



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!



Awardees for FY2024 Foreign Minister's Commendation Chosen

On Aug. 1, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the awardees chosen for the FY2024 Foreign Minister's Commendation: Dr. Akiko Agishi,

Chairperson, Japanese Language Scholarship Foundation; Mr. Kunihiko Murai, composer and founder of Alfa Records; and the Teachers of Japanese in Southern California.

Japanese American Community



3rd Annual Nikkei Celebration in Boyle Heights

On Aug. 3, Consul General and Mrs. Sone participated in the parade and ondo dance at the 3rd Annual Nikkei Celebration held by Boyle Heights Community Partners and the Little Tokyo Historical Society. Boyle Heights has been a bustling interracial community where people of different ethnic backgrounds have lived together, and its rich history plays a vital role in Japan's presence in Southern California.



Celebrating Cultural Exchange Through Youth Basketball

On Aug. 4, the Yonsei Basketball Association held its 2024 Goodwill Games, featuring 24 boys and girls from Fukuoka visiting Southern California, along with their families. They engaged in friendly competition with local Japanese American players from Yonsei Basketball leagues, deepening friendships through sports. Consul General Kenko Sone delivering remarks at the opening ceremony.



Meeting with TOMODACHI Toshizo Watanabe Leadership Program

On Aug. 15, Consul General and Mrs. Sone met with Japanese high school students participating in the [TOMODACHI Toshizo Watanabe Leadership Program](#).

The students visited the Southern California region for eleven days to engage with people in the local community, learn about the history and diverse cultures of the U.S., and acquire different perspectives and leadership skills through site visits and homestays.



Nisei Week Wraps Up

The 82nd Nisei Week Japanese Festival in Little Tokyo wrapped up its annual summer festivities that included the [Coronation program](#) at the Aratani Theater on Aug. 10, the [Grand Parade in Little Tokyo including the LA Nebuta procession](#) on Aug. 11, and [the Closing Ceremony](#) on Aug. 18.

Community Relations



City of Burbank, City of Ota Celebrate 40th Anniversary as Sister Cities

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the sister city relationship between the City of Burbank and the City of Ota, in Gunma Prefecture. The Ota delegation, which included ten exchange students, visited Burbank for the first time after a five-year hiatus. Consul General and

Mrs. Sone, as well as Burbank Vice Mayor Nikki Perez and other city representatives, attended the farewell dinner on August 4 to send off these young ambassadors.



City of Torrance, City of Bizen Sign Friendship City Pact

On Aug. 8, the City of Torrance and the City of Bizen in Okayama Prefecture signed a Friendship City agreement. A day earlier, Consul General and Mrs. Sone attended a dinner held by the City of Torrance

that welcomed Bizen's official delegation. Both cities' officials discussed the possible opportunities that this new relationship may foster in cultural/educational exchange, economic growth, and international collaboration.

Technology, Business, and Economy



Japan Food Export Platform Conference

On July 31, Consul General Sone participated in the Japan Food Export Platform conference at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. A total of 57 people (in person & online) attended from private companies and

organizations involved in Japanese food, including representatives from the Japanese Restaurant Association of America, Japanese Food Culture Association, and the Shichimikai.

Visits to Japanese and Japanese American Companies



Consul General Sone visited Japanese and Japanese American companies to discuss how the consulate can further support their operations. Visit sites included [Yakult, whose probiotic drinks are enjoyed by millions around the world every day](#), and [Upper Crust Enterprises, the first panko bread crumb manufacturer in the US](#).



Mayo Clinic and Arizona State University Seminar

On Aug. 8, Consul General Sone gave opening remarks at a Mayo Clinic and Arizona State University seminar. 25+ participants from Japanese companies and organizations joined, including Honorary Consul of Japan in Phoenix Kelly Moeur. The seminar introduced the projects in the medical and engineering fields at each organization and explored opportunities for collaboration between Japanese and Arizona companies in the medical field.



Port of Nagoya Promotion Reception

On Aug. 21, a delegation from the Port of Nagoya, the port that handles the largest volume in Japan, hosted a promotional reception in Southern California. Deputy Consul General Aoshima gave opening remarks and praised the strong partnership between the Port of Nagoya and Port of Los Angeles, which signed an MOU in 2020 to strengthen their

cooperation on environmental sustainability. Takashi Ogi, the Chair of the Japan Hydrogen Forum, also shared about its members' collaborations to facilitate decarbonization, including at the Port of Los Angeles.



World Business Meeting in USA by Pan Pacific International Holdings

On August 28, Deputy Consul General Aoshima gave opening remarks at “World Business Meeting in USA”, along with executives from JETRO, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, and Japan House. At the meeting, Pan Pacific International Holdings Founding Chairman Yasuda shared the company’s business expansion plan for the US.

Entertainment, culture & others



[Congratulations to Michelin Star Awardee UKA](#)

Modern kaiseki restaurant UKA, located at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, has been awarded a Michelin Star from the esteemed Michelin Guide, which honors excellence in cuisine worldwide! Congratulations!



[Explore Japan: A Window into Location Production](#)

At our event on Aug. 18 at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles (JHLA), Consul General Sone gave an overview of Japan’s film incentive. JHLA President Kaifu moderated a panel with

Jay Roewe (HBO/Max), Allegra Clegg (Paramount Pictures), and Joe Malloch (Searchlight Pictures) on filming in Japan. There were also presentations by Georgina Pope from Toho Tombo Pictures and Ken Takahashi from Toei Studios Kyoto, and booth exhibits by Japanese companies.



San Diego Padres Japanese Heritage Celebration

On Aug. 19, Consul General and Mrs. Sone were invited by the San Diego Padres to attend the Japanese Heritage Celebration at Petco Park. They cheered for the success of Japanese players and expressed their hope that baseball will continue to

serve as a bridge of friendship between Japan and the U.S.



Hokkaido Tourism Seminar

On Aug. 21, Consul General Sone gave opening remarks at a tourism promotion seminar by Hokkaido Tourism Organization, Japan's largest and Northernmost prefecture, at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. The seminar

showcased Hokkaido's wide variety of seasonal activities, from cherry blossom viewing, ice sculptures at the Sapporo Snow Festival, to the stunning Shirogane Blue Pond, etc. Hokkaido is also known for its regional foods, such as rich Hokkaido ramen, soup curry, Ghenghis Khan BBQ, and more.

Coming Up



Japan Film Festival Los Angeles 2024

Fans of Japanese cinema unite! The Japan Film Festival Los Angeles 2024 offers a wide range of short films to features that you don't to miss in September. [Films will be screened](#) at the Hang on the Dream Theatre and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles.

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