



THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CONSUL GENERAL

Yoichiro Yamada



Through the Eyes of the Consul General

Consul General Yamada writes a column about his experiences in the United States. His most recent column is about Polish orphans in Siberia who returned to Poland by way of Tokyo and Seattle, which you can read more about [here](#).

Check out past issues here. ([English](#) | [Japanese](#))

Videos on Japan's Foreign Policy Now Updated!

Check out the new videos about Japan's foreign policy produced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- [Japan's Worldwide Projects for the Future of our Oceans](#)
- [Japan's Support for Island Nations Tackling Climate Change](#)
- [Japan's Connectivity Support for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific](#)
- [Japan and China's Partnership through Cultural Heritage Protection](#)
- [Japan's Empowerment of Women Refugees in the Middle East](#)
- [Japanese Citizens Contributing in United Nations Organizations](#)

Imperial Decorations Conferment Ceremony

On October 12, 2018, a conferment ceremony and reception were held at the Official Residence to congratulate Ms. Mary Hammond Bernson, Former Director of the East Asia Resource Center, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, for her receipt of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette. She was awarded the Imperial Decoration for her contributions in promoting understanding of Japan in the United States and educational exchange between the two countries. [Read more](#)



Foreign Minister's Commendation Ceremony and Reception

On November 13, a ceremony and reception were held at the Official Residence to award the Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2018 to the Japanese Language and Literature Program, Department of Asian Languages and Literature at the University of Washington, Seattle. The certificate was conferred to Prof. Paul Atkins, Professor and Department Chair, who received it on behalf of the program. [Read more](#)

Fall Decorations Conferment Ceremony and Reception

On December 6, a reception was held at the Official Residence to congratulate Dr. Tadataka Yamada, former President of the Global Health Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, for his receipt of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. He contributed to strengthening Japan's leadership and public-private partnerships in the field of global health. [Read more](#)



AI Meetup 9.0 and 10.0

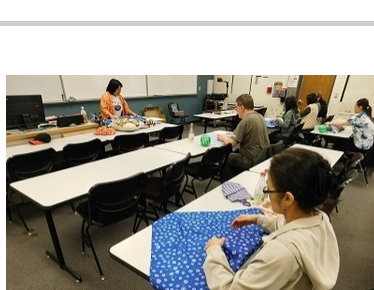
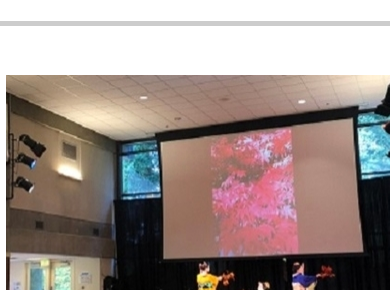
The Washington State Department of Commerce, Innovation Finders Capital, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle co-hosted the AI Innovation Meetup 9.0 and 10.0 at the Consul General's Official Residence, promoting Japan-U.S. business exchange in the AI sector.

- [AI Meetup 9.0 \(July 25\)](#)
- [AI Meetup 10.0 \(October 31\)](#)

Welcome Back, JETs!

On October 29, the Consul General hosted returnee JETs from 2018 at his Official Residence for a welcome reception.

[Read more](#)



Japan Week 2018

On October 6, Japan Week 2018 was held at Bellevue College. The Consulate screened two movies called *Thermae Romae* and *Light Up Nippon*, had a booth, presented a lecture on samurai, led a workshop on furoshiki wrapping, held a JET program information session, and gave a presentation about MEXT government scholarships. [Read more](#)

Grassroots Summit 2018

On September 18 to 24, the 28th Japan-America Grassroots Summit was held in Washington State. 139 people of all ages came from all parts of Japan to participate in tours, activities, and ceremonies, which promoted grassroots-level friendship between the two countries.



Anniversary Celebrations of Sister City Relationships

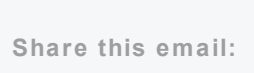
In 2018, there were several anniversary celebrations of sister city relationships between cities in Japan and Washington State.

- [Kent, Auburn, and Tamba's 50th anniversary \(August 2018\)](#)
- [Bellingham and Tateyama's 60th anniversary \(September 2018\)](#)
- [Edmonds and Hekinai's 30th Anniversary \(November 2018\)](#)



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