

Japan Focus

Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
Japan Information & Culture Center
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Prime Minister Suga Attends APEC Informal Leaders' Retreat

On July 16, 2021, Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide attended [a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation \(APEC\) Informal](#)

[Leaders' Retreat](#), which was held in a virtual format. Suga urged the international community reaffirm the importance of multilateralism during a critical phase in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time he noted the importance of establishing a rules-based international order, and vowed to promote the realization of a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Read the leaders' statement [HERE](#).



Foreign Minister Motegi Attends G20 Gathering, Meets [With US Counterpart Blinken](#)

Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu visited Europe from June 28 to July 3 to attend the Group of 20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting. On the sidelines of the meeting, he held bilateral talks with counterparts from Italy, the UK, the US, Brunei, Netherlands and Indonesia.



Latest on Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games:

One year after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, [the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020](#) kicked off on Friday, July 23, featuring performances, the Parade of Nations and other key moments at the Japan National Stadium, including tennis star Naomi Osaka lighting the Olympic cauldron. While spectators were not able to attend, viewers worldwide tuned in to cheer on athletes. For coverage of the Olympics in the US, please click [HERE](#).



Latest on COVID-19 in Japan: Vaccinations Up, Grant of Vaccines to Indonesia, Funds to COVAX Facility

As of July 21, Okinawa and Tokyo remain under the Declaration of the State of Emergency in response to COVID-19 until Aug. 22. The pace of vaccinations is accelerating in Japan, with over 77 million doses administered to date to the general public as of July 26. Also, [Japan has decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid of around US \\$4.6 million](#) for logistical support of transporting vaccines to be donated through the COVAX facility. In addition, Japan has [airlifted roughly 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Indonesia](#).

State of California Resolution: Sugihara Visas Day

The California Legislature has designated July 29, 2021 as Sugihara Visas Day to memorialize the great achievements of Chiune Sugihara in saving thousands of Jewish lives during World War II. The resolution, which passed both chambers of the California



Credit: Sugihara House

Legislature unanimously, was introduced by Senate Majority Leader Bob Hertzberg and principally co-authored by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi. The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, American Jewish Committee-Los Angeles, and Japanese American Cultural and Community Center

will co-sponsor a virtual program supported by JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles commemorating the day which can be viewed [HERE](#) on July 29, 2021 at 5pm PDT, and will thereafter be available on-demand. The program will include remarks by elected officials, a presentation by Sugihara House in Kaunas, Lithuania and a special piece created especially for the occasion by JACCC Master Artist in Residence Hirokazu Kosaka. View the resolution text [HERE](#) and proceedings on the State Senate floor [HERE](#) (19:18-28:00)



Consul General Muto Hosts Smart Sister Cities MOU Event

Mayor Kazuhiro Yoshida of Namie Town, Fukushima Prefecture, and Mayor R. Rex Parris, of Lancaster, California, inked an MOU on July 19th, setting a course to become the world's first pair of Hydrogen Cities, and to pursue steps to develop a "Smart Sister Cities" relationship committed to

hydrogen production, storage, delivery, and end use at city facilities and in their communities. A project idea which arose during conversation with Consul General Muto a year earlier, the July 19th virtual event included remarks by US Senator Alex Padilla and California Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, among other dignitaries. Video of the event in its entirety will soon be available. Media coverage [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).



Conversation with Michael Mann at JAPAN HOUSE

Award-Winning Film Director, Producer and Writer Michael Mann shares experiences filming and producing in Japan in a fascinating and free-ranging conversation joined by Consul General Muto at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. As Japan secures a greater presence in the global contents industry, including in Hollywood, the potential for location filming in Japan is also a promising area of growing interest. Mr. Mann relates his invaluable insights on Japan as a production location in this highly informative presentation.



Credit: LA84 Foundation

Baron Nishi's Riding Crop Returned to Japan by LA84 Foundation

On July 1, LA84 Foundation and the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles released a joint announcement regarding the return of the riding crop of 1932 Los Angeles Olympics gold medalist

Baron Nishi to his descendants. The only Japanese ever to win a gold medal in equestrian, Baron Nishi was a friend of Hollywood luminaries such as Charlie Chaplain and Douglas Fairbanks and the pride of the growing Japanese American community at the time. A video recording of the announcement program is available [HERE](#), featuring

David Ono of KABC-TV, actor and producer Masi Oka, President and CEO of the LA84 Foundation Renata Simril, and Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Akira Muto, including special messages by local elected officials and other special guests.



Celebrating "The Big Games in Little Tokyo"

On July 11, Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles MUTO Akira spoke at the Opening Ceremony of a day of events organized by the Japanese American National Museum (JANM),

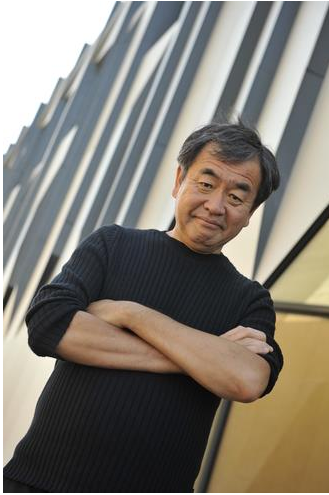
the Terasaki Budokan – a Project of Little Tokyo Service Center – and the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) to celebrate the Olympic games in Little Tokyo past and present through performances, exhibitions, and other activities.



Japan-Black LA Initiative Virtual Program: "Stories Not (Yet) Told"

On June 28, the United Methodist Church California Pacific Conference West District and Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles co-sponsored a virtual program featuring a presentation by critical race and ethnic studies scholar Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks of Loyola Marymount University examining the history of Blacks and Asians in the U.S. and their acts of collaboration to form communities of

solidarity. The program also included an overview of the Japan & Black L.A. Initiative and performances by Holman United Methodist Church and the students of Nishiyamato Academy of California. Learn more about the program by clicking the title.



Credit: J.C. Carbonne

Online Conversation With World-Acclaimed Architect Kengo Kuma

On June 23, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles and the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles co-presented a webinar entitled, “The World of Kengo Kuma – New Form of Encounter Between Tradition and Modernity in Architecture,” an online conversation with world-acclaimed architect Kengo Kuma. He reflected on some of his works, including the Japan National Stadium, which is featured at the Tokyo 2020 Games. Watch the webinar by clicking the headline.



Amb. Tomita Visits Port of LA During Visit to LA Area

From June 16 to 18, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States TOMITA Koji visited southern California. He gave a keynote speech at the 50th anniversary of the Signing of the Okinawa Reversion Agreement at the Nixon Library, exchanged views with members of the Pacific Council, and visited Little Tokyo (Japanese American National Museum, Go for Broke Memorial, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, and Terasaki Budokan), JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, and Nishiyamato Gakuen. Ambassador Tomita also visited the Port of Los Angeles, and exchanged opinions with Japanese companies with strong hydrogen technologies. At the Port of LA, he enjoyed a courtesy call with the Executive Director of the Port Eugene D. Seroka, and received an explanation about the current situation of the Port of LA.



Pitching Japan's Entertainment Contents

On June 22, Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, along with JETRO Los Angeles and United Talent Agency (UTA), co-hosted the 2nd Japan Contents Pitch Event via online. After opening remarks by Consul General Muto, actor and producer Mr. Masi Oka who is also an adviser to this event, was joined by TV Tokyo, Nippon Television Network Corporation, TBS Television Network Corporation, Fuji Television Network, and Kansai Television Network, to pitch five Japanese TV dramas for adaptation for the US Market. Representatives of TV broadcasters and major studios joined in this event, which aims to foster overseas adaptation and development of Japanese media contents.



Asian American Business Alliance Discussion Forum

Consul General Muto joined the 2nd introductory meeting of the proposed Asian American Business Alliance on July 20th, along with representatives of the Consulate General of China and a wide array of Asian business community organizations. Stephen Cheung, President of the World Trade Center Los Angeles, led the discussion to explore areas of common concern within the Asian business community in the wake of COVID, incidents of violence directed at Asians and Asian Americans in the US, and topics associated with economic recovery and investment in southern California. Consul General Muto expressed his support for the activities and goals of this forum to highlight shared issues and challenges among all Asian and Asian American business communities.

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/or reservations as well as current offerings.

Doris Japanese Garden in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (South LA)



Located in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, the Doris Japanese Garden features a lotus pond and artificial waterfall. The area is known as a spot to take pictures for weddings and other events.



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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