

Japan Focus



*Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
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Prime Minister Attends G7 Summit in Brussels

Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio visited Brussels from March 23-25 to attend the Group of Seven summit and to hold bilateral talks with counterparts including US President

Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Read the G7 Leaders' Statement [HERE](#).



PM Kishida and US Ambassador Emanuel Visit Hiroshima

On March 26 in Hiroshima, Prime Minister Kishida received a courtesy call from US Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel. The two visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial

Museum, laying wreaths to the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims. The prime minister expressed his intention to cooperate with the U.S. to realize a "world without nuclear weapons."



Japan Stands with Ukraine

On March 23, Prime Minister Kishida attended [a virtual address to the Diet](#) delivered by President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine. In response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Japan is taking such measures as providing assistance to the people of Ukraine including the provision of medical equipment and other items. Japan is also imposing sanctions on the assets of people related to the government of Russia. Read about the measures [HERE](#). Also, [Japan is offering emergency humanitarian assistance](#) in Ukraine and neighboring countries.



Guidance on Japan's Border Control Measures Related to COVID-19

Learn more about [border control measures](#) for cross-border travelers and returnees from the US who seek to enter Japan. Read here for [updated information about new visa categories](#) to be accepted. Also, please read about COVID-19 Mitigation Requirements to Enter Japan [HERE](#).

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

In Japan, over 252 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date to the general public as of March 29, 2022 with 79.67% of the population now fully vaccinated. Japan is currently working to accelerate the administration of booster shots. Currently, 39.77% of Japan's population has been boosted compared to 29.20% in the US, according to data from Nikkei/The Financial Times. As of March 29, the total number

of COVID-19 cases stood at 6,406,058 in Japan, and 79,995,485 in the United States, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.

(As of March 29, 2022)

	Total No. of COVID-19 Cases	Total No. of Deaths	% of Population Fully Vaccinated (% of boosted)
Japan	6,406,058 (5,100 per 100,000 people)	27,841	79.67% (39.77%)
U.S.	79,995,485 (24,282 per 100,000 people)	977,687	66.25% (29.20%)

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



Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation on Strengthening Efforts to Combat Climate Change and Economic and Trade Relations Between the Govt of Japan and the State of

California

On March 21, in Sacramento, Ambassador Koji Tomita and Governor Gavin Newsom signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on behalf of the Government of Japan and the State of California. Specific areas of cooperation that are outlined in the MOC include: climate change, trade and investment, renewable energy, energy storage, business

exchange, zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), high-speed rail (HSR) and other passenger rail services, public transportation, and water conservation and management. Also supported are the many southern California collaborative efforts with Japanese firms in building a Hydrogen Society, with ongoing projects and proposals to create a hydrogen value chain, with the objective of fostering a greater hydrogen-energy ecosystem in the United States, and worldwide. Copy of the groundbreaking MOC [HERE](#).



Fall 2021 Decoration Conferred on Mr. Bryan Takeda

On March 17, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles held a conferment ceremony at the Consul General's Official Residence for Fall 2021 Decoration recipient, Mr. Bryan Takeda, President of Nikkei Federation and former

President of Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute. He received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, for his contributions including the introduction of Japanese culture in the US, and for promoting friendly relations between Japan and the United States.

Community Outreach



Japan-Armenia Friendship Event: 30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties

On March 20, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, and Japan Foundation Los Angeles co-organized an event at the Western Diocese hosted by His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian featuring a virtual presentation by Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Armenia Masanori Fukushima and a performance by the Hana Hibiki Duo. Younger generation leaders of both communities represented by Nerouj and the LA Next Generation Japanese American-Yonsei Leaders provided remarks and the toast.



Japan & Black L.A. Initiative: JANM Visit

Black clergy of predominantly African American local churches of the United Methodist Church along with leaders of Japanese and Japanese American organizations recently toured the Japanese American National Museum and engaged in a discussion moderated by Loyola Marymount University professor Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks. This event of the Japan & Black L.A. Initiative aimed to further increase dialogue and strengthen relations between the Japanese and Black communities.



Japan & Black L.A. Initiative: Spring Jazz Night

On March 23, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, and Japan Foundation Los Angeles co-organized an event at the Toshizo Watanabe Culinary Cultural Center featuring the [Yu-Ki Shamisen Jazz Project](#). Los Angeles City Councilmember Nithya Raman provided special remarks, and District Director for California State Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager presented commendations to Consul General Muto and Reverend Mark Nakagawa of the United Methodist Church California Pacific Conference for their role in launching the Japan & Black L.A. Initiative. Guests also enjoyed a specially curated menu by JACCC chef-in-residence Chris Ono featuring traditional African American soul food and Japanese cuisine, and special supporters provided Nankai and Iichiko shochu, Shizuoka and Kumamoto melons, and Kuramoto shaved ice.



3rd Asian Business Leaders Discussion Hosted by WTCLA

On March 22, the World Trade Center Los Angeles hosted the 3rd meeting of the Asian Business Leaders discussion group with a topic of keen interest to all of the different Asian Business communities in southern California, namely, the continuing problems with the global supply chain. This is a topic of particular concern to the international trade sector in southern California, as the twin sea-ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach handle over 40% of the total cargo traffic coming in to the US market from overseas. Top executives from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach were featured presenters, and they

described in detail to the how the situation has been significantly improving, and prospects for the near future. Consul General Muto offered his greetings and strong support for this discussion group, handling issues of universal interest to all of the region's Asian business communities.

Working With the Japanese American Community



Consul General Attends Terasaki Budokan's Ribbon Cutting Celebration

On March 11, Consul General MUTO Akira attended the Terasaki Budokan's Ribbon Cutting Celebration to welcome the long-awaited Grand Opening of the multipurpose facility in the heart of Little Tokyo. Consul General congratulated Terasaki Budokan for its official opening and expressed his hope that it will enhance the vitality of Little Tokyo and downtown Los Angeles by offering a space that fosters a strong sense of unity among diverse communities through shared interests in sports & culture among people of different backgrounds. Read more [about Terasaki Budokan and its grand opening](#).



Japanese American Leadership Delegation Meets in LA

Members of the 2020 Japanese American Leadership Delegation, whose delegation visit to Japan has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, gathered in Los Angeles March 11-12 for a meeting

organized by the U.S.-Japan Council. At the meeting, the delegates met with Los Angeles regional alumni and engaged in discussions regarding the outlook for U.S.-Japan relations in the post-pandemic future.



Mayor Maloney of Alhambra Speaks at LA Next Generation-Yonsei Leaders Gathering

On March 9, the LA Next Generation-Yonsei Leaders Initiative held a new year's party featuring a presentation by

Alhambra Mayor Jeffrey Maloney, serving his second term on the Alhambra City Council and recently appointed as mayor. The Initiative aims to cultivate next generation Japanese American leaders in Los Angeles to be engaged in U.S.-Japan relations and to be a bridge with Japanese counterparts locally and in Japan. Read more about Mayor Maloney [HERE](#).



Young Leaders from Japan and the U.S. - Building Understanding

On March 29, the Japanese American National Museum hosted a virtual event bringing together young leaders from the Japanese business community and the next generation of Japanese-American leaders associated with the “Yonsei Leaders Initiative.” This virtual seminar and discussion event, sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan, focused on building understanding between young Japanese business leaders and their young Japanese American counterparts with an intensive exploration of the overall Japanese American experience, including the history of immigration from Japan, relocation camps during the Second World War, and implications of the Japanese American experience for the current-day.

Entertainment, culture & others



[Consulate Reception Celebrates 'Drive My Car'](#)

On March 28, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles held a reception at the Official Residence of Consul General Muto to celebrate the film 'Drive My Car', which was nominated in four Academy

Award categories, of which it won Best International Feature. Speaking at the reception, Director Ryusuke Hamaguchi expressed his gratitude to the people in Hollywood who have contributed to the promotion of Japanese films.



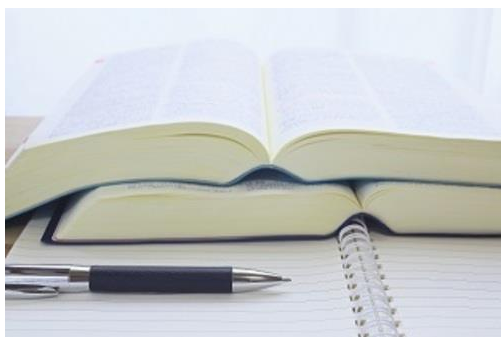
3rd Japan Contents Pitch Event Held

On March 1, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, along with JETRO Los Angeles and the United Talent Agency (UTA), co-hosted the 3rd Japan Contents Pitch event online. After opening remarks by Consul General Muto, Mr. Masi Oka who is also an adviser to this event, was joined by Yomiuri TV, TV Tokyo, Kansai TV, TBS TV, and TV Asahi, to pitch five Japanese TV dramas for adaptation for the U.S. Market. This year's event was marked by an increase in the number of streaming entertainment firms, generally showing a good interest in potentially working with new and fresh contents from Japan. As one example of collaboration that is gaining some wide attention right now, the new series "Tokyo Vice," is being released in both the US and Japan markets by HBO and WOWOW on April 7th – a project led by famed Director/Producer Michael Mann. And between the US and Japan, much more contents collaboration to come!



"Savor Japanese Craft Spirits" Event

On March 14, the Consulate General of Japan and Japan House co-hosted an event to showcase the wide variety of flavors, the history, the production process, and the flexibility of Shochu and Awamori, traditional Japanese spirits. Targeting the beverage and hospitality sectors, this hybrid (in-person and on-line) event began with greetings from Consul General Muto, and featured a variety of information sessions, tastings and mixology know-how, about utilizing these relatively unknown spirits in the US marketplace. Highlighting the event was a novel video module featuring virtual, real-time tours of breweries in Japan, and tastings of product in Los Angeles in conjunction with lectures streamed real-time from Japan.



Supporting Japanese Language Education

In March, students of the Japanese language had many opportunities to showcase their skills. On March 20, the [San Diego Japanese Speech Contest](#) featured high school and college/university students. Meanwhile, the Terasaki Nibei Foundation held its [2nd Japanese Language Contest](#) that featured videos, scripts and essays created by 39 students. Also in March, the Japan America Society of Southern California held its [Japan Bowl Benkyokai 2022](#) over several sessions, with a special Cultural Day session held on March 31.



[Former National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien Gives Special Lecture](#)

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles together with the Los Angeles Consular Corps (LACC) and Japan House Los Angeles hosted the first in-person LACC event since the start of the pandemic by inviting a former National Security Advisor, Amb. Robert O'Brien, to Japan House Los Angeles on Thursday, March 24th.



[RAND Corp. Seminar Explores the Future of U.S.-Japan Space Cooperation](#)

On March 7 and 8, RAND Corp. held a seminar that focused on such themes as "U.S. and Japanese Views of the Future of Space Science and Exploration" and "U.S. and Japanese Views of Space Science Cooperation and the Future Space Economy." Speakers.



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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