

40 YEARS ON

Editor's Note: This year marks the 40th anniversary of the launch of China's reform and opening-up policy.

China Daily profiles people who experienced or witnessed the important drive.

BORN:

Tokyo on Feb 11, 1947

EDUCATION:

- 1969: BA in engineering, University of Tokyo
- 1976: PhD in industrial engineering, Stanford University

**Yukio Hatoyama**

Former Japanese prime minister

CAREER:

- 1981: Teaches management at Senshu University in Tokyo
- 1986: Elected to Japanese House of Representatives
- 1996: Forms Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)
- Sept 1999-Dec 2002: DPJ leader
- May 2009-June 2010: DPJ leader
- Sept 2009: Becomes prime minister after commanding victory over Liberal Democratic Party, which had governed Japan almost continuously since 1955
- June 2010: Resigns as prime minister
- 2012: Stands down as member of House of Representatives
- 2013: Establishes East Asian Community Institute

A family history of enhancing ties

Former Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama says country can learn a lot from China's development



Yukio Hatoyama pays a visit to the Memorial Hall of Victims of Nanjing Massacre in Nanjing, East China's Jiangsu province, on Jan 17, 2013.

SONG QIAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

By PAN MENGQI and LIU YANG

Japanese military police chief Captain Hatoyama, the main villain in the modern Peking Opera *The Legend of the Red Lantern*, is a notoriously brutal character.

One of the eight model plays, the only operas and ballets permitted during the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), *The Legend of the Red Lantern*, set during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45), made the name Hatoyama well known, if not well respected, in China. The opera was also later adapted into movies and TV series.

Yukio Hatoyama, Japan's prime minister from 2009 to 2010 and one of the few leaders of that country to have admitted and apologized for

its war crimes, said his father had sought to "clarify his family's reputation".

In the 1970s, his father, Japanese foreign minister Ichiro Hatoyama, brought the "family complaint" to the attention of then Chinese premier Zhou Enlai.

"In Japan, Hatoyama is a rare surname and only my family is using this surname," Ichiro Hatoyama told Zhou during a visit to Beijing. "I have checked the Hatoyama genealogy book and no one was conscripted into the army during World War II, let alone among the invaders."

Yukio Hatoyama said his father wanted to impress upon Zhou that the Hatoyamas were neither villains nor invaders.

Even though the villain's name in the opera was not changed, Yukio

Hatoyama said he thought the "interlude in history" was respected by the Chinese, as he had not seen any Japanese invaders named Hatoyama in any movies or TV series made afterward.

"In fact, my family have devoted their lifetime efforts to making China-Japan ties run in a positive direction for more than 100 years," he said, adding that those efforts had been important for both sides in past decades.

Dubbed "Japan's Kennedy family", the Hatoyama family's patriarchal head was his great-grandfather, Kazuo Hatoyama, who was president of Tokyo's Waseda University in the 1890s.

During that time, Waseda became the first Japanese university to accept Chinese students, with the first one

admitted in 1899, and 762 enrolling in the following two years, including Lu Xun (1881-1936), a leading figure of modern Chinese literature.

Kazuo Hatoyama's son, Ichiro Hatoyama, was prime minister of Japan from 1954 to 1956, when it had yet to establish formal diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China.

"My grandfather wanted to realize the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations during his tenure, but the political situation was not mature at that time," Yukio Hatoyama said.

However, Ichiro Hatoyama did appoint Japanese businessman-politician Takasaki Tatsunosuke to attend the first Asian-African Conference, in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955, where Tatsunosuke met Zhou,

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