

Japan Focus



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Prime Minister Abe, Foreign Minister Motegi Deliver Policy Speeches to the 201st Diet Session

On Jan. 20, Prime Minister ABE Shinzo delivered a policy speech to the 201st Session of the Diet during the plenary sessions of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu also outlined Japan's foreign policy in a speech before the Diet session. [Read the Foreign](#)

[Minister's speech.](#)



Japan, U.S. Mark 60th Anniversary of Signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security

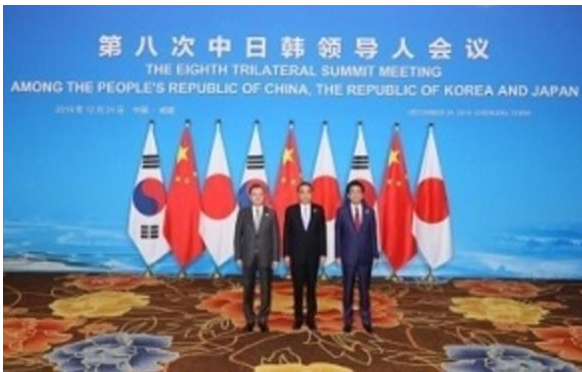
Read the joint statement issued by Japan and the U.S. on the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, signed on Jan. 19, 1960. The statement by the U.S. White House can be read [here](#).



Foreign Minister Motegi Meets U.S., S Korean Counterparts in San Francisco

Foreign Minister Motegi visited the U.S. on Jan. 13-16, where he held talks with U.S.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha.



Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

Japan-China-South Korea Leaders, Foreign Ministers Met in December

Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Motegi attended the eighth Japan-China-South Korea Trilateral Summit Meeting and other engagements held in China on

Dec. 23-25.



Get Ready for the 2020 Summer Tokyo Olympics and Paralympic Games!

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic games will begin on July 24, marking the first time Japan has hosted the summer games in half a century. The games will focus on three core concepts: achieving one's personal best, connecting to tomorrow, and diversity and harmony. The games will also be a great opportunity to promote state-of-the-art Japanese technology, and help turn Japan into a hydrogen-powered society by 2030. The Fukushima Hydrogen Research Field (FH2R), the world's largest hydrogen production system from renewable sources, will be completed this spring, to be utilized for fuel-cell buses as well as residential villages for Olympic and Paralympic games.

MAFF

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Appointment of "Goodwill
Ambassador to Spread

Japanese Cuisine"

On Dec. 25, 2019, The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries announced the recipients of "Goodwill Ambassador to Spread Japanese Cuisine", and within this Consulate General's jurisdiction, Mr. David Schlosser, Owner-Chef of Restaurant "Shibumi" was appointed. Mr. Schlosser was trained in one of the famous Japanese restaurants, "Kikunoi" in Kyoto. After that, he opened "Shibumi" in 2016. "Shibumi" is serving Kaiseki style cuisine using a wide variety of Japanese food ingredients. "Shibumi" was rated as the second best restaurant in Los Angeles by the late Jonathan Gold, the well-known food writer of LA Times. In 2019, "Shibumi" achieved one Michelin star.



Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan

Special Presentation At JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles - The Power of Japan's Innovation: Local, Bilateral and Global Impact

Since 2014, the “Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan” program has brought expert voices from Japan to various regions of the U.S. to share insights, culture, and inspiration. This year’s program at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, **on Thursday, February 13, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**, features a diverse delegation of speakers who will share their views on Japan’s contributions to tackling urgent regional and global issues. The audience will gain a better understanding of Japan’s innovative forms of problem-solving across health, politics, business and civic life, and hear high-level perspectives on what’s coming next for the country at home and relations abroad. Click the link to find out more and to register for the event.



Two Lectures & Demonstrations by Japanese Cuisine Chef

Japanese Cuisine Lectures & Demonstrations by popular Japanese Chef, Ryohei Hayashi, will be held. This event is jointly organized by the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and H.I.S.

International Tour (NY), Inc. (the second event will be co-organized by JAPAN HOUSE), with the purpose of promoting understanding of Japan as well as export promotion of Japanese food ingredients, by introducing a variety of Japanese food ingredients and Japanese food culture, such as “Umami”, from Chef Ryohei Hayashi, who is known as a top chef in Japan and was awarded one Michelin star in 2019.



Presenting Japan's Environmental Vision at VerdeXchange 2020

Japan's efforts in tackling global environmental issues were on full display at the 13th Annual VerdeXchange Conference in Downtown Los Angeles, January 26th through 28th. Starting with the traditional kick-off reception hosted by Consul General Muto's residence, top policy makers, regulators and private business interests convened to discuss environmental needs and how to get technology solutions into the market. Led by companies like Toyota and Sumitomo Electric, as well as the Chairman of NEDO Hiroaki Ishizuka and other Japanese government officials, Japan's leadership on environmental issues was strongly represented, with their visions and solutions showcased in one of the most influential environmental conferences in the western United States.



Credit: Dr. Mitch Maki

Special Event Featuring Dr. Mitch Maki of Go for Broke: "Sharing Japanese American History in Japan"

On February 12, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles and the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles will co-sponsor an event "Sharing Japanese American History in Japan" featuring Go For Broke National Education Center President & CEO Dr. Mitch Maki. Dr. Maki recently traveled to Japan sponsored by the Government of Japan and made presentations at Japanese academic institutions to share his knowledge of Japanese American History. Dr. Maki also traveled to Hiroshima and his ancestral home of Yamaguchi Prefecture. Register for the event by clicking on the title.



New JAPAN HOUSE Exhibit Showcases Japanese Craftsmanship and Aesthetic Sensibility

The newest exhibit at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, "HIDA: A Woodwork Tradition in the Making" explores Japanese craftsmanship and aesthetic sensibility through woodworking traditions in the Hida region of Gifu Prefecture in Japan. The exhibit lasts through April 12.



Japanese Craft Spirits Month from Feb. 1 to Feb. 29

The Consulate General of Japan and JETRO Los Angeles will jointly organize a month long promotional event, "Japanese Craft Spirits Month", in order to introduce Japanese traditional distilled spirits "SHOCHU" & "AWAMORI. The purpose of this event is creating interest among consumers and to introduce these spirits as a new option for restaurants, bars and retailers, including ideas for mixing and cocktails. The event will be held from February 1st through February 29th, and participating locations will be featured and mapped on the website JapaneseCraftSpirits.com.



Credit: Western Diocese of the Armenian Church

[Consul General Attends Christmas Celebration at St. Leon Cathedral, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church](#)

Consul General joined the Armenian community on January 6 in celebrating

the Nativity and Theophany of Jesus Christ on special invitation from his Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. Consul General delivered remarks and shared a project sponsored by the Japanese government at Etchmiadzin Cathedral in Armenia, the mother church of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The Government of Japan has provided support in textile restoration of historic garments located at the Cathedral. Click the title to learn more.

Upcoming Japan-Related Conferences & Events in So Cal and Arizona:

- [Japan Currents with Tak Niinami, CEO, Suntory Holdings Ltd. \(Feb. 18, 2020\)](#)
- [8th Annual Japan Bowl of California \(Feb. 22, 2020\)](#)
- [2020 Arizona Matsuri \(Feb. 22-23, 2020\)](#)
- [USC Center on Public Diplomacy - Japan's Soft Power: Prospects and Challenges in a New Era \(Feb. 28, 2020\)](#)
- [RAND Corp.: The U.S.-Japan Alliance and Rapid Change on the Korean Peninsula \(March 2-3\)](#)



Japanese Culture: Coming of Age Day

The second Monday of January is Coming-of-Age Day, or *Seijin no Hi*, which marks one's entry into adulthood at 20 years of age. Coming-of-age ceremonies are held by local governments. Many women opt to wear *furusode*, which are a type of kimono with extra-long sleeves that are worn by unmarried women, to the ceremony.

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