

The following is a provisional English translation of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's remarks delivered in Japanese. The provisional translation, prepared by the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, is supplied as a courtesy and may differ from the language interpretation at the meeting.

Meeting with Japanese, Japanese Americans – May 1, 2015

On this occasion of my visit to the United States, I wanted to visit cities beyond Washington, D.C.

As home to the largest Japanese American community in the United States, Los Angeles was a city I absolutely wanted to visit. Japanese Americans are an important link for Japan-U.S. relations. Following a difficult period in Japan-U.S. relations, the Japanese American community's hard work and tireless efforts in the postwar period enabled Japan to win the trust of the U.S. and the world. As Japanese prime minister, I express my heartfelt gratitude.

When my grandfather Nobusuke Kishi visited Los Angeles as prime minister in 1957, he declared the start of a new era in Japan-U.S. relations. The Japan-U.S. relationship is as strong as it is now thanks to the unwavering support of Japanese Americans. As we embark on strengthening our new partnership with the United States, we will need the community's cooperation again. We hope to strengthen bilateral exchanges even further. Again, I express my gratitude and respect for the Japanese American community.