

Japan Focus

Consulate General of
Japan In Los Angeles
February 2025, Issue 2



Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting

Meeting with U.S. President Donald J. Trump at the White House on Jan. 7, Japan's Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru said the U.S. is the most important country for Japan's diplomacy and security. The two leaders agreed to work closely to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific and to elevate the Japan-U.S. Alliance to new heights.

(Photo credit: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)



Foreign Minister Iwaya Meets U.S. Counterpart Marco Rubio

On Jan. 21, Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi visited Washington, D.C. and met with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The two agreed to advance cooperation to further strengthen Japan-U.S. Alliance deterrence and response capabilities.



QUAD Foreign Ministers' Meeting Held

The Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (Quad) foreign ministers met in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 21 and issued a joint statement that reaffirmed the importance of the allies and like-minded countries' coordination and commitment toward the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP) and that they will further strengthen the cooperation.



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](#).



Presentation Ceremony for Govt of Japan's Financial Assistance for LA Wildfires

The American Red Cross and Consulate General of Japan held a presentation ceremony on Feb. 5 for the Government of Japan's \$2 million dollar financial assistance for wildfires in California. At the ceremony, Consul General Sone said the funds were remitted February 4th and he expressed hopes that the assistance will be used to address critical needs in the impacted communities.

Technology, Environment, Economy, and Business



2025 Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Seminar

Consul General Sone joined the Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Seminar and gave remarks at the opening reception. Japan became the 2025 Country Sponsor and 20+ companies had exhibits at the Japan Pavilion. The sponsorship was a collaboration by NEDO, JETRO Los Angeles, Japan Hydrogen Forum, and Japan Hydrogen Association.



New Year's Celebrations with JBA and JBAA

Consul General Sone gave opening remarks at [New Years reception for Japan Business Association of Southern California \(JBA\)](#) on January 17, and Deputy Consul General Aoshima gave opening remarks at the [New Years reception for the Japanese Business Association of Arizona \(JBAA\)](#) on January 18.



U.S.-Japan Space Collaboration Symposium Held

The opening ceremony of the U.S.-Japan Space Collaboration Symposium that took place on Jan. 24 at Caltech. At this symposium, NASA, JAXA, JPL, Caltech, and private sector experts discussed the latest advancements as well as future potential developments in lunar exploration and beyond. "I hope this seminar serves as a catalyst for further momentum in collaboration between Japan and the United States to boldly go where no one has gone before," said Consul General Sone.



Sake Seminar and Tasting with Kochi Prefecture

On Jan. 27, Consul General Sone gave opening remarks at a sake seminar and tasting held at UKA restaurant and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. The seminar highlighted unique characteristics of Kochi Prefecture sake followed by a tasting with Kochi Prefecture cuisine, including seared bonito.



Commendation Ceremony of the Japan Agricultural Achievement Awards for Mr. Sadaharu Nishio

On January 28, Consul General Sone hosted a Commendation Ceremony of the Japan Agricultural Achievement Awards for Mr. Sadaharu Nishio, owner of Green Paradise Farm, which grows Japanese vegetables such as cucumbers, eggplants, garland chrysanthemums, and more in Southern California.

Entertainment, Culture



Finding Inspiration with "ETHEREAL: Interpretations of the Ryugujo Myth"

On Jan. 21, Consul General Sone and Mrs. Sone attended the opening reception for ["ETHEREAL: Interpretations of the Ryugujo Myth," by](#)

[Dwight Hwang and Miki Yokoyama](#), an art exhibition through March 15 at the Japan Foundation Los Angeles. The exhibition explores the Ryugujo dragon palace mythical undersea kingdom through fish prints and mix media.

Coming Up!



Arizona Matsuri 2025 (February 22-23)

The Arizona Matsuri, a two-day festival that celebrates all things Japan, will be held on Feb. 22-23 at Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix, AZ. The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles will have an on-site booth, so please stop by!! Don't miss cultural presentations, performances, demonstrations and of course FOOD!!!



The U.S.-Japan Alliance Series: The U.S.-Japan Alliance Under New Management (March 10)

On March 10, RAND Corp. will hold explore how and what the recent leadership changes on both sides of the Pacific could mean for the U.S.-Japan Alliance over the coming years. "The U.S.-Japan Alliance Series: The U.S.-Japan Alliance Under New Management" will bring together experts from both the U.S. and Japan to contribute to public understanding of the key issues confronting Washington, D.C. and Tokyo.