



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

Our 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. You can find current and past issues of the newsletter [here](#).

1. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

On October 4, 2021, Fumio Kishida was elected Prime Minister of Japan by parliamentary vote. PM Kishida was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1993, and has previously served as Minister of Defense and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

- PM Kishida laid out his policy priorities in a speech to the Diet on October 8. Read the [full text of the speech here](#).
- See a list of PM Kishida's [appointed Cabinet Ministers here](#).
- [Click here for a video](#) of PM Kishida's first press conference as Prime Minister.

2. Japan-U.S. Summit Telephone Talk

On October 5, PM Kishida held a summit telephone talk with President Biden. President Biden congratulated PM Kishida on his assumption of office and start of his administration. They spoke on further strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," issues in the region, climate change, and working towards a "world free of nuclear weapons." They both shared the view to cooperate in response to COVID-19 and hope for an in-person summit talk in the near future.

3. Applications for JET Program 2022 Now Open – Apply by November 12

Applications for the 2022 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program are now live. [Click here for the application and more information](#), and be sure to follow our [Facebook page for information](#) on upcoming JET info sessions.

The JET Program is a competitive employment opportunity that allows young professionals to live and work in cities, towns, and villages throughout Japan. Most participants serve as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) and work in public and private schools throughout Japan; some work as Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) as interpreters/translators. Founded in 1987, The JET Program has sent more than 70,000 participants from around the globe and is the only teaching exchange program managed by the Government of Japan.

4. Updates on the COVID-19 Situation in Japan

Beginning October 1, 2021 at 0:00 a.m. (JST), travelers and returnees to Japan from the State of Washington, Montana, and Idaho are still subject to the 14-day self-quarantine, but those who have a valid Vaccination Certificate, voluntarily take a COVID test (PCR or Quantitative Antigen Test) after 10 days of self-quarantining after entry into Japan, and submit the negative test result to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan are not required to self-quarantine for the remainder of the 14 days.

More information can be found [here](#).

The state of emergency and priority preventative measures issued in April 2021 were lifted in all prefectures on September 30, 2021.

- [Daily COVID Data Updates](#)

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

5. Consulate Activities

[Japanese Restaurant Day - CG Inagaki visits Rondo Japanese Kitchen](#)

This month, Consul General Inagaki visited Rondo Japanese Kitchen as part of Japanese Restaurant Day. Watch the [video if his visit here](#). The 11th of every month is Japanese Restaurant Day.

[International Sake Day](#) - Video by Hyogo Business and Cultural Center, including closing Kanpai from CG Inagaki



Consul General Inagaki gave the closing greetings in Hyogo Business and Cultural Center's video celebrating International Sake Day, which is on October 1. [Watch the video](#) to hear from Hyogo sake breweries and other related organizations, and to learn about sake's appeal. Kanpai!

[CG Meeting with Japanese musician MIYAVI](#)



On October 4, Consul General Inagaki met with MIYAVI, a Japanese guitarist and UNHCR Japan Goodwill Ambassador, who was visiting Seattle for a live performance on Capitol Hill. MIYAVI shared with Consul General his activities in Japan, which included a collaborative performance with Kiyomizudera Temple in Kyoto. Through the event, streamed online for free, he wished for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and for world peace, for protecting and assisting refugees, and for tackling climate change.

That's it for this issue of "From Japan to the Northwest."

Until next time, thank you for reading!

Sincerely,

Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

View past issues of "From Japan to the Northwest" here: https://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp/tpr_en/08182021_e-newsletter.html

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