

Japan Focus



*Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
Japan Information & Culture Center
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Prime Minister Abe, U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo Meet in Tokyo

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe received a courtesy visit from U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on July 8. During their meeting, they discussed Secretary Pompeo's visit to North Korea, among other topics. Read more below:



Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

[Link](#)



S Korean Foreign Minister Visits Abe

On July 8, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe received a courtesy call from South Korea's Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha.

[Link](#)

Japan-EU Summit Yields Economic Partnership Pact

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, European Council President Donald Tusk and European Union President Jean-Claude Juncker met in Tokyo for a summit, followed by a signing ceremony for the Japan-EU Economic Partnership and the Strategic Partnership Agreement.



Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

[Link](#)



Japan-US Foreign Minister Summit

Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Kono and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held a meeting on July 8 to discuss regional issues, including North Korea.

[Link](#)

LA Mayor Garcetti Visits Japan

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti recently visited Japan and met with government officials including Foreign Minister Taro Kono, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasutoshi Nishimura, and Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, discussing such issues as trade, business development, and the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics.



[Link](#)



Foreign Minister's Commendations Announced

The Foreign Minister's Commendations recipients for FY 2018, announced in July, include from our jurisdiction Ms. Takako Wakita, who was recognized for her role in promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S. as Santa Barbara Sister Cities Committee Board Chair.

[Link](#)

Nagasaki Region Sites Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List



UNESCO adopted a decision at the World Heritage Committee to inscribe Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region on the World Heritage List.

[Link](#)



Japan House LA Grand Opening

On Aug. 25, Japan House Los Angeles will open its facilities, located at Hollywood & Highland to the public. Japan House LA will also present from Aug. 17 "Prototyping in Tokyo", an interactive exhibition that will feature University of Tokyo Professor of Design Shunji Yamanaka's cutting-edge prototypes.

[Link](#)

2018 JET Program Participants Depart for Japan



The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles hosted a pre-departure orientation and bon voyage dinner for 2018-2019 participants on the eve of their departure. Find out more about the event and the JET Program:

[Link](#)



Japan Film Festival Los Angeles

The 13th Annual Japan Film Festival Los Angeles will be held on Aug. 18-19. Find out more about screenings of short films and other titles, as well as Q&As.

[Link](#)



Credit: MUFG Union Bank

Tomodachi-MUFG Exchange Program

On July 30, Consul General Chiba welcomed participants of the 7th TOMODACHI-MUFG International Exchange Program for an afternoon reception at the Official Residence. The 25 middle and high school students from Tohoku participating in the program spent two weeks in Southern California, enhancing their understanding of the U.S. and international exchange through study visits, workshops, and homestays with local families.

[Link](#)

kizuna Kizuna Video Series: Walk the Farm

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles continues its collaboration with Kizuna bringing you news and views on the Japanese American community. In our latest video, Kizuna visits Tanaka Farms for their annual “Walk the Farm” event benefiting Japanese farmers in Tohoku affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. See how the community joins together to send messages of support and hope to Tohoku!

[Link](#)

This Month's Sister Cities:

Anniversaries of U.S.-Japan relations in Southern California for the month of August include three Sister Cities and a Friendship City.

- Irvine, CA and Tsukuba in Ibaraki formalized their sister city relations on Aug. 1, 1989: <http://www.cityofirvine.org/multicultural-and-international-affairs/sister-cities-program>
- Oceanside, CA and Kisarazu in Chiba began their relations as sister cities Aug. 1, 1990: <http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/default.asp>
- Corona, CA and Gotsu in Shimane joined as sister cities on Aug. 1, 2004 <http://www.discovercorona.com/>
- Santa Monica, CA and Kizugawa of Kyoto became Friendship cities Aug. 2, 2016 <http://santamonicasistercity.org/>



Japanese Spacecraft Hayabusa 2 Approaches Target!

On June 27th, Hayabusa 2 entered orbit around the 900 meter wide asteroid Ryugu. Building on the efforts of the first Hayabusa mission (years 2003 through 2010), this second spacecraft has multiple landers and redundant sample collection strategies designed to allow the return of a substantial sample of the asteroid, and then return it home to earth for analysis. Japan's Space Agency (JAXA) unlocking secrets of the universe – read more here:

[Link](#)



... And ... British Rock Band “Queen” Lead Guitarist Brings New Dimension to Hayabusa 2!

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Find Exceptional Tastes of Japan, Worldwide!



A new resource for information on restaurants and retailers making use of authentic Japanese ingredients worldwide. Check out this site for exceptional experiences, interesting food articles, and more: <https://www.tasteofjapan.jp/>

And a quick overview of some restaurants making a mouthwatering contribution to the southern California restaurant scene with Japanese ingredients: <https://www.tasteofjapan.jp/article/detail/802>



August Holiday: Obon

The Obon holiday is celebrated in mid-July in some regions of Japan, while others mark it in mid-August. The belief is that the soul of deceased family members will return home during the period, with the welcoming flame lit outside the home to welcome them back. When the holiday ends, the spirits are sent back, with small lanterns released down rivers or into the sea to guide their departure.

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