

Japan Focus



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New Cabinet Formed By Prime Minister Kishida

On Oct. 4, new Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, launched a new Cabinet after being elected prime minister on the same day. Learn more about his new Cabinet [HERE](#). Minister of Foreign Affairs MOTEGI Toshimitsu has retained his post.



Credit: Cabinet Public Relations Office

Japan at the United Nations, Quad Summit

From Sept. 23-26, then-Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide visited the United States. On Sept. 24, he delivered his statement at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Read his statement [HERE](#). Suga also went

to Washington, D.C. to attend the [Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Summit Meeting](#) on Sept.

24. The four leaders shared the view that the four countries share basic values and reaffirmed they will work toward the realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” for security and prosperity of the region. On the sidelines, Suga also attended [bilateral meetings](#).



Foreign Minister Motegi in New York

Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu, who remains as foreign minister under the new Kishida Cabinet, visited New York from Sept. 22-24 to attend the U.N. General Assembly. On Sept. 22 he [met with his U.S counterpart Antony](#)

[Blinken, US Secretary of State](#). Motegi and Blinken shared the view to continue to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance. On Sept. 22, [Motegi met with António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres, Secretary-General of the U.N.](#) During his time in New York, Motegi held bilateral meetings with counterparts from such countries as Pakistan, Indonesia, Russia, Qatar, South Korea and the U.K..



Former Environment Minister Koizumi Meets with US Special Climate Envoy Kerry

On August 31st, Japan’s then-Minister for the Environment, Shinjiro Koizumi, and the US Special Presidential Climate Envoy, John

Kerry, met to discuss continued efforts in mitigating climate change. They also joined a

bilateral conversation convened and hosted by the US-Japan Council which covered a wide range of policy and strategic issues related to the environment.

The video of this fascinating and important discussion is now available at the US-Japan Council YouTube channel: [2021 USJC Bilateral Boardroom: US-Japan Leadership in Addressing the Climate Crisis](#). Read the summary of the bilateral discussion by clicking the headline.



Latest on COVID-19 in Japan: Vaccinations Up

As of Sept. 30, the Japanese government lifted the COVID-19 state of emergency covering Tokyo and 18 other prefectures, with infections decreasing from their peak levels.

Meanwhile, the pace of vaccinations is accelerating in Japan, with over 167.44 million doses administered to date to the general public as of Oct. 3 and 61.11% of the population now fully vaccinated. Japan continues to focus on providing COVID-19 assistance, such as [vaccines through the COVAX facility, including approximately 60,000 doses supplied to the Solomon Islands in late August](#). In addition, [personal protective equipment will be provided to Vietnam under the Asia-Europe Foundation's stockpile project implemented with financial contribution from Japan](#).



RAND Conference: "Taiwan's Security and the U.S.-Japan Alliance"

The RAND Corporation is hosting an online conference on Oct. 14, that will explore how Tokyo and Washington perceive the threat Beijing poses to Taipei, how they are considering responding, and the policy options they face for deterring a

Chinese use of force. The event brings together leading Japanese and American policy experts on China, Taiwan, and the U.S.-Japan alliance to frame the discussion. To register for the conference, click the headline.



["WAVE New Currents in Japanese Graphic Arts" Opens at JAPAN HOUSE LA](#)

The exhibition WAVE, which opened to the public on Sept. 18 at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, features the work of 55 Japanese contemporary artists. The exhibition will be on display until Nov. 28. The WAVE is curated by artists Kintaro Takahashi and Hiro Sugiyama and is based on the popular annual art exhibition WAVE, which has been held at Arts Chiyoda in Tokyo since 2018. Each year showcases works by over 100 of Japan's leading illustrators, graphic and contemporary artists. For those who can't physically visit, all the artwork is available to view online as well.

Also, [JAPAN HOUSE LA has launched a new store - WAZA](#). Visitors to the showroom, located at JAPAN HOUSE's 2nd floor space, can discover curated items reflecting several facets of Japanese culture, including dining, home, and fashion. All items are only available for purchase online.



[Spring 2021 Decoration Conferred Upon Mr. Doug Erber](#)

On Sept. 27, a conferment ceremony was held for Spring 2021 Decoration recipient Mr. Doug Erber, former President of Japan America Society of Southern California' former President of Sister City

Association of Huntington Beach. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the ceremony was held at the Consul General's Official Residence with a limited number of guests.



Ceremony Held for Foreign Minister Commendation Recipient Ms. Kimiko Fujita

On Sept. 17, a ceremony for the conferment of the 2021 Foreign Minister’s Commendation was held for recipient Ms. Kimiko Fujita,

President of Orange County Japanese American Association.



Visit to California's First "Smart Sister City"

On Sept. 7, Consul General Muto was hosted by Mayor Rex Parris of Lancaster, California, for meetings and tours of existing green energy sites and future hydrogen production facilities already in development in Lancaster. Initiated through a conversation between Mayor Parris and Consul General Muto in July of 2020, the “Smart Sister Cities” movement – with its first pairing which links Namie Town, in Fukushima prefecture, and

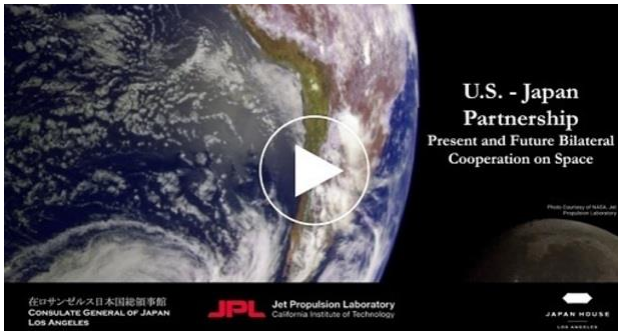
Lancaster, aims to foster collaboration on the two cities’ plans to develop clean hydrogen energy production and infrastructure. Hydrogen projects by Hitachi Zosen and California start-up Heliogen were featured on the tour, with more hydrogen projects slated for the near future.



Consul General and Mrs. Muto Tour Crenshaw District and Watts Towers

To deepen understanding of the African American community and strengthen relations with the community as an ongoing part of the Japan & Black L.A. Initiative,

Consul General Akira Muto and Madame Misako Muto visited the Crenshaw District and Watts Towers in late August 2021.



Japan-US Space Cooperation Webinar

Since signing their first agreement on space technology cooperation in 1969, collaboration in this sphere between the two nations has grown and

flourished and now involves every aspect of space activity; from defense cooperation to interplanetary exploration, as well as private sector space commercialization. On August 31st, JAPAN HOUSE LA hosted a webinar, supported by the Consulate General of Japan and Jet Propulsion Laboratory, exploring the prospects for further joint-efforts in space.

COVID-19 Prevention Seminar by Japan Business Association of Arizona



On October 9th, Japan Business Association of Arizona (JBAA) will host a seminar on COVID-19, mental health awareness, and enhancing autoimmunity - in conjunction with the JBAA's annual fall picnic. The in-person seminar and picnic are only open to Arizona residents, while there is an online option to join this seminar for non-Arizona residents.

Join webinar here for non-Arizona Residents (Zoom participation is limited to 100 persons):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88496602024?pwd=enFiSGtyNWx1a1NCczdEVjUrMEVyZz09>

Picnic and seminar registration available for Arizona Residents (limited to 150 persons):

<https://jba-arizona.org/fall-picnic/>



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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