



Credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office

G7 Leaders' Video Conference Held

On Feb. 24, the G7 Leaders' Video Conference was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Following opening remarks by Prime Minister Kishida, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky offered a statement. Prime Minister Kishida expressed robust support for Ukraine and said the G7 will demonstrate its strong determination to stop Russia's aggression and uphold the international order based on the rule of law.



Learn More About Hiroshima Ahead of G7 Leaders' Summit

As Japan prepares to host the [G7 Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima on May 19-21](#), the Prime Minister's Office of Japan has created a video of people living in Hiroshima, sharing their thoughts about the beautiful city.



[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](#).

Working with the Japanese American Community



[L.A. Next Generation Japanese American Leaders - KAKEHASHI Japan Visit Presentation](#)

On Feb. 22, Consul General Sone hosted an event at the Official Residence featuring a presentation by the Steering Committee of the LA Next Generation Japanese American Leaders Initiative on their recent visit to Japan on the KAKEHASHI Project.



[Dinner with TOMODACHI Go For Gold Sports Leadership Program](#)

On March 3, Consul General Sone hosted a dinner at his residence with participants of the TOMODACHI-U.S. Embassy Go for Gold Sports Leadership Program and guests of the U.S.-Japan Council, the delegation organizer.

Special guests included two-time Olympic figure skating bronze medalists Alex and Maia Shibutani.



Consul General Attends Gardeners' Federation Ceremony

On Feb. 5, Consul General Kenko Sone attended the Southern California Gardeners' Federation (SCGF) 68th Officers' Installation ceremony. The

SCGF established a new organization in July 2022 aimed at preserving Japanese gardens in Southern California and educating young professional gardeners.



Consul General Expresses Appreciation to Federation Representing Prefectural Associations

On Feb. 12, Consul General Kenko Sone attended the Nanka Kenjinkai Kyougikai (NKK)

2023 Officers Installation & Friendship Luncheon. NKK is a federation of associations representing different prefectures in Japan. As of 2023, 39 of Japan's 47 prefectures are represented within the NKK. At the ceremony, Consul General Sone expressed his appreciation to NKK for its tremendous contribution to the Japanese community in Southern California.

Community Outreach



Luncheon with AAPI Community Leaders

On Feb. 21, Consul General Sone hosted a luncheon with local AAPI community leaders and discussed areas of common interest and possibilities for future collaboration.



Glendale HS Students Visit JANM

On March 1, Japanese language students from Glendale High School visited the Japanese American National Museum for a special tour organized by the Consulate General of Japan, attended by Deputy

Consul General Aoshima. Glendale Unified School District Boardmember Kathleen Cross also joined the visit.



Japanese Culture in the Schools

High school students in Riverside and elementary school students in Gardena experienced Japanese traditional arts in their schools – Japanese dance (*buyo*) and kimono dressing (*kitsuke*), respectively –

via the generous volunteer cooperation of expert practitioners through a special version of the Consulate General's school visit program in January. Read more by clicking the headline!

Environment, Business, Economy & Technology



Symposium on Innovative Solutions for Mitigating Climate Change Held

On Feb. 6, Japan House Los Angeles and The UCLA Institute of Carbon Management, in partnership with AltaSea at the Port of Los Angeles and Energy Independence Now, hosted a symposium on innovative solutions for mitigating climate change. The event featured expert panel discussions on the latest advancements in hydrogen technology and carbon management strategies, with a focus on their potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.



Consul General Receives Briefing About Sumitomo Electric's Power Technology

The New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), a Japanese government agency, has been conducting since September 2015 a demonstration project in San Diego utilizing a [Redox Flow \(RF\) battery, with Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.](#) as the contractor. An RF battery is a stationary storage battery with long life that is suitable for large-scale applications. A microgrid was constructed as part of the actual power distribution network, and the demonstration operation was successfully conducted as a countermeasure against natural disasters and planned/rotational power outages. This marks the first time in Japan and the U.S. that a microgrid has been constructed and operated using storage batteries as a power source in an actual power distribution

network in anticipation of power outages. Sumitomo Electric presented the technology at DISTRIBUTECH International 2023 held Feb 7-9 in San Diego.



Global Semiconductor Summit Held in Phoenix

On Feb. 24, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles was proud to sponsor the recent Global Semiconductor Summit held by Global Chamber® at Arizona State University Thunderbird School of Global Management. Hundreds of influential leaders attended the Summit, discussing groundbreaking ideas, making trusted connections to new clients, and gaining exposure to new opportunities. At a networking reception afterwards, the participants were able to learn about Japan through the promotion of Japanese food products that are expected to enter the Arizona market soon, such as Sushi (with serving robot), Yakitori, Takoyaki, Wagyu beef and even Japanese melon.

Entertainment, culture & others



Kampai (Cheers) with Shochu and Awamori

On Feb. 21, the Consulate General of Japan and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles held a Shochu and Awamori promotional event, "Savor JAPANESE CRAFT SPIRITS!". After the seminar, the head bartenders of Death & Co. and Thunderbolt held a workshop on preparing Shochu highball drinks and a class on cocktails.



Torrance and Kashiwa Celebrate Half-Century Mark as Sister Cities

On Feb. 19, Consul General Sone attended the anniversary event celebrating the 50-year long sister city relationship between Torrance and

Kashiwa (Chiba Prefecture, Japan), where he gave congratulatory remarks. Torrance Mayor George K. Chen and Kashiwa Mayor Kazumi Ota formalized the agreement with a signing ceremony that memorialized the continuation of this enduring friendship between their two cities.



Arizona Matsuri Back in Person!

On Feb. 25-26, the Arizona Matsuri returned for the first time in person since the pandemic, with tens of thousands of people in attendance! Consul General Sone helped kick off the 39th annual iteration of the event with Mayor of Phoenix Kate Gallego. The

Consulate's Japan Information and Culture Center team was on the grounds as well, running a culture booth. Thank you to everyone who visited our booth and took home free Niponica, JNTO, JET Program items and more! Our staff is elated to know that these free informational materials will help to inspire future trips in Japan and studies in Japanese culture.



Waseda University Baseball Club Visits Los Angeles

On Feb. 27, the members of the Waseda University Baseball Club visited the Consul General's Official Residence. The baseball club held its first Los Angeles training camp in nine years.

Coming Up!



Beautiful Handicrafts of Tohoku, Japan

Japan Foundation Los Angeles is launching an exhibition at its Los Angeles office showcasing the "Beautiful Handicrafts of Tohoku, Japan." The exhibition will run from March 10-May 6. The displays present works of various genres — ceramics, lacquerware, textiles, metalwork, wood and bamboo crafts, etc.— allowing visitors to enjoy the diverse and exquisite world of Tohoku traditions. For more details, please click the headline.

Check us out online!

Get to know the Consulate General of Japan through our social media accounts:



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