

Japan Focus



Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles
Japan Information & Culture Center
March 2024 Vol. 16 Issue 3



G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On Feb. 21-22, Minister for Foreign Affairs KAMIKAWA Yoko attended the Group of 20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Brazil. Kamikawa explained that Japan would work to uphold and strengthen the free and open international order based on the rule of law, so that all people and all nations can enjoy peace, stability, and prosperity, and to realize a world where "human dignity" is protected, based on the vision of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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 Feb. 19, [the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction](#) was held in Tokyo. [In his keynote speech at the Leaders' Session](#), Prime Minister KISHIDA noted that Japan has attached a new significance of "investing in the future" of Ukraine.

Check us out online!

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



Conferment Ceremony of Foreign Minister's Commendation for Mr. David Tuites

On Aug. 16, 2023 (Japan Standard Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients of its 2023 Foreign Minister's Commendation. From the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, Mr. David Tuites was awarded for having made significant contributions to promoting understanding of Japan in San Diego and strengthening friendly relations between Japan and the United States. On Feb. 17, 2024, Mr. Tuites was presented the Foreign Minister's Commendation.



Celebrating the New Year with Local Organizations

The Consulate General of Japan is celebrating the New Year by joining celebrations held by local organizations. Consul General SONE Kenko attended the Southern California Gardeners' Federation 69th Annual Officers' Installation and New Year's Banquet on Feb. 4 and the Japanese Prefectural Association of Southern California (JPASC) New Officers Installation & Friendship Luncheon on Feb. 11. Deputy Consul General AOSHIMA on Feb. 18 attended the Japanese Community Pioneer Center's New Year's Party.



Visit to the U.S. Army National Training Center at Fort Irwin

On Feb. 15-16, Consul General Sone visited the U.S. Army's Fort Irwin National Training Center in San Bernardino County following an invitation from Major General Curtis Taylor, Commanding General. Consul General Sone toured the facilities and observed a live fire exercise during his visit.

Japanese American Community



Groundbreaking Ceremony in Little Tokyo

On Feb. 13, Consul General Sone delivered congratulatory remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Go For Broke Plaza and First Street North Residences, a community development project in Little Tokyo led by Little Tokyo Service Center and Go For Broke National Education Center.



LA Next Generation Japanese American Leaders Initiative Members' KAKEHASHI Visit Presentation

On Feb. 21, Consul General Sone hosted an event at the official residence featuring a presentation by LA Next Generation Japanese American Leaders Initiative members who visited Japan in Fall 2023 on the KAKEHASHI

Project. The delegation visited Tokyo and Sendai where they met with leaders of organizations such as Tokio Marine Holdings, Inc., Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and elected officials including Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasushi Hosaka.

Community Relations



Celebrating the Japan-Armenia Friendship

On Feb. 8, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America co-sponsored an event celebrating the friendship between Japan and Armenia and their local diaspora communities. The event featured a presentation by Armenian community leaders who traveled to Japan in March 2023 on a delegation led by His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian.



KAKEHASHI - LA African American Young Business Leaders Delegation

The Government of Japan sponsored five African American young business leaders nominated by Los Angeles Mayor's Office of International Affairs to visit Japan on the KAKEHASHI Project from February 5-13. The delegation visited Tokyo and Nagoya and learned about Japan's prominent business sectors and social enterprises. They also met with government officials including Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasushi Hosaka and Nagoya Mayor Takashi Kawamura.

Business, Economics and Technology



2024 JBA Annual Reception

On Feb. 9, the JBA Annual Reception was held at the Consul General's official residence. The event featured the initiatives of Japanese companies to hydrogen technology in Southern California. In addition to the Japanese companies engaged in hydrogen infrastructure, government officials and economic organizations working to build a sustainable society participated in the event.



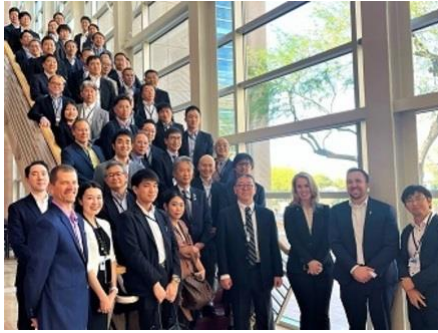
2024 JRA Annual Reception

On Feb. 13, Japanese Restaurant Association of America hosted its 2024 New Year's Installation Reception at the Consul General's official residence. Around 120 guests in the food and restaurant industry gathered to celebrate the New Year, as well as a welcoming celebration of the JRA's new president, Mr. Shinji Kugita from Katsuya Restaurant.



Shochu Reception

On Feb. 21, the Consulate General of Japan, together with the Japan Sake & Shochu Makers Association (JSS) and Japan House Los Angeles, held a Shochu Reception to celebrate the passage of AB416, which amends California law regarding alcohol licensing. Shochu with an alcohol content of less than 25% can now be sold in bars and restaurants that have a wine license.



Japanese Delegation Visit to Arizona

On Feb. 22-23, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles hosted a Japanese delegation visit in Arizona, which has been attracting attention as the next Silicon Valley. Delegation members included representatives from Japanese companies considering expansion or investment in the U.S. as well as Japanese companies already in the U.S. that are considering expanding their business in Arizona. Over 40 Japanese companies and organizations (nearly 80 delegates total) joined the program to better understand the investment, business and living environment in Arizona.

Entertainment, culture & others



Screening of FX's *Shogun* Held

On Jan. 31, FX and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles co-presented an exclusive screening of the first episode of FX's *Shōgun*, followed by a conversation with Hiroyuki Sanada. The event culminated with a networking reception featuring Japanese refreshments prepared by UKA restaurant. Consul General Sone gave the toast at the reception, lauding the cultural impact this story has had over its several iterations throughout the years.



Deputy Consul General Attends 18th U.S. Weight Category Karate Championships Opening Ceremony

On Feb. 4, the 18th U.S. Weight Category Karate Championships by International Karate Organization Kyokushin kaikan was held at the Aratani Theatre in Little Tokyo. Deputy Consul General Aoshima attended the opening ceremony, where he delivered remarks.



Perfect Days LA Premiere

On Feb. 6, the Los Angeles premiere of *Perfect Days*, Japan's Oscars submission for Best International Feature Film, was held at the TCL Chinese Theatre. Director Wim Wenders, co-writer Takuma Takasaki and lead actor Koji Yakusho joined together for a special talk at the premiere, moderated by Hiro Murai.



Godzilla Minus One Event Held

Godzilla Minus One, nominated for an Academy Award for Best Visual Effects, was celebrated Feb. 16 at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. Director, Screenwriter & VFX visionary Takashi Yamazaki came from Japan to give a special talk on the backstories of his dramatic storytelling, filmmaking, and process of deploying innovative techniques to create unique visual effects that turn imagination to cinematic reality.



Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Arizona Matsuri

The Arizona Matsuri celebrated its 40th Anniversary over Feb. 24-25, honoring the organizers and vendors who have helped shape its history through the years.

Hon. Consul of Japan in Arizona, Kelly Moeur, helped found the festival in 1984 with several thousand in attendance. In 2023, over 100,000 visitors came to the festival, and this year, that number could be even higher!



School Visits Program Goes to Arizona

On Feb. 23, the Japanese Consulate's school visits program visited Betty Fairfax High School in Laveen, AZ, presenting to students in Japanese language classes and the Japanese Club. As part of the School

Visits program, students of all grades (K-12 and college) can hear about Japanese culture and society from staff of the Japan Information and Culture Center and occasional volunteer guest presenters.

Coming Up!



[Learn About Earthquake Readiness in Japan and LA](#)

In the upcoming March 12 webinar entitled, "Readiness in Japan and Los Angeles: How to Prepare for the Next Big Earthquakes," experts in disaster management from Japan and Los Angeles will discuss the similarities and differences between Japan in the U.S. in an online panel discussion! Click the headline to register.

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