

Japan Focus



*Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
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Phased Measures for Resuming Cross-Border Travel

Japan currently has two frameworks, [Business Track](#) and [Residence Track](#), for entry into Japan by individuals from certain countries/regions where the spread of COVID-19 infections is contained. On Sept. 25, the government announced that holders of statuses of residence of “Student”, “Dependent” and others, in addition to cross-border business travelers of all countries and regions will be incrementally permitted to enter Japan from Oct. 1, 2020. For the latest information about border enforcement measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, please click [HERE](#).



Prime Minister: Japan Aims to Achieve a Carbon Neutral Society By 2050

On Oct. 26, Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihida delivered his first policy speech to the Diet since he took office last month. He addressed COVID-19, noting that Japan will work to prevent a sharp increase in infections, while also resuming social and economic activities. Separately, he noted that Japan aims to achieve a carbon neutral society by 2050. As for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which have been postponed until next year, Suga reiterated that Japan is determined to host the games in a safe and secure manner.



Japan-US Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On Oct. 6, Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu held a Foreign Ministers' meeting with his US counterpart Mike Pompeo. The two shared the view to continue strengthening the Japan-U.S. alliance, which is the cornerstone of peace and stability in the region and the international community, and reaffirmed that continuing coordination among like minded countries including Japan and the U.S. is important for realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific region.



Japan-Australia-India-US Foreign Ministers' Meeting Held

On Oct. 6, Foreign Minister Motegi chaired the second Japan-Australia-India-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, and Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State of the United States, attended the gathering. The four ministers exchanged views on COVID-19 and affirmed their intention to continue their cooperation in the areas of health and hygiene. They also affirmed the importance of broadening cooperation with more countries for the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" as the vision serves for the peace and prosperity of the region.

H₂EM 2020
Hydrogen Energy Ministerial Meeting 2020

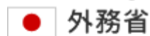
Ministerial Hydrogen Energy Conference

Hosted in Japan

In 2018, Japan convened the world's first Ministerial conference focusing on hydrogen energy and the creation of a Hydrogen Society. The most recent Hydrogen Energy

Ministerial Meeting was held on October 14th, with representation from 23 countries, regions & international organizations, and 2,800 registered participants. Representing the City of Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti highlighted the ongoing cooperation between Los Angeles and Japan in hydrogen energy projects, including the replacement of a coal-burning power station with a clean hydrogen burning turbine; and extensive projects at the Port of Los Angeles to swap out diesel heavy-duty truck and cargo-handling equipment with clean hydrogen fuel cell technology, among other projects.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



[Learn About Japan's Foreign Policy in the](#)

[Diplomatic Bluebook 2020](#)

The Diplomatic Bluebook is an annual report on Japan's Foreign Policy and Activities published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Read the Diplomatic Bluebook 2020, which is available in English, French and Spanish.



[Commendation of the Consul General Conferred on Ms. Sachi Hamai](#)

On Sept. 26, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles conferred the Commendation of the Consul General on Ms. Sachi Hamai, Former Chief Executive Officer of the County of Los Angeles in recognition for her role in elevating the status of Japanese Americans as well as Asian Americans, and her expected continuing contributions to the Japanese American community and Japan-U.S. relations.

[Learn About the JET Program!](#)



The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program is aimed at promoting grass-roots international exchange between Japan and other nations. JET participants are located in every prefecture of Japan and develop strong relationships with their

local communities through foreign language education and international exchange activities. The JET Program will be conducting recruitment virtually in 2020 due to COVID-19. To register for virtual information sessions in Fall 2020, and to learn more about the application and interview timeline, click the title.



Food in the Japanese American Experience

The Japanese American National Museum (JANM), with support from the Consulate General of Japan, is kicking off an exciting series of food events, focusing on the creation of familiar tastes and food experiences, even during periods of deprivation and difficulty when ingredients may

have been hard to obtain. Entitled “A Taste of Home,” the free online events will be hosted in November, December and January, and will explore the importance of food in shaping the JA experience in the US, and will even host demonstration and recipe modules. Be sure to sign up for the first event of this series, November 15th at 2:00 pm PST!



Japan House LA Presents: WINDOWOLOGY Exhibition

The Windowology exhibition that opened on Japan House Los Angeles on Oct. 24 examines the role of windows as cultural objects and the

ways in which they frame our vision and give us unique perspectives on the world. Curated under the direction of architectural historian and critic IGARASHI Tarō, the exhibition features architectural models, drawings, photographs, film, manga, books, crafts, environmental statistics/information and quotes as well as original artwork. Watch [exhibition director Igarashi's interview](#) to learn more about this exciting new exhibition.



Hydrogen Society Explorations in Southern California

Although a relatively small or medium-sized city at 150,000 population, Lancaster, California, is known and has been lauded worldwide for punching well above its weight in its environmental leadership. Solar energy, biogas, and then a more recent area of exploration has been hydrogen. Mayor Rex Parris and Consul General Muto arranged a continuing discussion to share updated information on Japan's activities in this field, hosted at Consul General Muto's residence in early October.



School Visits Program Now Virtual

Teachers! Would you like to let your students learn about Japan, or simply introduce them to another culture? The Consulate General of Japan's School Visits program is now virtual, so it is easier than ever to schedule presentations with schools outside Los Angeles and Orange counties - in Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial counties, and in Arizona! Please see our School Visits flyer by clicking the title. We look forward to virtually visiting your class.

Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles
● 在ロサンゼルス日本国総領事館

Events Calendar

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.

Japanese Gardens and Tea Rooms

We are highlighting Japanese gardens/tea rooms in our jurisdiction. Please check each location's websites for operating hours and current offerings.

[Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Teahouse Garden](#)

The garden features an authentic Japanese teahouse, which was named ShinKanAn "Look Through the Heart" by the 15th Grand Master of the Urasenke Tea School, according to the garden's website. Click the title to learn more!





The Japanese Garden at Descanso Gardens

Located in La Cañada Flintridge, the Japanese Garden at Descanso Gardens opened in 1966. The garden includes camellias, black pines, Japanese maples and cherry trees as well as features found in many different styles of gardens in Japan.



Credit: Descanso Gardens

Culture: "*Shokuyoku no aki*" (Autumn Appetite)



After the hot summer months, the change in season ushers in cooler temperatures and a reason to eat seasonal delicacies that are at their peak in the autumn, such as *sanma* (Pacific saury), chestnuts and *matsutake* mushrooms. The year's rice crop is also harvested in the autumn, making it a great time to enjoy rice with chestnuts or with grilled *matsutake* mushrooms.

<http://www.la.us.emb-japan.go.jp> | info@ls.mofa.go.jp
Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles