

# Japan Focus



*Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles  
Japan Information & Culture Center  
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## Prime Minister Abe in Florida

Japan's prime minister visited Florida to attend three summit meetings with U.S. President Donald J. Trump on April 17-18.

Read more below:



Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

[Link](#)



## Japan to Host 2019 G-20 Summit in Osaka

In 2019, Japan will host the Group of 20 leaders' summit in Osaka on June 28-29. Ministerial-level meetings will be held across Japan at venues in Fukuoka, Hokkaido, Aichi and other prefectures. Information on this year's G20 Buenos Aires meetings below:

[Link](#)

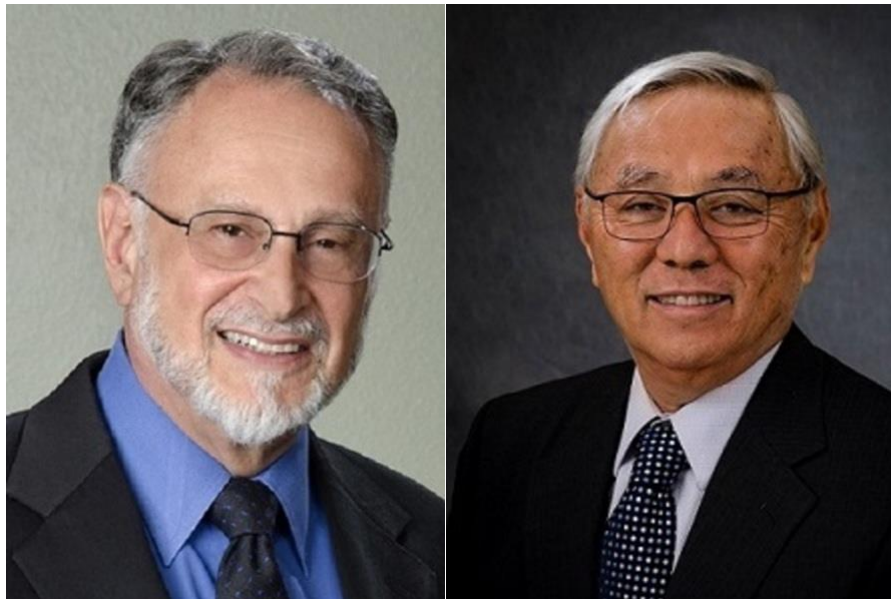
# Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. in Los Angeles

Japan's Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama visited L.A., with trip highlights including a meeting with Mayor Eric Garcetti and a stop at Japan House Los Angeles. The ambassador also attended the Japanese American National Museum's 2018 Gala Dinner and Silent Auction where he met JANM Board of Trustees Chair Hon. Norman Mineta and Senator Mazie Hirono.



[Link](#)

## Recipients of Spring 2018 Commendation



Mr. Ellis Krauss (left) will be conferred the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon for his contribution to promoting academic research on Japan, and academic exchange between Japan and the United States. Mr. Ernest Doizaki (right) will be conferred the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays for contributing to strengthening economic relations and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

[Link](#)

## MEXT Scholarship Applications Available



Applications for the 2019 Research Students Scholarship, 2019 Undergraduate Students Scholarship, and 2019 Specialized Training College Students Scholarship are now available. Established in 1954, the MEXT Scholarship Program has enabled more than 102,000 students from 160 countries and regions worldwide to study in Japan. For more information:

[Link](#)



### **This Month's Sister Cities**

Sister-city relationships are long-term ties between two cities, usually in different countries, which have often grown out of shared interests and been motivated by a desire to promote international friendship. Officially formed by agreement between mayors, and they often rely on private citizens to support their on-going activities. This month we introduce the Japan-affiliated sister cities in our region which were formed in the month of May.

The City of Hemet, California and the Town of Marumori in Miyagi Prefecture began their sister-city relationship on May 1, 1990 <https://www.cityofhemet.org/gallery.aspx?searchText=sister%20cities&AID=All>

The City of Temecula, California and the Town of Daisen in Tottori Prefecture became sister cities on May 1, 1994 <http://www.temeculasistercityassociation.org/index.html>

Avondale, Arizona and Kaizu, Gifu Prefecture began a sister-city relationship in May of 1993.

Our complete list of Japan-affiliated sister-city relationships in Southern California and Arizona can be found below:

[Link](#)

## **Kizuna Video: Little Tokyo Service Center**



The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles in association with Kizuna brings you a video series highlighting the unique features and history of the Japanese American community. Our

latest video takes you on a tour with the resourceful and inspiring community at the Little Tokyo Service Center!

[Link](#)



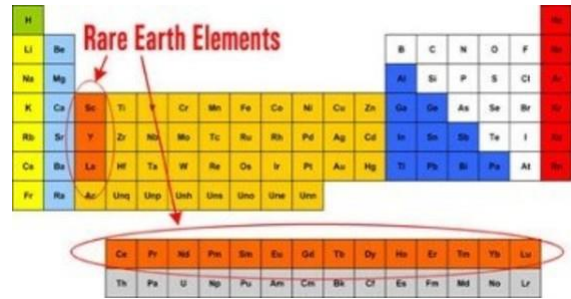
### **Taking Japan's Infrastructure Knowhow Worldwide**

Well known for making things with strong global demand, like autos and high-tech goods, Japan is also finding new markets for its cutting-edge infrastructure technology and large-scale project management. See how Japan is helping to build a better world, one infrastructure project at a

time! Video here:

[Link](#)

## **Japan to Become a "Rare Earth Metals" Superpower?**



Japan's high tech sector is heavily reliant upon the "rare earth" metals which allow the creation of high efficiency magnets, communication equipment and electronics – however, these materials are imported and the supply is subject to geopolitical disruptions. Recently, researchers have determined there is a major deposit of as much as 16 million tons of the critical elements on the ocean floor within Japanese waters – enough to supply several hundred years of global demand. Research on best methods of recovery already underway! More here:

[Link](#)

## **Savor the Tastes of Tokachi, Hokkaido - Japan's Hidden and Regional Food Culture!**



Continuing our exploration of exquisite regional ingredients and cuisine specialties throughout Japan, please enjoy this video focusing on the development of successful agricultural products in Japan's wide open frontier island, Hokkaido, in the Tokachi region.

To learn more of what Tokachi has to offer to the adventurous traveler – gorgeous nature, delicious local cuisine and famous hot springs (among other attractions) – take a look here:

[Link](#)

## Children's Day (*kodomo no hi*)

This day is celebrated every May 5. Children's Day was originally known as Tango no Sekku, a festival for boys. The day became a national holiday in 1948 that celebrates boys and girls. Families with boys will display dolls of warriors. Carp-shaped streamers, or *koinobori*, may also be displayed outside of the house, while *kashiwamochi*, or rice cakes wrapped in oak leaves filled with sweet bean paste, are also eaten.





*kashiwamochi*



*koinobori*

[Link](#)

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**Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles**