

# Japan Focus



*Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles  
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## New Era "Reiwa" Unveiled

The newly-unveiled "Reiwa" era will begin with the ascension of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince to the Imperial throne on May 1. Read Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's statement on April 1 about the new era name.



## Promoting Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Japan is working to support the "Power of Women" by promoting women's empowerment and gender equality. Read about Japan's initiatives, both domestic and

overseas, to create a society in which women shine!



## [Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Visits Prime Minister Abe](#)

Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, met with Prime Minister Abe on the sidelines of the 5th WAW! World Assembly, where she was a keynote speaker. [Read her keynote speech HERE.](#)



## [5th WAW! World Assembly for Women Held](#)

The 5th WAW! was held in Japan on March 23-24 in collaboration with Women 20, one of the engagement groups of the Group of 20.

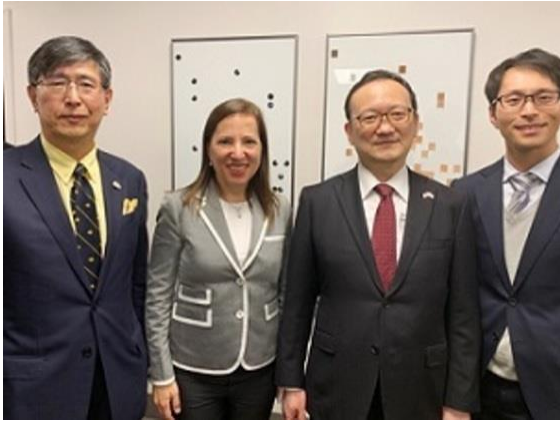
Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office



## [Read Scholarly Papers on Discuss Japan Website](#)

The Discuss Japan - Japan Foreign Policy

Forum website showcases Japanese scholars' papers on diplomacy, politics, economy, society and culture translated into English and Chinese. The website is managed by The Japan Journal Ltd., in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



## Consuls General of Japan Attend Reception Hosted by CA Lieutenant Gov. Kounalakis

On March 25, the Consuls General of Japan in San Francisco and Los Angeles attended a reception at the State Capitol in

Sacramento hosted by California Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis.



## Event Highlights Japanese Hebrew Scholar Setsuzo Kotsuji's Aid to Jewish Refugees

On March 27, the Simon Wiesenthal Center/Museum of Tolerance, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center

and the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles co-sponsored an event highlighting the legacy of Japanese Hebrew Scholar Setsuzo Abraham Kotsuji, who helped provide safe passage and aid to Jewish refugees who landed in Japan during World War II on visas issued by Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara.



## Japan-Mexico Binational Week

Between 13 and 18 March 2019, the Consulates General of Mexico and Japan in Los Angeles, along with Japan Foundation Los Angeles, presented the Japan-Mexico Binational Week, a series of events that

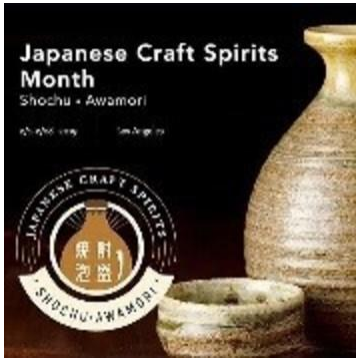
created and fostered connections between Japanese and Mexican artists and businesspeople.



## Japan-Mexico Business Seminar Held at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles

On March 18, the Consulates General of Japan and Mexico in Los Angeles, and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles jointly hosted the “Japan-Mexico Business Seminar” at

JAPAN HOUSE. Many representatives from Japanese companies and Mexican companies participated in the seminar, which featured presentations by AEM Los Angeles President Martinez, Mexican Consul General Garcia de Alba, JETRO Los Angeles Chief Executive Director Nishimoto, and TWI Global Business Executive Researcher/Consultant, Mr. Mizuno.



## Wrapping Up "Japanese Craft Spirits Month"

A capstone event for "Japanese Craft Spirits Month" at the Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles. Representatives of the beverage industry and media influencers explored the many facets of Shochu &

Awamori with education modules, presentations, and sampling the many possibilities of these traditional Japanese drinks, neat and mixed!



## U.S. Service in Japan Alumni Reception Held

On February 7, Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Akira Chiba hosted the third annual Service in Japan Alumni Reception at his official residence, welcoming 150 guests including U.S. military service members, reservists, veterans and their

families.



## Mayor's Young Ambassador Japan Travel Program

In partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Mayor's Young

Ambassador (MaYA) Initiative sent 23 young Angelenos to Japan from January 14-22, 2019 via the KAKEHASHI Project. "KAKEHASHI," which means a "bridge" in Japanese, is a project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan that promotes people-to-people exchange programs between Japan and the USA/Canada.



## Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan Delegation Visits San Diego

A delegation of diverse speakers from Japan, led by former Ambassador of Japan to Brazil Ken Shimanouchi, made their way from Norfolk, Virginia to San Diego in mid-

February for short, friendly presentations to community audiences. Their stops included the Japanese Friendship Garden of San Diego and San Diego State University.



## Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan Delegation Visits Greater Los Angeles

The Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan program made its way through the greater Los Angeles area on March 6th and 7th,

conducting presentations and workshops at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens; Glendale High School; JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles; and the Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan. The delegation was led by Mr. Tomoaki Ishigaki, Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs and Director of Global Communications of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan.

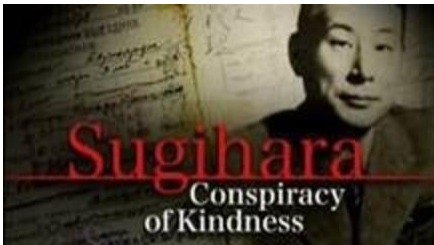


Credit: U.S.-Japan Council

## Japanese American Leadership Delegation in Japan

The 2019 Japanese American Leadership Delegation sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Tokyo and

Kumamoto in early March and met with high level leaders including Foreign Minister Taro Kono. In Kumamoto, they participated in a public symposium titled “Three Sectors, Three Approaches: Cities that Attract Youth,” co-sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, the U.S.-Japan Council, and the City of Kumamoto.



Credit: U.S.-Japan Council

## Sugihara Documentary Screening at American Jewish University

On May 29 at 7:30pm, American Jewish University will screen the documentary “Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness,” which shares the story of Chiune

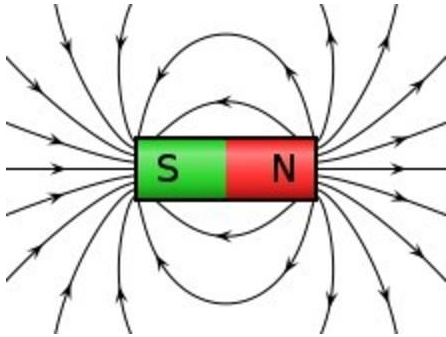
Sugihara’s aid to Jews in World War II Lithuania. Consul General Chiba will participate in the post-screening panel discussion moderated by Dr. Michael Berenbaum, Director of AJU’s Sigi Ziering Institute for Holocaust Studies, along with the film’s producers and directors Diane Estelle Vicari and Robert Kirk.



## Kizuna Video Series: JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles & JACL Takehashi Program

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and Kizuna bring you news and views on the Japanese American community. Our latest videos feature an introduction to JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles by Taylor Weik of Kizuna, and the experiences of Kizuna

staff on the Japanese American Citizens League's Kakehashi Program sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



## Caltech Researchers Find Indications of Human Sensitivity to Magnetic Fields

Caltech professor Shinsuke Shimojo and colleagues have verified that humans still share the same primal sensitivity to the earth's magnetic fields which allows birds to flawlessly migrate and compels cows to face

north while chewing cud. It likely remains to be seen what these hidden brain responses might mean for human behavioral capabilities. Perhaps more research will lead us to the point where we can navigate without GPS...? Check out video on this fascinating research right here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dg3pza4y2ws&feature=youtu.be>



## JAXA's Plan for Extreme "High" Mileage Vehicle... New Lunar Rover!

Toyota and JAXA have announced they will jointly design an advanced lunar rover they hope to land on the moon as early as 2029. In a first, the vehicle will allow riders to navigate in an atmospherically

controlled cabin, to allow lunar joyriding without wearing a spacesuit!



## Goodwill Ambassador to Promote Japanese Cuisine

With a view to further disseminating Japanese food and dietary culture internationally, since 2015 the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has appointed "Special Goodwill Ambassadors" and "Goodwill Ambassadors."





## Rice Planting Season in Japan

### Commences

Rice is the main crop in Japan and its seedlings have been cultivated for more than 3,000 years. In the Edo period, rice yields were even a measurement of a lord's wealth. In Japan, rice planting usually takes place from around the end of April to late June, depending on the region. Rice fields are an archetypal landscape of Japan, a special beauty in each season!



## Hanami (Cherry Blossom Viewing)

The arrival of cherry blossoms signals the end of winter weather in Japan. The blossoms appear first in Kyushu around the end of March and spread northward as the weather warms, reaching Tokyo in early April and Hokkaido in mid-May. People celebrate the flowering of cherry blossoms by moving outdoors - holding *hanami* picnics under the trees.

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