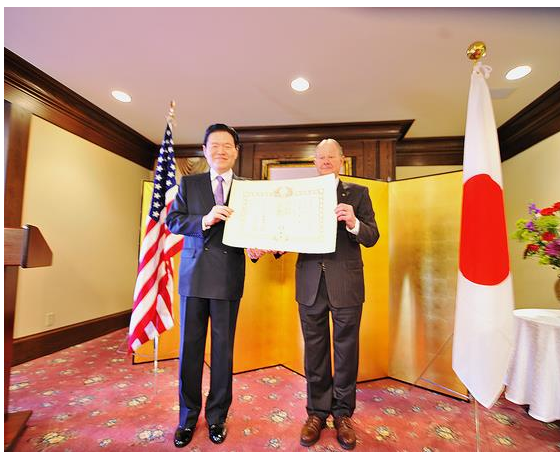




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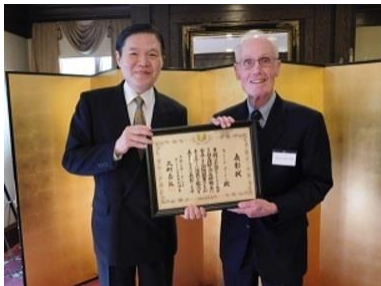
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Tom Brooke’s Conferment Reception for Imperial Decoration

On Thursday, February 9, Consul General Masahiro Omura hosted a reception and award ceremony for Mr. Thomas S. Brooke. Mr. Brooke received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, from the Government of Japan in recognition of his contributions in promoting the mutual understanding between

Japan and the United States by introducing Japanese culture to Washington State, most significantly through the Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association, which produced the popular Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival) for eighteen years. Mayor John Stokes and Councilmember Conrad Lee offered congratulatory messages on behalf of the City of Bellevue. Mr. Takeshi Katsurada, President of the Japan Business Association of Seattle, also offered his congratulations.



Senator Slade Gorton and Two Community Leaders Recognized for their Contributions to Japan-US Relations

On January 19, 2017, the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle presented Senator Slade Gorton, Mr. Masaru Tahara, and Mr. Dennis Yamashita with the Consul General's Commendation in recognition of their valuable contributions to Japan-US relations.

[Read more](#)

Kobe-Seattle Sister City 60th Anniversary Reception

On Friday, February 24, 2017, Consul General Omura hosted a kick-off reception starting a year of events from the Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Seattle-Kobe relationship. We were joined by several special guests including Mayor Ed Murray, Seattle City Council President Bruce Harrell and former Washington state senator Karen Fraser. We sincerely hope that the economic, cultural and educational partnerships between Seattle and Kobe will continue to flourish and that everyone joins in the rest of the activities planned for the year.



Mayor Murray with Consul General Omura



Sake Live Seattle

The Consulate and the JETRO San Francisco office co-organized an event held on February 22 that allowed guests to dive into the world of Japanese sake. Participants were treated to a lecture by "Sake Samurai" Marcus Pakiser, Regional Director of Sake for Young's Market Company, and explored how to pair food with a variety of regional sake.

Guests sampling the various sake



CELEBRATING OUR 20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY
SAKURA-CON
APRIL 14-16 2017 WASHINGTON STATE
CONVENTION CENTER

Catch the Consulate at Sakura-Con, April 14-16, 2017

The Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle will once again be joining what is now the oldest and largest anime convention in the Pacific Northwest: Sakura-Con. Included in the wide array of activities and performances will be presentations by the Consulate ranging from ancient samurai and traditional gift-wrapping techniques to modern-day opportunities to study and work in Japan. Held in the Washington State Convention Center, Sakura-Con is presented by the Asia Northwest Cultural Education Association and will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year.

[Full details](#)

Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival at the Seattle Center, April 21 - 23, 2017!

Join the Consulate-General of Japan at the Seattle Center to celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival (Sakura Matsuri)! The festival will also host the 34th Washington State Japanese Speech & Skit Contest. There will be a wide variety of activities, displays, performances, and special anniversary surprises for visitors to enjoy! This is a free event open to the community. This year will be extra special as Sakura Matsuri will coincide with the 20th anniversary of Seattle Center's multi-cultural celebration: Festál.

[Full Details](#)



The 34th Annual Washington State Japanese Speech and Skit Contest Application Available Until March 22

Washington State Japanese Speech and Skit Contest (formerly the Hyogo-Washington Speech and Skit Contest) will be held in conjunction with the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival at the Seattle Center on Friday, April 21, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Participants have the opportunity to compete in a variety of levels in either the skit or speech category. Prizes will be awarded to the winners, including a trip to Hyogo, Japan, for the winner of the level 4 speech category. All the rules and regulations are below.

[Read more](#)



New Year's Reception

On January 19, the Consulate-General of Japan held its annual New Year's Reception at the Official Residence. Over 250 people attended, including Japanese-American community leaders, and Japanese business representatives. The Fukushima and Okinawa Kenjinkai booths displayed promotional materials for their respective prefectures, and the Heiando America booth featured an assortment of Japanese urushi, or lacquerware. Several Japanese calligraphy pieces were also on display. During the program, Consul General Omura expressed excitement over celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Seattle-Kobe sister-city relationship in 2017. In his toast to Washington-Japan relations, Japan Business Association President Takeshi Katsurada highlighted the importance of the Mitsubishi Regional Jet project. Guests also enjoyed a variety of Japanese dishes, including fresh nigiri sushi.

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