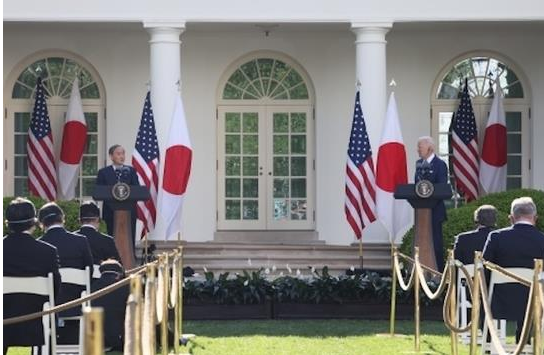


Japan Focus



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

Prime Minister Suga's Visit to Washington, D.C.

On April 15-18, Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide visited Washington, D.C., becoming the first foreign leader to meet with US President Joe Biden since his inauguration. The two leaders emphasized that the U.S.-Japan alliance has become a cornerstone of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world. Read the leaders' joint statement [HERE](#).



Japan Aims to Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 46% in FY30 From FY13 Levels

Prime Minister Suga attended the Leaders' Summit on Climate, which was hosted virtually by the US on April 22-23. At the summit, Prime Minister Suga declared that Japan aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46% in fiscal year

2030 from its fiscal year 2013 levels, a target aligned with Japan's long-term goal of net-zero by 2050.



Latest on Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay continues to make its way across Japan.

Watch the live stream [HERE](#). Meanwhile, HASHIMOTO Seiko, the President of the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and a former Olympian, [shared her message of hope in an essay](#). She cited a priority on creating a safe environment for athletes and others, while noting that the Games will be, "a celebration of peace, of potential and of humanity."



Latest on COVID-19 in Japan

Japan's Declaration of the State of Emergency in response to COVID-19 took effect from April 25 and will last through May 11 in the following prefectures: Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Hyogo.

As of April 26, COVID-19 deaths in the US stood at 174.32 per 100,000, while the figure for Japan was at 7.87 per 100,000, according to data from Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center.

Program Aims to Strengthen Livelihood and Business Foundations for Japanese Nationals and People of Japanese Descent Living Overseas

The Japanese government has launched a program that aims to support the creation of environments conducive to business in Japanese expatriate and Nikkei communities through projects undertaken by overseas Japanese associations, Japan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Nikkei groups etc. Projects must aim to prevent the spread of infection or create environments conducive to business in Japanese expatriate and Nikkei communities. Learn more by clicking the title.



MEXT Scholarship Applications Available

Applications for Japanese Government scholarships for the 2022 academic year in Japan are now available on the website of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles. These full scholarships are provided by Japan's Ministry of Education (MEXT) to selected excellent students who also have an interest in learning Japanese and studying in Japan. There are three types of scholarships: for research (graduate) students; undergraduate students; and specialized training college students. Please see the Application Guidelines and downloadable forms by clicking on the title.



Applications for the 15th Japan International Manga Award Available

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs founded the International MANGA Award in 2007 for the purpose of expanding international exchange and mutual understanding through

the MANGA culture. The application period for the 15th Japan International MANGA Award is from April 7, 2021 to July 8, 2021.

Recipients of Spring 2021 Decorations Announced



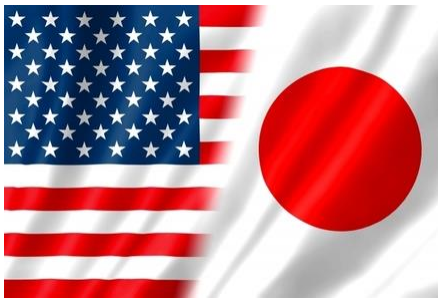
On April 29th, 2021 (Japan Standard Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients of its Spring 2021 Decorations. From the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, Mr. Douglas Erber and Mr. David Mikio Yamahata will be awarded. Read about their recipients' meritorious service towards Japan by clicking the title.

Regarding the Increase in Anti-Asian Incidents

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles has shared its concerns with law enforcement and elected officials regarding the rise in incidents targeting those of Asian heritage, including Japanese nationals residing in the U.S. and Japanese Americans. In addition to requesting sensitive handling of the increase in these incidents in order to combat them, the Consulate has requested clear statements be issued regarding anti-Asian activities.

On March 25, Consul General MUTO Akira joined [a press conference held by Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva](#), who called for zero tolerance for hate crimes in LA County, especially towards Asian Americans.

Separately, at the Los Angeles Asia Business Forum held on March 30, 2021 by World Trade Center Los Angeles, U.S. Representative Judy Chu (CA-27th District) noted how some Asian-owned businesses have experienced anti-Asian hate including boycotts and slurs, and have also seen incidents that have escalated into violence, since the COVID-19 pandemic. She vowed to keep working to support Asian American businesses and other small businesses, and to continue to fight the xenophobia.



Japan & Black L.A. Initiative Launches

Recently the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, together with Japan Foundation Los Angeles and the United Methodist Church (UMC) California-Pacific Conference, co-sponsored online workshops on onigiri and origami making for members of the predominantly Black churches of the UMC West District in the Greater Los Angeles area. These were the first two events of the Japan & Black L.A. Initiative, which aims to work with children, youth, and adults in the Los Angeles community – a city which represents the diversity of the United States – to share aspects of Japanese and African American culture that will broaden mutual understanding.

Terasaki Budokan, Japanese Consulate Showcase Youth and Sports To Promote Tokyo 2020 Games



With the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games coming up this summer, the Terasaki Budokan and Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles have teamed up to present a

new video, "Celebrating Youth and Sports Ahead of Tokyo 2020" that celebrates youth and sports, and the friendship between Japan and Los Angeles. The video will premiere Friday, April 30 at 5pm Pacific Time. Watch it [HERE](#).

[UCLA Roundtable Examines Japan's COVID-19 Experience](#)



On March 29, 2021, the UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies presented a webinar entitled, "New Perspectives on Japan: How Japan Responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic," as part of its Junior Faculty Roundtable Series. The webinar examined approaches adopted by Japan to tackle COVID-19, the pandemic's impact, and what the world can potentially learn from Japan's experience.



Exploration of Japanese American War Experience

In an online event organized by the Japan Business Association of Southern California Downtown LA Committee, and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California, the difficult experiences of Japanese Americans in California were revisited and discussed. In particular, the forced relocation of Japanese Americans into the isolated and desolate Manzanar center was a centerpiece of the conversation, with Consul General Muto noting the value of the day's events in illuminating the wartime experience of Japanese Americans in the United States.



Asian American Business Discussion Platform

On March 30th, Stephen Cheung of the World Trade Center Los Angeles inaugurated a timely and important discussion platform, bringing together representatives from all corners of the Asian and Asian American business community, to share views on the recent challenges that all Asian businesses are currently facing. Congresswoman Judy Chu kicked off the conversation with a briefing on her efforts to provide economic support to Asian American businesses during COVID, and combatting the outbreak of hate crimes directed at Asians. Joining in the conversation were former Deputy Assistant USTR Glen Fukushima, Consul Liu Yi of China, Consul Sungsoo Son of South Korea, and Consul General Muto. Representatives of Asian American business organizations from throughout southern California also led a discussion on current economic issues and the importance of a unified voice on issues that affect the entire Asian business community.



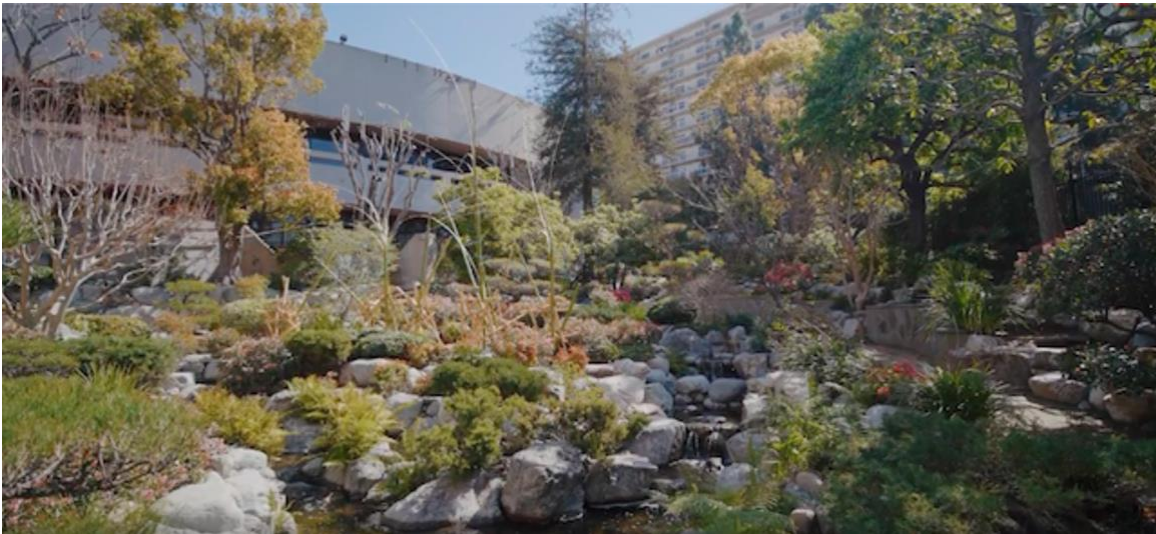
Sake Seminar Held, and Goodwill Ambassadors Appointed to Promote Japanese Cuisine

Joining an ongoing series of programs supported by the Consulate to promote Sake in the US market, on March 27th Sachiko Miyagi, of Tippy Inc., led participants [in an online lecture](#), illustrated in real-time with a three bottle set of various sake varieties made available to participants beforehand. Separately, the Japanese Consulate held appointment ceremonies in late March for Goodwill Ambassador to Promote Japanese Cuisine for [Mr. Toshio Ueno](#), Principal of Sake School of America, and [Mr. David Schlosser](#), Owner & Chef of Japanese restaurant Shibumi.

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.

[James Irvine Japanese Garden \(JACCC - Little Tokyo\)](#)



Located in the heart of Little Tokyo at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC), the James Irvine Japanese Garden was first completed in 1980, designed by landscape architect Dr. Takeo Uesugi. The garden features a waterfall, a 170-ft stream, trees and foliage. According to the JACCC website, the rushing fall of water in the upper portion of the garden represents the struggles of the Issei generation against economic hardship and prejudices in a new land, while the stream signifies the political and cultural conflicts experienced by second generation Nisei, and then the calm pond, symbolizing hope and peace for the Sansei and future generations.

For a tour of the beautiful garden, please check out [this exclusive VIDEO](#).



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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