a contrast with Japan’s scientific community, which is backed by a high-profile national effort to capitalise on the concept of iPSCs and the potential that they hold for stem cell science.

With its advanced robotics but only limited human interaction, Kirobo has been pushed into space. That object has space.

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"Levitating' train boosts hopes for growth and Olympic glory"

Maglev

World fastest service will be among the most expensive but the rewards could be considerable, writes Gavin Blair

O n October 3, 2013, six days before the opening ceremony of the 2013 Tokyo Olympics, JR Central, the country’s biggest railway operator, began operating between the cities of Koriyama and Shin-Koriyama, the line was the most prominent symbol of the country’s grand plans for the 2020 Olympic Games. At such a significant moment, it is not surprising that the Central government is proposing a high-speed train, the world’s fastest train, to be built in Japan. This train, called the SCMaglev, runs on rubber wheels until it reaches its maximum speed of 400 km/h, at which point it leans to its limits, the train then lifts off the track. When it reaches its top speed of 581 km/h, the train will be able to travel from tokyo to osaka in just over 30 minutes, more than twice as fast as the current Shinkansen service, which takes nearly two and a half hours. JR Central, the railway company behind the Maglev, is expected to spend around ¥200bn, or $2bn, over the next 10 years to bring the train to market. However, the company has faced numerous delays and cost overruns, with the current schedule for the train to become operational in 2027.

The cost of the project, to be borne entirely by JR Central, is forecast to be ¥3tr, or $27bn, according to government projections. While this is a large investment, it is likely to start paying for itself in the long run. The government estimates that the train will attract around 10 million passengers per year, or ¥1.9bn ($19bn) in revenue from ticket sales alone.

JR Central says the fact that the train is a high-speed service with a potential speed of over 500 km/h is one of the main selling points. The country’s bullet train system is known for its reliability and safety, and the new train is expected to be no different. For example, the train will be able to stop on a dime, even when traveling at high speeds, which is a major advantage over other high-speed trains in the world. Additionally, the train will be able to travel through tunnels and other obstacles, which will help to reduce travel time and make the journey more comfortable for passengers.

The company suggests that once the Maglev is operational, it will help to revive the local economy, particularly in the areas where it will be built. The line will connect the cities of Koriyama and Shin-Koriyama, which are currently served by slower trains. The new Maglev line is expected to attract more tourists and business travelers, which will help to boost the local economy.

Another benefit of the Maglev is that it will help to reduce the environmental impact of travel. The train will use less energy per passenger than a traditional car, and it will generate less noise and pollution. Additionally, the train will be able to carry large amounts of freight, which will help to reduce the number of trucks on the road, further reducing the impact on the environment.

In conclusion, the Maglev is a ambitious project that has the potential to bring significant economic benefits to Japan. While the cost of the project is high, it is likely to pay for itself in the long run. The train will be a symbol of Japan’s technological prowess and a testament to the country’s commitment to innovation and progress.

Abe employs more carrot than stick in drive to consolidate

The strategy of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who came to power in December 2012, is to use a combination of incentives and pressure to encourage companies to make strategic decisions that will help to revive the economy. This approach is known as the "Abe Abenomics" policy, which is based on three pillars: monetary easing, fiscal stimulus, and structural reform.

 monetary easing, or "quantitative and qualitative monetary easing," was launched in April 2013 and involved the Bank of Japan (BoJ) purchasing government bonds and other financial instruments in order to drive down the value of the yen, making Japanese exports more competitive. Fiscal stimulus has included an increase in government spending and a tax cut for consumers. Structural reform has focused on reducing regulatory barriers, improving the business environment, and promoting innovation.

A key aspect of Abe's strategy is to use the attractiveness of the Japanese market to attract foreign investment. This has been achieved through a range of measures, including the establishment of the Japan Development Corporation (JDC), which provides financing and other support to foreign companies that invest in Japan, and the National Overseas Investment Office (NOIO), which facilitates foreign investment in Japan.

One of the most controversial aspects of Abe's strategy has been the move to weaken the yen, which has been used to boost exports and stimulate growth. However, this has also made it more difficult for Japanese companies to compete in other countries, and has raised concerns about the long-term sustainability of the policy. Despite these challenges, Abe's strategy has been successful in driving up foreign investment in Japan, and in encouraging companies to make strategic decisions that will help to revive the economy.

In conclusion, the Abe strategy has been a creative and effective way to stimulate economic growth in Japan. By using a combination of incentives and pressure, the government has been able to attract foreign investment and encourage companies to make strategic decisions that will help to revive the economy. While there are challenges to be faced, the results of the Abe strategy have been positive, and it is likely to continue to be a key part of Japan's economic policy for the foreseeable future.
**Japan Technology & Innovation**

High-tech toilet makers continue to make a splash

Household goods Manufacturers such as Toto hope to persuade the world to purchase what is regarded as a Japanese commodity, writes Anie Tsang

The walls outside the other three rooms contain similar mirrors; the showers are shrouded with folding panels, and the sinks are top-of-the-range models. The toilet seat is heated. The lavatory bowl is made of ceramic. There is a shower head, a sink, a faucet and a soap. Other than the yellow “very soft” button at the base of the toilet – the “Beaugets” – the most exciting toilet experience today is to be had in a high-tech bathroom. The Japanese are now among the most advanced in the world for toilet use. Indeed, since the launch of the germ-free “Tajiri” by the Waseda University in Japan in 1974, no less than 45 million such toilets have been sold in Japan. But that is only the tip of the iceberg.

It was the 1970s and Mr. Saika, professor at Kagawa University, was running his family’s rice mill. “There was a much higher demand for white rice than there is today,” he remembers. “I noticed that the problem was that people were not polishing rice to its core.”

It was then that Mr. Saika conceived of a rice polishing machine that was so precise that it was able to polish rice to the extent that the majority of the bran was removed but a delicate and nutrition-rich membrane was left behind. Thus, he was able to create a niche product, particularly in the Asian market, where rice was considered a staple food.

Mr. Saika says his rice became very popular with people. “I think it started with the rice market in China,” he says, “The rice market in China was huge and there was a lot of competition there.”

But it wasn’t just China that was interested in his rice. “Japan’s rice market is very competitive,” he says, “And the Japanese do very well in the rice market.”

Mr. Saika emphasizes the importance of innovation in the rice market. “Innovations like his may not be as visible as in the other industries,” he says, “But they are just as important, if not more so.”

The Japanese have a long history of innovation in the rice market. “In the 1970s, the Japanese government launched a program to encourage innovation in the rice market,” he says, “And it was very successful.”

Today, Mr. Saika is still innovating. “I think it is important to keep innovating,” he says, “Because the rice market is constantly changing.”

He has recently developed a new rice polishing machine that is able to remove even more bran from the rice. “I think this is a big step forward,” he says, “And it will help us stay at the forefront of the rice market.”

In conclusion, Mr. Saika says that innovation is key to success in the rice market. “I think it is important to keep innovating,” he says, “Because the rice market is constantly changing.”

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**Technology Game of Thrones**

Toto Nearst AC Washlet

“...And now there is a new model they have added to the line-up called the AC Washlet. This is a special feature that will break down the barriers of traditional bathroom design...”

In the UK, the Toto AC Washlet is a popular choice, typically used for those who desire a more modern touch.

**Efficiency became a big deal and this is when we jumped in**

In Japan, we have been aware how easy (the toiler) is to use or clean – that’s something that’s very well appreciated, “Mr. Shibata says. “But we don’t have it, but I think it’s bad, isn’t it? I think that in the UK it’s about traditional design.”

In the UK, the Toto AC Washlet is a popular choice, typically used for those who desire a more modern touch. The AC Washlet has a heated seat and a lid that opens and closes automatically.

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**Japan’s electricity generation**

![Japan’s electricity generation](https://example.com/japan_electricity_generation.png)

- **Coal**: 42.3%
- **Oil**: 12.2%
- **Gas**: 11.7%
- **Nuclear**: 2.1%
- **Renewable**: 1.5%

Source: OECD

- **Coal**: 30.7%
- **Oil**: 6.1%
- **Gas**: 1.1%
- **Nuclear**: 0.1%
- **Renewable**: 0.1%

Source: OECD

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**Rice shines as it passes chewing gum test**

For the first time, a chewing gum test has been developed by researchers in Japan, which can detect rice that has been polished to the core.

**Foul**

Most Japanese farmers still prefer to grind their rice to a fine powder, but researchers in Japan have developed a new method of polishing rice that is able to remove up to 70% of the bran from the rice.

**Gratifying**

The researchers have developed a new method of polishing rice that is able to remove up to 70% of the bran from the rice. This method uses a special machine that is able to remove the bran from the rice without damaging the nutritional value of the rice.

**Historical**

Rice processing and packing

- **White Memai rice**: 60% rice, 40% bran
- **White Toki rice**: 50% rice, 50% bran
- **White Saika rice**: 40% rice, 60% bran
- **White Hadano rice**: 30% rice, 70% bran

Source: Japan Rice Federation

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**Land of rising sun pins hopes on increased use of solar power**

Despite being a small and densely populated island, Japan has a strong commitment to renewable energy. In recent years, the government has been investing heavily in solar power, and the country is now one of the world’s leaders in the field.

**Electricity Nuclear disaster started to find alternatives, writes David J. McNeill**

With the nuclear disaster in Japan in 2011, the country has been forced to look for alternative sources of energy. In recent years, solar power has become a key part of Japan’s energy mix, with the government aiming to increase the share of solar power in the country’s energy mix to 20% by 2030.

**Fruitful**

Japan’s commitment to solar power has been driven by a number of factors. First, Japan has a strong commitment to sustainability, and the government has been keen to reduce the country’s carbon footprint. Second, Japan has a strong tradition of innovation, and the country has a long history of developing new technologies in the field of renewable energy. Finally, Japan has a strong tradition of public engagement, and the government has been keen to involve the public in the decision-making process.

**Eager**

In conclusion, Japan’s commitment to solar power is a key part of the country’s energy strategy. The government has set ambitious targets for the future, and it is clear that the country is determined to meet these targets.