

Japan Focus



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Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

Prime Minister Abe: Avoid 3Cs to Prevent COVID-19

On July 22, Prime Minister ABE Shinzo held the 41st meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters at the Prime Minister's Office. He noted that Japan needs to maintain sufficient vigilance against the spread of infections. "We ask people to make

every effort to avoid the 3Cs (closed spaces, crowded places and close-contact settings)," he said. Meanwhile, he explained that existing border controls for entry into Japan have been extended to the end of August, while at the same time "we also need to resume international movement of people step by step." To begin, Japan will gradually admit the re-entry of foreign nationals who departed Japan with re-entry permits. Furthermore, "we will advance consultations and coordination with 12 countries and regions in East and Southeast Asia, where the level of infections is stable, towards resuming the movement of people, such as those necessary for businesses," he said.

Spotlight on Creating a Society in Which All Women Shine

On July 1, Prime Minister Abe attended a meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in Which All Women Shine. Participants discussed policies to accelerate the



empowerment of women, while noting accomplishments so far such as the new entry of 3.3 million women into the workforce over the past seven years. Also, female board members and executives at listed companies have tripled. [Click the headline to learn more!](#)



"One Year to Go" Until the Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics in 2021

On July 23, the International Olympic Committee and Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee marked "one year to go" until the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The [organizing committee held an event at the Olympic Stadium](#) and showed a video showcasing support for all athletes around the world. Also, the IOC unveiled its #StrongerTogether campaign, which aims to "recognize the importance of solidarity and unity during these difficult times, acknowledging the power of sport, and in particular the Olympic Games, to bring people together."

Foreign Minister Meets with US Deputy Secretary of State



On July 10, Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu held a press conference and talked about receiving a courtesy visit from U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun. Meeting in Tokyo, Foreign Minister Moteji noted the need to strengthen the Japan-U.S. alliance in an ever-changing security environment.

In a [separate press conference on June 26](#), Moteji stated that the Japan-U.S. Alliance is stronger now than ever before, so that he did not believe Japan's decision to suspend the deployment of the Aegis Ashore ballistic missile defense system will affect cooperation with the United States.



[Read WSJ Opinion Piece by Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy: How Japan Beat Coronavirus Without Lockdowns](#)

Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy NISHIMURA Yasutoshi penned an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal outlining the measures implemented by Japan that have enabled it to avoid the worst effects of COVID-19 without mandatory lockdowns. He cited such factors as robust contact tracing and 'cluster busting' measures adopted in Japan. Read more by clicking the headline.

[Re-elected Tokyo Gov. Koike: Make it a Goal in Our Anti-virus Efforts to Hold the Olympic Games](#)

Tokyo Governor KOIKE Yuriko won the Tokyo gubernatorial election on July 5, securing a second term. She acknowledged that postponing the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics has created logistical problems, but that with children and athletes looking forward to the



events, "we can make it a goal in our anti-virus efforts to hold the Games, which would be proof that we have overcome the virus."

Credit: Tokyo Metropolitan Government



NASA and Japan Sign "JEDI" Declaration on Future Space Cooperation

NASA and the Japanese ministry that oversees the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) signed a declaration of intent on July 10th (Japan Standard Time) to further cooperate in space activities.

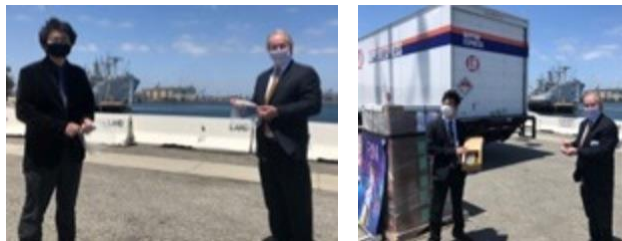
Following on decades of collaboration and cooperation in space, including partnering on the International Space Station from its nascent beginnings in the 1980's, NASA and JAXA have one of the most robust working relationships in the world on space related activities and projects. Although details will unfold as projects move forward, both sides are eager to pool resources and technology to further the mission of the International Space Station and build cooperation on lunar missions in the years to come.

Consul General MUTO to Discuss Japan's Approach to COVID-19 in Webinars



Join us for two webinars that will feature Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles MUTO Akira, who will discuss Japan's approach to COVID-19. To learn more and to register for these upcoming webinars, please click the links below:

- **Wednesday, July 29, 2020:** ["Japan's Strategy to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic" webinar organized by the Consulate General of Japan, Global Chamber and Arizona Consular Corps](#)
- **Monday, Aug. 3, 2020:** ["COVID-19 Lessons from Japan and Mexico: Culture and the Responses to the Pandemic" organized by the Consulates General of Japan and Mexico in Los Angeles](#)



Supporting Local Communities: Japanese Firms Support City of Los Angeles COVID-19 Efforts

- **YS Media Agency and Nippon Express**

On July 1st, YS Media Agency donated 10,000 bottles of hand sanitizer, with delivery transportation donated generously by Nippon Express, to the City of Los Angeles in support of the city's fight against COVID-19.

- **Toyota Motor North America**

During the pandemic, Toyota Motor North America dedicated manufacturing lines to produce protective transparent face shields in support of front-line workers dealing with COVID-19. Also on July 1st, Toyota delivered 1,000 face shields manufactured at their Dallas facility to the City of Los Angeles. Face-mask and hand sanitizer deliveries were made simultaneously to the "Port of Los Angeles and Logistics Victory", with Port Executive Director Gene Seroka on-hand to accept the donations from YS Media, Toyota and Nippon Express.

Click the title for video coverage of the event and remarks.



Supporting Local Communities: City of Glendale Supported in Fight Against COVID-19

On July 7th, YS Media Agency again generously provided a donation of 10,000 bottles of hand sanitizer, this time to the City of Glendale, with the transportation of this cargo again donated by Nippon Express. The City of Glendale indicates this donation will be put to immediate use and “will be distributed to all skilled nursing facilities and amongst local businesses as they reopen through our Business Recovery Strategy.”



Supporting Local Communities: Little Tokyo Small Business Relief Fund

The Little Tokyo Community Council has launched the Little Tokyo Small Business Relief Fund as a [GoFundMe crowdfunding effort](#) in partnership with the Little Tokyo Service Center to provide financial support to local businesses during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The Fund aims to raise \$500,000 to support the Little Tokyo small business community. Find out more!



More Japanese Support for Building Southern California's Hydrogen Economy

California start-up, FirstElement Fuel (FEF), the largest developer and operator of hydrogen fueling stations in the state, [has received a \\$25 million investment from Mitsui & Co. of Japan](#), joined by a further \$23 million investment from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to support expansion of hydrogen filling station locations in the state. The development of hydrogen infrastructure and supply services is a promising new business model due to expected growth of fuel cell electric vehicles on roadways. With over 8,000 fuel cell vehicles on California roadways, the state is a world leader in promoting the technology. Mitsui will also be exploring additional possibilities such as new applications for fuel cells in the rail and ocean freight transportation, and the mining sector. This investment with FEF initiates Mitsui's efforts to develop a hydrogen value chain to expand hydrogen related activities in the US.



[Insights from a Japanese Leader in Southern California's Hydrogen Push](#)

The Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power and Intermountain Power Authority are in process of creating one of the world's largest hydrogen powered electricity generating facilities to provide green hydrogen fueled electricity to Los Angeles and other southern California cities. Their key vendor in this effort, Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems, has created a presentation outlining their vision for this emerging energy sub-sector in California, Japan and worldwide. Click the title for highly recommended reading for anyone interested in this rapidly growing energy field.

Looking for Japan-Related Activities??

Look no further than JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles and Japan Foundation Los Angeles, which are each offering online activities to help you stay busy while at home.

- JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles' summer online activities include: [Japanese Food Lab Home Cooking Series: Tofu Sando](#) (learn a new way to incorporate tofu into a sandwich!)

[Balance: Color, Weight & Direction](#) (learn the basic concepts of Japanese flower arrangement)

- Japan Foundation Los Angeles is offering virtual lecture series and concerts this summer. To find out more click [HERE](#).



Japan's National Summer Holidays

This year, the people of Japan are enjoying a four-day weekend from July 23 to mark what would've been the start of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games on July 24. [Marine Day](#),

normally on the third Monday in July, will be observed this year on July 23, while [Sports Day](#), typically observed on the second Monday in October, has shifted this year to July 24. Meanwhile, [Mountain Day](#) (typically observed on Aug. 11) will fall on Aug. 10, a day after the Tokyo Olympics Closing Ceremony had been originally scheduled.



July 7: Tanabata

Tanabata, also known as the Star Festival, is observed on July 7, tracing its origins to a legend about two lovers separated by the Milky Way, meeting just once a year on the seventh day of the seventh month. In Japan, children write their wishes on narrow strips of paper and hang them on bamboo branches, with hopes those wishes will come true.

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