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## Greetings from the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle!

### *What's happening at the Consulate lately?*



*Astronaut Naoko Yamazaki experience the first cherry blossom viewing in Space.*

#### **1. Consul General Kiyokazu Ota hosted a reception to introduce himself and his wife (June 9)**

On June 9, our new Consul General Kiyokazu Ota and his wife Junko hosted a reception to introduce themselves to local dignitaries at his Official Residence. The weather was quite wet and overcast that day, but fortunately, the sky cleared just before the reception started. The event was quite lively with about 210 guests in attendance...

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#### **2. How Seattle's Cherry Blossoms Made a Journey into Space**

2010 is a 150th anniversary year of the first official delegation, which was sent by the Japan to the US. Cherry blossom is viewed as a symbol of Japan-US exchange, and therefore, the fact that it bloomed for the first time and that the astronauts had a chance to experience the "spring cherry blossom viewing" on the International Space Station, also a symbol of international joint projects including various Japan-US cooperations, signifies the close relationship which exists between the two countries. On behalf of the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival Committee as well as the the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle, we hereby express our gratitude to astronaut Naoko Yamazaki, Japan Aerospace

Exploration Agency for their cooperation...

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### **3. Decoration Ceremony for the "The Ventures"(June 28)**

On June 28th, 2010, a ceremony was held at Consul General Kiyokazu Ota's Official Residence for the five members of "The Ventures," Don Wilson, Nokie Edwards, Gerry McGee (who was not present), Bob Spalding and Leon Taylor, who were decorated with: "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette" medal by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan...

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## **CONTACT US**

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## ***Inauguration of the Kan Cabinet***



*The Kan Cabinet (Cabinet Public Relations Office photo)*

**-Cabinet Public Relations Office**

June 8, 2010

The Kan Cabinet was inaugurated on June 8, 2010.

Upon the formation of a new Cabinet, Mr. Yoshito Sengoku, the new Chief Cabinet Secretary, announced the list of Cabinet members at the Prime Minister's Office.

Later, new Prime Minister Naoto Kan held a press conference. In the evening, Prime Minister Kan attended the investiture of the Prime Minister and the attestation ceremony of the appointment of the Ministers of State at the Imperial Palace, which marked the official inauguration of the Kan Cabinet.

Back at the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Kan held the first Cabinet meeting and a photo session with his new Cabinet members.

To learn more:

[Designation of the Prime Minister](#) (June 4, 2010)

[List of Ministers in the Kan Cabinet](#)

## ***Opinion Poll: 2010 U.S Image of Japan***



© Aris Katsaris

**-Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
June 1, 2010

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs commissioned the Gallup Organization to conduct an opinion poll on the image of Japan in the United States of America from February to March 2010. This poll is the latest in a series of similar opinion polls conducted almost every year since 1960. For the "general public" group, telephone interviews were carried out with 1,201 citizens aged 18 and over who live in the continental United States. For the "opinion leaders" group, telephone interviews were carried out with 202 people in leading positions in the fields of government, business, academics, mass media, religion, and labor unions. (The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3% for the "general public" group and plus or minus 7% for the "opinion leaders" group, at the 95% level of confidence.)

The percentage who perceived Japan as a dependable ally was 79% among the general public and was 90% among opinion leaders, high figures similar to the last year's poll. 72% of the general public and 86% of opinion leaders viewed cooperation between Japan and the U.S. as...

[Read Japan's National Statement at the Washington Nuclear Security Summit.](#) (April 12, 2010)

[Read Foreign Minister Okada's Statement on the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review \(NPR\).](#) (April 7, 2010)

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***U.S. Military Japan Alumni Association:  
Forging Bonds - People to People, Nation to Nation***



*General Richard Myers and General Ralph Eberhart signing the charter document of the U.S. Military Japan Alumni Association.*

#### **-Embassy of Japan staff**

On Friday, May 28th at the Army Navy Club in downtown Washington, DC a [ceremony](#) was held to celebrate the foundation of the [U.S. Military Japan Alumni Association](#), commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. Ichiro Fujisaki called the Treaty "not merely a paper, not only a document, [but] a people to people relation," reaffirming the importance of an Association that has an important role to play in further fortifying the friendship between these two countries.

At any given time, nearly 35,000 American service men and women are stationed in Japan. Together with their families, they are a force for international goodwill nearly 80,000 strong. When their service there is completed, they leave Japan, but a part of their hearts often stays there.

Recognizing such people-to-people relations as the core of the strong Japan-U.S. relationship, the Association's founders\* began...

[Read more](#) ➡➡

#### ***Policy Speech by Prime Minister Naoto Kan at the 174th Session of the Diet***



*Prime Minister Kan (Cabinet Public Relations Office photo)*

#### **-Cabinet Public Relations Office**

June 11, 2010

## 1. Introduction

Honourable members of the Diet, fellow citizens, I am Naoto Kan. I have been designated by the Diet to assume the grave responsibilities of the Prime Minister. I am resolved to do everything in my power to meet the nation's expectations.

Last summer, a change of government was brought about by a strong sense of yearning among many people to clear away the feeling of being caught in an impasse which has long plagued our country. But the hopes initially placed in our new government were seriously shaken in the succeeding months due to issues of "politics and money" and the confusion surrounding the relocation of the Futenma Air Station. As a member of the previous Cabinet, I am acutely conscious of the responsibility that I share for failing to...

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[See also the Prime Minister's June 8 Press Conference.](#)

## ***Samurai in DC: A Forgotten Story***



White House reception for Samurai Diplomats, 1860 (© Library of Congress)

**-Melissa Chasse**  
Embassy of Japan

In the summer of 1860, before the Civil War erased all thought of international affairs from America's mind, a remarkable encounter of cultures took place. May 2010 marked the 150th anniversary of the first Japanese diplomatic mission to the United States. In commemoration of that historic occasion, described in the June 11, 1860 edition of The New York Times as "...an event which, if it have any significance at all, involves

consequences the most momentous to the civilization and the commerce of the world for ages to come," the Embassy of Japan partnered with several local organizations to present Samurai Week in Washington, D.C. From May 22-28, a number of events were held at various venues throughout the district, giving residents and visitors alike an opportunity to reflect on the little-known origins of the strong relationship shared by Japan and the U.S. today.

### **Samurai Diplomacy**

When Commodore Perry's steam-powered "Black Ships..."

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