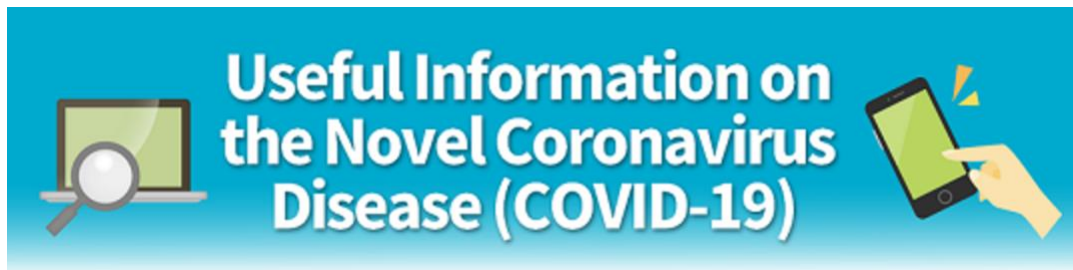


Japan Focus



*Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
Japan Information & Culture Center
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Japan's State of Emergency Lifted in All Prefectures (May 25)

On May 25, Japan lifted its state of emergency nationwide following a decline in new COVID-19 cases in Tokyo and other regions where the measure had still been in place. Watch Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's news conference, by clicking the headline. And to learn more about the government's responses to COVID-19, click [HERE](#).



Survey Shows US Public Opinion Towards Japan Remains Very Favorable

Results from a 2019 survey highlighted how US public opinion towards Japan remains very favorable. Within the US general population, 85% cited Japan as a "Dependable" partner. This marks a sharp improvement from a low of 67% in 2008, and a notable improvement from the mid-to-low 70% range who said the same in the early- to mid- 2010s. The results for 2019 also showed that 34% of

respondents named Japan the "Most Important Partner of the US in Asia" compared to 22% for China. Continuing efforts to further deepen the bilateral relationship are of importance. To see the results from the public opinion poll on Japan from past years and other regions, please click [HERE](#).

Recipients of Spring 2020 Decorations



On April 29th, 2020 (Japan Standard Time), the Government of Japan announces the recipients of its Spring 2020 Decorations. From the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, Ms. Nancy Kyoko Oda and Mr. Brian Kito will be awarded. Information about a conferment ceremony will be provided at a later date.



Credit: US-Japan Council

Conferment of Decoration to the Late Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye

On May 19, 2020 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the conferment of the Imperial Decoration upon Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, who passed away in April. The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon will be conferred in recognition of her contributions to promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

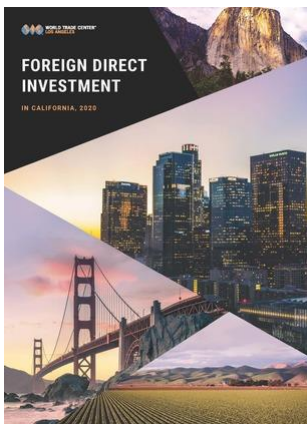


Consul General to Speak on Japan's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic on June 2

Join us on Tuesday, June 2 at 11am for a special webinar discussion featuring Consul General MUTO Akira, who will discuss Japan's model to contain the infection while minimizing the socio-economic impact through a no-lockdown strategy. The webinar will be

moderated by JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles President KAIFU Yuko.

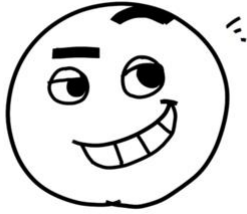
On May 20, Consul General Muto was a speaker at the webinar "[Japan and COVID-19: Impact and Response](#)" organized by The Japan America Society of Southern California and World Trade Center Los Angeles. Also, on May 15, Consul General Muto appeared in a webinar, "[Managing the COVID-19 Pandemic: Japan's Mitigation Strategy](#)," organized by the University of California, San Diego Japan Forum for Innovation and Technology, moderated by Honorary Consul of Japan in San Diego Kate Leonard.



Japan Tops List of Foreign Direct Investing Nations in California

In terms of employment, the number of Foreign Owned Enterprises, and estimated payroll paid out to California employees, Japan ranks as California's top foreign investor as determined by the most recent report published by the World Trade Center Los Angeles. With 3,880 Foreign Owned Establishments and an estimated 121,223 direct employees,

Japan supports the California economy with an estimated \$10.9 billion in wages paid annually within the state, followed by the UK with 2,443 Foreign Owned Enterprises and 111,430 direct employees.



[JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles is All Smiles with Art Instructional Videos for Families](#)

JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles is teaming up with illustrator and animator MinoMiyabi to offer a series of short and fun instructional videos for children and families. Each episode will focus on one subject, starting with creative variations on the classic 'smiley face'. Video lessons will be released biweekly. Click the link for more information.



Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey
(Credit: City of Riverside)

[Supporting Local Communities: IRIS USA Donates Masks to the State of Arizona and City of Riverside, CA](#)

Arizona-based home goods manufacturer IRIS USA has donated masks to the State of Arizona and to the City of Riverside, which is sister city's with Sendai, the headquarters location of its parent company IRIS OHYAMA INC.

U.S. Congressman Mark Takano, whose district includes the City of Riverside, helped to make the donation possible. Congressman Takano praised IRIS USA for the donation: "I extend my sincerest gratitude to IRIS USA for their donation of masks to the City of Riverside. What makes this donation even more meaningful is that IRIS USA is headquartered in Sendai, Japan, a longstanding sister city of Riverside. This donation will go far in helping those operating Riverside's COVID-19 response efforts stay safe on the job."

Other Japanese companies have also supported COVID-19 response efforts. To learn more, [click HERE](#).



Credit: LTCC

Supporting Local Communities: Little Tokyo Community Council Response to COVID-19

In response to community needs, LTCC has launched several programs, including the #LoveLT campaign promoting takeout from Little Tokyo restaurants and other ways to support small businesses, and Community

Feeding Community funded by community donations to purchase meals from Little Tokyo businesses to be distributed to those whose jobs have been impacted by COVID-19 .



Supporting Local Communities: Little Tokyo Service Center Response to

COVID-19

LTSC has been meeting the needs of the community during the COVID-19 crisis through a range of initiatives including programs such as Little Tokyo Eats in partnership with LTCC and Keiro, which provides over 300 home delivered meals per week to seniors.



Regional Japanese American Organizations Stay Active

Regional Japanese American organizations have been remaining active during these times of COVID-19 even though they have had to close their facilities, reaching out to their members and the general public through online

Credit: JACCC

resources. Please visit these websites for further information on activities, news, and other ways to be

involved.

- [Go for Broke Foundation National Education Center](#)
- [Japanese American Cultural & Community Center](#)
- [Japanese American National Museum](#)
- [Kizuna](#)



Ryukyu Awamori Promotional Events Held in March

In early March, Ryukyu Awamori, a distilled spirit from Okinawa, took central stage through lectures and presentations held by renowned awamori specialist HIGA Koji from Japan. On March 7th, bartenders, chefs, and bartender school students attended a lecture during which Mr. Higa explained the history and culture of awamori, as well as Okinawa's geography, history and culture. A lecture and tasting for the general public was held on March 8 in Aliso Viejo and an awamori promotional pop-up event was held at a specialty bar in Culver City on March 9. Click the headline to learn more.

Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles
● 在ロサンゼルス日本国総領事館

Events Calendar

Check out the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles' events calendar for more information about online events. And also check us out on [Facebook](#) for more information about Japan and our "Safer at Home" series for fun ideas for activities related to Japanese culture.

Children's Day: May 5

In Japan, Children's Day is a national holiday on May 5 that celebrates healthy, happy growth of children. Families with young boys fly colorful carp-shaped streamers called Koinobori in front of their houses in the hope that they will grow up healthy and strong.



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