

# Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles  
Japan Information & Culture Center  
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Credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office

## Prime Minister Kishida, US

### President Biden Meet in Tokyo

On May 23, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio met with US President Joseph Biden, Jr., who was visiting Japan for the first time as president. The two leaders affirmed the Japan-U.S. relationship, noting that it is "the cornerstone of a free and open Indo-Pacific region." Read the Japan-U.S.

Joint Leaders' Statement [HERE](#).



## Quad Leaders' Meeting Held

On May 24, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio hosted the [Quad Leaders' Meeting in Tokyo](#), meeting with his counterparts from Australia, India and the US. The leaders discussed such issues as the situation in Ukraine and its impact on the Indo-Pacific as well as climate change, cybersecurity and infrastructure

cooperation.



## Foreign Minister Hayashi Attends G7 Meeting in Germany

On May 12-14, Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa attended the Group of Seven Foreign Ministers' meeting in Germany. On the sidelines of this gathering, he held bilateral meetings with counterparts from Moldova, Germany, Ukraine, UK, Canada, and France.



## Japan Stands with Ukraine

Japan continues to show its support for Ukraine. On May 9, [Prime Minister Kishida attended the Group of Seven leaders' video conference](#), which also included the participation of Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The G7 leaders cited their "full solidarity and support for Ukraine's defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity." Read the G7 leaders statement [HERE](#).

## 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](#). For frequently asked questions, please click [HERE](#).

## Latest on COVID-19 in Japan: Vaccinations Up

In Japan, over 278 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date to the general public as of May 23, 2022 with 80.60% of the population now fully vaccinated. Currently, 57.55% of Japan's population has been boosted compared to 30.90% in the US, according to data from Nikkei/The Financial Times. As of May 23, the total number of COVID-19 cases stood at 8,614,387 in Japan, and 83,281,329 in the United States, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.

(As of May 23, 2022)

	Total No. of COVID-19 Cases	Total No. of Deaths	% of Population Fully Vaccinated (% of boosted)
Japan	8,614,387 (6,826 per 100,000 people)	30,305	80.60% (57.55%)
U.S.	83,281,329 (25,290 per 100,000 people)	1,002,173	67.05% (30.90%)

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



## Statement on the Passing of Secretary Norman Y. Mineta

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles was deeply saddened by the news of Secretary

Norman Y. Mineta's passing on May 3. Click the link to read the consulate's statement.

## Community Outreach



### 1st Valley Asian Cultural Festival

On Saturday, May 7, the 1st Valley Asian Cultural Festival organized by the West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce was held at Pierce College in Woodland Hills, CA. The festival introduced different Asian cultures through dance, music, food, art and other offerings. The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles set up an booth at the festival and provided information about its affiliated programs such as the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) and the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho, or MEXT) Scholarship program.



### Japan Job Training Program Launch Event



An entirely new initiative has been launched in cooperation with the Los Angeles Urban League, the Japan Business Association, Cal State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), and the many Japan-affiliated companies joining the effort called the Japan Job Training Program (JJT). Partnering with CSUDH under JJT from the Japan-affiliated business community were, All Nippon Airways (ANA), Mitsubishi Electric US, Manufacturers Bank, Suntory, Redac Gateway Hotel, and Sony Pictures (There are 5 other companies which joined JJT without partnering with CSUDH). The JJT aims to open new opportunities for students at CSUDH, including internships or micro-internships at Japan-affiliated companies in southern California, engage new curriculums at CSUDH for R&D and product developments to better prepare students for new jobs in the future at CSUDH, etc. Congressmember Karen Bass and Ambassador Michael Lawson, Consul General Akira Muto, President of the LA Urban League, joined CSUDH President Thomas Parham in offering remarks, along with many other distinguished guests.



## Japan & Black L.A. Initiative: A

### Conversation with Senator

### Bradford

On May 14, 2022, California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) and the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles co-sponsored an event at CSUDH featuring California State Senator Steven Bradford and a panel discussion with CSUDH President Dr. Thomas Parham, Africana Studies Department Chair Dr. Donna Nicol, and

Consul General MUTO Akira. Video is available [HERE](#).



## Asian American Communities of Los Angeles: Working Together, Standing Strong

In celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles in collaboration with the Little Tokyo Community Council held a special event on May 31 at the JACCC featuring a panel discussion exploring Asian community dialogue and engagement.

## **Working With the Japanese American Community**



## Consul General Speaks at Opening Reception for New JANM Exhibition

Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles MUTO Akira made a speech at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM)'s opening reception for its new exhibition "BeHere/1942: A New Lens on the Japanese American Incarceration" on Friday, May 6, 2022. Consul General Muto congratulated JANM on its 30th anniversary and the opening of the new exhibition. The exhibition mobilizes a variety of media forms to let visitors engage in new ways with this dark historical moment such as cutting-edge augmented reality (AR) technology, which invites visitors to become photographers themselves, actually participating in the scene.



## LA Next Generation Japanese American Leaders: Women's Leadership Event

On May 11, the diversity/women's empowerment subgroup of the LA Next Generation Japanese American Leaders held a networking event with a special presentation via livestream from Japan by Ms. Megumi Ishimoto, the Director of the non-profit organization Women's Eye.



## Little Tokyo Sparkle

About 200 volunteers participated in the clean-up operation and engaged in various cleaning activities such as washing windows, sweeping the sidewalks, collecting trash, scraping off gum, and removing stickers and graffiti. Consul General MUTO Akira and other Consulate staff members took part in "Little Tokyo Sparkle," a community clean-up operation, on May 14.



## Japanese American National Museum 30th Anniversary Benefit

The Japanese American National Museum (JANM) 30th Anniversary Benefit was held on Saturday, April 30, 2022, at InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown.

Consul Kurihara read out a message on behalf of Consul General of Japan MUTO Akira at the event and congratulated JANM on 30 years of groundbreaking achievements. Read the text of Consul General MUTO's greeting [HERE](#).

## Hydrogen News



### Japan Green Tech at Upcoming VerdeXchange Conference (June 19-22)

Commencing with the traditional kick-off reception hosted by the Consul General of Japan, global firms and leaders in the green technology and policy space will gather for the 15th Annual VerdeXchange Conference in Los Angeles. Consistently one of the largest and most influential meetings of companies, policymakers and environmental visionaries in the western US, this year's conference also features a particular emphasis on hydrogen energy technology, with many companies from Japan bringing their particular expertise to the discussion on that quickly growing category. Read more information on the VerdeXchange, including videos of panels from previous years, and registration information by clicking the title.





## The Quad Nations Agree on Hydrogen for the Indo-Pacific

On May 24 at the Quad Nations Summit in Tokyo, the Quad members (Japan, USA, India and Australia) agreed to move forward on various activities centering on enhancing research and overall prospects of hydrogen as clean energy source. Cooperation on research and solutions deployment in hydrogen energy to fuel ports operations, and measures to support this rapidly growing energy sector overall, are showcased within this agreement. Yet another strong indicator of the promise of the hydrogen energy sector among Quad members, and worldwide.



## City of Lancaster Deepens Hydrogen Collaboration with Japan

On May 7, Choshu Industries Corporation (CIC) and the City of Lancaster signed an MOU formalizing collaboration on the next stages of Lancaster becoming America's first Hydrogen City. Already America's first "Net Zero Emissions City", Lancaster is taking the next step towards hydrogen energy resources with the Choshu Industry's on-site hydrogen generation technology and fuel cell power station to allow clean hydrogen energy to be utilized for both municipal buildings and a planned hydrogen fuel cell powered municipal automobile fleet. The CIC technology will be incorporated into the Green Energy Management (GEM) system, which is key in bringing Lancaster to the next stage of sustainability and emissions reduction. Learn more about this collaboration, click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

# Entertainment, culture & others



## California-Japan Sister Cities 2022 Spring Networking

### Event Held

On Friday, May 13, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and California-Japan Sister Cities Network (CJSCN) co-hosted the California-Japan Sister Cities 2022 Spring Networking Event at Consul General MUTO Akira's Official Residence. After Consul General Muto and CJSCN President Megumi Mizutani gave greetings, Los Angeles City Council Member and Sister Cities International Board Member Joe Buscaino and President of Sister Cities International Southern California Chapter Anthony Al-Jaime offered congratulatory remarks.



## "Chasing the Eccentrics: Takashi Murakami in Conversation with Etsuko Price" Held

On May 20, 2022, Consul General MUTO Akira attended a special event at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles featuring a conversation between Japanese artist Mr. Takashi Murakami, and Japanese art collector Mrs. Etsuko Price. The event "Chasing the Eccentrics: Takashi Murakami in Conversation with Etsuko Price" was co-organized by JAPAN House and The Broad, and held in conjunction with the May 21 opening of the special exhibition "Takashi Murakami: Stepping on the Tail of a Rainbow" at The Broad.



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](mailto:info@ls.mofa.go.jp)

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