



## **Japan-U.S. Consultation on U.S. Tariff Measures**

On April 16, AKAZAWA Ryosei, Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization of Japan, visited Washington D.C., to attend a [Japan-U.S. Consultation on U.S. Tariff Measures](#). He stated that the tariff measures are extremely regrettable, and explained Japan's views on their impacts on Japanese industry as well as on increase in investment and employment in both Japan and the U.S. He also strongly urged a reconsideration of the series of tariff measures by the U.S.



## **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](#).

## **Recipients of Spring 2025 Decorations Announced**



On April 29, 2025 (Japan Standard Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients of its Spring 2025 Decorations. The recipients from the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles are Kimiko Fujita, former President of the Orange County Japanese American Association, and Makiko Shirai, a former local employee of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles.



## **Applications Now Open for Three Types of Japanese Govt (MEXT) Scholarships for 2026**

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.



## **19th 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 19th Japan International MANGA Award runs from April 17 to June 30, 2025.



## **Fall 2024 Decoration Conferred on Mr. Brian Swords**

On April 2, a conferment ceremony was held for Brian Swords who received the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays for his contribution to the activities of Japanese overseas establishment. Brian Swords is a former local employee of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles.

# **Japanese American Community**



## **Southern California Gardeners' Federation 70th Anniversary Celebration**

On March 30, Consul General Sone attended the Southern California Gardeners' Federation 70th Anniversary Celebration. He congratulated the Federation for marking its 70th anniversary, and cited the long history of Japanese and Japanese American gardeners in Southern California and their hard work and dedication.



## **Meeting with LA City Councilmember McOsker**

On April 16, Consul General Sone met with LA City Councilmember Tim McOsker, together with Terminal Islanders President Terry Hara, to thank him for the recent Los Angeles City Council resolution granting historic status to the remaining buildings of the former Japanese Village on Terminal Island. They also discussed the contributions of Japanese companies at the Port of Los Angeles.



## **Celebrating Japanese Heritage Night at Dodger Stadium**

Thank you, Dodger Stadium for acknowledging the culture and traditions of Japan at Japanese Heritage Night on April 28. Consul General Sone and Mrs. Sone joined the Nisei Week Foundation to greet everyone from the field.

# **Technology, Environment, Economy, and Business**



## **18th Annual VerdeXchange VX2025 Green Marketmakers Conference**

On April 6, Consul General Sone co-hosted the annual kick-off VIP reception and panel discussion for the 18th VerdeXchange VX2025 Green Marketmakers Conference. Around 200 attendees joined the reception and Japanese companies, NEDO, and Japan Hydrogen Forum had exhibits showcasing their technology.



## **Japan Hydrogen Forum (JH2F) 2025 Annual Meeting**

On April 8, Consul General Sone joined the annual meeting of JH2F, an organization of Japanese companies that was established to support decarbonization goals. JH2F welcomed its 35th member to join the forum and shared an updated industry map featuring the innovative hydrogen technology of its members.

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## **Opening Ceremony for Bread, Espresso & in Redondo Beach**

On April 9, Consul General Sone gave remarks at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Bread, Espresso & in Redondo Beach. The popular Japanese bakery-café has 37 stores in Japan and offers coffee and a variety of baked goods, including their signature “Mou”, a hybrid of brioche and milk bread.

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## **Toei Company's Reception in Los Angeles**

On April 10, Toei Company held a reception in LA with the entertainment industry community to promote their world-class production facilities and services. During the opening remarks, Consul General Sone expressed his hope to see more international content collaborations and shared about the 2025-26 Japan Location Incentive Program offering a 50% subsidy for filming in Japan.

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## **Talking Hokkaido with Consul General Sone**

Looking for a place to visit in Japan aside from Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto? Learn about Consul General Sone's hometown of Tōma and his local recommendations of things to try in Hokkaido!

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# **Entertainment, Culture, Education**





## **Courtesy Visit to Culver City Mayor**

On April 21, Consul General Sone paid a courtesy visit to Mayor O'Brien of Culver City. During their meeting, they discussed future collaboration toward the LA28 Olympics and talked about the Kaizuka Meditation Garden — a cherished gift from the City of Kaizuka, Osaka, to the City of Culver City 50 years ago.

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## **Celebrating at Cherry Blossom Festivals**

Deputy Consul General Naoshige Aoshima attended the 12th Torrance Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival on March 30 and delivered remarks, while on April 12, Consul Tomoyuki Yamagata spoke at the 25th Cherry Blossom Festival. Both events featured cultural performances, delicious food, and cultural exchange. While cherry blossom season is over in Southern California and Arizona, be sure to catch the blooms and festivals next spring!

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