

Japan Focus



*Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
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His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday: Feb. 23

To commemorate His Majesty the Emperor's birthday on Sunday, Feb. 23, the following day of Feb. 24 was designated a national holiday in Japan this year. To learn more about the Imperial Family, please see the Imperial Household Agency's website by clicking on the headline.



Prime Minister Abe Attends Departure Ceremony for the Japan Maritime Self- Defense Force

On Feb. 2, Prime Minister ABE Shinzo attended a departure ceremony for the

Deployment Surface Force for Information Gathering at Japan Maritime Self-Defense

Force Yokosuka District. To read his address and learn more, please click on the link above:



[US Congressional Study Group on Japan Pays Courtesy Call to Prime Minister Abe](#)

On Feb. 18, the Prime Minister welcomed a delegation of the U.S. Congressional Study Group on Japan, to his office. He expressed his appreciation to U.S. Congresswoman Diana DeGette, Co-Chair of the Study Group, and welcomed the delegation to Japan.



[Foreign Minister Motegi Attends 56th Munich Security Conference](#)

On Feb. 15, Minister of Foreign Affairs MOTEGI Toshimitsu visited Germany to attend the 56th Munich Security Conference. On the sidelines of the conference, he attended a trilateral meeting with his U.S. and South Korean counterparts, as well as bilateral meetings with fellow foreign ministers from South Korea, Iran, China and Russia.

[Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Updates](#)



Read the latest information from Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare about the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The

Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles also provides updates about restrictions and other information on our website [HERE](#).



Japan, U.S. Hold Annual Bilateral Iron Fist at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force participated in Operation Iron Fist with U.S.

Sailors and Marines from Jan. 17 to Feb. 21. Training was held at Camp Pendleton, San Clemente Island and on the USS Pearl Harbor and USS Portland. The joint exercise underscored the strength of Japan-U.S. ties, and the importance of the Japan-U.S. alliance.



Special Presentation At JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles: "Innovative Cybernics Technologies to Address Societal Challenges - The Role of Cybernics to Create a Future 'Society 5.0'"

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles are co-hosting the presentation, "Innovative Cybernics Technologies to Address Societal Challenges -- The Role of Cybernics to Create a Future 'Society 5.0,'" featuring University of Tsukuba professor and Cyberdyne Inc. founder Dr. Yoshiyuki Sankai, who has created innovative Cybernics Technologies to improve/treat/support/expand the function of the brain-nerve systems, physiological systems and physical systems of patients or elderly persons. He also has been promoting the social implementation of these Cybernics technologies in order to create a Future "Society 5.0." Click the link to find out more and to register for the event, which will be held on Sunday, March 1 from 1:00 - 3:30pm.



Conferment Ceremony for Ms. Debra Nakatomi

On Nov. 3, 2019, the Government of Japan announced the recipients of its Fall 2019 Decorations and within this Consulate General's jurisdiction Ms. Debra Nakatomi received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. The Conferment Ceremony for Ms. Nakatomi was held on February 7, 2020 at 2pm at the Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan and was attended by approximately 45 guests,

including Ms. Nakatomi's family and friends..

Celebrating Japanese Craft Spirits



The Consulate General of Japan and JETRO Los Angeles jointly organized in February a month long promotional event, “Japanese Craft Spirits Month”, to introduce Japanese traditional distilled spirits “SHOCHU” & “AWAMORI. The event aimed to create interest among consumers and to introduce these spirits as a new option for restaurants, bars and retailers, including ideas for mixing and cocktails.



Professor Gives Talk "Japan's Indo-Pacific Strategy in the Emerging U.S.-China Rivalry"

Keio University Professor of International politics HOSOYA Yuichi gave a special presentation on Jan. 17 entitled “Japan’s Indo-Pacific Strategy in the Emerging U.S.-China Rivalry,” which was co-presented by the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. Professor Hosoya spoke on Japan’s foreign policy in relation to the U.S. and China with a focus on the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) strategy.



Japanese Culture: Setsubun

The term *setsubun* originally referred to the days marking the change from one season to the next, but today only the day before the beginning of spring in the traditional Japanese calendar is referred by that

name. *Setsubun* falls on either February 3 or 4, depending on the year. On the night of *Setsubun*, many households will throw roasted soybeans all about the room, shouting "*Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!*" meaning "Out with the goblins and in with fortune!" After the bean throwing is over, everyone eats the same number of beans as their own age. It is believed that by doing so, people will be free of sickness during that year.

Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles

● 在ロサンゼルス日本国総領事館

Sign Up for Event Info!

If you would like to be added to the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles' mailing list for events that we organize or co-host, please email us at info@ls.mofa.go.jp!



Japan Joins the World in Mourning the Loss of Basketball Icon Kobe Bryant

Basketball fans in Japan are mourning the loss of basketball legend Kobe Bryant, who died on Jan. 26, 2020 in a helicopter crash along with eight others including his 13-year old daughter Gianna. Kobe was beloved in Japan, inspiring basketball fans of all ages. The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles has seen firsthand the impact Kobe had

on the city of Los Angeles and his numerous fans, and offers its condolences to all of the families impacted by the crash.

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