

Japan Focus



*Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
Japan Information & Culture Center
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Ceremonies and Events Related to the Imperial Succession

As Japan prepares for the coming Imperial Succession, learn more about the ceremonies and events. Read more:

[Link](#)

U.S. Congressional Study Group on Japan Visits Prime Minister Abe

On Feb. 19, a delegation of the U.S. Congressional Study Group on Japan visited Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at his office.



[Link](#)



Foreign Minister Kono in Germany

Foreign Minister Taro Kono went to Germany on Feb. 15-17 to attend the Munich Security Conference. On the sidelines of this event, he held meetings with counterparts from South Korea, Spain, Slovakia, Germany and other nations.

[Link](#)

5th WAW! World Assembly for Women to Be Held



The 5th WAW! will be held in Japan on March 23-24 in collaboration with Women 20, one of the engagement groups of the Group of 20. Malala Yousafzai, the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, will be a keynote speaker.

[Link](#)

Gender Equality as a Global Goal

On Feb. 11, the Consulate General of Japan and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles co-organized an event, "Gender Equality as a Global Goal: Where Do We Stand Now?" Ms. Asako Osaki, director of the Gender Action Platform, and Ms. Wendy Shiba, a



retired attorney and business executive, discussed issues facing women in Japan and the U.S.

[Link](#)



Smyrna in 1922: Uncovering the Story of the Japanese Ship

On February 15, 2019 the Federation of Hellenic American Societies of Southern California, supported by the Consulates General of Japan, Greece, and Armenia in

Los Angeles, held an event highlighting the story of the Japanese ship that rescued hundreds of refugees in Smyrna almost 100 years ago. The program featured a special presentation by Dr. Nanako Murata Sawayanagi of Toyo University, who has done extensive research on the topic.

[Link](#)

Verdexchange Green Marketmaker's Conference 2019

The Consulate General of Japan helped spread the word about Japanese environmental technology by hosting a panel discussion and VIP reception at the Consul General's official residence on Jan. 27 that featured speakers from the Verdexchange Green Marketmaker's Conference 2019.



[Link](#)



Shochu & Awamori Events - February was "Japanese Craft Spirits Month"

The first ever "Japanese Craft Spirits Month" in southern California

introduced dozens of venues and likely thousands of customers to the delights

of Shochu and Awamori – two relatively unknown beverages from Japan. These beverages took center stage at a Jan. 31 reception held at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles.

[Link](#)



Japan Cinema Reception Held

On Feb. 4, Consul General Akira Chiba hosted a "Japan Cinema Celebration - A Year of Gold Films" reception to acknowledge two films, "Mirai" and "Shoplifters", and to celebrate their great achievements. Mr. Mamoru Hosoda, director of "Mirai," and Ms. Kaoru Matuzaki, producer of "Shoplifters" delivered remarks. Read more here:

[Link](#)

2019 Arizona JET Welcome Back Reception Held

On Feb. 1, the Consulate General of Japan hosted at Arizona State University a Welcome Back Reception for Japan

Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program for participants who recently completed their time on the program in Japan and returned to Arizona.



[Link](#)



2018-2019 KAKEHASHI Project Speech Contest Program: Karoline Oseguera

Karolina Oseguera, a university student and participant in the 20th Annual San Diego Japanese Speech Contest in 2018, was selected as one of the participants of the KAKEHASHI Project, a people-to-people

exchange program between Japan and North America sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Read Karolina's essay about her trip to Japan.

[Link](#)

2019 Arizona Matsuri Held

The annual Arizona Matsuri in Phoenix, Arizona marked its 35th anniversary with Japanese exhibits, demonstrations, arts crafts, food and games.



[Link](#)



Hayabusa 2 Successful Landing on Asteroid!

Perhaps heralding the era of intergalactic mining and resources extraction, the Hayabusa 2 has landed on the asteroid Ryugu -- on the first leg of its expected 5.2 billion kilometer, 6 year mission -- and has

begun mining samples by shooting hi-tech bullets into the asteroid's soil and gathering the flying debris samples to transport back to earth. Follow this big news here:

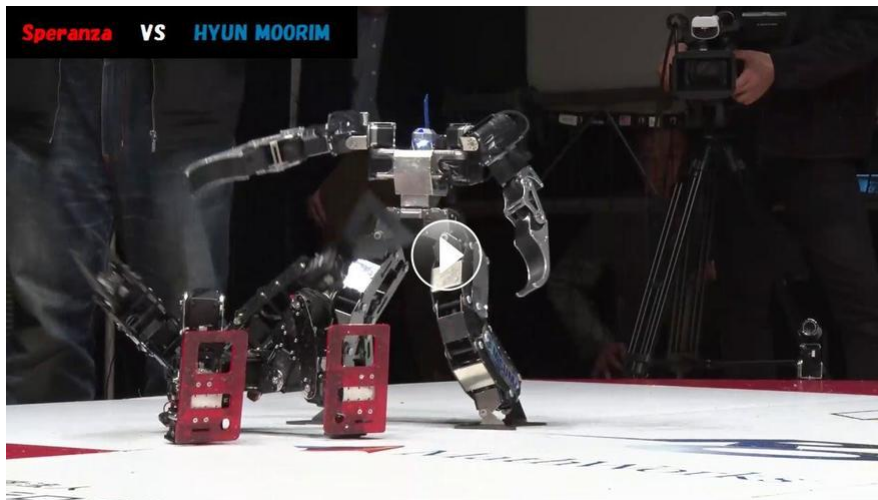
[Link](#)



Japan's Mini Robot Fight Club

Competition!

Japan's love of robots spills into the worlds of boxing, MMA and pro wrestling, at this amusing event pitting mini robots against one another. Toys with solid engineering . . . and attitudes. Check out the great video clip below:



[Link](#)

Japanese Food Expo - Successful February Event in Universal City!

Businesses and fans of Japanese cuisine gathered in Universal City for the Japanese Food Expo, serving offerings from dozens of vendors to an appreciative public! Look for this popular event next year -- more information right here!



[Link](#)



Hina-matsuri, or Doll Festival (March 3)

In Japan, families with daughters will set up a display of hina dolls to wish for the good health and future happiness of girls. Families celebrate the day by serving *hishi mochi* (diamond-shaped layers of colorful, thin rice cakes), *chirashi-zushi* (sushi rice mixed with colorful ingredients), and other traditional food. But after March 3, the dolls should be put away as soon as possible because of a legend that girls in the family will tend to marry late if the dolls are displayed for too long.

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<http://www.la.us.emb-japan.go.jp> | info@ls.mofa.go.jp
Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles