

# Japan Focus

Consulate General of  
Japan In Los Angeles  
June 2025, Issue 6



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

On May 23, AKAZAWA Ryosei, Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization of Japan met with U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in Washington, D.C. as part of a [Japan-U.S. Consultation on U.S. Tariff Measures](#). He once again strongly urged U.S. Trade Representative Greer to reconsider the series of tariff measures imposed by the U.S. At this third round of consultations, the two sides exchanged views on expanding trade, non-tariff measures, and cooperation on economic security.



## **Quad Partnership Discussed at LA World Affairs Council Panel Discussion**

On May 29, Consul General participated in a panel discussion on the Quad partnership at an event hosted by the LA World Affairs Council, in celebration of AAPI Heritage Month. Other panelists included the Consul General of India Dr. K. Srikar Reddy, Consul General of Australia Tanya Bennett, and the Honorable David R. Stilwell of the U.S. Department of State.



## **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](#).

# Japanese American Community



## [Consulate Members Join Little Tokyo Sparkle](#)

Volunteers from the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles participated in the Little Tokyo Sparkle annual cleanup on May 17. The event, also known as Nancy Kikuchi Volunteer Day, honors the late Nancy Kikuchi, a tireless volunteer for many organizations in Little Tokyo.

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## [Bazaar Held In Support of Little Tokyo Seniors](#)

On May 31, a joint bazaar was held in celebration of the partnership between Koreisha Senior Care & Advocacy (KSCA) and Seinan Senior Citizens' Club. Proceeds from this bazaar will be used to provide services for Japanese American seniors. Many people enjoyed shopping, a Japanese tea ceremony demonstration, etc. in support of the Japanese American community.

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## [Supporting Efforts to Preserve Terminal Island's Japanese American History](#)

Terminal Island was once home to a fishing village with about 3,000 Japanese Americans. Descendants of the Terminal Islanders are now working to preserve the two remaining buildings on Tuna St. from the former village and transform these vacant buildings into a space where visitors can learn about the legacy of the Japanese Americans who lived on Terminal Island and how they helped to establish the U.S. tuna industry. Learn more by clicking the title and watching a special KTLA 5 news segment.

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# Working with Communities



## [Visiting an American Red Cross Bridge Assistance Center](#)

On April 30, Consul General Kenko Sone visited an American Red Cross Bridge Assistance Center in Pasadena offering direct financial

assistance to residents impacted by the LA area wildfires. In February 2025, the Government of Japan provided \$2 million in financial assistance for California wildfires to the American Red Cross.

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## **LA Wildfires Relief Donation Presented on Behalf of City of Nagoya**

On May 15 at Los Angeles City Hall, the Los Angeles-Nagoya Sister City Affiliation (LANSCA) presented a relief donation for the 2025 LA wildfires on behalf of the City of Nagoya. Consul General Sone and a representative from the California Community Foundation attended the ceremony. The donation was made possible by the City of Nagoya and the Nagoya Sister Cities Association, with contributions from Nagoya citizens and the Nagoya Port Authority.

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## **Celebrating Sister City Ties at Glendora Culture Fest**

On May 17, the City of Glendora held its 2nd Annual Culture Fest, celebrating the city's cultural diversity. Deputy Consul General Aoshima attended and delivered remarks praising Glendora's successful sister city ties with Moka, Tochigi Prefecture. This year, Glendora and Moka will launch a City Hall internship program to promote advanced student exchanges.

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## **Community Luncheon Celebrates AAPI Heritage Month**

In celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Consul General and Mrs. Sone hosted a luncheon with AAPI community leaders on May 30 at the Hilton Doubletree in Little Tokyo, which included roundtable discussions. Local leaders of Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, South Asian, Thai, and Vietnamese heritage joined the event.

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



## **Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan EARTH FOODS 25 - Future of Global Food Sustainability**

On May 1, Consul General Sone gave an overview of EXPO 2025 at the special event “Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan EARTH FOODS 25 | Future of Global Food Sustainability” held at JAPAN HOUSE. EARTH MART is a pavilion at the Expo exploring a “new way of eating” that can lead to a better future.



## **Visit to Arizona: JCCIAZ 1 Year Anniversary and JBAA Annual Meeting**

On May 6, Deputy Consul General Aoshima visited Arizona to join [the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Arizona's \(JCCIAZ\) 1 year anniversary event](#). On May 9, he then joined [the Japan Business Association of Arizona's \(JBAA\) annual meeting](#).



## **World Trade Center Los Angeles (WTCLA) Report Shows Japan as #1 Foreign Direct Investor in SoCal**

WTCLA released on May 8 their annual report at their 10th Select LA Investment Summit. Japan was once again the #1 foreign direct investor in SoCal generating over 93,000 jobs and \$10.8 billion in wages. Consul General Sone joined the “Innovation Clusters: Growing industries in LA” panel at the summit



## **Japan-California Rail Decarbonization Forum**

On May 21, a Rail Decarbonization Forum was held at Japanese American National Museum, building upon the 2024 Letter of Intent between Japan Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and California Transportation State Agency (CalSTA) and the 2022 Memorandum of Cooperation between Japan and CA.





## NRS Logios America Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Casa Grande, AZ

Consul General Sone gave remarks on May 28 at the ribbon cutting ceremony for NRS Logios America's new distribution facility in Casa Grande, AZ. This is NRS's first North America facility and will serve semiconductor and EV battery manufacturers and industrial chemical markets.



## Sushi & Sake for Wildfire Relief

On June 9, Japanese Restaurant Association (JRA) will host Sushi & Sake for Wildfire Relief Event in cooperation with the consulate. The event features AYCE sashimi & sushi, sake tasting, and food booths. Proceeds will support those affected by the wildfires. More info can be found on JRA's website.

# Entertainment, Culture, Education



## Cheering on Team Japan at HSBC Rugby SVNS

Consul General Sone and Mrs. Sone on May 3 attended the HSBC Rugby SVNS Los Angeles 2025 at Dignity Health Sports Park to cheer on Team Japan women, who played team New Zealand women. We look forward to seeing Team Japan's ongoing growth and development, especially in preparation for rugby sevens at the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.



## Arizona Diamondbacks Japanese Heritage Celebration

The Arizona Diamondbacks hosted its annual Japanese Heritage Celebration on May 8. The pregame festivities included a taiko performance. Deputy Consul General Naoshige Aoshima and Honorary Consul of Japan in Phoenix Kelly Moeur joined the pregame festivities as well. Many Japan-related organizations also set up information

booths along the main and upper concourses to promote Japanese culture and friendship.

(photo credit: Jill Weisleder/Arizona Diamondbacks)



## **Meeting with Teachers of Japanese in Southern California (TJSC)**

On May 18, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and the Japan Foundation Los Angeles held an in-person meeting with the Teachers of Japanese in Southern California (TJSC), an association dedicated to advancing Japanese language education in the region, to discuss Japanese language education in Southern California.



## **California-Japan Sister Cities 2025 Online Workshop Held**

The annual online Sister City Workshop, co-hosted by the California-Japan Sister Cities Network (CJSCN), the Consulates General of Japan in San Francisco and Los Angeles, was held on May 21. In his remarks, Consul General Sone emphasized the Japanese government's support for pop culture events in California and expressing hopes that sister cities will engage with these initiatives.



## **Tea Seminar Held at Harvard-Westlake School**

On May 21, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles and JETRO Los Angeles co-hosted a seminar at Harvard-Westlake School. Students heard from experts and tried their hands at whisking matcha. With help from the Japanese Food Culture Association, Masanori Shirakata and Miles Bothwell of Den's Tea, Inc. led a fun discussion of the history of tea, its nutritional composition, and its place in Japanese cultures.

## **Coming Up**



## Screening: Paper Lanterns 80 Years After Hiroshima - A Tribute to Peace (June 21)

This year marks the 80th year since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, a moment in history that continues to echo through generations. In solemn remembrance of this anniversary, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles will present a free screening of director Barry Frechette's documentary, *Paper Lanterns*, on June 21 from 2:00-4:00pm/