

Japan Focus

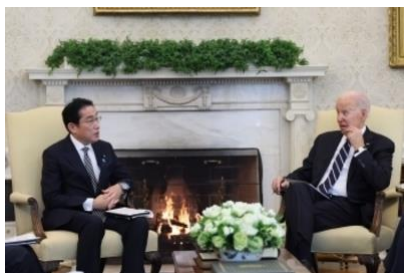


Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
Japan Information & Culture Center
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Japan Holds G7 Presidency in 2023

Japan assumed the presidency of the Group of Seven (G7) in 2023 and will host the G7 Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima on May 19-21. The G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be held in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture on April 16-18. The schedule for other ministerial meetings can be found [HERE](#).



Credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office

Prime Minister Kishida's US Visit

On Jan. 13, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited Washington, D.C. for a summit with U.S. President Joseph R. Biden. The two leaders reconfirmed unprecedented Japan-U.S. cooperation, rooted in the shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific and a peaceful and prosperous world, and guided by the shared values, including the rule of law. Read the [Joint Statement of the United States and Japan](#).



Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On Jan. 11, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi met with his US counterpart Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee held in Washington, D.C.

They reaffirmed that Japan and the U.S. would further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance as a whole including the reinforcement of Japan's defense capabilities to make the capabilities of the U.S. more effective.



Japan's Earthquake Disaster Relief, Aid to Turkey

In a statement, Foreign Minister Hayashi offered [the Government of Japan's heartfelt condolences and sympathy](#) to the people of Turkey and neighboring countries such as Syria following the massive earthquake that occurred on Feb. 6. In response to a request from the Turkish government, Japan is [providing emergency relief goods](#) through the Japan International Cooperation Agency and has [dispatched members of the Japan Disaster Relief Expert and Medical Team](#) to the region. Japanese Self-Defense Forces aircraft has also transported equipment and other assets.



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](#).



Fall 2022 Decoration Conferred on Honorary Consul of Japan in San Diego

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles held a conferment ceremony for Fall 2022 Decoration recipient, Ms. Kate Leonard, who is the Honorary Consul of Japan in San Diego. Ms. Leonard received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon for her contribution to promoting exchanges and friendship between Japan and the United States.



Foreign Minister's Commendation Honoring Yonsei Basketball Association

On Jan. 20, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles held a ceremony for the conferment of the 2022 Foreign Minister's Commendation upon Yonsei Basketball Association.



Commendation Ceremony of 2022 Japan Agricultural Achievement Awards

On Jan. 25, Consul General Sone hosted a Commendation Ceremony of the Japan Agricultural Achievement Awards for Mr. Muneaki Tsuzuki and Mr. Kohei Owatari.



Thank You Fukushima Reception Held

On Jan. 17, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles co-hosted a reception "Thank you from Fukushima" with Fukushima Prefecture, to convey gratitude to those who have supported Fukushima's recovery in the aftermath of the March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.



JX'23 Celebrates Japanese Innovators in Entertainment

On Feb. 9, LA Next Generation Japanese American Leaders Initiative, the Japanese Consulate with the support of JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles co-hosted JX'23 to celebrate Japanese innovators in entertainment, and to honor groundbreaking leaders in music, animation, entertainment, and Web3.



JAPAN HOUSE LA Marks Opening of "Designing with Disaster" Exhibit

On Jan. 26, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles marked the opening of its latest exhibition: Designing with Disaster | Stories from Seven Regenerative Cities – Inspired by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Working with the Japanese American Community



Credit: San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

New Year's Luncheon at San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center

On January 7, Consul General Sone attended the [San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center's](#) New Year's Luncheon, where he delivered remarks and participated in the traditional *kagamibiraki* – “breaking of the sake barrel” with community leaders.



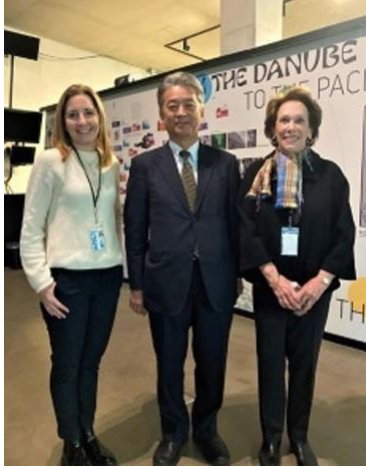
Credit: Matt Kamimura, photographer/videographer

New Year's Party at Venice Japanese Community Center

On Jan. 15, Consul General Sone attended the [Venice Japanese Community Center's](#) New Year's Party, joining community leaders such as California State Assemblymember Tina McKinnor and Los Angeles City Councilmember Traci Park

in delivering remarks. At the event, there was a special recognition of centenarians and those reaching 80 years of age.

Community Outreach



Consul General Sone Visits Holocaust Museum L.A.

On Jan. 9, Consul General Sone visited Holocaust Museum L.A. He toured the exhibits at the museum and met with CEO Beth Kean and Vice Chair Patsy Palmer.



Consul General Sone Meets Pasadena City Mayor

On Jan. 11, Consul General Sone visited Pasadena City Mayor Victor Gordo with Mr. Bryan Takeda, Board Member of the Pasadena Sister Cities Committee (Mishima-Vice Chairperson) on Jan. 11. They discussed various topics including the Pasadena-Mishima sister city relationship, which will celebrate its 66th anniversary in 2023.



Celebrating the Launch of ChimeTV

On Jan. 21, Consul General Kenko Sone attended the launch event for ChimeTV, the first Asian American-focused cable network. Held at the Japanese American National Museum, the launch event featured such speakers as Congressman Ted Lieu.



Supporting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with the Asian Community

On Jan. 12, Deputy Consul General Naoshige Aoshima gave remarks at the inauguration of the Asian Organizations Alliance and shared Japan's willingness to cooperate with the Asian community for diversity, equity and inclusion in Southern California.



Expanding "Japanese Language and Culture Power Hour" at Poway Unified School District

On Feb. 3, three schools in Poway Unified School District were awarded salary assistance grants through Japan Foundation Los Angeles. The ceremony took place at Del Sur Elementary School, where Principal Eric Takeshita made opening remarks, followed by PUSD Superintendent,

Dr. Marian Kim Phelps, Consul General Sone and Japan Foundation Los Angeles
Director Yasuko Uchida.

Environment, Business, Economy & Technology



Reception Celebrates 62nd Anniversary of JBA and 20th Anniversary of MOU with LAEDC

On Feb. 9, the Consulate General of Los Angeles and the Japanese Business Association of Southern California (JBA) co-hosted a reception at the Consul General's

Official Residence commemorating the 62nd anniversary of JBA and the 20th anniversary of its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC).

Entertainment, culture & others



Credit: JBA

Japanese Business Association's New Year's Party

On Jan. 20, the Japanese Business Association held its New Year's Party at the Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach, the first in-person gathering to mark the new year since January 2020. In his remarks, Consul General Sone emphasized the

JBA's steadfast efforts to contribute to the economy in Southern California.



Mitsuwa Marketplace Opens Store in San Fernando Valley

California-based Mitsuwa Marketplace opened its 12th store in the US on Jan. 21 in Northridge, as the first Japanese market in north San Fernando Valley.



"Celebrate the Sounds of Japan" Held

On Feb. 6, Consul General attended "Celebrate the Sounds of Japan," which featured Masa Takumi, winner in the category of best global music album at the [65th Grammy Awards](#) for his album "Sakura." In addition, the Grammy for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album went to Snarky Puppy's "Empire Central." Japanese percussionist Keita Ogawa is a member of the band.

Coming Up!!



Look for "Inu-Oh" and "Oni" at the 50th Annie Awards

The 50th Annual Annie Awards will be held on Feb. 25 at UCLA's Royce Hall. "Inu-Oh" is nominated in two categories, including Best Indie Feature, and "Oni: Thunder God's Tale" is nominated in six categories including Best

TV/Media- Limited Series.



[Let's Go to Arizona Matsuri \(Feb. 25-26\) !!](#)

The Arizona Matsuri, a two-day festival that celebrates all things Japan, will be held on Feb. 25-26 at Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix, AZ. The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles will have an on-site booth, so please stop by!! Don't miss cultural presentations, performances, demonstrations and of course FOOD!!!



[Try Japanese Sake Tasting at Sake Flight LA 2023](#)

Interested in exploring different types of Japanese sake? Check out Sake Flight LA 2023, a week of free tastings from Feb. 25 - March 3 at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles that will celebrate 20 specially selected types of Japanese sake and food pairing. The event is open to the public. To learn more and reserve a spot, click the headline for an Eventbrite link!



Career Fair For Japanese Companies in the U.S.

The event will be held with the cooperation of Japanese companies and organizations for JET Alumni, students studying Japanese and anyone interested in working for a Japanese company.

When - March 11, 2023 2-4pm

Where - Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (Little Tokyo)

To RSVP -

<https://forms.gle/9uBHjmnSUAiivHb6>

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
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