

Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
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Japan, U.S. Leaders, Foreign Ministers Hold Talks

On Oct. 2, the leaders of Japan and the US held a phone summit, during which [Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru](#) told his counterpart [President Joe Biden, Jr.](#) that strengthening the Japan-US Alliance is a top priority. [Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs IWAYA Takeshi](#) and [US Secretary of State Antony Blinken](#) also spoke on the same day, and concurred to work closely together in preservation and enhancement of the rules-based economic order in the Indo-Pacific region.



Policy Speech by Prime Minister Ishiba to the 214th Session of the Diet

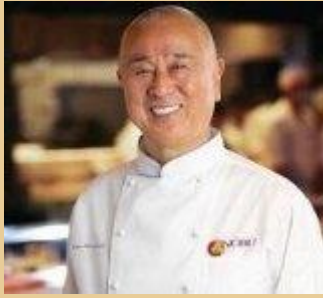
Prime Minister Ishiba delivered a policy speech to the 214th Session of the Diet and spoke on "security for all." He reiterated that The Japan-U.S. alliance is the cornerstone of Japanese diplomacy and security and the foundation for the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and the international community as a whole.



Japan Stands with Ukraine

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

Recipients of Fall 2024 Decorations Announced



On Nov. 3 (Japan Standard Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients of its Fall 2024 Decorations. The recipients from the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles are Nobuyuki Matsuhisa (Owner of Restaurant Group "Matsuhisa" and Joint Owner of "Nobu") and Brian Swords, a former local employee of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles.



Conferment Ceremony Held For Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki

On Oct. 5, the conferment ceremony of 2024 Foreign Minister's Commendation for Dr. Takashi Hoshizaki, Board Member of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, was held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Consul General Sone presented the award to Dr. Hoshizaki, who received the commendation in recognition of his contribution to mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S.



Reception: 70th Anniversary of the Japan Self-Defense Forces

On Oct. 15, Consul General Sone hosted a reception at the official residence celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Japan Self Defense Forces, with U.S. military guests. The reception sought to bolster the Japan-U.S. relationship and encourage service members and their families to further strengthen their friendship with Japan.

Community Outreach



All-Japan Exhibition at 2024 Irvine Global Village

Japan was well-represented at the 2024 Irvine Global Village Festival! This year, our Consulate teamed up with the Japan Business Association of Southern California and the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles to put on another installment of the “All-Japan Exhibition” at the Oct. 5th event.



KAKEHASHI - LA Armenian American Young Leaders Delegation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan sponsored five Armenian American young leaders nominated by His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church on a visit to Japan from October 22-29 through the KAKEHASHI Project.

Technology, Environment, Economy, etc.



Food and Tourism Receptions for Kagoshima Prefecture, Mutsu City and Tottori Prefecture

In October, Consul General Sone gave opening remarks at three food and tourism promotion receptions hosted at UKA Restaurant and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, each organized by a different prefecture/city from Japan: [Kagoshima Prefecture](#), [Mutsu City in Aomori Prefecture](#), and [Tottori Prefecture](#).



Tokyo City Cup and Japan Family Day

On October 6, Consul General Sone and Mrs. Sone attended the Tokyo City Cup, which celebrates the special partnership between Santa Anita Park and Ohi Racecourse of Tokyo, and Japan Family Day. At the Japan Family Day festival, many people enjoyed Japanese cultural

performances such as taiko, a variety of Japanese cuisine including onigiri and takoyaki, and more.



WTCLA x JETRO MOU & Beyond Japan Pitch Event

On October 9, Consul General Sone witnessed an MOU signing between the World Trade Center LA and JETRO LA to strengthen collaboration between Japanese and Los Angeles area companies. After the MOU signing ceremony, Consul General Sone hosted an event for Japanese start-ups to pitch to US investors as part of JETRO's "Beyond Japan" program.



Innovations for Sustainability in Consumer Returns: Reverse Logistics 2.0

On Oct. 23, Consul General Sone gave opening remarks at "Innovations for Sustainability in Consumer Returns: Reverse Logistics 2.0," a seminar organized by Center for Professional Exchange (CEPEX) and held in the city of Torrance. This seminar was CEPEX's third event in their vocational training project series addressing reverse logistics and cultivating the U.S.-Japan relationship.

Entertainment, Culture



Oshu-Torrance Become Friendship Cities

On Oct. 1, the City of Torrance and the City of Oshu, in Iwate Prefecture signed a Friendship City agreement. Consul General and Mrs. Sone were among the witnesses to this historical agreement, which brings about a new exchange between the US and Japan.



JHLA Holds *BLEACH* Screening and Chat

On Oct. 13, JAPAN HOUSE LA hosted a special screening of the latest *BLEACH: Thousand-Year Blood War* series (episodes 1-2 and the world premiere of Episode 3). The event also featured a Fireside Chat & Voiceover with Masakazu Morita and Noriaki Sugiyama. Consul General Sone explained that entertainment content is an important export industry for Japan, and that Japanese pop culture such as anime has expanded its global reach and influence.



Japanese Film Festival Arizona Held

The Japanese Film Festival Arizona, organized by the Japanese Culture Club of Arizona, was held Oct. 18-19. Consul General SONE attended the festival, which introduced Japanese culture through cinema.



Introducing JFF Theater

JFF Theater is a free way to watch Japanese movies and videos launched earlier this summer, courtesy of Japan Foundation, Los Angeles. Sign up and start watching today!