

Japan Focus



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

US Speaker of the House Meets with Prime Minister Kishida

On Aug. 5, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio hosted a breakfast meeting with a delegation led by Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, during their visit to Japan. Discussed topics included strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”



Prime Minister Kishida's US Visit

On Aug. 1, Prime Minister Kishida delivered a speech at the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) at the United Nations.

To work towards a world without nuclear weapons, he unveiled the “Hiroshima Action Plan,” which is rooted in five actions, including a call for nuclear-weapon States to enhance the transparency of their nuclear forces and to maintain the decreasing trend of global nuclear stockpile. To promote the accurate understanding of the realities of nuclear

weapons use, Japan will also encourage visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki by international leaders and others. Read his statement [HERE](#).



Japan Stands with Ukraine

Japan continues to show its support for Ukraine by providing emergency humanitarian assistance and financial support to the country. Read about Japan's response to the situation in Ukraine [HERE](#).

Guidance on Japan's Border Control Measures Related to COVID-19

From midnight (Japan Standard Time) on Sept. 7 2022, all cross-border travelers and returnees from the US with [a valid vaccination certificate of COVID-19](#) will be [no longer required to submit the certificate of negative test result of pre-departure COVID-19 test](#) within 72 hours prior to departure from the original country/region.

Online Visa Applications for Eligible Applicants

All foreign nationals who wish to newly enter Japan need to apply for a visa except for those with a re-entry permit. From Aug. 18, Canadian nationals and US nationals are able to apply for a short-term stay visa for the purpose of Business, Visiting Relatives, and Tourism (only guided tours organized by a travel agency that serves as the receiving organization) through the JAPAN eVISA system.

Learn more about eligibility and requirements for JAPAN eVISA system applicants [HERE](#).

Latest on COVID-19 in Japan

In Japan, over 315.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date to the general public as of Sept. 1, 2022 with 81.20% of the population now fully vaccinated. As of Sept. 1, cumulative COVID-19 cases totaled 19,099,600 in Japan, and

94,613,764 in the United States, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine.

(As of Sept. 1, 2022)

	Total No. of COVID-19 Cases	Total No. of Deaths	% of Population Fully Vaccinated
Japan	19,099,600 (15,101 per 100,000 people)	40,241	81.20%
U.S.	94,613,764 (28,717 per 100,000 people)	1,046,699	67.96%

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



[Introducing New Consul General SONE Kenko](#)

Consul General SONE Kenko has arrived in Los Angeles. He served at the Embassy of Japan in the United States of America in Washington, DC during two separate assignments, and his most recent position was as Director-General for Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Click the headline to read his greeting and to learn more about his career.

Community Outreach



Representing Japan at the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Summer of Salsa

On Aug. 19, the Consulate General of Japan took part in LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes's popular evening event Summer of Salsa as part of its community outreach program. The Japanese consulate set up a booth to introduce Japanese culture, as well as an Ichiko Shochu bar and Kuramoto Ice Kakigori (Japanese shaved ice) stall. La Plaza invited a Mexican fusion sushi vendor to the event.



1st Annual Nikkei Celebration in Boyle Heights

On Aug. 7, Consul General Muto attended the 1st Annual Nikkei Celebration in Boyle Heights, co-organized by Boyle Heights Community Partners and Little Tokyo Historical Society. The main theme of the event was to celebrate the designation of Otomisan Restaurant (one of the oldest continuously operating Japanese restaurants in Los Angeles, which started in 1956 in Boyle Heights) as Historic Cultural Monument No. 1250 by the City of Los Angeles.



Standing Against Racism: A Conversation on Community-Building Towards Overcoming the U.S. Divide

As part of the Asia Society Southern California's popular webinar series "Standing

Against Racism,” Consul General MUTO Akira introduced the Consulate General of Japan’s initiatives to help overcome divides among various communities in the United States. Watch the webinar [HERE](#).

Working With the Japanese American Community



Credit: Yonsei Basketball Association

[Yonsei Basketball Association Receives Foreign Minister's Commendations](#)

On Aug. 4, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan announced the recipients of the Foreign Minister’s Commendations for 2022. Within the

jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, Southern California’s own Yonsei Basketball Association will receive commendations for their contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

Congratulations!



Credit: RAFU SHIMPO

Consulate General of Japan at Nisei Week!

The Consulate General of Japan took part in various events to celebrate the 80th Nisei Week, which was held for the first time since the pandemic began. On Aug.13, Deputy Consul General Aoshima and Mrs. Aoshima attended the Coronation and congratulated

the newly crowned Queen and Princesses. On Aug. 14., Consul General Muto and Mrs. Muto participated in the Grand Parade in Little Tokyo and greeted crowds from a convertible car. On Aug. 15th, Consul Kanno attended the Nisei Week Awards Dinner at Double Tree Hilton Hotel. In his speech, he commended the awardees for their enormous contributions to the Japanese American community. Finally, on August 16th, Deputy Consul General Aoshima participated in Pioneer Spirit Luncheon at Double Tree Hilton, where he expressed appreciation to the honorees for their great achievements.



Photo provided by the U.S.-Japan Council, unauthorized copying prohibited

Tomodachi Scholars Meet with Consul General Muto

On Aug. 17, participants of the inaugural TOMODACHI Toshizo Watanabe Leadership Program sponsored by the Toshizo Watanabe Foundation visited the official residence to meet with Consul General and Mrs. Muto. The 14 high school students from all over Japan were on a

11-day visit to Southern California to learn about the local community, history, and culture, and nurture their leadership skills.



Deputy Consul General At "Sake on the Rocks"

On Aug. 5th, Deputy Consul General Aoshima attended the Little Tokyo Service Center's very popular annual Sake & Food Tasting Event, "Sake on the Rocks" and made a toast in front of hundreds of food lovers who

gathered at Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) for delicious Japanese cuisines and nice sake.

Entertainment, culture & others



RAND, JAPAN HOUSE LA Seminar to Discuss "The Impact of the War in Ukraine on the Indo-Pacific Region"

As part of the "The U.S.-Japan Alliance Conference Series," RAND and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles will host a seminar on Sept. 15 on "The Impact of the War in Ukraine on the Indo-Pacific Region." Admiral Harry Harris, U.S. Navy (Ret), 24th Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command (now called U.S. Indo-Pacific Command) and former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea will offer a set of keynote remarks on why Russia's war matters for the Indo-Pacific region.



Japanese Food Expo in Hollywood

At long last, after a 2 year hiatus, the Japanese Food Expo and Japanese Food Culture Association teams are preparing to unleash, yet again, an unstoppable torrent of delicious food and beverage experiences on an always-eager and appreciative California audience.

Various Japanese prefectures will be bringing their finest regional offerings to this wonderful event. There will be curated cuisine selections of all types. Sake and other beverage offerings from all over Japan. Join in the fun, with friends and family, at the Loews Hotel Hollywood on Sept. 24. Displays, samples, workshops – and even guest appearances by Autec, the incredible sushi-making robot.



Large Japan Presence at ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) World Congress

This year (Sept. 18-22), Los Angeles is host to the global event that brings together world leaders, practitioners, policy makers, researchers, and private industry to advance and unite the intelligent transportation systems (ITS) industry; and leading Japanese firms in this expanding sector are joining the event with a strong presence. Making better and more efficient use of existing transportation resources will hinge upon the growing array of ITS technologies coming into the market, including, ultimately, fully autonomous vehicles in the future. Japan brings leading edge technology into this discussion, and is supporting the development of this increasingly critical sector worldwide.



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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