

Japan Focus



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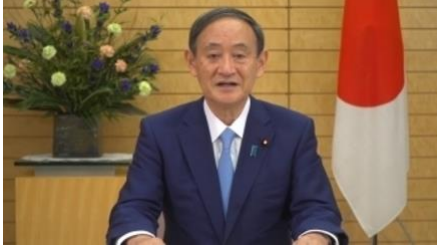
SUGA Yoshihide Designated as New Prime Minister

On Sept. 16, Japan's House of Representatives and the House of Councillors voted to designate SUGA Yoshihide as the new prime minister, making him the 99th in office. Watch his first press conference at the link [HERE](#). A full list of his Cabinet members inaugurated on Sept. 16 can be found [HERE](#).



Japan-US Summit Telephone Talk

On Sept. 20, Prime Minister Suga spoke with US President Donald Trump. Prime Minister Suga emphasized that the Japan-U.S. alliance is the cornerstone of peace and stability in the region and the international community, and that alongside President Trump, he would like to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. alliance. President Trump offered his congratulations on Prime Minister Suga's appointment to office and expressed his wish to further consolidate the Japan-U.S. relationship with Prime Minister Suga. In addition, the two leaders also agreed to continue Japan-U.S. cooperation in the development and distribution of COVID-19 therapeutics and vaccines.



[Prime Minister Suga Addresses UN General Assembly](#)

Prime Minister Suga delivered his statement to the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 25. Referring to novel coronavirus diseases, he said that Japan fully supports the development of therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostics, and works towards ensuring fair and equitable access for all, including those in developing countries. He added that Japan is also proposing a framework of patent pooling. Click the title to learn more about his speech.

Separately, on Sept. 24 [he spoke with UN Secretary General António Guterres on the phone](#), explaining that Japan attaches great importance to multilateralism and aims at realizing the rule of law through a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. Suga expressed his hope to work closely with the UN in this regard.



[Foreign Minister MOTEGI Helps Commemorate the UN's 75th Anniversary](#)

Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu issued a statement to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Watch the video [HERE](#). Separately, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly currently underway online, Motegi attended an online meeting on Sept. 23 of the [Foreign Ministers of the G4 Countries on UN Security Council Reform](#), where he spoke with his counterparts from Brazil, Germany and India.



IOC, Tokyo 2020 Presidents' Statements on New Prime Minister

International Olympic Committee President Thomas

Bach congratulated Prime Minister Suga and thanked him for the commitment he has expressed for safe and successful Olympic Games next year. Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) President MORI Yoshiro also extended his sincere congratulations to the prime minister and expressed hope for his continued support and guidance for the Tokyo 2020 Games. Read their respective statements [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).



[Entry of Foreign Nationals, Phased Measures for Resuming Cross-Border Travel](#)

The Government of Japan has implemented multi-layer border control measures in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. For the latest information, please read guidance issued by the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles as of Sept. 1 by clicking the title above.



[Measures Developed To Maximize Cost Savings and Increase Efficiencies at Tokyo 2020 Games](#)

On Sept. 25, the International Olympic Committee Coordination Commission and the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee agreed on over 50 measures designed to maximize cost savings and increase efficiencies in the delivery of the Tokyo 2020 games. For instance, the initial measures include, "the reduction of stakeholder personnel attending the Games, streamlining transport services, adjusting spectator activities at competition venues and hosting a number of pre-Games meetings online," according to the IOC. In addition, the IOC Coordination Committee received information about COVID-19 countermeasures planning based on seven areas: travel/country access; physical distancing; personal protective equipment/cleaning; food and beverage; testing/tracking/isolating; information provision and vaccines. Discussions are poised to continue, in line with the global COVID-19 situation and its impact on preparations for the Olympic and Paralympic games slated to be held next year.

Virtual Roundtable Discussion with LA Mayor Garcetti and Japanese Business Community



On Sept. 17th, the Consulate General of Japan, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Los Angeles office, and US affiliates of Japanese companies in southern California participated in an online roundtable with the Mayor of Los Angeles Eric

Garcetti. Japanese companies create 86,000 jobs in the southern California region, and 40,000 in the County of Los Angeles alone, making it the largest foreign investor nation in the region. They have also supported the City of Los Angeles' COVID-19 response efforts through PPE contributions, all noted and appreciated by Mayor Garcetti. The discussion also highlighted areas of possible collaboration between Los Angeles and Japan, such as supporting the role of hydrogen in environmental policy. Read more about the virtual roundtable discussions.

Taiwanese Family Donates Masks to LTCC

The Yang family has donated 5,000 disposable face masks to the Little Tokyo Community Council (LTCC). Mr. Doug Aihara, Chair of the LTCC, recently joined a lunch hosted by Consul General Muto including the Taiwanese donors. To learn more about LTCC's work in the community, please click [here](#).



The Cities of Glendale, CA and Higashi Osaka, Japan Mark 60th Anniversary of Sister Cities Relationship

The cities of Glendale and Higashi Osaka in Osaka Prefecture marked their 60th anniversary as sister cities during a Glendale City Council meeting on Sept. 15. Glendale Mayor Vrej Agajanian presented a commendation to Higashi Osaka and said, "We have truly enjoyed cultural, historical traditional collaborations over the span of several decades. On behalf of the City of Glendale, we look forward to enhancing our relations to new heights." By phone, Friends of Shoseian President Michael Belzer thanked the mayor and city council members, and said he planned to personally deliver the proclamation and the Glendale city flag to Higashi Osaka, when it is safe to travel. Watch video of the City Council meeting by clicking the title (the proclamation presentation begins at approximate 5:30 minutes into the meeting).



[Ambassador KOHNO Masaharu Among Honorees at Asia Society Southern California's 2020 Annual Gala](#)

The Asia Society of Southern California held its annual gala on Sunday, Sept. 20 virtually, where it honored five visionaries in different fields in recognition of their contributions to strengthening relationships between Asia and the United States. Ambassador Kohno Masaharu, a career diplomat who worked in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East, was named 2020 Bridge Building Visionary. He is also an Executive Board Member of the Organising Committee of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and Chairman of the John Manjiro Whitfield Commemorative Center for International Exchange, as well as an senior advisor to the TOMODACHI Initiative.

Japanese Gardens and Tea Rooms

We are highlighting Japanese gardens/tea rooms in our jurisdiction. Please check each garden's websites for operating hours and current offerings.

[Yume Japanese Gardens of Tucson](#)

The Yume Japanese Gardens of Tucson in Arizona comprises five traditional visions of landscape. The site features a dry landscape garden for Zen meditation, a stone and gravel garden representing sea and islands, a sinuous dry river garden, and a tranquil strolling pond garden. While closed until now, the Yume gardens will re-open with time ticketing on Oct. 15.



Credits: Yume Japanese Gardens of Tucson

[The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens](#)

Located in San Marino, CA, the Japanese Garden at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens showcases Japanese landscaping, architecture, culture and tradition. In addition to a distinctive moon bridge, the garden features koi-filled ponds, a historic Japanese House, the Seifu-an ceremonial tea house and Bonsai Collection and Zen Court. The nine-acre Japanese Garden was originally completed in 1912 and has undergone renovations over the years, including a large-scale renovation in 2011.



Credit: The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens



Credit: Toshimi Kristof



Credit: Toshimi Kristof



Culture: Autumnal Moon Viewing

Autumn consisted of the seventh, eighth, and ninth months of the year on the old Japanese calendar. The full moon in the middle autumnal month, called *chushu no meigetsu*, was considered particularly beautiful, as the air became crisper and the heat of summer subsided. People would place ornaments and other offerings next to windows and in other places where one could view the moon.

Chushu no meigetsu usually falls on September 12. Eating dumplings - made from rice pounded into paste and shaped into spheres like the moon - is still observed.

<http://www.la.us.emb-japan.go.jp> | info@ls.mofa.go.jp
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