

Japan Focus



*Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
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Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

Prime Minister Kishida Attends COP26

On Nov. 2, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio attended the World Leaders Summit, a summit-level meeting of the COP26 (26th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) held in Glasgow, United Kingdom. Kishida said that

Japan will work fully to take on climate change. On the sidelines of COP26, the prime minister met with counterparts from such nations as Australia and the UK.



Prime Minister Forms 2nd Cabinet

The second Kishida Cabinet was inaugurated on Nov. 10. Prime Minister Kishida said he would respond to the mandate of the people, and that Japan's immediate priority is to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and to implement economic measures. He also said the government will launch a new form of capitalism to realize growth, the fruit of which can be felt by each citizen. Japan will also promote diplomacy and security

that fully protects Japan's peace and security, according to Kishida. Read his statement [HERE](#).



Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

Prime Minister Kishida at the G20 Rome Summit

Prime Minister Kishida participated in the G20 Rome Summit, held Oct. 30-31, and presented on Japan's efforts in such areas as global health and climate change. The prime minister introduced Japan's pledge of \$1 billion US dollars announced at the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC) Summit co-hosted by Japan in June this year. The Prime Minister also explained about Japan's decisions to provide up to approximately 60 million doses of vaccine in total and cold chain equipment to 59 countries and regions, and its swift implementation of these assistances.



Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

Japan at the East Asian Summit, ASEAN-Related Meetings

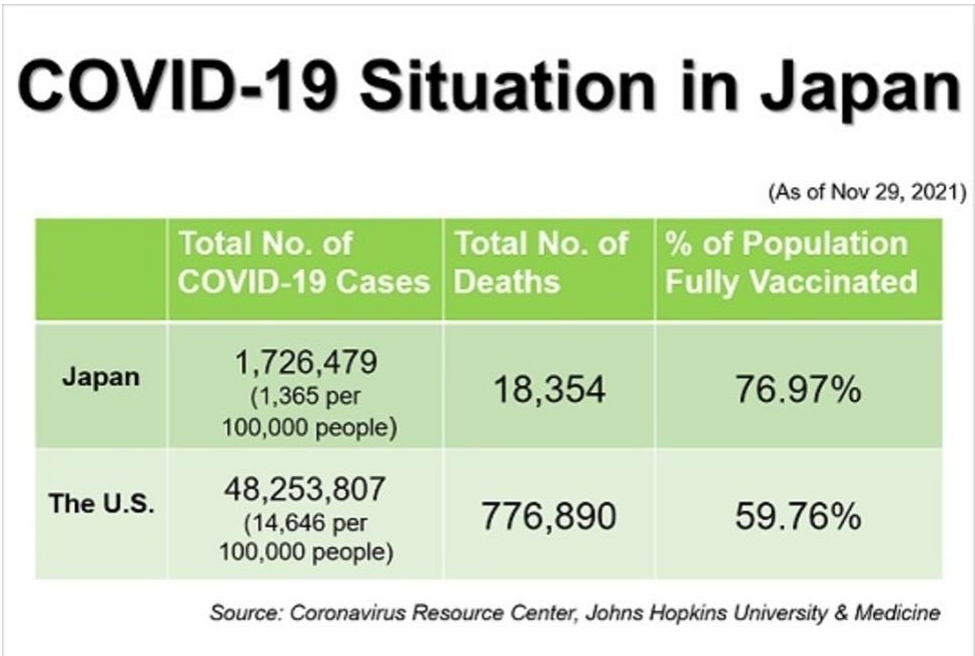
On Oct. 27, Prime Minister Kishida attended via video conference the [16th East Asia Summit](#), as well as the [24th ASEAN-Japan Summit Meeting](#) and [24th ASEAN Plus Three \(Japan, China, Korea\) Summit](#). At the EAS Summit, Prime Minister Kishida said that he will work with EAS leaders to vigorously advance a "free and open Indo-Pacific." He also reiterated that he would do the same with ASEAN leaders. At the ASEAN Plus Three meeting, the Prime Minister said that

regarding medical support for the COVID-19 response, in addition to contributions to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, Japan is further offering assistance worth more than \$200 million US dollars by providing medical supplies and equipment, and developing cold chains.



Important Guidance on Japan's Border Control Measures Related to COVID-19 (as of Nov. 30)

The Government of Japan has implemented multi-layer border control measures in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Foreign nationals arriving from the U.S. or other designated countries/regions will be denied entry into Japan unless there are "Exceptional Circumstances." Please click the headline for more details.



Latest on COVID-19 in Japan: Vaccinations Up

In Japan, over 196 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date to the general public as of Nov. 29, with 76.97% of the population now fully vaccinated. As of Nov. 29, COVID-19 cases to date came to 1,726,479 in Japan, and 48,253,807 in the United States, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.



[Survey: Seeking Individuals with Study Abroad Experience in Japan](#)

Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), a public institution under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, implements comprehensive support programs for international students by providing financial aid and broad information on study and work in Japan. This survey is the first ever, large-scale online survey that aims to obtain basic data concerning the experience and attitudes towards career development of those who have studied in Japan. Responses will be used to formulate practical initiatives to promote ex-international students to play more active roles in Japan.

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

[POSITION AVAILABLE:](#) [Temporary Assistant to the JET Program Coordinator](#)

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles is seeking a talented, hard-working, organized individual to assist the JET Program Coordinator during the JET Program selection period in early 2022. This is a temporary contract position which will most likely be part-time for the duration of approximately 30 business days, to take place from early January until March. Work will primarily take place in the office, with the possibility of some work from home. Please click the title for more information.

Recipients of Fall 2021 Decorations

On Nov. 3, 2021 (Japan Standard Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients of its Fall 2021 Decorations. From the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, the following two distinguished persons will be awarded.



Mr. David Ono,
journalist, ABC7
Eyewitness News anchor



Mr. Bryan Takeda,
President of Nikkei
Federation, former
president of Pasadena
Japanese Cultural
Institute



2021 Foreign Minister's Commendation Awarded to Dr. Hitoshi Abe

On Oct. 29, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles held a ceremony for the presentation of 2021 Foreign Minister's Commendation upon Professor Hitoshi Abe, Director of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Paul I. and Hisako Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies and Professor of the UCLA Department of

Architecture and Urban Design, School of Arts and Architecture.



Discussion with Lt. Gov. Kounalakis on Hydrogen Energy Sector

On Oct. 28, Consul General Muto invited Japanese companies to join Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis and Go-Biz Director Dee Dee Myers at his official residence

to have a conversation on decarbonization technologies and their activities in hydrogen. Japanese projects in the hydrogen sector are gaining momentum in southern California, in the transportation sector, in utility-scale power generation, and in the creation of a hydrogen value-chain centering on creating hydrogen supply and consumption at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to power many of the currently-polluting port operations. Japanese firms shared best case examples of their activities worldwide, and their growing dedication to this growing energy sub-sector here in California.



Credit: Rafu Shimpo

Japan and Black LA Initiative: California African American Museum Visit

On Nov. 9, Consul General and Mrs. Muto visited the California African American Museum with leaders of the Japanese and Japanese American community and Black clergy of local United Methodist churches. Executive Director Ms. Cameron Shaw led the tour, which was followed by a discussion moderated by Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks of Loyola Marymount University exploring the relationship between the historic Japanese and Black communities in Los Angeles.



L.A. Next Generation Japanese American-Yonsei Leaders Initiative Event with JBA

On Nov. 10, Consul General Akira Muto hosted an event featuring a presentation by Former Los Angeles

County CEO Ms. Sachi Hamai. The event was co-coordinated by the Japan Business Association of Southern California and brought together young business leaders of the Japanese and Japanese American communities. The L.A. Next Generation Japanese American-Yonsei Leaders Initiative seeks to cultivate next generation Japanese American leaders in Los Angeles to be engaged in U.S.-Japan relations and to be a bridge with Japanese counterparts locally and in Japan.

2021 JET Program Welcome Back Reception & Alumni Reunion Held



On Nov. 5, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles hosted a virtual Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program Welcome Back Reception & Alumni Reunion. This event celebrated JET program participants who recently completed their time in

Japan, and also honored the accomplishments of all alumni and their efforts to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations at the grassroots level.



Credit: Koji Kuninaga

Japanese Language & Cultural Program Launched at Poway USD

On Oct. 20, Deputy Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles NAKAGAWA Kouichi visited the city of Poway in San Diego County to participate in ceremonies celebrating the launch of Japanese Language and Cultural

Programs at Poway Unified School District. Two schools within Poway USD -- Tierra Bonita Elementary School and Del Sur Elementary School – began offering Japanese classes in October.

California-Japan Sister Cities Network Fall Workshop Held

On Oct. 22, the California-Japan Sister Cities Network (CJSCN) held its 4th annual Fall Workshop with the theme “Beyond Cultural Exchange: Creative Economic

Collaborations.” Approximately 180 people registered, representing 55 California cities and 18 Japanese cities. Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles MUTO Akira spoke, along with Consul General of Japan in San Francisco KAWAMURA Hiroshi. Watch a recording of the virtual workshop by clicking the title.



[Aurora Foundation Benefit Concert in LA to Feature Tadataka Unno](#)

On Dec. 4. the Japanese Language Scholarship (Aurora) Foundation will present its 23rd Anniversary Aurora Benefit Concert featuring jazz pianist Tadataka Unno. The concert will mark a triumphant return by Mr. Unno, who was violently attacked in New York last year.



[Japanese Food Festival Activates Little Tokyo!](#)

Established as an initiative to support the Nikkei Community and restaurants struggling under the COVID pandemic conditions, “LA Eats” celebrated with one of the first food festivals in the City of Los Angeles, supported by members of the Japan Restaurant Association and the Consulate General of Japan, and many food related companies. With over 10,000 guests enjoying the best of Japanese food, entertainment and cultural events -- everything from sake tasting to cosplay competitions; festival food to J-Pop experiences -- Little Tokyo came to life with music, food, friends and good vibes on November 14th. The LA Eats website is hosting photos and videos of this epic event.

Spotlight on Recently-Screened Films by Japanese Directors

[Belle, Directed by Mamoru Hosoda](#)

The animated film *Belle*, screened at the Animation is Film Festival held in Los Angeles in October, was directed by Mamoru Hosoda, whose animated film *Mirai* was nominated for Best Animated Film at the 91st Academy Awards. *Belle* examines the interchange between reality and virtual worlds through the use of social media. With the online world having an outsized impact on modern life, the film draws attention to the resulting implications. The film is due for wide release in the US in January 2022.

[Drive My Car, Directed by Ryusuke Hamaguchi](#)

The film *Drive My Car*, directed by Ryusuke Hamaguchi, was screened at AFI Fest 2021 held in a hybrid format Nov. 10-14. Adapted from a short story by Haruki Murakami, *Drive My Car* won three awards at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, including Best Screenplay. Find the screening schedule [HERE](#). The film was also selected as the Japanese entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards.



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:





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