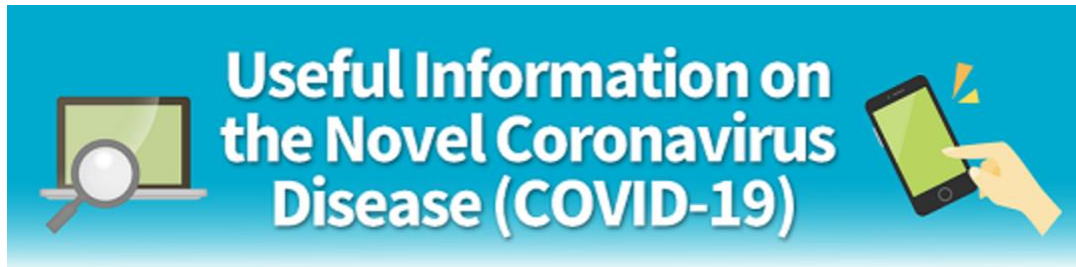


Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
Japan Information & Culture Center
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Japan's Government Response to COVID-19

Please click on each link below for the latest initiatives and efforts undertaken by the Japanese government to address the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

- [Prime Minister's Office](#) (latest information, Prime Minister Abe's press conference)
- [Measures implemented by the Japanese government](#)
- [About the Coronavirus Disease \(Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare\)](#)
- [Q&A on COVID-19 \(Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare\)](#)
- [COVID-19 information \(Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles\)](#)



Olympics Torch Relay in Japan to Begin in Fukushima on March 26

The Olympic flame for the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic games was lit in Greece

on March 12. The flame will travel to Japan, where it will begin a 121-day journey that

begins on March 26 in Fukushima before traveling to all 47 prefectures. See the schedule of the torch relay at the link above.



[Fukushima Hydrogen Energy Research Field \(FH2R\) Launched!](#)

The opening ceremony for the Fukushima Hydrogen Energy Research Field (FH2R) was held on March 7. Japan will utilize

hydrogen produced at FH2R at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, including fuel cells used at the Olympic/Paralympic Villages, and for fuel cell vehicles and buses.



[13th Japan International MANGA Award Ceremony Held in Tokyo](#)

On Feb. 18, the 13th Japan International MANGA Award Ceremony was held in Tokyo to honor manga artists. A total of 345

entries from 66 countries and regions were fielded for the Japan International MANGA Award, which was launched by then Foreign Minister ASO Taro in 2007. Learn more at the link.

[Toothbrushes Donation to Glendale by Higashi-Osaka's Bio-Epoch](#)

On March 10, Consul General Muto announced the donation of 2,000 toothbrushes to the Glendale Unified School District during its Board of Education meeting. President Isao



Kuwamoto of Bio-Epoch, inspired by the 60th anniversary of the Glendale-Higashi-Osaka sister city relationship in 2020, made the donation of special nano technology toothbrushes which will be distributed to all first graders of the Glendale Unified School

District.



Port of LA, Nagoya Port Sign New Cooperation Pact

In commemoration of 60 years of Sister City relations between Nagoya and Los Angeles, last year the Mayors of the two cities agreed to create a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) focusing on

collaboration between the Port of Nagoya and the Port of Los Angeles in a variety of areas. On March 6th, the leadership of the two ports announced the signing of this new MOU, aiming at the further exchange of information on projects focused on operational efficiencies and environmental sustainability. It is hoped that the new MOU will help advance City of Los Angeles' efforts to decarbonize Port of LA operations, as well as other long-term goals.

Innovative Cybernics Technologies to Address Societal Challenges -- The Role of Cybernics to Create a Future 'Society 5.0'

On March 1, 2020, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles co-hosted a special presentation by University of Tsukuba professor and



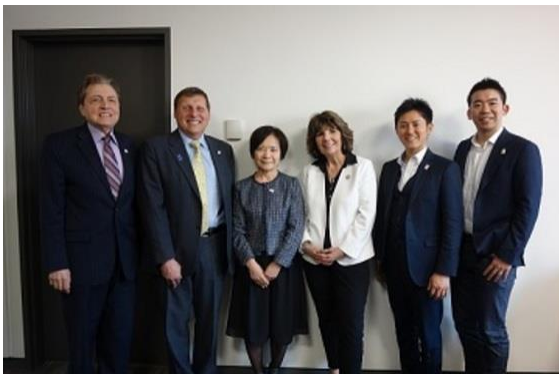
Cyberdyne Inc. founder Dr. Yoshiyuki Sankai on "Innovative Cybernics Technologies to Address Societal Challenges -- The Role of Cybernics to Create a Future 'Society 5.0.'"



Japan House Presentation: Sharing Japanese American History in Japan

On February 12, President & CEO of Go For Broke National Education Center Dr. Mitchell T. Maki gave a special presentation at Japan House, recounting his recent trip

to Japan sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Dr. Maki traveled to Tokyo where he gave presentations at academic institutions and also to Hiroshima and his ancestral home of Yamaguchi Prefecture. Read an essay of his reflections by clicking the headline.



Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan Delegation Visit to Los Angeles

The "Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan" program came to Southern California on Feb. 13-14 as part of a speaking tour that also took

delegation members to Colorado and Northern California. The members met with

Glendale City Council members, and held special presentations to such audiences as local Rotary Club members and middle school students studying Japanese. They also held an event at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. Launched in June 2014, the program is a project of the Prime Minister's Office that aims to engage new audiences in the Japan-U.S. friendship through panel discussions, presentations, roundtables and other exchanges on a grassroots level.



Japanese Culture: *Hina* Festival (March 3)

March 3 is *Hina* Matsuri (Doll Festival or Girls' Festival), when people pray for the happiness and healthy growth of girls. Families with young daughters mark this day by setting up a display of dolls inside the house. They offer rice crackers and other food to the dolls. Most families take their beautiful collection of dolls out of the closet around mid-February and put it away again as soon as Hina Matsuri is over. This is because of an old superstition that families that are slow in putting back the dolls have trouble marrying off their daughters.

