



Japan Now

V.15 #1



THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CONSUL GENERAL

Yoichiro Yamada



Consul General Yamada writes an ongoing series about his experiences in the United States. Check out his last two column entries:

No. 26 - The Last Emperor's Birthday Reception in the Heisei Period ([English](#) | [Japanese](#))

No. 25 - Dr. Tachi Yamada's State Award ([English](#) | [Japanese](#))

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



Visit our Consulate Booth!

Spring is in the air. The cherry blossoms have started to bloom, which signals the start of the season for Japanese cultural festivals in the Pacific Northwest!

The Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle will be joining many of these festivals, so we look forward to seeing you this spring! More details below.

Sakura-Con (4/19-4/21)

Sakura-Con is the Northwest's oldest and largest anime, manga, gaming, and Asian culture convention and is held at the Washington State Convention Center.

Consulate Panels at Sakura-Con: This year, Consulate staff will have three different presentations touching on the past, present, and future – we hope you will attend all of them! For full event details, visit the [website](#) or follow Sakura-Con on [Facebook](#).

- **Study and Work in Japan - Japanese Government Scholarships and the JET Program** – Will your future include living in Japan to study or work? Attend this session to get the answers!
Friday, April 19 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM, Panels 4, Room 4C-4
- **The Fabulous Furoshiki - A New Twist on an Old Idea** – There is no better time than the present to do our part to help the environment! Learn about this ancient Japanese wrapping cloth that's making a comeback as a replacement for plastic bags and even giving modern eco-bags competition with its versatility! There will be two chances to attend this hands-on workshop!
Friday, April 19 from 1 to 2:30 PM and 2:45 to 4 PM, Workshop, Chelan
- **Samurai Undressed** – Step into the past to learn more about these ancient warriors by getting up close and personal with one of the samurai's most recognizable calling cards –armor.
Saturday, April 20 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM, Panels 5, Room 401

Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival (4/26-28)

Hosted at the Seattle Center, this year's festival will be the event's 43rd anniversary! Enjoy a variety of Japanese arts and cultural presentations, live demonstrations, activities, and foods. Please be sure to stop by the Consulate booth in Fisher Pavilion! For full event details, visit their [website](#) or follow them on [Facebook](#).

Kodomo no Hi (5/5)

Hosted at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington (JCCCW), this festival celebrates children and offers a variety of Japan-related activities and demonstrations geared towards the young and young at heart. With the 2020 Tokyo Olympics just around the corner, this year's festival will focus on this major international event and its host city. Check out the Consulate booth this year for a special new display! For full event details, visit their [website](#) or follow JCCCW's upcoming events on [Facebook](#).

Japanese Anime and Manga Arts Festival (JAMAF) (5/17&18)

Hosted at Everett Community College, this year's festival promises to be extra special as JAMAF celebrates its 5th anniversary and welcomes renowned Japanese manga artist Hideyuki Kurata back to the festival! The Consulate plans on joining this event again this year, so we hope to see you on Saturday 5/18! For full event details, visit their [website](#) or follow JAMAF on [Facebook](#).



Three Community Leaders Recognized for their Contributions to Japan-U.S. Relations

On December 14, 2018, the annual Emperor's Birthday reception was held at the Official Residence of the Consul General. During the ceremony, three individuals, Ms. Mina Miller, Ms. Diane Narasaki, and Mr. Scott Oki, were awarded the Consul General's Commendation for their outstanding achievements in furthering Japan-U.S. relations. [Read more](#)

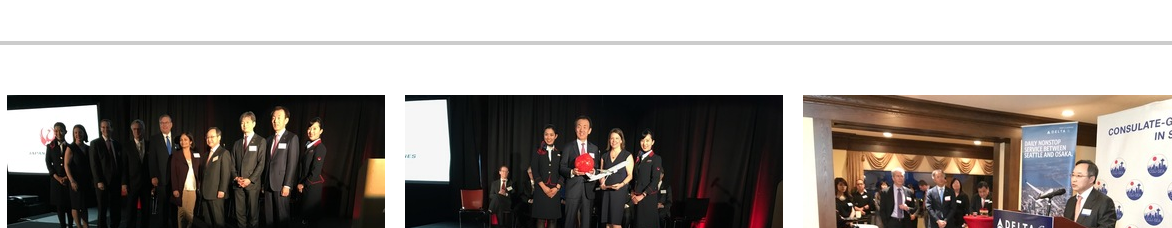


Meetup 11.0

On January 23, the Washington State Department of Commerce, Innovation Finders Capital, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle co-hosted the AI Innovation Meetup 11.0 at the Consul General's Official Residence, promoting Japan-U.S. business exchange in the AI sector. [Read more](#)

Report of the Kakehashi Project 2018

During the 2018 fiscal year, the Consulate sent youth, including high school student groups, representatives who achieved great results at the Japanese speech contest, to Japan through the Kakehashi Project. [Read more](#)



New Routes to Japan

Japan Airlines will launch a new nonstop service between Seattle and Tokyo (Narita) on March 31. A launch event was held on March 14 at Pier 66. At the event, Consul General Yamada delivered opening remarks. Delta Airlines will also launch a new nonstop service between Seattle and Kansai on April 1 and its inauguration event was held at the Consul General's Official Residence on February 28.

Trade mission to Tokyo

On March 18-22, the Association of Washington Business and the Mariners organized a trade mission to Tokyo in partnership with the Washington State Department of Commerce and Greater Seattle Partners with support from Japan-America Society of the State of Washington and the Japan Business Alliance of Seattle. During the mission, participants expanded their relationship with trade partners in Japan and watched a Mariners game at Tokyo Dome.

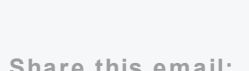


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