

# Japan Focus



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## Prime Minister Suga at the G7 Video Conference

On Feb. 19, Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide attended the Group of Seven leaders' video conference hosted by the UK. He explained that Japan is adopting all best possible measures based on what the country has

learned from its experience fighting COVID-19. He also noted the critical role of vaccines to contain the spread of infection, and the importance of ensuring fair access to vaccines. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance Japan attaches to the COVAX facility as well as Japan's commitment for a new financial contribution of \$200 million to its mechanism of supporting developing countries. He also said Japan is determined to host the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer as a symbol of overcoming the COVID-19. Japan will proceed with preparation in close coordination with the International Olympic Committee to host the Games in safe and secure manner, he said. All the G7 leaders supported Japan's determination as expressed in the [G7 Leaders' Statement](#).

## Prime Minister Suga Participates in Davos Agenda

On Jan. 29, Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide attended the Davos Agenda and gave an overview of Japan's policy priorities, including the creation of a greener society by going



carbon neutral by 2050 as the engine for new growth and Japan's contribution to expanding free and fair economic zone and strengthening of multilateral trade system.



## Foreign Ministers from Japan, Australia, India and US Held Phone Meeting

On Feb. 18, MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs; Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia, H.E. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, and The Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States, held a telephone meeting. The four Ministers confirmed the importance of promoting the vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" together with more countries for the realization of the vision.



## HASHIMOTO Seiko Appointed as Tokyo 2020 President

On Feb. 18, former Olympian HASHIMOTO Seiko was elected as President of the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

At her first Executive Board Meeting as president, she said she would further accelerate efforts to build a collaborative framework with the national government and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to convince everyone, both in Japan and around the world, that

the Tokyo 2020 Games are safe and secure. Hashimoto previously served as Minister in Charge of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Minister in Charge of Women's Empowerment and Minister of State for Gender Equality.



## Latest on COVID-19 in Japan

The Declaration of the State of Emergency in response to COVID-19 remains in effect until March 7 for 10 prefectures (Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Gifu, Aichi, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo and Fukuoka). As of Feb. 25, COVID-19 deaths in Japan were at 6.06 per 100,000 population compared to 154.63 per 100,000 population in the US, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. On Feb. 18, [Prime Minister Suga visited National Hospital Organization Tokyo Medical Center](#) where COVID-19 vaccinations have begun. He noted that Japan intends to exert every effort to reduce the number of hospitalizations and patients with severe symptoms by further advancing measures to counter the disease, and will create a vaccination structure that inspires feelings of assuredness, through which everyone around the country can get vaccinated with a sense of ease.



# Green Hydrogen Gaining Steam!

Join two upcoming Webinars in March on the growing interest and momentum behind the development of a hydrogen energy sector. Identified by Bloomberg Financial as “one of the hottest things in green energy,” hydrogen is increasingly recognized as an important element in decarbonizing the world. JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, Japan America Society of Southern California and the Consulate General of Japan present a two-part webinar exploring Japan’s leadership and technology development in this sector, and real-world collaboration on projects in California. [Part 1](#) of The Hydrogen Solution webinar will be held on March 3, followed by [Part 2](#) on March 9.



## Arizona Japanese Foreign Direct Investment Webinar

Promoting the region as the less expensive and relatively business friendly locale, Arizona has succeeded in ramping up levels of Foreign Direct

Investment from all over the world, including from Japan. Join us on Thursday, March 18 at 4pm PST for an important discussion by Arizona political leaders, officials, academics and US and Japan business representatives, on the role and importance of global investment in Arizona, and prospects for Japan in the Grand Canyon State.



## JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles' Nature/Supernature Exhibition

Explore "Nature/Supernature: Visions of This World and Beyond in Japanese Woodblock Prints" as an online exhibition featuring over sixty Japanese woodblock

prints from the Scripps College collection in Claremont, CA.



## Arizona Matsuri 2021 Goes Online!

The 37th Annual Arizona Matsuri, themed Senbazuru (1,000 cranes) will be VIRTUAL this year, streaming online on both [the Arizona Matsuri Facebook page](#) and the [Youtube channel](#) on Saturday Feb. 27 from 10 am - 7 pm (MST), and on and Sunday, Feb. 28 from 10 am - 5 pm (MST). Please join the Arizona Matsuri for two full days of “visiting Japan” through videos showcasing many forms of martial arts, taiko (Japanese drumming), dance, culture, food spotlights and cooking tutorials, Japanese tourism, performing arts, merchandise highlights, traditional folk tales, a tea ceremony, behind the scenes peeks, and much more!



## Love to Nippon Project to Hold Virtual Event on Lessons Learned from March 2011 Earthquake Disaster

The Love to Nippon Project and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles will host online "Be Prepared! Lessons Learned from 3.11 on Readiness and Resilience" on Tuesday, March 10. This year marks 10 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster on March 11, 2011. Experts in the field of natural disasters will discuss preparedness tactics, while the event will also focus on recovery and rebuilding work in progress in Japan since the disaster 10 years ago.

## RAND Virtual Conference to Explore U.S.-Japan Economic Ties and Views of Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies



On March 24, RAND Corporation will present a virtual conference "The U.S.-Japan Economic Relationship and Views of Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies." The conference will first set the stage for a discussion of the importance of the overall development of the U.S.-Japan economic relationship and then delve into the perspectives of blockchain and cryptocurrency experts from the U.S. and Japan.



## UCLA Terasaki Center Webinar: How Has Japan Responded to COVID-19

On March 29, join us for a webinar organized by the UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies on "How Japan Responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic." This roundtable brings together a group of experts who were deeply involved in how Japan responded to this pandemic, and share their insights as to what we can learn from Japan's experience. Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles MUTO Akira will discuss Japan's international cooperation towards efforts to fight COVID-19 worldwide.



## Aging Society Webinar

On Feb. 17, Consulate General of Japan Los Angeles, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, and the Japan American Society of Southern California co-presented "The New Age of Elder Care,"

a webinar covering later-stage health advancements in the technology and mental health arenas. The webinar featured Dr. Yoshiyuki Sankai the developer of the world's first

wearable cyborg HAL and Dr. Takanori Shibata, the inventor of PARO, the therapeutic seal robot to discuss technology. On the mental health side, psychotherapist and Geriatric Medical Social Worker Mrs. Shiori Lange, LCSW discussed how psychosocial approaches can help older adults and their loved ones. UCLA Associate Professor Lené Levy-Storms Ph.D. moderated the panel of three speakers.

## Japanese Gardens and Tea Rooms

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

### [The Japanese Garden at Ganna Walska Lotusland \(Montecito, CA\)](#)



Courtesy of: Ganna Walska Lotusland

The Japanese Garden at Ganna Walska Lotusland in Montecito, California is a gem tucked away in a private, residential neighborhood. The Japanese Garden was completed in the late 1960s, and underwent a renovation in 2019. The area included a reflecting

pond, a scenic overlook and other features of a Japanese garden. Advanced reservations are required to visit Ganna Walska Lotusland, so please visit the website.



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.



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