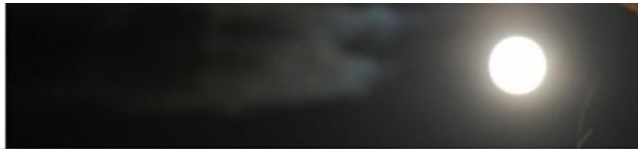


# Japan Focus



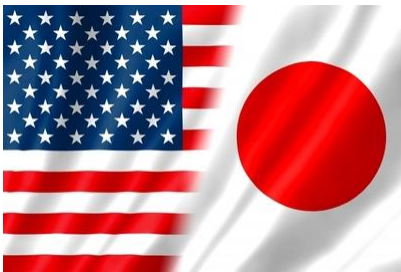
Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles  
Japan Information & Culture Center  
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## Prime Minister Suga Attends G7 Meeting to Discuss Afghanistan

On Aug. 24, Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide joined his Group of Seven counterparts in a virtual meeting to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

The G7 leaders issued a statement, reaffirming their "steadfast commitment to the people of Afghanistan," and citing grave concern about the situation there. Read the entire G7 leaders statement [HERE](#).



## Japan Welcomes Nomination of New US Ambassador to Japan

The government of Japan welcomes the nomination of Rahm Emanuel - whose past duties include Mayor of Chicago, White House Chief of Staff, and US

Congressman - as the new US Ambassador to Japan. On Aug. 23, Press Secretary YOSHIDA Tomoyuki issued a statement that Japan expects Mr. Emanuel will assume his new post at an early date, and that "Japan will closely cooperate with Mr. Rahm Emanuel and make efforts to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance and realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific."



## Foreign Minister Motegi in the Middle East

Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu visited the Middle East from Aug. 15-24, meeting leaders and counterparts from Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Qatar.



## Latest on Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games:

The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, which kicked off on Aug. 24, features 4,402 athletes from 162 National Paralympic Committees worldwide. [The Opening Ceremony](#) included performances, the parade of athletes, the lighting of the Paralympic Cauldron and fireworks. Schedules & results of events can be found [HERE](#), with the games behind held through Sept. 5.



Credit: Nishi family

## Olympics Wrap-Up: Baron Nishi Riding Crop Gifting In Japan by Masi Oka

On July 31, 2021 in Tokyo, actor & producer Masi Oka returned the riding crop of 1932 Olympian Baron Nishi – the only Japanese ever to win a gold medal in equestrian – to his great-grandson Mitsuhiro Nishi. Masi Oka played a pivotal role in connecting the LA84 Foundation with Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan Sports Agency, Japan Equestrian Federation, and the Nishi family for the

historic gifting. Learn more about the riding crop return by clicking the headline. The virtual announcement of the gifting can be viewed [HERE](#).

## Olympics Wrap-up: KABC's David Ono in Japan

Ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Games, KABC7 anchor and journalist David Ono visited Japan and reported on [how Japan planned to handle the Olympic games during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). In addition, he met with Kuma Kengo, an architect involved with the design of [the Japan National Stadium - a key venue of the Tokyo 2020 Games - and what inspired the structure's construction](#). He also examined how Japan has viewed [the Tokyo 2020 Games as an opportunity to pursue further development of hydrogen technologies](#), and how some cities [in Japan and Southern California are embracing hydrogen technology as a new power source for the future](#).



### Latest on COVID-19 in Japan: Vaccinations Up

The pace of vaccinations is accelerating in Japan, with over 127 million doses administered to date to the general public as of Aug. 29. In addition, the government of Japan has decided to provide around [40,000 of COVID-19 vaccines manufactured domestically, through the COVAX facility, to Tonga](#). At the Ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) which took place on July 2, Japan announced its intention to provide Pacific Island countries with a total of approximately 3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines by around the end of the year including through the COVAX Facility.

At the end of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic games, [Dr. Brian McCloskey, Chair of the Tokyo 2020 Independent Expert Panel, noted that comprehensive screening testing initiatives, track and trace programs, and public health and social measures contributed to keeping participants as well as the people of Japan safe](#). Tokyo 2020 carried out 651,296 tests from July 1 to Aug. 7, while local health authorities conducted another 42,711 tests at

Tokyo's main airports, according to the International Olympic Committee. Among participants of the games, the cumulative positivity rate was just 0.02%, while the positivity rate at the airports was just 0.09%, the IOC's data showed. This suggests that COVID-19 countermeasures proved effective at the Games, and may offer a blueprint for other large-scale events.

## Inscriptions of Japanese Sites on the World Heritage List

On July 26, "[Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the Northern part of Okinawa Island and Iriomote Island](#)" and on July 27 "[Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan](#)" were inscribed on the World Heritage List at the Extended 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee. Foreign Minister Motegi noted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to make efforts to promote understanding of the value of Japan's World Heritage properties in the world. Click [HERE](#) for a list of properties in Japan that are inscribed on the list.



## World Cosplay Summit 2021 Held in Nagoya

The 19th World Cosplay Summit 2021 was held in Nagoya on Aug. 7-8 and livestreamed to viewers worldwide. The summit was held in a hybrid format, with photo sessions and stage

events held, as well as the "World Cosplay Championship Video Division," or performance videos from cosplayers from 30 countries and regions. A German team won the Championship and was awarded the Foreign Minister's Prize by Ms. TSUDA Yoko, Director of the Cultural Affairs and Overseas Public Relations Division, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.



## [2021 Nisei Week Virtual Experience](#)

On Aug. 14, the Nisei Week Foundation presented the 2021 Nisei Week Virtual

Experience, *Ibasho, A Place to Call Home*. The virtual program showcased Japanese and Japanese American cultural segments and Little Tokyo businesses as well as community leaders and organizations. Click the title to watch the program!



## [Exploring Japan-US Space Cooperation](#)

On August 31st at 4-5PM (PDT), the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles and Jet Propulsion Laboratory will co-host the webinar "US-Japan Partnership: Present and Future

Bilateral Cooperation on Space" in a series of programs on Japan-US space collaboration, with top speakers providing their insights on deepening cooperation in space. Over the past five decades, Japan has developed independent and successful capacities in space launch, satellites, and interplanetary exploration, and is a global collaborator in a broad range of components and technologies which are widely used by US aerospace firms. Government to government programs, and increasingly private space commercialization activities, present an expanding universe of possibilities for further Japan-US cooperation in the increasingly important space sector. Click the headline to register for the event!

## [Japan Business and Japan Community Dialogue](#)



Credit: Toyo Miyatake Studio

July 28th saw the convening of a wide-ranging discussion and networking opportunity between the Japan Business Association of Southern California and Japanese American Community. Hosted at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo, this was a valuable communication opportunity

created by a joint initiative of JACCC, US-Japan Council and JBA.



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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