

Japan Focus



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

Japan-US Summit Meeting

On Jan. 21, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio spoke with US President Joseph R. Biden Jr. during a summit meeting held via teleconference. The two leaders shared the intention to coordinate closely under the strong Japan-U.S. Alliance and to deepen cooperation with like-minded countries

such as Australia, India, ASEAN, and Europe, toward realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."



PM Kishida Urges New Form of Capitalism Based on Economic Sustainability

Prime Minister Kishida is calling for a new form of capitalism, under which public and private sector entities together play their roles, while sharing a common overarching vision for future economic and social reforms.

Specifically, he cites digitalization, climate change, economic security, innovation and science and technology, and other social issues as the engines of growth. "We will squarely tackle the issue of disparities and bring about distribution through wage increases initiated by companies as well as greater investments in people,

which will lead to the next round of growth," he said in his New Year's reflection. Learn more by clicking the headline.



[Foreign Minister Hayashi Addresses the 208th Session of the Diet](#)

Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa outlined Japan's foreign policy to the 208th session of the Diet, including such topics as the security environment, efforts to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, and relationships with neighboring countries. He reiterated that The Japan-U.S. Alliance is the cornerstone of the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and the linchpin of Japan's foreign policy and security. Under the Kishida cabinet, we will continue to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance's deterrence and response capabilities.

This follows Minister Hayashi's telephone meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Jan. 6 during which the two ministers reaffirmed that Japan and the United States would work together to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance.



[Japan-US "2+2" Meeting Held](#)

On Jan. 7, Minister of Defense KISHI Nobuo, Minister for Foreign Affairs Hayashi, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin convened the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee ("2+2") virtually. They recognized the U.S.-Japan Alliance's critical role as the cornerstone of regional peace, security, and prosperity, and they expressed their

determination to constantly modernize the Alliance and strengthen joint capabilities. Read the "2+2" joint statement [HERE](#).



Guidance on Japan's Border Control Measures Related to COVID-19 (as of Jan. 31)

The Government of Japan has implemented multi-layer border control measures in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Foreign nationals arriving from the US or other designated nations/regions will be denied entry into Japan unless there are "[Exceptional Circumstances](#)." All cross-border travelers from the State of California into Japan are currently requested to stay for 6 days and the State of Arizona for 3 days at specific facilities designated by the chief of the quarantine station. Those who obtain a negative result of COVID-19 test conducted on the third day and sixth day from the entry into Japan, may leave the facility and are still required to stay for the remaining period of **7 days** after the entry of Japan at places such as their own residence. Notably, the quarantine period has been shortened to 7 days from a previous 10 days. Read about COVID-19 Mitigation Requirements to Enter Japan [HERE](#).

COVID-19 Situation in Japan

(As of Feb. 1, 2022)

	Total No. of COVID-19 Cases	Total No. of Deaths	% of Population Fully Vaccinated (% of boosted)
Japan	2,677,602 (2,117 per 100,000 people)	18,764	79.03% (3.54%)
U.S.	74,941,202 (22,782 per 100,000 people)	886,682	64.53% (26.50%)

Sources: Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine; Nikkei/The Financial Times

[Latest on COVID-19 in Japan: Vaccinations Up](#)

In Japan, over 205 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date to the general public as of Feb. 1, 2022 with 79.03% of the population now fully vaccinated. Japan is currently working to accelerate the administration of booster shots. Currently, only 3.54% of Japan's population has been boosted compared to 26.50% in the US, according to data from Nikkei/The Financial Times. As of Feb. 1, the total number of COVID-19 cases stood at 2,677,602 in Japan, and 74,941,202 in the United States, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.



[2022 MEXT Japanese Studies Students Scholarship](#) [Now Accepting Applications](#)

If you are an undergraduate Japanese studies wishing to strengthen your fluency in Japanese language or culture during one year abroad in Japan, you may be interested in the 2022 MEXT Japanese Studies Students Scholarship. The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles accepts applications for Japanese Government scholarships from candidates who are U.S. citizens and reside or attend universities in Southern California and Arizona only. The deadline (received by) is Friday, February 11, 2022, 4:30 p.m. Click the headline to learn more.



Webinar: "MA in Japanese Film: In Conversation with Film Director Ryusuke Hamaguchi"

On Feb. 1, the fourth and final webinar in JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles' Rethinking of MA Webinar Series will examine the role of MA, or space, in Japanese film. The guest will be filmmaker Ryūsuke Hamaguchi, whose film Drive My Car, is Japan's official entry for Best International Feature Film for Academy Awards 2022 and is now on the Oscars shortlist for this category. [Of note,](#)

[Drive My Car won the Golden Globe Award for Best Picture in the non-English language category.](#) Hamaguchi will join Professors Hitoshi Abe of UCLA and Ken Oshima of Washington University, hosts of the Rethinking of MA series, in an engaging conversation exploring the role of MA in the making of his most recent film Drive My Car, with reference also to some of his earlier works. The webinar will conclude with an audience Q&A.



First Japanese Dual Language Program Opens in LA Unified School District

On Dec. 10, 2021, Consul General MUTO Akira visited Amestoy STEAM Academy & Multilingual/Multicultural Magnet to attend a ceremony celebrating the launch of the first

Japanese Dual Language Program in Los Angeles Unified School District. Under the program, students learn Japanese not as a foreign language, but in a dual language setting where math and other subjects are taught in both languages. At Amestoy, the program welcomed its inaugural Kindergarten class this past August. Starting next year, a new class will be established in the following grade, and eventually the school will offer the dual language program across all grades.



Pasadena Garden Club Members Attend Ikebana Demonstration

On Dec. 10, 2021, Consul General Muto and Mrs. Misako Muto hosted members of the Pasadena Garden Club for an Ikebana flower arrangement demonstration at the Official Residence. Mrs. Muto explained

the principles of Ikebana and created actual arrangements as part of a live demonstration. Guests expressed interest in the different arrangement themes as well as the use of vases and containers based on the seasons. Attendees also marveled at the opportunity to watch a live Ikebana demonstration.



Credit: Sue Hwang

LA City Council Approves Otomisan Japanese Restaurant in Boyle Heights As a Historic-Cultural Monument

The Los Angeles City Council on Jan. 12, 2022 approved the Historic-Cultural Monument listing of the Nishiyama Residence/Otomisan Japanese Restaurant in Boyle Heights. The restaurant, located on First Street, is "significant for its association with early Japanese American settlement patterns in Boyle Heights," according to the Los Angeles Conservancy.



Shochu and Awamori Tasting and Education Event

Although relatively unknown in the US market, Shochu and Awamori are distilled spirits with a long history in Japan, a wide variety of flavors and drinking characteristics, and are incredibly flexible beverages which can be used as mixers or enjoyed simply on their own. This event will cover the creation of these traditional spirits, how they are being served to great acclaim in the US market, and how they might be best paired with foods, as well as other fascinating points of information. The event is to be held on Feb. 17th.



Arizona's Role in Semiconductor Security and Supply

On Feb. 10th, 4:30 pm Phoenix local time, the Thunderbird Graduate School of Global Management will host an in-person discussion on Arizona's growing importance as a semiconductor cluster, and its potential role in securing and stabilizing the global supply chain for these critical components. Supported by the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, and the Global Chamber, we encourage Arizona residents to register and attend in-person, and those outside of the region to follow the event online – both options are free of charge. It is certain to be an informative discussion on a timely and important issue.



Japan Contents Pitch Event

In order to satisfy the insatiable demand for new and unique contents and entertainment properties in Hollywood, and worldwide, the Consulate is cooperating with JETRO Los Angeles in the 3rd Japanese Contents Pitch event, which will be held online at the end of February or early March. Attendees will include representatives from studios, broadcasters, producers and buyers – as well as those involved in the front-lines of production. As in the past, it is anticipated that deals will be inked and interesting Japanese content will be made available to US and global audiences.



Mamoru Hosoda's "Belle" Now Playing in Theaters!

The animated film Belle, directed by Mamoru Hosoda, examines the interchange between reality and virtual worlds through the use of social media. With the online world having an outsized impact on modern life, the film draws attention to the resulting implications. The film is now playing in theaters nationwide. For Los Angeles showtimes, please see [HERE](#).



Credit: Tokyo Broadcasting System Television Inc.

Television Series Screening Held at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles

On Jan 8, a screening event was held at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles for the first episode of *Deep Crime Unit (DCU)*, a new television drama airing on Tokyo Broadcasting System Television Inc. The drama series was co-developed and

jointly produced for the Japanese and global market by TBS; Keshet International, a global production and distribution arm of Israeli media company Keshet Media Group; and Facet4 Media, a television production and distribution company based in Montreal, Canada. The screening event was held simultaneously in Tokyo, Los Angeles and Montreal.



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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