

# Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles  
Japan Information & Culture Center  
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## "One Year to Go!" Events Held Ahead of 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games

On July 24, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended the "One Year to Go" celebration and other events held in Tokyo in

preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.



## Foreign Minister Kono's Overseas Travels: ASEAN- Related Meetings, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pacific Islands

Foreign Minister Taro Kono's latest overseas travels from July 29 to Aug. 9 have taken him to Bangladesh, Myanmar as well as Thailand for ASEAN-related meetings. He also visited Fiji, Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.



## **Introducing the Official Mascots of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020: Miraitowa and Someity**

Meet Tokyo 2020 mascots Miraitowa and Someity on the second and fifth floors at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, located at Hollywood & Highland. These official mascots will be available for selfies!



## **Spring 2019 Decoration Conferred on Ms. Yasuko Sakamoto**

On May 21, 2019, the Government of Japan announced the recipients of its Spring 2019 Decorations and within this consulate general's jurisdiction, Ms. Yasuko Sakamoto received the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays. The conferment ceremony for Ms. Sakamoto was held on July 12, at the Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan and was attended by approximately 45 guests, including Ms. Sakamoto's family and friends.

## **Japan Night at Dodger Stadium!**



With Consul General Chiba and rising tennis star Naomi Osaka starting the evening with Ceremonial First Pitches, Japan Night in Dodger Stadium saw a celebration of Japanese players and heritage; and in addition a wide variety of Japanese delicacies from the [Trade Association of Confectionary Manufacturers \(TACOM\)](#), providing samples to appreciative baseball fans in attendance.



## 2019 JET Program Participants Depart for Japan

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles hosted a Pre-Departure Orientation and Dinner Reception in honor of the 2019-2020 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program participants. On July 27, 145 new JETs from Southern California and Arizona departed for Japan from LAX.



## Los Angeles Angels' Japan Day Held

On July 27, the Los Angeles Angels hosted Japan Day Presented by Japan Airlines. The event featured performances and booths presenting both traditional and modern aspects of Japan and Japanese culture. The Consulate General of Japan in

Los Angeles also set up a booth, distributing pamphlets on the JET Program, MEXT government scholarships as well as information about travel in Japan.



## Sugihara Survivors Film Screening at Sinai Temple

On July 31, the American Jewish Committee Los Angeles, the U.S.-Japan Council, and the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles co-sponsored a screening of the documentary film "Sugihara Survivors:

Jewish and Japanese, Past and Present" followed by a discussion with Mr. Junichi Kajioka, the director of the film.

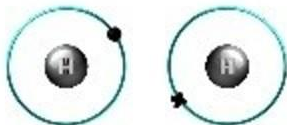


## Emmy Nomination for Marie Kondo!

The ubiquitous Japanese guru of decluttering, who gracefully inspires the world to organize and clean,

may also be cleaning up at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences! The premiere season of "Tidying Up With Marie Kondo" has been nominated for 2 Primetime Emmy Awards – more news on this great honor for a new talent.

## **Japan Leading the Way on Hydrogen**



Japan is taking on a strong global role in pushing forward the creation of a hydrogen society and economy. To quickly understand progress made so far and future goals as envisioned by Japan's government, click the headline for the recently updated "road map" on the issue.



## **Hydrogen Transportation Breakthrough!**

Japan's space agency, JAXA, joined the development and proving of a critical piece of the infrastructure to bring hydrogen from the source to the consumer and into the global marketplace as a large-scale fuel supply. More details here!

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## **Industrial Tourism in Japan**

In addition to shrines, temples and museums, Japan's industrial know-how and crafts traditions are also accessible to those tourists interested in understanding the foundations of Japan's success in manufacturing.



Lanterns to send off spirits

## August Holiday: Obon

The *obon* holiday, observed in mid-August in many regions of Japan, is a time to honor the souls of one's ancestors. During *obon*, these souls are believed to reunite with their family, and to guide them back, a small welcoming flame or *mukae-bi* is lit. When the holiday ends, another bonfire, called *okuri-bi*, is lit to send off the spirits. Some regions will release small lanterns down rivers or into the seas as part of this ritual.

## Summer in Japan Pics





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