

Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
Japan Information & Culture Center
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Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

Japan-Iran Summit Held

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Iran on June 12-14, becoming the first Japanese prime minister to visit the country in 41 years. He held talks with Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, noting that peace and stability in the Middle East is essential for global prosperity.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-Iran diplomatic relations.



Foreign Minister Kono's Overseas Travels: Sweden, Iran, Mongolia

Foreign Minister Taro Kono visited Sweden and Iran on June 11-14. On June 11, he attended the [Stockholm Ministerial Meeting](#)

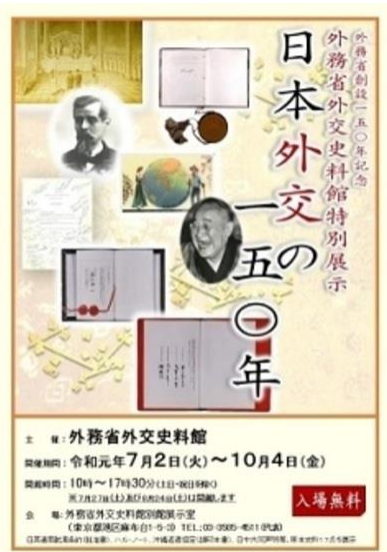
[on Nuclear Disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Treaty](#). During his visit to Iran, Foreign Minister Kono met with Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif. Next, he headed to Mongolia from June 15-17, becoming the first Japanese foreign minister to visit in nine years.



[G20 Leaders Convene in Osaka Summit; Ministerial Meetings Also Held](#)

G20 leaders gathered in Osaka on June 28 and 29 for a summit. Ministerial-level meetings have also been held this year

across Japan, including the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting on June 8-9. Read more at the link.



[Visit the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan!](#)

Open to the public, the Diplomatic Archives in Minato ward, Tokyo collects, classifies and preserves Japan's diplomatic records such as treaties and other historical documents. With this year marking 150 years since the establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a special exhibit that presents 150 years of Japan's

diplomatic records will be on display from July 2 to Oct. 4.

[JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles Exhibit: BAKERU - Transforming Spirits](#)



Opening on July 17 at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, *BAKERU: Transforming Spirits* is an interactive exhibit that invites visitors to step into the supernatural world of Japanese folk traditions through a process of transformation, or *bakeru*. The exhibit, which runs through Oct. 6, features projections that highlight the regional cultures epitomized in seasonal folk festivals, in particular those from the Tohoku region.



Young Musicians Featured at Reception

On June 27, Consul General Akira Chiba hosted a reception to celebrate young Japanese artists, with a performance by violinist Aya Kiyonaga, featuring cellist Rainer Crosett and pianist Paul Voia-Tipei.



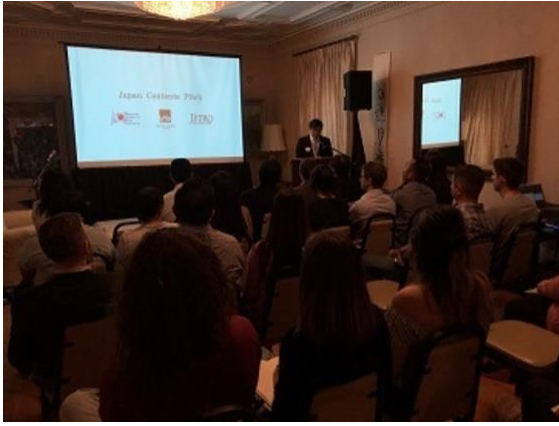
Reception Marks Arrival of Japan Maritime Self- Defense Force Training Squadron

Two Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force vessels docked in San Diego from June 13-16, with some 580 crew members included 190 newly commissioned officers. On the evening of June 13, a reception was held aboard JS Kashima, attended by senior officers, including commanders from the U.S. Navy.



Terasaki Budokan Celebrates Milestone

On June 7, Consul General Chiba participated in the “Topping Off” Celebration at the Terasaki Budokan, where he delivered remarks and led participants in the ceremonial *itcho jime* Japanese “one clap” tradition. The event involved the last steel beam being raised to the highest point in construction, called *mune age* in Japanese.



for the U.S. market.

Japan Contents Pitch Event

On June 4, Consul General Chiba hosted a "Japan Contents Pitch" event that sought to connect Japanese television station representatives and Hollywood producers and buyers. This event featured four Japanese television dramas for adaptation



organized by the World Trade Center Los Angeles, where he participated as a panelist during the LA on the International Stage session. The topics covered included business opportunities in the green economy and the impact of recent changes in the trade environment.

Consul General Chiba at the International Stage' Session Panel of 2019 Select LA Investment Summit

On June 6, Consul General Chiba attended the 2019 Select LA Investment Summit



(LAEDC) issued their updated report on Foreign Direct Investment in Southern California,

Japan Top Foreign Investor in Southern California!

On June 6th, the World Trade Center Los Angeles (WTCLA) and the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation

and once again, Japan is identified as the top investor and foreign employer in the region. With 2,407 Japan-affiliated enterprises creating 81,751 direct jobs, at an estimated annual payroll of \$6.2 billion, Japan is a major feature within southern California's economic landscape. Number two FDI nation was the UK, with 64,993 jobs at 1,281 UK-affiliated enterprises; followed by France at third position, with 44,611 direct jobs in 967 France-affiliated enterprises. Download a copy of the report at the link in the title.



Japan Marks 100 Days to Go Until Start of Rugby World Cup

An event was held on June 12 in Tokyo to mark 100 days to go until the opening of the 2019 Rugby World Cup. Learn more about rugby's biggest global event that will be held at venues across Japan from Sept. 20 - Nov. 2!



One Year Countdown to Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic Games!

There will be 42 venues hosting 55 categories of sports; over 11,000 athletes from over 200 nations; and an estimated 110,000 strong army of volunteers out in force to support the Tokyo summer games. July 24th to August 9th, Japan welcomes the world! Follow along at the link in the title!



Olympics Visitors - Plan Your Rail Travel in Japan!

Famed for its clean, reliable and efficient train system and other public transit options, Japan is gearing up to handle the influx of visitors from all over the world to the 2020 games. There are bound to be special train travel and other tourism options to serve global visitors during summer of 2020, and Japan Rail Pass vendor information will be useful for planning your travels within Japan.



Tanabata

Tanabata, or star festival, is celebrated every year on July 7 or August 7, where people write their wishes on strips of paper and tie them onto bamboo trees. The festival's origins can be traced to a legend of two lovers separated by the Milky Way, allowed to meet just once a year on the seventh day of the seventh month. Decorated bamboo branches can be seen all around, signaling the start of summer!

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