



Prime Minister Attends Video Conference to Discuss the Situation in Ukraine

On April 19, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio attended a summit-level video conference to discuss the situation in Ukraine with leaders of such countries as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy and Poland.



Foreign Minister Hayashi Attends NATO and G7 Foreign Ministers' Meetings

On April 7, Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa met with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ministers of foreign affairs in Belgium. He also attended a Group of Seven (G7) Foreign Ministers' meeting, which was held just prior to the NATO meeting. On the sidelines of NATO and G-7 gatherings, Minister Hayashi held bilateral meetings with counterparts, [including U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken](#).



Japan Stands with Ukraine

On April 26, [Prime Minister Kishida held a summit telephone talk with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#).

Kishida explained that in response to the Ukrainian government's request, Japan has increased financial assistance from US\$100 million to US\$300

million to support the economy, and that Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) equipment, such as small drones and protective masks and suits against chemical weapons have been provided.



Consul General's Commendation Conferred on Mr. Yuji Takahashi

On April 25, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles presented the Commendation of the Consul General to Mr. Yuji Takahashi. The Commendation of the Consul General was

established to recognize an individual or group who has helped advance the mission of the Consulate General and has provided significant contributions to mutual understanding and promoting friendship between Japan and the United States. Mr. Takahashi has contributed unparalleled cooperation with the local community and Japanese companies for 27 years since 1995. In particular, as Executive Director of the Japanese Business Association (JBA) since 2007, he has contributed to the cooperation with the local community, JBA membership companies, and government officials for 14 years.



"Japanese Food Export Support Platform" Established

On April 26th, the world's first "Japanese Food Export Support Platform" was established in the United States. The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and the JETRO Los Angeles office will work together to provide professional and continuous support for the export efforts of Japanese food products with this organization. At the ceremony, the launch of this export support platform in the United States, and its immediate activities, was announced, with Consul General Akira Muto, and Atsushi Suginaka, the Export Promotion Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in Los Angeles. Confirmed that Japanese food-related organizations and JETRO Los Angeles office will sign the "Memorandum for Expansion of Japanese Food" (MOU), and that the public and private sectors will work together to promote Japanese food in order to support exports.

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 270 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date to the general public as of April 28, 2022 with 80.20% of the population now fully vaccinated. Currently, 52.18% of Japan's population has been boosted compared to 30.20% in the US, according to data from Nikkei/The Financial Times. As of April 28, the total number of COVID-19 cases stood at 7,767,997 in Japan, and 81,189,379 in the United States, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.

(As of April 28, 2022)

	Total No. of COVID-19 Cases	Total No. of Deaths	% of Population Fully Vaccinated (% of boosted)
Japan	7,767,997 (6,175 per 100,000 people)	29,469	80.20% (52.18%)
U.S.	81,189,379 (24,654 per 100,000 people)	992,740	66.62% (30.20%)

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



[Applications for MEXT Scholarships Now Being](#)

[Accepted](#)

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles is now accepting applications for the 2023 Research Students Scholarship, 2023 Undergraduate Students Scholarship, and 2023 Specialized Training College Students Scholarship. Please click on the headline to learn more.



[Application for the 16th Japan International Manga Award Now Available](#)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs founded the International Manga Award in 2007 to expand international exchange and mutual understanding through Manga culture. The

Application period is from April 15, 2022 to July 8, 2022. Click the title to learn more about the application! For more information about the award, click [HERE](#).

Community Outreach



[1st Valley Asian Cultural Festival](#)

On May 7, the 1st Valley Asian Cultural Festival will be held from 10am-4pm at Pierce College in Woodland Hills. The festival will feature food, music, dance, art, performances and more. Katori Shinto Ryu will perform authentic samurai martial arts and the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles will also have a booth!

Working With the Japanese American Community



AJC/JACCC Event - Building Bridges: Japanese and Jewish American Experiences

On April 26, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) / Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) Event- Building Bridges: Japanese and Jewish American Experiences was held at Toshizo Watanabe Culinary Cultural Center, JACCC. This event aimed to bring together younger generation leaders of Jewish and Japanese American communities. At the event, Patricia Wyatt, President of JACCC, Marcie Goldstein, LA Co-Chair of AJC and Consul General Muto Akira gave remarks. Consul General Muto welcomed the efforts of both organizations to reach out to future generations and strengthen the relations between people and nations of goodwill in his remarks.



LA Next Generation Japanese American Leaders - Politics Roundtable

On April 14, the politics subgroup of the LA Next Generation Japanese American Leaders held a roundtable discussion with California Special Assistant Attorney General James

Toma at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. Mr. Toma currently serves as a legal and policy advisor to California State Attorney General Rob Bonta on health matters and as lecturer

at the UCLA School of Law. Consul General MUTO Akira also attended the roundtable and exchanged views with the participants, which included Jeff Maloney of the City of Alhambra and newly appointed Trustee Dr. Kelsey Lino of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees.



[Kyary Pamyu Pamyu Brings "Local Power Japan" Project to Los Angeles](#)

On April 19, Japanese singer, model and fashion icon Kyary Pamyu Pamyu, who is often associated with Japan's *kawaii* culture and Harajuku, brought her "LOCAL POWER JAPAN" project to Los Angeles, with a focus on Little Tokyo. Kyary worked with Little Tokyo businesses Bunkado, Café Dulce, Fugetsu-Do, and Okayama Kobo Bakery & Café to create collaborative items. She visited each location to showcase each item and to speak with business owners. Later in the evening, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles hosted a reception at the Consul General's Official Residence to highlight the collaboration between Kyary's "Local Power Japan" project and Little Tokyo. The reception also welcomed members of the Los Angeles Next-Generation Japanese American Yonsei Leaders Initiative Entertainment Sub-Group, who moderated the program and participated in a panel discussion.

Entertainment, culture & others



[Event Explores 'Tampopo' With Film's Music Director Kunihiro Murai](#)

On April 23, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles held an event that explored the 1985 Japanese film *Tampopo*, directed by Juzo Itami, with a talk by music composer Kunihiro Murai, who served as the music

director of the film. After Mr. Murai's moderated talk, the film was screened and guests enjoyed ramen.



Working With Local Schools

On April 1, twenty students of Whitney High School in Cerritos, California, removed their shoes and stepped onto eight tatami mats arranged as a tea room in a classroom. This was the first meeting of an after-school Japanese traditional tea club that was launched as the result of the efforts of the Japanese community, including the Omotesenke Domonkai

Southern California Region and the Japan Business Association of Southern California.



Separately, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles visited four schools in our region. Covered topics included school life in Japan, as well as demonstrations of Japanese calligraphy, Ikebana flower arrangement and Okinawan dance.



[UCLA Anderson Forecast - Foreign Direct Investment in Orange County](#)

On April 27, the Blue Ribbon Forecast project from the UCLA Anderson School of Business presented their latest forecast in Orange County, focusing on that region's economic performance, near-term prospects and the real estate market. In addition, this year's OC Forecast also explored the topic of Foreign Direct Investment and what it means for the county. With Japan as the largest FDI partner to the county, Consul General Muto offered remarks highlighting the long history of collaboration and future opportunities. Led by private sector panelists from Japan, Canada and Taiwan; and joined by leadership from the World Trade Center of Los Angeles, this fascinating discussion on FDI trends in California and Orange County can be viewed by clicking the title.



['Tokyo Vice' An Example of Contents Collaboration in Japan](#)

A growing number of streaming entertainment firms are increasingly 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' has been released in both the US and Japan markets by HBO and WOWOW on April 7th.



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:



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