



From Japan to the Northwest

News From the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle



Dear friends of the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle,

Our new bi-monthly newsletter, *From Japan to the Northwest*, is intended to share important and interesting information related to Japan, our region, and the consulate's activities. In the future, [previous issues of the newsletter will be archived here.](#)

1. Visit to Japan by the Honorable John F. Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate

From August 30 to 31, the Honorable John F. Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC) [visited Japan](#), and [met with Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu](#) to promote Japan-U.S. cooperation on the global issue of climate change. Toward global de-carbonization, the two sides concurred on the importance of cooperation with developing countries, including major emitters, in their emission reduction efforts, including through the Japan-U.S. Climate Partnership and the Quad (Japan-U.S.-Australia-India). More information about the areas of Japan-U.S. climate change cooperation discussed during SPEC Kerry's visit [can be found here.](#)

2. Terrorist Attacks in Afghanistan

Following the bombing attacks, which occurred near Kabul International Airport on August 26, the Government of Japan [released a statement](#) expressing condolences to the families of the victims and condemning the terrorist attacks in the strongest possible terms. To prevent such acts of terrorism from being repeated, Japan vowed to work closely with the international community and work harder to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts.

3. Visit to Japan by His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President-elect of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President-elect of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, [visited Japan](#) on the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from August 26-28. On August 27, H.E. Mr. Shahid [paid a courtesy call](#) to Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. That same day he also [met with Foreign Minister Motegi](#). The Minister emphasized the importance of the UN Security Council reform and expressed his expectation for President-elect Shahid's leadership in realizing the reform. The two sides expressed grave concerns over the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan and also exchanged views on addressing issues related to North Korea.

[4. Nomination of Mr. Rahm Emanuel as new U.S. Ambassador to Japan](#)

Following the nomination of Mr. Rahm Emanuel as the new U.S. Ambassador to Japan, the Government of Japan said [in](#)

[a statement](#) that it highly appreciates his nomination as reflecting the great importance the Biden Administration attaches to the Japan-U.S. alliance. The Government of Japan also said it will closely cooperate with Mr. Rahm Emanuel and make efforts to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance and realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

5. Tokyo Paralympic Games

The Tokyo Paralympic Games began on August 24 and run through September 5. You can follow the latest news from the Games [here](#).

6. Updates on the COVID-19 Situation in Japan

- [Daily COVID Data Updates](#)
- [Declaration of State of Emergency](#)

For the latest information on how travel to Japan has been impacted by COVID-19, please see [this page on the consulate's website](#).

7. Consulate Activities



Have you seen Consul General Hisao Inagaki's [Instagram?](#) His account is [getting attention](#) across the world after folding a crane every day and posting it on Instagram. He recently marked one year with the 365th crane. Consul General Inagaki is not done, though. He plans to continue while he is in Seattle and then donate his work!

- Yahoo News articles: [English](#), [Japanese](#)



(Pictured, from left: Senior Consul Maki Kawamura, Kathy McCabe, Executive Director of Pacific Bonsai Museum, Consul General Inagaki, and Mrs. Inagaki; Photo by Hiro Tojo)

On Sunday, August 29, Consul General Hisao Inagaki, along with his wife Yuki Inagaki, and Senior Consul Maki Kawamura, [attended an event at the Pacific Bonsai Museum](#) to honor the families of the bonsai artists whose works are currently presented in [World War Bonsai: Remembrance & Resilience](#). The exhibition traces the “cultural practice of bonsai in location and time - in Japan and in the United States, from the pre-war WWII period, through wartime, amid incarceration, and at peace.” We hope that you may enjoy this beautiful collection of bonsai works at the museum this fall!

That's all for this issue of *From Japan to the Northwest*. Until next time, thank you for reading!

Sincerely,

Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

In the future, you can read [past issues of "From Japan to the Northwest" here.](#)

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Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle
701 Pike Street, Suite 1000
Seattle, WA 98101