

Japan Focus

Consulate General of
Japan In Los Angeles
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Messages from Japan's Prime Minister, Foreign Minister in Response to Los Angeles Wildfires

In response to the devastating wildfires in the Los Angeles area, [Prime Minister ISHIBA](#) extended his heartfelt condolences to victims and [Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi](#) expressed hope for the earliest possible recovery from this disaster. The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles offers its thoughts and prayers to those displaced from their homes, and to those who work to rescue and recover during this difficult time. Read Consul General Sone's message [HERE](#).

On Jan. 15, the [Government of Japan announced it will provide \\$2 million in assistance](#) in response to the devastating damage caused by the wildfires in the Los Angeles area.



2025 New Year's Greetings

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles would like to wish all a Happy New Year! We would like to share [Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru's New Year's Reflection](#), and a [New Year's Message from Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles SONE Kenko](#).



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](#).



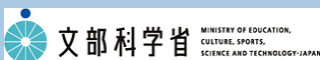
UNESCO Inscription of "Traditional Knowledge and Skills of Sake-Making with Koji Mold in Japan"

On Nov. 5, "Traditional knowledge and skills of sake-making with koji mold in Japan" was inscribed on the [UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#). Read [Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi's statement](#).



Foreign Minister's Commendation Presented to Dr. Akiko Agishi

On Dec. 10th, the Foreign Minister's Commendation was presented to Dr. Akiko Agishi, the founder of Aurora Foundation. Through the organization, she has spearheaded efforts to foster and support people in the U.S. engaged in Japanese language education and also facilitated cultural exchanges between students from Japan and high schools students in the greater Los Angeles area.



Japanese Studies Students MEXT Scholarship

For undergraduates: We are now accepting applications for the one-year, Japanese Studies Students MEXT scholarship. Deadline: Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

Japanese American Community



KAKEHASHI - LA Next Generation Leaders Delegation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan sponsored four members of the LA Next Generation Japanese American Leaders Initiative on a visit to Japan from Dec 3 - 10 through the KAKEHASHI Project. During their visit, they met with national elected officials including [Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs ERI Arfiya](#).



Celebrating the New Year with Mochi Pounding

Mochitsuki, or mochi pounding, on New Year's Day is an important cultural tradition for many Japanese families and communities. Consul General Sone joined the annual OCO Mochitsuki Taikai (mochi pounding competition) at Tanaka Farms in Irvine.

Community Outreach



KAKEHASHI - L.A. Armenian American Young Leaders Delegation Event

On Dec. 11, 2024, the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America and the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles co-hosted an event featuring a presentation by the LA Armenian American Young Leaders Delegation.

Technology, Environment, Economy, etc.

Japan Receptive Tour Operators Reception

On Dec. 4, Deputy Consul General Aoshima gave opening remarks at a networking reception for Japan Sales Mission delegates and fellow industry leaders. The event was hosted by Brand USA and LA Tourism and helped support the "U.S.-Japan Tourism Year 2024."

Entertainment, Culture

Taste of Japan Phoenix 2024

On Dec. 14, Deputy Consul General Aoshima gave opening remarks at Taste of Japan held in Downtown Phoenix. This year's festivities included demonstrations by Japanese sumo champions, taiko drummers, kimono shows, J-pop, and more. Guests enjoyed ramen, takoyaki, and more from 20+ food vendors, as well as Japanese sake and beer.

Learning About Japan's School Lunch Program

On Dec. 14, Consul General Sone attended "Movie & Bites: School Lunch of Ashiya City" at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. Guests learned about Japan's *kyushoku* school lunch program that provides children with a healthy meal and food education, and also enjoyed a sample *kyushoku* and take-home items donated by Q & B Foods Inc. and Yakult U.S.A. Inc.

Celebrating the New Year in Little Tokyo

On Jan. 1, Consul General Sone celebrated the annual tradition of ushering in the New Year at "Oshogatsu in Little Tokyo," an event organized by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California (JCCSC) and its foundation (JCCF) and supported by Japanese American community members. .

The logo for the Golden Globes, featuring the words "GOLDEN GLOBES" in a stylized, gold-colored serif font on a black rectangular background.

Shogun A Big Winner at 82nd Golden Globes

Congratulations to Shōgun, which was nominated for and won four Golden Globe Awards categories, including Best Television Series (Drama), Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actor. The series is a historical drama set in the 17th century Japan.

Coming Up!



Exploring Together: US-Japan Space Collaboration Symposium

On Jan. 20, the US-Japan Space Collaboration Symposium, co-hosted by the Keck Institute for Space Studies at Caltech and Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, and in partnership with JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), will highlight existing US-Japan space activities and seek to foster new collaborations within the US and Japanese space community.