

# Japan Focus



*Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles  
Japan Information & Culture Center  
October 2021, Vol. 13, Issue 10*



## G-20 Leaders Meet on Afghanistan

On Oct. 12, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio attended the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Meeting on Afghanistan via video conference at the Prime Minister's Office.

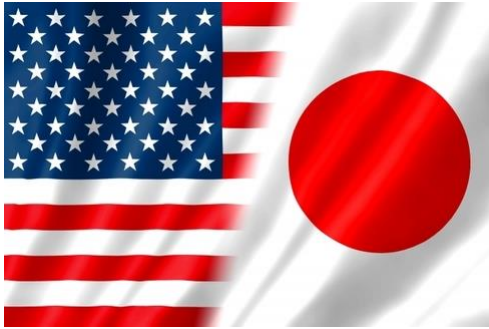
Learn more about the meeting [HERE](#).



## PM Kishida Delivers Policy Speech to the 205th Diet Session

On Oct. 8, Prime Minister Kishida delivered a policy speech to the 205th Session of the Diet during plenary sessions of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. He discussed diplomacy and security policies that aim to fully protect the Japanese people as being among the priority policy areas of his Cabinet. He noted a determination to fully defend the universal values of freedom, democracy,

human rights, and the rule of law. And he vowed to vigorously promote a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" in cooperation with Japan's allies such as the U.S., Australia, India, and the countries of ASEAN and Europe.



## Japan, US Leaders Hold Phone Summit

On Oct. 5, Prime Minister Kishida spoke on the phone with US President Joseph R. Biden. The two leaders agreed on the importance of further strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance. They also shared the view to further strengthen the Alliance's deterrence and response capability to address the increasingly severe security environment in the region. Regarding regional issues such as China and North Korea, the two leaders noted they would coordinate closely based on the Japan-US Joint Leaders' Statement issued in April.



## Video Meeting With 2021 Nobel Prize Recipient in Physics

On Oct. 8, 2021, the Prime Minister held an online meeting with Dr. MANABE Syukuro, Princeton University Senior Meteorologist and JAMSTEC (Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology) fellow, who has been awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in physics, and conveyed a congratulatory message to him. Learn more about Dr. Manabe's achievements [HERE](#).



## Japan, US Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk

On Oct. 7, Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke by phone. The two ministers confirmed that they would continue to cooperate in strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." Furthermore, both

sides exchanged a wide range of views on regional issues, such as North Korea and China, and cooperation on dealing with climate change.



[Latest on COVID-19 in Japan:  
Vaccinations Up](#)

The pace of vaccinations is accelerating in Japan, with over 187.8 million doses administered to date to the general public as of Oct. 28 and 71.4% of the population now fully vaccinated.

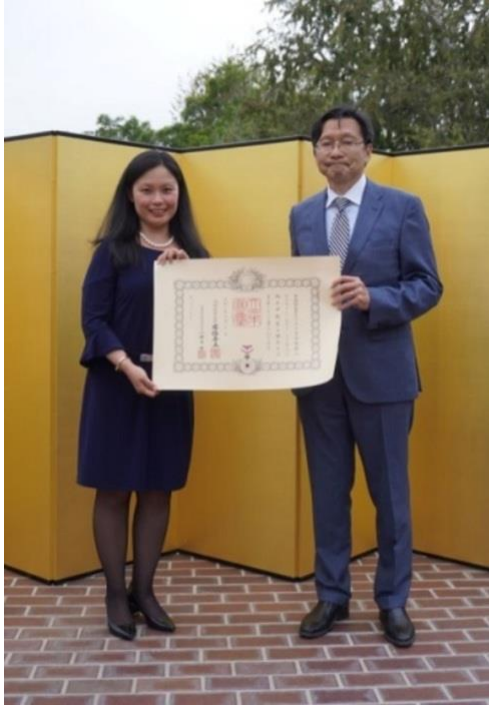
在ロサンゼルス日本国総領事館  
**CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN  
LOS ANGELES**

[POSITION AVAILABLE:  
Community Relations  
Specialist](#)

The Japan Information and Culture Center at the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles seeks to fill a community relations specialist position to advance our community relations objectives and to handle such duties as promotion of people-to-people exchanges through sister city relationships, as well as communicating with Japanese-affiliated community organizations. For more information about applying to the position, please click the title.

[2020 Decoration Conferred Upon the Late Ms. Irene  
Hirano Inouye](#)

The Government of Japan announced the conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon upon the late Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, who passed away in April 2020. The conferment ceremony for Ms. Hirano Inouye was held on Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021, at the Official Residence of the Consul General, with her daughter, Ms. Jennifer Hirano, accepting the decoration on her behalf.



## Spring 2021 Decoration Conferred Upon Mr. David Yamahata

On Oct. 13, a conferment ceremony was held for Spring 2021 Decoration recipient, Mr. David Mikio Yamahata, former Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Deputy of

Emergency Operations and former President of Nisei Week Foundation. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the ceremony was held at the Consul General's Official Residence with a limited number of guests.

## Consul General's Commendation Presented to Ms. Tamlyn Tomita



On Sept. 30, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles presented the Commendation of the Consul General to Ms. Tamlyn Naomi Tomita. The Commendation of the Consul General was established to recognize an individual or group who has helped advance the mission

of the Consulate General and has provided significant contributions to mutual understanding and promoting friendship between Japan and the United States..



## [RAND Conference on Growing Role of Europe in Asia To Be Held Nov. 2](#)

On Nov. 2 from 8:00am Pacific time, RAND Corp. will hold a virtual conference on "The Growing Role of Europe in Asia: Connecting the Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific." Former US

Secretary of Defense, Dr. Ashton B. Carter, will be the keynote speaker, with presentations by experts from Europe, Japan and the US. Click the title to register for the event.



## [Applications Being Accepted for 2022-2023 Program](#)

The Japan Exchange and Teaching Program, which enters its 36th year, is currently accepting applications for the 2022-2023 program. Two positions are offered for U.S. citizens: Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) and Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs). ALTs work as assistants to Japanese teachers of English at elementary, junior high or

senior high schools, while CIRs engage in international exchange activities at local government offices.



## [Japanese Consulate's School Visits Program](#)

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles' school visits are part of the Japan Information and Culture Center's education outreach, by which we share Japanese culture and society with K-12

students in greater Southern California and Arizona schools. In addition, the School Visits Program offers lectures at colleges, universities and organizations that touch on current issues, especially as they relate to Japan and its interactions with other nations. To learn more, click the headline.



## [Terasaki Nibei Japanese Language Contest](#)

The Terasaki Nibei Foundation is hosting their second Japanese language contest for 2021-2022! They will be accepting entries in video,

script, and essay for the topic of "What is “日本 (Japan)” for you?" until January 31, 2022. Click the title to learn more.

## [Namie and Lancaster Celebrate Smart Sister City Agreement and Join International Hydrogen Ministerial Meeting](#)

Following upon their Smart Sister City agreement in July, on October 1st, 2021, the Namie Town in Fukushima Prefecture, and Lancaster California, reconfirmed their



ambitions to become the world’s first “Smart Sister Cities” pledging collaboration and mutual efforts in building a hydrogen energy sector in their respective cities and nations. On October 4th, soon after signing their agreement, both cities participated in the International Hydrogen Ministerial Summit, hosted annually by Japan,

where they were recognized for their efforts and partnership going forward. Mayor Parris in his remarks indicated that the ultimate plan for Lancaster would be to convert public buildings and residences to hydrogen power, and are on the verge of laying out the plan to achieve these ambitious goals. He indicated that cities were the key to fighting climate change, and that Lancaster’s example could serve as a template for other cities wishing to convert to clean energy. Mayor Yoshida of Namie confirmed their historic commitment and promote their "Smart Sister Cities" initiative to advance clean hydrogen technology at the municipal level. Namie is involved in an ambitious program to generate and utilize hydrogen within the city and indicated the city intends to continue to push forward as the front-runner in this effort.



## Select LA Investment Summit Convenes

The World Trade Center Los Angeles convened the annual Select LA Investment Summit, with this year’s theme focusing on the “business of sports,” seeking to leverage and build upon the growing number of teams and the many major sporting events slated to take place in Los Angeles in the near to medium term, including the Super Bowl in 2022 and the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2028. Japan’s recent Olympics and the role of Japan as the region’s largest source

nation for foreign direct investment were also significant points of discussion. Videos of the event proceedings soon to be uploaded on the Select LA can be viewed by clicking the title.



## Japan Food Promotion Fair

Hosted by the Japanese food industry association, “Hichimikai,” in collaboration with the Consulate General of Japan and JETRO, a total of 44 Japanese food related firms offered exhibits and tasting experiences to the 380 business representatives who joined the event. Held from

October 18th – 19th, the event featured, sake, shochu, beer, liquor, marine products, seasonings, ramen, udon, tea, ice confectionery, rice, alternative meats, etc. As the first major event to be scheduled in over a year due to COVID restrictions, guests from a variety of food related businesses enjoyed the opportunity to have an authentic and tactile food experience, as it is impossible to determine the characteristics of a food or beverage product other than by actually sampling in person.



Looking for something entertaining or informative about Japan? Look no further, the [Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles' events calendar](#) includes information about virtual events related to Japan, as well as links to virtual museums.

## Check us out online!

Get to know the Consulate General of Japan through our social media accounts:





<http://www.la.us.emb-japan.go.jp> | [info@ls.mofa.go.jp](mailto:info@ls.mofa.go.jp)  
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