

# Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles  
Japan Information & Culture Center  
December 2023, Vol. 15 Issue 12



## Japan at APEC 2023

On Nov. 16, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco. On the sidelines of the meeting, he met with US President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Chinese President Xi Jinping, and others. Read the [APEC Leaders' declaration and joint ministerial statement](#). Separately, Foreign Minister KAMIKAWA Yoko and Economy Minister NISHIMURA Yasutoshi attended [APEC Ministerial Meetings](#), discussing such topics as broad-based economic prosperity and fair economic opportunities for all.



## Japan Stands with Ukraine

Japan has shown its support for Ukraine through financial support and other assistance to the country. Read about Japan's response to the situation in Ukraine [HERE](#).

## Check us out online!

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles updates its activities on social media daily, so please follow us!



## [Year-End and 2024 Holiday Closures](#)

As the year-end approaches and we prepare for the new Year of the Dragon in 2024, please check out the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles year-end holiday calendar. The list of 2024 holiday closures is listed as well, so please plan visits or inquiries

accordingly.



## [2023 Foreign Minister's Commendation Honoring Mrs. Sadako Oehler](#)

On Aug. 16, 2023 (Japan Standard Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients of its 2023 Foreign Minister's Commendation. From the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, Mrs. Sadako Oehler was awarded. On Oct. 30, Mrs. Oehler was presented the Foreign Minister's Commendation. Click the title to learn more about her profile and contributions.

(Mrs. Oehler passed away on Nov. 19, 2023. To her family and friends, the Consulate General of Japan offers its sincerest condolences.)

## Consul General Sone Visits Arizona



On Nov. 6, [Consul General and Mrs. Sone visited the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix](#). They participated in a guided tour of the garden, which is a joint project between the City of Phoenix and its sister city Himeji in Japan. On Nov. 7, [Consul General Sone attended “Japanese Open House + Job Fair” at Arizona State University](#), a Japanese-focused job fair event for students interested in learning the language or working at Japanese companies in Arizona.

Also on Nov. 7, Consul General and Mrs. Sone visited the Arizona Commerce Authority and met with President & CEO Sandra Watson, Executive Vice President of Business Development Vic Narusis, and Senior Vice President of International Trade and Investment Fernando Garcia. Consul General noted how Japanese companies see Arizona as an attractive destination to pursue business opportunities. Working with ACA, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles aims to encourage more Japanese companies to foray into Arizona and expand their presence in the state.

## Japanese American Community



Credit: U.S.-Japan Council

## Consul General Sone Meets JALD Alumni at US-Japan Council Conference

Consul General and Mrs. Sone attended the Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD) alumni reception at the U.S.-Japan Council Annual Conference held in Washington DC in early November. They met with JALD alumni who had participated in the program since its inception in 2000. Including the most recent 2023 delegation, 227 delegates have participated [in the program sponsored by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and administered by the U.S.-Japan Council](#).



## Keiro Legacy Luncheon

quality of life of older adults in the Japanese American community.

On Nov. 18, Consul General Sone and Mrs. Sone participated in Keiro's Legacy Luncheon to celebrate Mr. Ernest Doizaki, Mr. Gerald Fukui and Mr. Thomas Iino for their years of service and commitment to enhancing the



## Relaunch of Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy

On Dec. 1, Consul General Sone and Mrs. Sone joined a special event marking the Japanese American National Museum's

(JANM) relaunch of the Daniel K. Inouye National Center for the Preservation of Democracy. In his remarks, Consul General Sone noted that the late Senator Inouye had championed democracy throughout his entire life and career, and so it was natural that the Center has come to bear his name.

## Community Outreach



### JHLA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program - "Diversity in Sports Conversation"

On Nov. 13, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles partnered with MUFG Bank to host "Diversity in Sports Conversation", a part of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program series.

Moderated by LA84 Foundation President & CEO, Renata Simril, the panel discussion was enlivened by contributions from sports stars such as two-time Olympic ice skating medalist Maia Shibutani, and Angel City FC player Jun Endo. Will Ireton, the Performance Operations Manager of the LA Dodgers and former interpreter for Kenta Maeda also participated in the discussion.

## Business, Economy & Tech



### Shipping Ceremony for the Donation of Portable Gas Stoves to Maui Residents

1,000 portable gas stoves were donated by Iwatani Corporation of America to residents of Maui who were impacted by the wildfires.

Deputy Consul Aoshima and other companies involved with the donation effort gathered at Iwatani's warehouse on the day of shipment and discussed the plans for the donation. The stoves were transported free of charge to Maui by Nippon Express USA, Inc. and distributed at Maui supermarkets owned by Pan Pacific International Holdings in cooperation with JTB Hawaii Travel, LLC.



## US-Japan Council 2023 Annual Conference - Climate & Sustainability Initiative Roundtable

On Nov. 8, Consul General Sone attended the U.S.-Japan Council 2023 Annual Conference in

Washington, D.C., and discussed U.S.-Japan economic cooperation on hydrogen technology at the Climate & Sustainability Initiative Roundtable hosted by JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. Consul General Sone opened the session by mentioning the importance of cooperation between Japan and the U.S. in the hydrogen sector, an area where Japan has made many technological advancements, including using hydrogen technology at the Tokyo Olympics.

## **Sister Cities Relations**



## "Explore Nagoya and Central Japan" Event Held

On Nov. 1, "Explore Nagoya and Central Japan," an event seeking to encourage tourism and raise the profile of Nagoya and the surrounding Chubu region (Aichi, Gifu and Mie

prefectures), was held at the Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles. The event, co-hosted by Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, the City of Nagoya, and Los Angeles-Nagoya Sister City Affiliation (LANSCA), welcomed about 60 attendees including U.S.-based travel and tourism representatives, city of Los Angeles officials, and a visiting delegation from the City of Nagoya.

## Entertainment, culture & others



### Asian World Film Festival

On Nov. 10, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles co-hosted a Japanese seafood reception and screening of multi-award-winning film, 'Perfect Days', with Asian World Film Festival and JETRO Los Angeles. The film is Japan's Oscar submission for Best International Feature Film. Directed by Wim Wenders, "Perfect Days" is a co-production between Japan and Germany that combines four short stories and stars Koji Yakusho in the role of a toilet cleaner. Written by Wenders and Takuma Takasaki, the film was shot in Tokyo over the course of 17 days.



### Anime Expo Chibi 2023

Anime Expo Chibi was held at the Ontario Convention Center on Nov. 11-12, attracting approximately 25,000 anime fans over the two days. In addition to various events related to Japanese anime, games, and more, the expo had food stalls serving Japanese food, such as ramen, takoyaki (octopus balls), and onigiri (rice balls). The Japanese government organized a scallop promotion with the food stalls, which many attendees enjoyed

# Coming Up!



## [Winter Holiday and New Year's Events in Little Tokyo](#)

In a festive mood as the winter holidays approach? Little Tokyo in downtown LA is a great destination with many holiday festivities for all ages to enjoy. The 2024 Year of the

Dragon awaits, with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California presenting Oshogatsu in Little Tokyo on Jan. 1 at Weller Court and Japanese Village Plaza. The Japanese American National Museum will host its annual [Oshogatsu Family Festival](#) on Jan. 7.

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