

Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
Japan Information & Culture Center
August 2022, Vol. 14 Issue 8

In Appreciation to All Who Signed the Book of Condolence for Former Prime Minister ABE Shinzo



The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles would like to express its appreciation to the many individuals who visited to sign a book of condolence for former Prime Minister ABE Shinzo.



LDP and Ruling Coalition Partner Retain Upper House Majority

The Liberal Democratic Party led by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio won 63 seats at the Upper House election held on July 10, just days after former Prime Minister Abe was killed at a campaign event on July 8. With partner Komeito securing 13 seats, the ruling coalition now holds 146 seats out of a total 248 in the upper house. At the recent election, 125 had been contested. The LDP and Komeito maintain a stable majority in the chamber, which will enable the prime minister to pursue economic revitalization policies and other measures.



Foreign Minister Hayashi Visits the U.S.

Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa visited Washington, D.C. from July 28-31, during which he attended an Economic "2+2" meeting as well as talks with his U.S. counterpart Secretary of State Antony Blinken.



Japan Stands with Ukraine

Japan continues to show its support for Ukraine by providing emergency humanitarian assistance and financial support to the country. For instance,

[Japan is providing assistance totaling around \\$200 million US dollars to address global food security,](#)

which has deteriorated since the war in Ukraine. Japan will provide food assistance to countries facing food shortages, as well as humanitarian aid to countries in the Middle East and Africa, along with support for the promotion of grain exports from Ukraine.

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 295.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date to the general public as of July 28, 2022 with 81.93% of the population now fully vaccinated. Currently, 62.77% of Japan's population has been boosted compared to 32.40% in the US, according to data from Nikkei/The Financial Times. As of July 28, cumulative COVID-19 cases totaled 12,137,977 in Japan, and 91,072,526 in the United States, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.

(As of July 28, 2022)

	Total No. of COVID-19 Cases	Total No. of Deaths	% of Population Fully Vaccinated (% of boosted)
Japan	12,137,977 (9,597 per 100,000 people)	32,304	81.93% (62.77%)
U.S.	91,072,526 (27,623 per 100,000 people)	1,029,145	67.67% (32.40%)

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

Community Outreach



KAKEHASHI - LA African American Young Leaders Delegation

From July 16-24, LA City Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson joined by his Deputy Chief of Staff Rachel Brashier led a delegation to Japan of five young professionals on the KAKEHASHI – LA African American Young Leaders Delegation, sponsored by the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The delegation visited Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto to learn about contemporary and traditional Japanese culture and discussed pressing urban challenges such as housing, homelessness, and other social issues, and the role of community, innovation, eco-business, and environmental technologies with government and opinion leaders.



Look for the Consulate Booth at the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Summer of Salsa on Aug. 19!

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and other Japan-related booths will be at the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes' Summer of Salsa on Friday, Aug. 19. Come join us in Downtown Los Angeles for a day of food, music and fun!



Asian Hall of Fame's Inaugural Celebrate Asia Festival

Consul General MUTO attended the Asian Hall of Fame's Inaugural Celebrate Asia Festival held on July 30 at the Alex Theatre in Glendale, CA.

Consul General noted the importance of Asia's recovery to the economy of this region. He also called for Asian and Asian American groups to unite to fight anti-Asian sentiment and to promote understanding across all communities.

Working With the Japanese American Community

Nisei Week Japanese Festival is Back!



Nisei Week Japanese Festival will be held in Little Tokyo over the two weeks of Aug. 13-21. Consul General MUTO attended the Opening Ceremony on July 17 and participated in the *kagami-biraki* (sake barrel-breaking) ceremony. The Coronation will be held on Aug. 13, and parade will be held on Aug. 14. The Plaza Festival will be held on Aug. 20. A taiko drum performance & Plaza festival will be held on Aug. 21, with the closing ceremony to be held in the late afternoon.



Nisei Week Queen & Princess Participated in Japanese Cuisine Demonstration

On July 7, Mrs. MUTO Misako, wife of Consul General MUTO Akira, invited the Nisei Week Queen, Princess, and Miss Tomodachi to the Consul General's Official Residence for a Japanese cuisine demonstration and workshop event. Consul General's chef MIMA Takeshi demonstrated the preparation of ichiban dashi-jiru, or the first pure broth stock, and the preparation of sushi rice. Afterwards, the Nisei Week Queen, Princess, and Miss

Tomodachi tried their hand at making sushi rolls. The Japanese cuisine demonstration and workshop was held to acknowledge to hard work of the Nisei Week court over a one-year period starting in 2021, and to inspire their continuing success going forward.



Photo: Courtesy of JATCSF

Japanese American Treaty Centennial Fund Scholars Recognized

Consul General Muto was invited to a special program on July 30 recognizing the Japanese American Treaty Centennial Fund Scholars on July 30th at Quiet Cannon. In his speech, CG Muto stated that these young leaders are all

integral to a vibrant Japanese American community and to a strong U.S.-Japan relationship, the most important relationship in the Indo-Pacific.

Entertainment, culture & others



JAPAN HOUSE Exhibit Explores Bamboo

JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles' newest exhibition LIFE CYCLES - A Bamboo Exploration with Tanabe Chikuunsai IV will open on July 28 and last through Jan. 15, 2023. The exhibition will

look at the Chikuunsai artistic lineage, Tanabe Chikuunsai IV's creative process, and the life of Japan's bamboo forests. The fourth-generation bamboo artist will launch the introductory section on July 13, allowing the public to observe his work creating the large, site-specific installation. When the main installation is complete, a time-lapse video of its fabrication will be shown in the Sub-Gallery.



Let's Cheer for Team Japan at HSBC LA Sevens Rugby

The LA Sevens, part of the HSBC World Rugby Seven Series, will be held on Aug. 27-28 at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson, CA. Japan will be a competing team, so

let's head to the stadium to cheer them on!



Consul General Muto at Anime Expo

On July 1, Consul General Muto participated in the ribbon cutting to officially launch the 2022 Anime Expo, held in Downtown Los Angeles from July 1-4.



Credit: Ms. Nagai - Rafu Shimpo

Kickoff Meeting Held for Efforts to Preserve Japanese Gardens

On July 10, Consul General Muto attended the kickoff meeting for the preservation of Japanese gardens hosted by Southern California Gardeners' Federation (SCGF) at James Irvine

Japanese Garden of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC). Consul General Muto proposed this project after observing and hearing about neglected Japanese gardens. He spoke with Mr. Iwashita, President of SCGF about possible steps to help preserve beautiful Japanese gardens in the region.



JET Program Participants Depart!

On July 23, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles saw over 120 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program participants depart for their placements across Japan. We wish them great success, and hope they have a wonderful experience living and working in Japan.



Consul General Attends *Shodo* Calligraphy Exhibition

On July 23, Consul General attended the Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu-kai's 57th Anniversary exhibition. In his remarks, he noted how the organization has promoted Japanese culture through the study and appreciation of Japanese *shodo* calligraphy. He thanked Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu-kai for contributing to the Japan-U.S. friendship by welcoming all who are eager to learn the traditional art.



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