

Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
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Prime Minister Suga Congratulates US President-Elect Biden in Phone Call

On Nov. 12, Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide spoke with US President-Elect Joe Biden on the phone, congratulating him and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris on their election. Suga conveyed to Biden that the Japan-U.S. Alliance is indispensable for the peace and prosperity of both the region surrounding Japan, and that Japan and the US should further strengthen the Alliance. Suga also expressed his wish for Japan and the US to work together to realize a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific.' Biden said he looks forward to working together to further strengthen the Japan-US Alliance, and achieve the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.



Ceremony for the *Rikkoshi-Senmei-no-gi*, or Proclamation of Crown Prince, Held

On Nov. 8, the *Rikkoshi-Senmei-no-gi*, or Ceremony for Proclamation of Crown Prince at the Seiden (State Hall) was held, and His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akishino was proclaimed to the public as the first in line of succession to the throne. Read his address [here](#).



International Olympic Committee President Bach Visits Tokyo

During his Nov. 15-18 visit to Japan, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach met with Prime Minister Suga, and [both leaders announced their determination to stage safe and secure Olympic Games in 2021](#). Bach noted that [Japan had shown its ability organize sporting events in a safe environment, giving him the belief that the games will on with spectators in the stands](#). "We are looking for a reasonable number of spectators at the time of the Games," Bach said at a news conference. On Nov. 17, [he toured the Olympic Village, the Olympic Stadium and Japan Olympic Museum](#), meeting with Japanese athletes.



Japanese Astronaut NOGUCHI Soichi At International Space Station

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) [astronaut NOGUCHI Soichi and three NASA astronauts have arrived at the International Space Station](#) after the SpaceX Crew Dragon Resilience successfully docked

on Nov. 16.

Recipients of Fall 2020 Decorations



On Nov. 3, 2020 (Japan Standard Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients of its Fall 2020 Decorations. From the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, the following two distinguished persons -- Mr. Dennis Yukio Otsuji and Mr. Glenn Takeo Tanaka -- will be awarded. Learn more about the recipients' meritorious service towards Japan.

[Upcoming Webinar Events at JAPAN HOUSE LA](#)

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles is proudly partnering with JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles and others to present webinars on a wide range of engaging topics. For more information about the upcoming events, please [check JAPAN HOUSE LA's website](#) for the latest updates about how to register:

-- ["Challenges Facing a Biden Administration in Asia" \(Nov. 30\)](#)

Ambassador Jeffrey A. Bader, Senior Fellow of Foreign Policy in the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution will discuss the implications of the new Biden administration for the Asia-Pacific region, with a special focus on U.S.-China relations, policies and its impact on Japan.

-- [Journey through Japan | Chiune Sugihara Story of Compassion \(Dec. 15\)](#)

Presented by JAPAN HOUSE, the Consulate General of Japan, and Japan National Tourist Organization, the event will be an evening of discussion and the sharing of experiences and travel ideas, covering popular tourist destinations and Jewish heritage

locations, including those inspired by acts of humanity by Chiune Sugihara, a diplomat who in 1940 issued thousands of transit visas from Lithuania to Japan, granting escape to safety for thousands of Jewish people.



Credit: US Space Force

Consul General MUTO Visits Vandenberg Air Force Base

Consul General MUTO Akira visited Vandenberg Air Force Base and met with Maj. Gen. John Shaw, Combined Force Space Component (CFSCC) commander.

The two discussed the importance of future cooperation between Japan and the US in the space domain.



Consul General Joins Orange County Japanese Garden and Tea House's 50th Anniversary Event

On Nov. 10, Consul General Muto took part in an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the

Japanese Garden and Tea House, which is located in the Orange County Civic Center in Santa Ana. The event commemorated the 50th anniversary, recognizing the vibrancy of the Japanese American community in Orange County and its contributions. Dignitaries at the commemoration event included four Orange County Supervisors and other elected officials.

Activities!

On Nov. 12, Consul General Muto gave opening remarks at the first VerdeXchange Institute hydrogen forum, “Green Energy in LA and Beyond.” This virtual event -- featuring elected leaders including Congressman Mike Levin, private company CEO’s, and other thought leaders active in the creation of a new hydrogen energy sector -- consisted of three panels and break-out networking sessions with speakers and audience members. Consul General Muto kicked off the event, which was co-presented by the Consulate of Japan, with an overview of Japan’s leadership and support of the global effort in hydrogen energy, supported by examples of Japanese cooperation already taking place in southern California. Toyota Motors North America and Mitsubishi Power Americas described their groundbreaking projects in mobility, goods movement, and hydrogen-fueled, utility-scaled power generation. Mayor Eric Garcetti’s remarks to Japan’s Ministerial level conference on Hydrogen were also shared as a timely message on cooperation between Japan and Los Angeles in this growing energy sector. A full video of the conference proceedings is hosted on the VerdeXchange website here:

Consul General Muto introduction: [click HERE](#)

Session 1: [click HERE](#)

Session 2: [click HERE](#)

Session 3: [click HERE](#)



Fuel Cell Hydrogen Powered Trains!

Heavy duty mobility is ideally suited for hydrogen fuel cell power, and JR East, Hitachi and Toyota are combining efforts to bring a superlative Japanese product to market. In areas where diesel

locomotives currently operate, and where track electrification is not available, the type of hybrid battery/hydrogen fuel cell trains being designed by this consortium can provide a clean solution and swap out polluting diesel locomotives in the years to come. Click on the headline for ore information on these super clean advances.



[Introducing the Consulate's Exclusive New "Kohtei Kitchen" Video Series on Facebook](#)

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles is launching a new series called Kohtei Kitchen on Facebook, where Chef MIMA Takeshi of the Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles will introduce what he does as a consulate chef, cooking techniques and Japanese dishes to make at home. A new video will be released from 7pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, so please watch, like and share!

[Culture Day: Nov. 3](#)



In 1946, the present-day Japanese Constitution was officially announced on Nov. 3. To mark this event, Nov. 3 was designated a national holiday in 1948 as a way to foster the love of peace and freedom through cultural activities. At the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, the presentation of the Order of Culture Awards is held on Nov. 3 in recognition of individuals' outstanding contributions in the field of science, art of culture.

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