

Japan Focus



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Osaka to Host G-20 Leaders' Meeting

For the first time, Japan is hosting the G20 Summit of leading economic nations, with the G20 Summit of national leaders scheduled for June 28th & 29th in Osaka. Ministerial meetings on both Trade and Finance take place June 6th – 8th, and Ministerial meetings on Energy and the Environment slated for June 15th & 16th. With so many critical global issues on the agenda, it will be worth following. Click the title for details on these proceedings.



Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

Japan-U.S. Summit Held in Tokyo

On May 27, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, whose May 25-28 itinerary in Japan included a State Banquet with their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. [Read His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito's](#)

[remarks welcoming President Trump here.](#)



Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga's U.S. Visit

On May 9-12, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga visited the U.S. and met with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and other officials. The chief cabinet secretary also attended [a United Nations symposium to discuss international cooperation to](#)

[resolve the issue of abductions by North Korea.](#)



Foreign Minister Kono's Overseas Travels: Tajikistan, and OECD Ministerial Council Meeting and WTO Meetings in Paris

Foreign Minister Taro Kono visited [Tajikistan on May 17-20](#), where he attended the Seventh Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the "Central Asia plus Japan" Dialogue. Next, he headed to Paris, France for [OECD Ministerial Council Meeting and WTO Meetings](#) from May 21-24. Read more in the links.

Recipients of Spring 2019 Decorations

From the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, the following two distinguished persons will be awarded Spring 2019 Decorations:



Dr. Henry Takei



Ms. Yasuko
Sakamoto

Award Ceremony Honors 60th Anniversaries of Tachikawa-San Bernardino, Nagoya-LA Sister Cities



On May 24, an award ceremony was held to honor the 60th anniversary of two Sister City relationships, Tachikawa - San Bernardino and Los Angeles – Nagoya. Read more at the link above:



Railroad Photojournalist Kan Sakurai Visits Los Angeles

On May 13th and 14th, 2019, as part of the Japan Brand Program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, railroad photojournalist and enthusiast Kan Sakurai visited Los Angeles to introduce audiences

to unique railway Journeys in Japan.



Meet Japan's Newest Cuisine Ambassador!

Osaka-born Andy Matsuda is being appointed by the Japanese Government, and designated as "Goodwill Ambassador to Spread Japanese Cuisine." Among his many tremendous accomplishments, he is Culinary Advisor to Holland America Lines and founder of southern California's groundbreaking "Sushi Chef Institute," boasting over 1,500 graduates who have gone on to restaurant careers or have become restaurateurs themselves. The appointment ceremony was held May 22nd at the Sushi Chef Institute in Torrance.



Building Paralympians the Fastest Wheels!

Among the many fascinating vignettes leading up to the Tokyo Olympics is the story of a small Japanese company in Chiba that makes the preferred wheelchairs for many of the world's best Paralympians – 500 wheelchairs per year for elite athletes from 21 countries who have earned 122 medals since 1996.



All Aboard the Mickey High-Speed Train in Kyushu!

For the die-hard Mickey Mouse fans out there, this summer Japan Rail is helping celebrate his 90th anniversary with a colorful cross-promotion. In short, a specially designed train experience that serves up a massive dose of the Mouse from beginning to end – from tickets to headrest covers. For a limited time only!



***Tsuyu* (rainy season)**

Japan's rainy season, or *tsuyu*, typically begins in early June and lasts through mid-July. Even though umbrellas are a must-have item during the season, the rain is essential for hydrangeas and other beautiful flowers that bloom in the season!

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