

Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
Japan Information & Culture Center
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Japan To Host Meetings Under Group of Seven Presidency

Japan is preparing to host the [G7 Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima on May 19-21](#). Please check out seasonal scenes of host city Hiroshima in a stop-motion video that uses paper-cutting art.

Japan will also host [other related G7 ministerial meetings](#), including the [Foreign Ministers' meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture](#) from April 16-18.



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](#). On

March 22, Prime Minister Kishida visited Ukraine, where he attended [a summit meeting and working dinner with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.](#)

Emperor's Birthday Reception Held



On March 16, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles hosted a reception to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor, who turned 63 on Feb. 23. In his remarks, Consul General Sone welcomed guests and invited them to enjoy the food and beverages prepared by the chef of the Official Residence and the Japanese food industry, particularly those featured from the prefectures of Gifu, Tochigi, and Fukushima. The reception also offered such cultural experiences as a performance of Japanese traditional music with such instruments as *koto*, *biwa*, and *shakuhachi*.

[POSITION AVAILABLE: Economic Advisor](#)



Check us out online!

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



Working with the Japanese American Community



Credit: U.S.- Japan Council

2023 Japanese American Leadership Delegation Visits Japan

Ten Japanese American leaders traveled to Japan from March 3 to 11 for the 2023 [Japanese American Leadership Delegation \(JALD\) program](#). Organized by the U.S.-Japan Council

and sponsored by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the JALD program aims to strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship by facilitating people-to-people connections between prominent Japanese American and Japanese leaders. [This year's trip](#), which marked the 20th delegation since the program's inception in 2000, brought delegates to Tokyo and Shizuoka to meet with top government, business, non-profit and other notable Japanese leaders.

Community Outreach



Japan-Mexico: Mixing & Exploring Food Cultures

On March 24, the Consulate General of Japan and the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center held an event featuring Japanese-Mexican fusion food and beverages and a panel discussion moderated by LA Times journalist Teresa Watanabe, which explored the shared history of the communities in Boyle Heights.



Japan & Black L.A. Initiative: Crenshaw Tour and Lunch with UMC Clergy

On March 28, Consul General toured the Crenshaw district to learn about the Japanese American history of the community, and also enjoyed lunch with leaders of the United

Methodist Church California Pacific Conference West District, including Bishop Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, District Superintendent Rev. Mark Nakagawa, and Black UMC clergy members of local congregations.

Environment, Business, Economy & Technology



Kyoto University's Three North American On-Site Labs Host Inaugural Joint Symposium

The first joint symposium of Kyoto University's three North American On-site Labs, titled "Transformative Innovations in Medical and Life Sciences", was held in San Diego on February

28. This inaugural symposium in North America was held by the labs at the UC San Diego, UCLA and Gladstone Institutes. These labs shared cutting-edge research and studies, particularly on the topics of stem cells, cell reprogramming, quantum nano science, and cancer immunotherapy.



VerdeXchange VX2023 Conference

The 16th Annual VerdeXchange VX2023 Marketmakers' Conference will be held in Downtown Los Angeles from April 30 to May 3, 2023, bringing together entrepreneurs, resource companies, manufacturers, policymakers and others to discuss a wide range of topics covering the new energy economy. Among the topics to be discussed include decarbonization, climate research and risk, transportation investment, and next generation energy efficiency.

Entertainment, culture & others



Exploring Career Opportunities with Japanese Companies

On March 11, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, Japan Business Association of Southern California, JET Alumni Association of Southern California and Arizona, and Teachers of Japanese in Southern California co-hosted the “Japanese Companies Career Event.” Attendees, which included JET Program alumni and students studying Japanese, listened to presentations about career opportunities and networked.



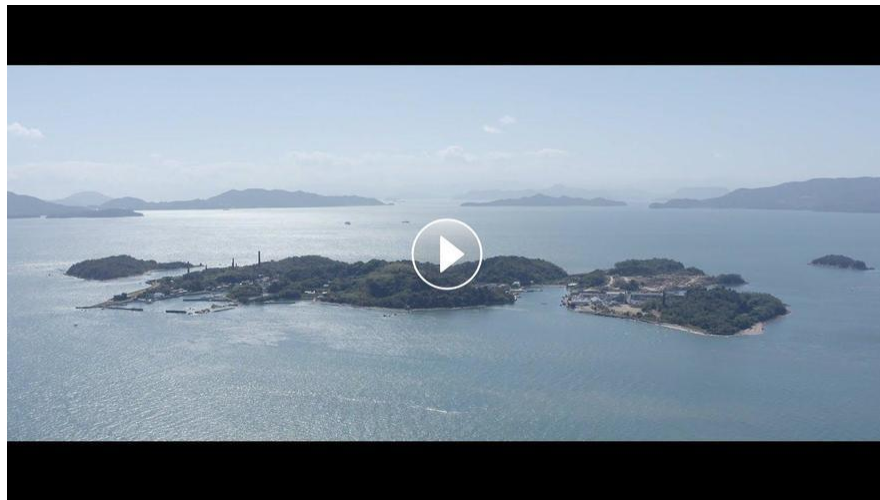
Arizona Speech Contest Held

On April 1, the 30th Annual Arizona Japanese Speech Contest was held at Arizona State University in Tempe.

This was the first time in four years that the competition has been held, with 32

students competing. The competitors consisted of 14 university students, 17 high schoolers and one junior high student!

Coming Up!



Japan House Exhibition - Symbiosis: Living Island

"Symbiosis: Living Island," on view at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles from April 15 to July 5, 2023, explores the groundbreaking Inujima "Art House Project," designed to revitalize Inujima, a depopulated Japanese island, by integrating contemporary art. The project has created a unique symbiosis between art, architecture, community, and ecology that will nurture and sustain the island for many years to come.



Cherry Blossoms Festivals

[Cherry blossom season](#) is in full swing in Japan, a time of year when groups of students, co-workers, friends and families get together under the light-pink canopies for food and drinks [to enjoy "hanami"](#).

Cherry blossom trees also bloom in Southern California and Arizona, with a number of cultural festivals held to celebrate the season.

Following are a few locations:

[Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival \(April 15, 16\)](#)

[Orange County Cherry Blossom Festival \(April 14, 15,16\)](#)

[City of Torrance Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival \(March 26\)](#)

[Cherry Blossom Festival at Shoseian \(Brand Park in Glendale, CA\) \(March 26\)](#)

[Cherry Blossom Festival at the Japanese Friendship Garden San Diego \(March 10, 11, 12\)](#)

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