

Japan Focus



*Consulate General of
Japan In Los Angeles
March 2025, Issue 3*



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](#).



Foreign Minister's Commendation Presented to Mr. Kunihiko Murai

The Foreign Minister's Commendation was presented to Mr. Kunihiko Murai, composer and founder of Alfa records, in recognition of his significant contribution to mutual understanding between Japan and the US, especially in the music industry.



Promoting Expo 2025 and MYAKU-MYAKU

On Feb. 25, the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Business Seminar and Networking Reception was held at the Miyako Hotel Los Angeles, hosted by the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition and co-hosted by the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles. Consul General Sone gave opening remarks and Japanese companies provided a preview of their technology and exhibits for the Expo, while MYAKU-MYAKU made a special appearance during the reception.

MYAKU-MYAKU is a mysterious creature created from the fusion of cells and water. MYAKU means "pulse" in Japanese, and the red design represents "cells," which divide and multiply.

The blue part represents “pure water,” which can flow and change shape. To promote Expo 2025, MYAKU-MYAKU [visited Little Tokyo and USC.](#)



Technology, Environment, Economy, and Business



[Visit to Imperial Valley](#)

On Feb. 6-7, Consul General Sone visited the Imperial Valley region where he gave remarks at the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation's (IVEDC) Annual Dinner and visited several companies and institutions, including Japanese company Earthrise Nutritionals and the Japanese American Gallery at the Pioneers' Museum.



[Japan Business Association of Southern California \(JBA\) Annual Reception](#)

On Feb. 7, JBA held its 64th annual reception at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles. Consul General Sone expressed support for those affected by the LA fires, highlighted the role of Japanese companies as major contributors to the local economy, and emphasized the importance of collaboration with local partners.



Japan Mission to Arizona

On Feb. 20-21, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles hosted a Japanese delegation to Arizona in collaboration with JETRO Los Angeles, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, and Arizona Commerce Authority. Over 40 delegates joined the seminars and the tour to the City of Tucson to learn about investment opportunities in the Greater Phoenix area and Southern Arizona .



Japan Pavilion at Los Angeles Travel and Adventure Show (LATAS)

Japan National Travel Organization (JNTO), Japanese travel organizations, prefectures, and cities joined LATAS to meet with participants and share ideas for their next trip to Japan. On Feb. 23, Consul General Sone met with JNTO at their Japan Pavilion and spoke with several Japanese organizations about their tourism promotion efforts.

Entertainment, Culture, Education



Sharing Comfort Food and Culture at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles

With the support of MUFG, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles held an event on Comfort Food that explored the heart of culinary traditions and sought to connect different cultures. The event featured presentations on cuisine from Japan, Brazil, and Morocco. By sharing meals together, participants fostered greater mutual understanding.



Japanese Culture Club of Arizona Becomes NAJAS' 40th Member

Congratulations to the Japanese Culture Club of Arizona for joining the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS) as its record 40th member. On Feb. 21, Consul General Sone attended a kick-off reception at the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix and delivered opening remarks to celebrate the occasion.



Celebrating Japanese Culture at Arizona Matsuri

Consul General Sone attended Arizona Matsuri 2025 held at Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix. Attendees enjoyed Japanese food, performances and cultural demonstrations.

Coming Up!



Learn About the U.S.-Japan Friendship Behind Descanso Gardens' Camellias (March 8)

The camellias of Descanso Gardens hold a hidden story of U.S.-Japan friendship. On March 8 at 3:00pm, hear from a Japanese garden expert talk about the history of the Descanso Gardens camellias. Also, explore an exhibition presented by the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition.



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.



Cherry Blossom Festival in Glendale, CA (March 16)

On March 16, Shoseian Teahouse and Japanese Friendship Garden in the City of Glendale will hold its annual Cherry Blossom Festival. The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles will also be at the festival running a booth, so please stop by!



JAPAN CURRENTS 2025 - U.S. and Japan: Shaping AI Standards for Good (March 21)

Join leading experts in a discussion about shaping ethical and effective global AI standards. The March 21 event organized by Japan America Society of Southern California will include such speakers as KONO Taro, member of the House of Representatives of Japan and former Minister of Foreign Affairs.