

Japan Focus



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

Mourning the Passing of Prime Minister ABE Shinzo

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles mourns the sudden passing of former Prime Minister ABE Shinzo.

Read Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio's statement [HERE](#).

The Consulate General of Japan will set up a book of condolence, which will be available on both **Monday, July 11, and Tuesday, July 12 from 10:00am-12:00pm and**

2:00pm-4:00pm at the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, 17th Floor lobby (350 South Grand Ave., Suite

1700, Los Angeles, CA 90071). For more information, please click the headline.



Credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office

Prime Minister Kishida Attends G7, NATO Summits

On June 26, Prime Minister Kishida attended the G7 Summit in Elmau, Germany. He also held bilateral meetings with his fellow G7 leaders, [including US President Joe Biden](#).

Next, he attended the NATO 2022 Summit held June 28-30 in Spain, becoming the first Japanese prime minister to attend a NATO meeting.



Japan Elected as UN Security Council Non-Permanent Member

On June 9, was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at the elections of the UN General Assembly and will serve a two-year term in the UNSC starting from January 1, 2023. Japan will assume membership on the UNSC for the 12th time since joining the UN in 1956, which is more than any other UN Member State. Japan will aim to maintain and strengthen the international order based on the rule of law, while cooperating in order for the UNSC to fulfill its expected role, through close communication and careful dialogue with other Member States, according to a statement issued by Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa.



Japan Stands with Ukraine

Japan continues to show its support for Ukraine by providing emergency humanitarian assistance and financial support to the country. Learn more by clicking the headline.

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 [information about visa categories](#) that are currently 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 284 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date to the general public as of June 27, 2022 with 80.87% of the population now fully vaccinated. Currently, 61.35% of Japan's population has been boosted compared to 31.60% in the US, according to data from Nikkei/The Financial Times. As of June 27, cumulative COVID-19 cases totaled 9,241,386 in Japan, and 86,967,639 in the United States, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.

(As of June 27, 2022)

	Total No. of COVID-19 Cases	Total No. of Deaths	% of Population Fully Vaccinated (% of boosted)
Japan	9,241,386 (7,314 per 100,000 people)	31,125	80.87% (61.35%)
U.S.	86,967,639 (26,427 per 100,000 people)	1,015,938	67.36% (31.60%)

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



(U.S. Space Force photo by Van Ha)

Consul General Visits Los Angeles Air Force Base

On June 13, Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Akira Muto visited Los Angeles Air Force Base to discuss U.S-Japan collaboration in space capability development and areas of future cooperation with SSC (Space Systems Command) Commander Lt. Gen. Michael A. Guetlein. They also discussed Japan's innovative space development, as well as Japan's public and private sector efforts to contribute to the development of U.S space systems.



Consul General Outlines Hydrogen Society Plan for College Professors

On June 16, Consul General Muto spoke to more than a dozen state college professors from around the country on Japan's efforts to build a hydrogen society by 2030 and the Japan-U.S. Competitiveness and Resilience (CoRe) Partnership. The presentation was an invited lecture by the Japan Studies Institute (officially titled "Incorporating Japanese Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum") of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).



Reception Held for Celebrating the Inaugural Irene Hirano Inouye Memorial Award

On June 3, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies held a reception, "The Irene Hirano Inouye Memorial Award," at the Consul General of Japan's Official Residence, as a event

to celebrate the 30th founding anniversary of Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies. The award's first honoree was Indra Levy, Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Stanford University, who was honored for her contributions in academic research, but also for her tremendous contributions in the field of Japanese language education for Japanese studies students through the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language (IUC).

Community Outreach



Credit: Rafu Shimpo

CG Muto Attends Los Angeles Urban League's 'A Century of Service'

On June 30, Consul General MUTO attended the L.A. Urban League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Annual Awards Dinner 'A Century of Service,' where he delivered remarks about the Japan & Black LA Initiative, which aims to bring the Japanese and Black communities together, and seeks to heal divisions in the US by addressing

social justic issues in the region. Read his remarks [HERE](#).

Working With the Japanese American Community



Celebrating Japanese Heritage Night at Dodger Stadium

On June 15, the Los Angeles Dodgers hosted Japanese Heritage Night at Dodger

Stadium. [Consul General Muto](#) threw the [honorary first pitch](#) to mark Japanese Heritage Night, which paid tribute to the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and the 150th anniversary of U.S.-Japan Baseball diplomacy.



Credit: Rafu Shimpo

Deputy Consul General Helps Celebrate Reopening of Pioneer Center Classes

On June 4, Deputy Consul General AOSHIMA Naoshige attended a luncheon at Quiet Cannon hosted by Japanese Community Pioneer Center (JCPC) to celebrate their reopening of

classes after two years of closure due to COVID-19. JCPC is a non-profit senior citizens service organization that provides a variety of classes to Japanese seniors. Mr. AOSHIMA congratulated the center and participants, and appreciated their tremendous contribution to the Japanese community in LA.



Credit: Mika Sano

Luncheon Recognizes Fall 2021 Decoration Recipients

On June 5, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California held a special luncheon to honor Fall 2021 Decoration recipients David Ono and Bryan Takeda. Consul General Muto spoke at the luncheon, acknowledging their contributions to

the relationship between Japan and the U.S.



JACCC Gala Theme Focuses on Gratitude

On June 23, the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) held its 41st Anniversary Celebration & Awards Dinner at the JACCC Noguchi Plaza. Consul General

MUTO Akira attended and gave remarks at the celebration and awards dinner, which was themed “Kansha: An Appreciation for the Past, Present, and Future.” Read his remarks [HERE](#).



Celebrating the Life of Secretary Norman Mineta

On June 25, Consul General Muto attended the Norman Y. Mineta Celebration of Life event held at the Japanese American National Museum. In his remarks at the event, Consul General Muto cited the late Secretary Mineta's strong impact on U.S.-Japan

relations and how he greatly advanced the stature of Japanese Americans in the U.S. Read the full text of his remarks [HERE](#).

Hydrogen, Tech & Investment News



[The 15th Annual VerdeXchange Conference Wrap-up!](#)

The Consulate has been an active supporter of the VerdeXchange Conference since its inception, and this year Consul General Muto hosted the annual kick-off reception on Sunday June 19th for scores of VIP attendees, including US Congressman Mike Levin, State Senator Robert Hertzberg, California Air Resources Board Chair Liane Randolph, California Energy Commission Vice-Chair Siva Gunda, and many other esteemed guests too numerous to list. Japanese companies were featured at the reception and the VerdeXchange Conference in Los Angeles over the next two days (June 20-21), with a special emphasis on the activities of the Japan Hydrogen Forum members, working here in the US to establish a viable hydrogen energy sector and a Hydrogen Society. Conference proceedings and videos of panel discussions will be available at the [VerdeXchange website](#) soon. Also featured at the VerdeXchange was a new video produced by the Japanese Consulate, describing recent progress and projects on hydrogen energy in southern California, in collaboration with Japanese companies leading these efforts – see video [HERE](#). The hydrogen energy video is one of five recently produced videos detailing activities and the constructive role Japanese companies are playing in the regional economy and society. See all five of these new videos [HERE](#).



Select LA Investment Summit Highlights Japan's Foreign Investment

Consul General Muto joined the SelectLA Investment Summit to offer his views on the decarbonizing of the global economy, from Japan's perspective, joining the Consuls General of the United Kingdom and Mexico in that discussion. [In addition, the annually updated report on Foreign Direct Investment in California, Southern California and Los Angeles County was released](#), showing Japan still in the top slot as largest investor nation. Japanese FDI creates an estimated 105,053 direct jobs in California statewide, with an estimated annual payroll of over \$10 billion. In Southern California alone, Japanese investment creates an estimated 74,486 direct jobs, at an annual payroll of over \$7.4 billion.

THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES



LA-Nagoya Sister Ports Hold 2nd Annual Sustainability Conference

Guided by the MOU of March 2020 signed by the Sister Ports of Los Angeles and Nagoya, on June 15th 2022, the 2nd Annual Sustainability Conference was convened virtually, with top leadership of the respective ports discussing their continued cooperative efforts on ports automation and sustainability, including the effort to decarbonize ports activities with hydrogen energy resources. Consul General Muto offered remarks at the conference, followed by intensive discussions and progress reports on the many important areas of collaboration undertaken by the Sister Ports.

Entertainment, culture & others



School Visits Program Brings Japanese Music to Students

About 80 San Diego-area young people enjoyed beautiful Japanese music and learned about Japan on June 8 through a special program featuring the Southern California Koto Ensemble

led by performer and teacher Mrs. Yuki Easter. The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and the San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Affiliation (SDYSCA) jointly arranged three hour-long school visits. In May, the Consulate's School Visits Program also brought Japanese music to the ears of local students when Tsugaru Shamisen player Mike Penny of the Japan Foundation in Los Angeles shared with art students at Gage Middle School in Los Angeles.



18th Annual All-USA High School Japanese Speech Contest Held

On June 5, the All-USA High School Japanese Speech Contest, hosted by the

Japanese Language Scholarship Foundation with the support of Japan Foundation Los Angeles and the Consulate-General of Japan in LA, was held online. This contest provides opportunities for high school students studying Japanese language in the United States (whose native language is not Japanese) to make presentations in Japanese and to inspire others to improve their proficiency in Japanese.



CJSCN Spring Workshop

Held

On June 24, the California-Japan Sister Cities Network (CJSCN), Consulates General of Japan in San Francisco and Los Angeles held the CJSCN Spring Workshop online with the

theme "Reignite the Sister City Community!"



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:



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