



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. 38 - Seattle, the AI City ([English](#) | [Japanese](#))
- No. 37 - My Visit to Spokane and Pullman ([English](#) | [Japanese](#))

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

Mark your calendars!

Seattle Wine & Film Festival (1/18-19)

On January 18 the Seattle Wine and Film Festival will feature the US premiere of *Star Sand*, a compelling story set in Okinawa that revolves around a violent incident that occurred during WWII and the student who tries to unravel a mystery surrounding the incident 70 years later. A Q&A session with the director, Roger Pulvers, will follow the screening. Learn more about the event [here](#).

US-Japan Friendship Coming of Age Celebration (1/19)

“SEIJIN-shiki” is the Japanese coming-of-age celebration held annually in January. It is an opportunity for the community’s newly emerging young adults to be recognized. The JIA Foundation is bringing this tradition to the USA! For full event details, visit [JIA Foundation](#) or [see this flyer](#).

Emperor Naruhito's 60th Birthday (2/23)

The Emperor’s birthday will be his first since his enthronement in May 2019. We would like to wish him a very happy birthday and a prosperous reign.

Japanese Immersion Camp and Speech & Skit Contest (3/8)

Participate in the Japan in Schools (JIS) Festival held in collaboration with the 37th Annual Washington State Japanese Language Speech and Skit Competition. Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the education program Japan In the Schools organized by the Japan-America Society of the State of WA. Visit the [event page](#) to learn more.

Check out more future events and updates on our [website](#) or on [Facebook](#).



Consulate in Seattle releases new travel blog – Japan Travel Talk!

The goal of this blog is to be a source of useful, fun, and objective information for your trip to Japan. The first issue discusses basics about traveling to Japan, while the second discusses Tsuwano, a town in Shimane.

[Read the blog here](#) and send your travel questions to info@se.mofa.go.jp.

Welcome back, JETs!

On November 8, the JET Program Welcome Back Reception was held at the Official Residence. [Read more.](#)



Sister cities celebrated 50 years

Two cities in Washington State celebrated their 50th sister city anniversaries!

- [Nishiwaki and Renton \(October 17\)](#)
- [Bellevue and Yao \(November 7\)](#)



AI Meetup 14.0

The Washington State Department of Commerce, Innovation Finders Capital, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle co-hosted the AI Innovation Meetup 14.0, Promoting Japan-U.S. business exchange in the AI sector.

- [AI Meetup 14.0 \(October 16\)](#)



Japan Week 2019

On September 28, Japan Week 2019 was held at Bellevue College. Over 50 different Japan-related organizations participated and over 8,000 people enjoyed the festivities open to the public. At the event, the Consulate held a booth to promote the Tokyo Olympics 2020 and traveling to Japan. [Read more.](#)

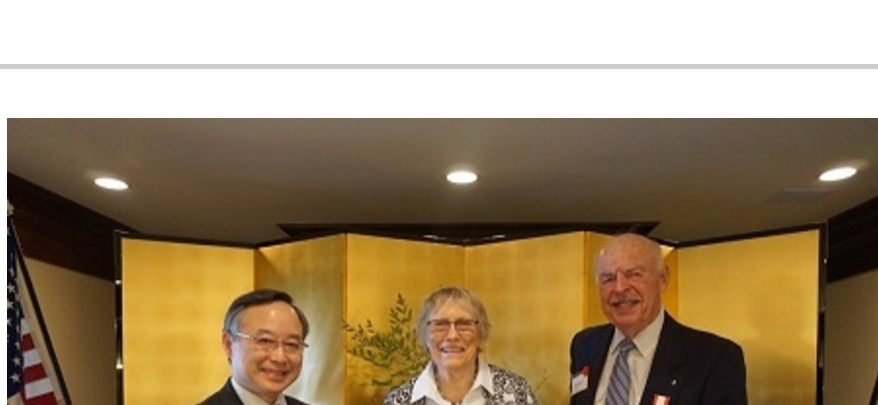


Japanese Agricultural Training Program (JATP) graduation ceremony

On October 8, the Japanese Agricultural Exchange Council (JAEC), the Big Bend Community College (BBCC), Big Bend Community College Foundation (BBCCF), and the Consulate-General of Japan co-hosted the Japanese Agricultural Training Program (JATP) graduation ceremony at the Consulate Office. [Read more.](#)

Bunka no Hi

Bunka no Hi (Japanese Culture Day) was held at the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington (JCCW) on November 3. At this event, there were exhibits of Japanese symbols of good luck as well as “Now & Then” photographs of the Minidoka Internment Camp site. [Read more.](#)



2019 Spring Imperial Decoration conferment ceremony

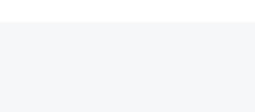
On November 14, a conferment ceremony and reception was held at the Official Residence to congratulate Mr. Burton E. Bard Jr. (former Washington State Coordinator for Sister Cities International) for his receipt of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. [Read more.](#)



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