



Through the Eyes of the Consul General

Consul General Yamada writes a monthly column about his experiences in the United States. Check out his last three columns:

- No. 14 - Seattle's Cherry Blossoms ([English](#) | [Japanese](#))
- No. 13 - Miss Tokushima who lives in Spokane ([English](#) | [Japanese](#))
- No. 12 - The Troubles with the Toilet during a Disaster ([English](#) | [Japanese](#))

2018 Spring Conferment of Decoration

On April 29, 2018, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2018 Spring Imperial Decorations. **Ms. Mary Hammond Berson**, Director of the East Asia Resource Center, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, **University of Washington**, has been awarded the Order of the **Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette**, in recognition of her contributions in promoting understanding of Japan in the United States and educational exchange between Japan and the United States. ([Read more here](#))

Upcoming Events

Two Year Anniversary of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Government of Japan (GOJ) and the State of Washington on Economic and Trade Relations Relations (MOC) on June 28

Japan Fair (July 7-8) at Meydenbauer Center (Bellevue, WA)

In conjunction with **Tanabata Matsuri** (Japan's Star Festival), Japan Fair will bring together Japanese arts and culture, a market place, community organizations, and friends.

More information can be found at <http://japanfairus.org/>.

Washington State-Hyogo Prefecture Sister-State Relations

The **55-year anniversary** of the sister-state relations between the State of Washington and Hyogo Prefecture will be celebrated in July. For more information about Hyogo-related sister-state and sister-cities relations and events, [please contact Hyogo Business and Cultural Center](#).



Tomodachi Reception

On April 24, at the Consul General's Official Residence, the Tomodachi Reception was held for U.S. Navy personnel who have been stationed in Japan. The event was the fourth such reception hosted by the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle to build stronger

connections between Japan and U.S. military personnel. ([Read more here](#)).

Japanese Language Education Symposium



On April 25, the Japanese Language Education Symposium was held at the Official Residence. Consul General Yamada expressed gratitude to Japanese language educators. Dr. Kyle Kinoshita, Chief of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction for Seattle Public Schools, emphasized the importance of language education. ([Read more here](#)).



AI Meetup 8.0

On April 18, the Washington State Department of Commerce, Innovation Finders Capital, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle co-hosted the AI Innovation Meetup 8.0 at the Consul General's Official Residence, promoting Japan-U.S. business exchange in the AI sector. At the seminar, 7 local start-ups pitched AI-powered

hardware and programming applications to around 17 firms attending from Japan, and later engaged in lively discussions on AI technology in general. ([Read more here](#)).



43rd Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival

The 43rd Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival was held from Friday, April 20 to Sunday, April 22, 2018, at the Seattle Center. During the three days of the event, various aspects of Japanese culture were exhibited by groups from around the region. ([Read more here](#)).



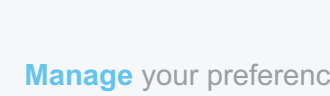
Japanese Anime and Manga Arts Festival

On May 19, the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle attended and presented at JAMAF - Japanese Anime and Manga Arts Festival - at Everett Community College. JAMAF's guest of honor was manga artist Yoshimi Kurata and his assistant, Yukiko Yamagishi. At the festival, they did a live drawing demonstration. Many local artists and performers also entertained attendees. The Consulate gave a presentation on opportunities to study and work in Japan as well as a demonstration of samurai armor.



Japan Now is the official newsletter of the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

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