

Japan Focus



*Consulate General of
Japan In Los Angeles
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Prime Minister Ishiba Comments on U.S. Executive Order on Reciprocal Tariff Measures

On July 31, U.S. President Trump signed an executive order on reciprocal tariffs on imports to the U.S., with a new rate of 15% for Japan. At an Aug. 1 press conference, Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru said relevant government departments are currently conducting a thorough review of the contents. He said Japan and the U.S. will both continue to work to implement this agreement steadily going forward.



U.S. Presidential Delegation on Expo 2025 Visits Japan

Prime Minister ISHIBA received a courtesy call on July 18 by the U.S. Presidential Delegation, headed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. The delegation visited Japan to participate in the U.S. National Day Event of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)



Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On July 1, Japan's Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi met with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington, D.C. on the sidelines of a Japan-Australia-India-U.S.(QUAD) Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The two affirmed to elevate the Japan-U.S. Alliance to even greater heights. [On July 10, Iwaya and Rubio held a meeting in Malaysia with their counterpart from the Philippines](#) and discussed their trilateral cooperation. The following day, [Iwaya and Rubio held a meeting with Park Yoonjoo, 1st Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic](#)

[of Korea](#), where they concurred to continue to strengthen the solidarity of the three countries and pursue the stability and prosperity of the region.



[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](#).



[Consul General Sone Farewell Message](#)

Consul General Sone is departing Los Angeles on Aug. 11, having completed his term of almost three years. Read his farewell message by clicking the headline.

Support for Japanese American Community



[JANM Renovation Groundbreaking Ceremony](#)

On July 11, Consul General Sone participated in a groundbreaking ceremony marking the start of construction for the Japanese American National Museum's renovation and new core exhibition, "In the Future We Call Now: Realities of Racism, Dreams of Democracy."



Nisei Week Opening Ceremony

On July 13, Consul General and Mrs. Sone participated in the opening ceremony of the 83rd annual Nisei Week Festival. One of the longest running ethnic festivals in the United States, Nisei Week runs through August 17 in Little Tokyo.



Dinner with Watanabe Democracy Fellows

On July 24, Consul General Sone and Mrs. Sone held a special dinner in honor of the 2025 Toshizo Watanabe Democracy Fellowship Program. This professional development program, designed for an annual cohort of emerging leaders from Japan across various sectors and organized by the Japanese American National Museum, aims to advance global democracy and strengthen ties between the United States and Japan.



Meeting with Kibou for LA Students

On July 25, Consul General Sone and Mrs. Sone met with students participating in the [U.S.-Japan Council's TOMODACHI Kibou for LA Initiative](#), who are traveling to the Tohoku region supported by the U.S.-Japan Council, U.S.-Japan Foundation, Los Angeles Dodgers, Stars, and Odyssey Nature Japan. This leadership development program was designed to offer holistic support for high school students from Pasadena & Altadena who have been impacted by the LA wildfires.

Technology, Environment, Economy, and Business



Sake in the Park

On July 18, Deputy Consul General Aoshima gave opening remarks at Sake in the Park, a sake and food tasting event supporting the Little Tokyo Service Center. At the event, participants enjoyed 50+ varieties of sake and shochu (Japanese distilled spirits) and 30+ food and beverage vendors.



Consul General's Commendation Conferred [Mr. Mitsuyasu Shigeta](#) and [Mr. Takehito Yokoo](#)

On July 25, the Consul General Sone presented the Commendation of the Consul General to Mr. Mitsuyasu Shigeta, who founded the Shin-Sen-Gumi Restaurant Group in 1992. On July 29, the Commendation of the Consul General was presented to Mr. Takehito Yokoo, the Founder and first Chair (2021-2024) of the Japan Hydrogen Forum.



[Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future: The Legacy of Terminal Island](#)

On July 28, Consul General Sone gave opening remarks at the "Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future: The Legacy of Terminal Island" seminar organized by the Japan Business Association of Southern California (JBA) and hosted at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles.



[Sushizanmai Grand Opening Ceremony for 1st US branch in Koreatown](#)

On August 1, Sushizanmai, a popular Japanese sushi chain, held an opening ceremony for its 1st overseas branch in Koreatown, LA. Consul General Sone gave congratulatory remarks, and participant enjoyed Sushizanmai's traditional edomae (江戸前) sushi paired with their original sake, "Daiki (大喜)."

Entertainment, Culture, Education



[JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles Marks 1 Million Visitor Milestone](#)

This summer, JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles celebrated a major milestone of welcoming 1 million visitors since its Grand Opening in 2018! We hope more visitors continue to participate in its exhibitions, programs and events to gain a deeper understanding of Japan.



Anime Expo 2025

Consul General Sone helped celebrate the opening of Anime Expo 2025 on July 3 by attending the [ribbon-cutting ceremony](#). He gave opening remarks at a [Voice Acting for Japanese Anime workshop](#) co-hosted by the consulate. He also visited Japanese companies showcasing at Anime Expo 2025, including [JETRO's "Geek Street" pavilion](#), which featured shops and experiences related to anime, games, VTubers, kawaii culture, VR and music.



[CA-Japan Sister Cities Network Workshop Held](#)

On July 12, the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, the California–Japan Sister Cities Network (CJSCN) and the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco co-hosted the “California-Japan Sister Cities 2025 Summer Workshop” at the Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles.



[Japan Exchange and Teaching \(JET\) Program Participants Depart for Japan](#)

On July 26, nearly 100 JET Participants from the Los Angeles and Arizona cohort departed for Japan. About a month earlier, JET Alumni Association of Southern California and the Consulate General of Los Angeles held Onboarding Orientation to prepare JETs ahead of their journey.
