



Credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office

Prime Minister Kishida's U.S. Visit

Prime Minister KISHIDA's official U.S. visit from April 8-14 included a [White House arrival ceremony](#), [summit with President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.](#), and an [address "For the Future: Our Global Partnership."](#) at a joint

meeting of the U.S. Congress. During his summit with U.S. President Biden, Prime Minister Kishida reiterated

that the role of the Japan-U.S. Alliance has become more significant than ever before, and that both nations are bonded by deep trust and multi-layered friendship. Furthermore, Japan and the U.S. have become global partners beyond bilateral or regional spheres, to uphold and bolster the free and open international order based on the rule of law, Kishida said.



Foreign Minister Kamikawa Attends U.S. Meetings

Foreign Minister KAMIKAWA Yoko, who accompanied Prime Minister KISHIDA on his official visit to the U.S.,

[hosted a dinner with experts on Japan-U.S. relations](#). She

also held [informal talks with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo](#) covering such topics as economic engagement in the Indo-Pacific region and economic security.



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](#).

Check us out online!

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



Recipients of Spring 2024 Decorations



Mr. Haruo Takehana



Mrs. Akiko Bourland

On April 29, 2024 (Japan Standard Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients of its Spring 2024 Decorations. From the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, the following distinguished persons will be conferred. Mr.

Takehana will be conferred the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays for contributing to the promotion of economic relations between Japan and the United States. Mrs. Bourland will be conferred the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays for having contributed to promoting Japanese culture in the U.S.



Applications Now Open for Three Types of

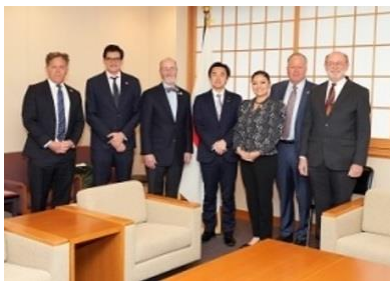
Japaense Government (MEXT) Scholarships for 2025

Full tuition for study in Japan and other benefits are offered to U.S. citizens through the Research Students Scholarships (for graduate students), Undergraduate Students Scholarships, and Specialized Training College Students Scholarships. Please see the webpage for deadlines and application instructions.



18th Japan International MANGA Award Now Accepting Applications

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 18th Japan International MANGA Award runs from April 12, 2024 to July 5, 2024.



California State Senators Visit Japan

Following the formation of the California-Japan Legislative Forum on March 19, Senator Lena Gonzalez led a delegation visit to Japan which included Co-Chair

of the Forum Senator Josh Newman, Steve Glazer, Bill Dodd, John Laird, and Josh Becker. The delegation visited Tokyo and Osaka from March 24 – 30.



Conferment Ceremony of Foreign Minister's Commendation for Mrs. Akiko Bourland Held

On Aug. 16, 2023 (JST), 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, Mrs. Akiko Bourland was awarded in recognition of her contribution to mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S. through *ikebana*. She was presented the Commendation on April 5, 2024.

Entertainment, culture & others



Credit: Jun Nagata - Rafu Shimpō

Japanese Music Promotion Event Held

With support from JETRO Los Angeles, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, 88rising hosted an event in Los Angeles to further expansion of the Japanese music industry in the U.S. by showcasing Japan's vibrant music industry and artists, including "Atarashii Gakko!" to U.S. music industry professionals and journalists, along with Japanese cuisine.



Celebrating the World of "Benshi" Movie Orators

On April 18, Consul General Sone and Mrs. Sone attended a lecture & demonstration on "The World of the Benshi," co-hosted by the Japan Foundation and Yanai Initiative, prior to its tour screenings on April 19, 20, & 21. Three scholars from Japan, Dr. Kotaro Shibata, Dr. Makiko Kamiya, and Dr. Fumito Shirai gave presentations about 'benshi' or movie orators. Mr. Ichiro Kataoka, a professional benshi gave a demonstration.



Sake Enthusiasts Gather in San Diego

Consul General Sone & Mrs. Sone participated in the San Diego Spring Sake Festival on April 21 organized by San Diego Sake Club at the Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum. About 500 sake enthusiasts enjoyed "nama" sake, which is an extremely unique sake available during springtime.

Coming Up!



New JAPAN HOUSE Exhibit: "Yes, KAWAII is Art - EXPRESS YOURSELF-"

"Yes, KAWAII is Art -EXPRESS YOURSELF-," JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles is excited to partner with artist Sebastian Masuda to share an in-depth look at the origins of the colorful kawaii style, its development and its profound cultural significance, transcending

its perception as a fashion look or trend. The exhibit will run from May 2 to Nov. 3, 2024 at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles.

<http://www.la.us.emb-japan.go.jp> | info@ls.mofa.go.jp
Consulate General of Japan, Los Angeles