

# Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles  
Japan Information & Culture Center  
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## Modification of Border Measures

Japan has modified its border measures as of April 29 midnight (Japan local time). All travelers to Japan will no longer be required to submit a certificate of negative result of

COVID-19 test conducted within 72 hours prior to departure, nor will they be required to submit a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate of three doses or equivalent. Click the headline to learn more.



## Japan to Host Group of Seven Leaders' Summit

Japan will host the [G7 Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima](#) on May 19-21.

On April 16-18, [G7 foreign ministers gathered in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture](#) for a meeting, where they discussed a wide range of topics. Read the [G7 Foreign](#)

[Ministers' Communique](#) for more details.



## 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](#).



## Digital Minister KONO Taro Visits Los Angeles and Arizona

From May 3 to 7, KONO Taro, Minister for Digital Transformation, Digital Agency of Japan, visited Los Angeles to participate in a discussion on "Opportunities in Digitalization and Innovation" at the [Milken Conference](#). He also had an opportunity to meet with the Nikkei community and various US-based startup company executives in Los Angeles. Minister Kono also traveled to Arizona, where he spoke at the [Sedona Forum](#) hosted by the McCain Institute.



## Japan International Manga Award

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs founded the Japan International MANGA Award in 2007 to expand international exchange and mutual understanding through manga culture. The application period for the latest 17th Japan International MANGA Award runs from April 14, 2023 to July 7, 2023. [Learn more about how to apply!](#)



## Accepting Applications for MEXT Scholarships

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles is now accepting applications for the 2024 Research Students Scholarship, 2024 Undergraduate Students Scholarship, and

2024 Specialized Training College Students Scholarship. Please click on the title to learn more!

## 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



### Celebrating the Life of Madame Fujima Kansuma

On April 16, Consul General SONE Kenko attended the Celebration of Life for the late Madame Fujima Kansuma, a pillar of the Nikkei community, dancer, artist, choreographer, and mentor to countless people.

Consul General delivered remarks, noting how she personified grace and elegance while showing how one can persevere through difficult times, and turn adversity into strength and character. [Learn more about Madame Kansuma's remarkable life.](#)



## Consul General Attends Manzanar Pilgrimage

On April 29, Consul General Sone and Mrs. Sone attended the 54th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage at the Manzanar National Historic Site, along with members of the Japan Business Association of

Southern California.



## Join Us at Little Tokyo Sparkle!

On May 20, the Consulate General of Japan will help celebrate Nancy Kikuchi Volunteer Day in Little Tokyo by joining the annual neighborhood-wide community clean-up day Little Tokyo Sparkle. See you there! Please sign-up by clicking the title!

## Community Outreach



## "Vessels of Light" - Special Concert Inspired by Chiune Sugihara

The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music will present the west coast premiere of a new musical performance commissioned

by Yad Vashem and The American Society for Yad Vashem entitled Symphony No. 6, "Vessels of Light" at Royce Hall on May 18 which was inspired by the heroic actions of Japanese Vice Consul Chiune Sempo Sugihara, who saved thousands of Jewish refugees during the Holocaust. For tickets: [HERE](#)

# Environment, Business, Economy & Technology



## Select LA Investment Summit 2023

On April 28 Consul General Sone participated in the Select LA Investment Summit 2023 organized by the World Trade Center Los Angeles (WTCLA), and networked with senior officials from the California

Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and the Councilmembers of the City of Los Angeles. At the event, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, in cooperation with the Japanese Business Association of Southern California (JBA), set up a special booth to showcase examples of the initiatives of Japanese companies, whose activities together make Japan the largest investor in California.



## Kickoff Reception for VerdeXchange VX2023 Conference

From April 30 to May 3, 2023, environmental think-tank VerdeXchange held the 16th Annual

VerdeXchange VX2023 Green Marketmakers

Conference, which the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles has actively supported since its inception in 2008. On April 30, Consul General Sone hosted the annual kick-off reception for scores of VIP attendees, including U.S. federal and state-level elected officials. This year, Mayor Eikoh Yoshida of Namie Town, Fukushima Prefecture participated and introduced Namie Town's initiative, the hydrogen town concept. Japanese companies were featured at the reception as well as conference on

May 2 and 3, with special emphasis being placed on the activities of the Japan Hydrogen Forum members, who are working here in the U.S. to establish a hydrogen society.

## Entertainment, culture & others



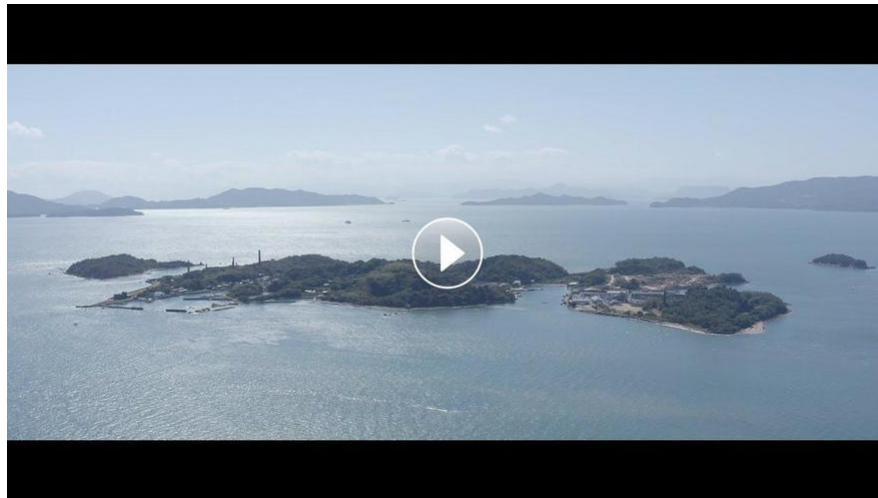
### Discussing Importance of U.S.- Japan Economic Cooperation at Cal State Long Beach

On April 12, Consul General Sone spoke at California State University, Long Beach's annual event "Consulate Series" organized by the

International Business Association (IBA). The presentation focused on Japan-US economic cooperation, including an overview of Japan's economic diplomacy, Japan's role in addressing global challenges, and Japanese foreign direct investment (FDI) in the United States.

### 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.



## Empowering Women Through Karate

On April 16, Consul General Sone attended the Guardian Girls Karate Women's Self-Defense seminar presented by Koyamada International Foundation USA and USA National Karate-do Federation. The event, held at the Terasaki Budokan in Little Tokyo, was aimed at empowering girls and women to defend themselves from any forms of violence through karate training.



## Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival

On April 15, Consul General Sone attended the opening ceremony of Monterey Park's 23rd Annual Cherry Blossom Festival. He gave congratulatory remarks and said the festival celebrates the close friendship between Japan and the U.S., as well as the sister-city relationship between Monterey Park and Nachi-Katsuura.



Credit: Tomoko Hatano

## Orange County Cherry Blossom Festival

On April 16, Consul General Sone headed to Central Park in Huntington Beach to attend the 8th Orange County Cherry Blossom Festival. Consul General Sone gave congratulatory remarks at the opening ceremony and also planted cherry trees.



## Consul General Visits UC San Diego

On April 25 Consul General Sone visited the University of California, San Diego, meeting with Chancellor Pradeep Khosla & UCSD administrators. Consul General also met with a student who went to Japan through the KAKEHASHI Project.



## 2nd Valley Asian Cultural Festival Held

On May 6, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles participated in the 2nd Annual Valley Asian Cultural Festival at Pierce College in Woodland Hills. The event, organized by the West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce, introduced different Asian cultures through dance, music, food, art and more. The Japanese consulate set up a booth to introduce Japanese culture and regional information through origami, tourism pamphlets and other information.

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