



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. Profile of Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi

Since his appointment earlier this month, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has released an [updated profile for Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi](#).

2. FM Hayashi's Meetings with U.S. Officials

On November 13, FM Hayashi held a [telephone talk with the Honorable Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State](#). The two ministers reaffirmed to work closely in further strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance, realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," and responding to global issues such as COVID-19 and climate change. They also exchanged their views on regional affairs including China and North Korea.

On November 15, FM Hayashi [met with the Honorable Gina Raimondo, U.S. Secretary of Commerce](#). They discussed Japan-U.S. cooperation in economic security, including supply chain resilience.

On November 17, FM Hayashi [met with H.E. Ambassador Katherine Tai, U.S. Trade Representative](#). Both sides reaffirmed the importance of Japan-U.S. cooperation to deal with various economic challenges, and affirmed the importance of bolstering economic competitiveness and resilience in each country.

They also [welcomed the launch of the U.S.-Japan Partnership on Trade](#) to cooperate on various challenges shared by Japan and the United States related to international trade.

3. Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk

On November 18, FM Hayashi held a telephone talk with Mr. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China. Minister Hayashi expressed serious concerns regarding the situation surrounding the Senkaku Islands, as well as situations such as those in the East China Sea, the South China Sea, Hong Kong, and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and stated the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Both ministers affirmed that they will promote dialogue and practical cooperation, in an appropriate manner, in relation to Japan-China economic relations and agreed to take the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China relations (in 2022) to push forward the economic and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

4. The 9th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF)

The 9th EAMF was held on November 17. Mr. Masataka Okano, Deputy Minister/Director-General, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, attended the meeting, representing Japan. At the meeting, there were lively discussions on the rule of law at sea based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), including the South China Sea issue. The participants also exchanged their views on Blue Economy and the protection of the marine environment.

5. International Conference on A Decade of Progress After Fukushima Daiichi:

[Building on Lessons Learned to Further Strengthen Nuclear Safety](#)

On the occasion of marking a decade after the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, from the 8th to the 12th of November, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held an expert meeting in Vienna in a hybrid format, featuring panel discussions by nuclear experts around the world.

The objective of the conference was to look back on the lessons learned and experiences shared, results, and achievements from actions undertaken following the accident, and to identify ways for further strengthening nuclear safety in the future. The conference was attended by government officials, regulators, electric power companies, nuclear experts, and other specialists from Japan and other countries.

6. Updates on the COVID-19 Situation in Japan

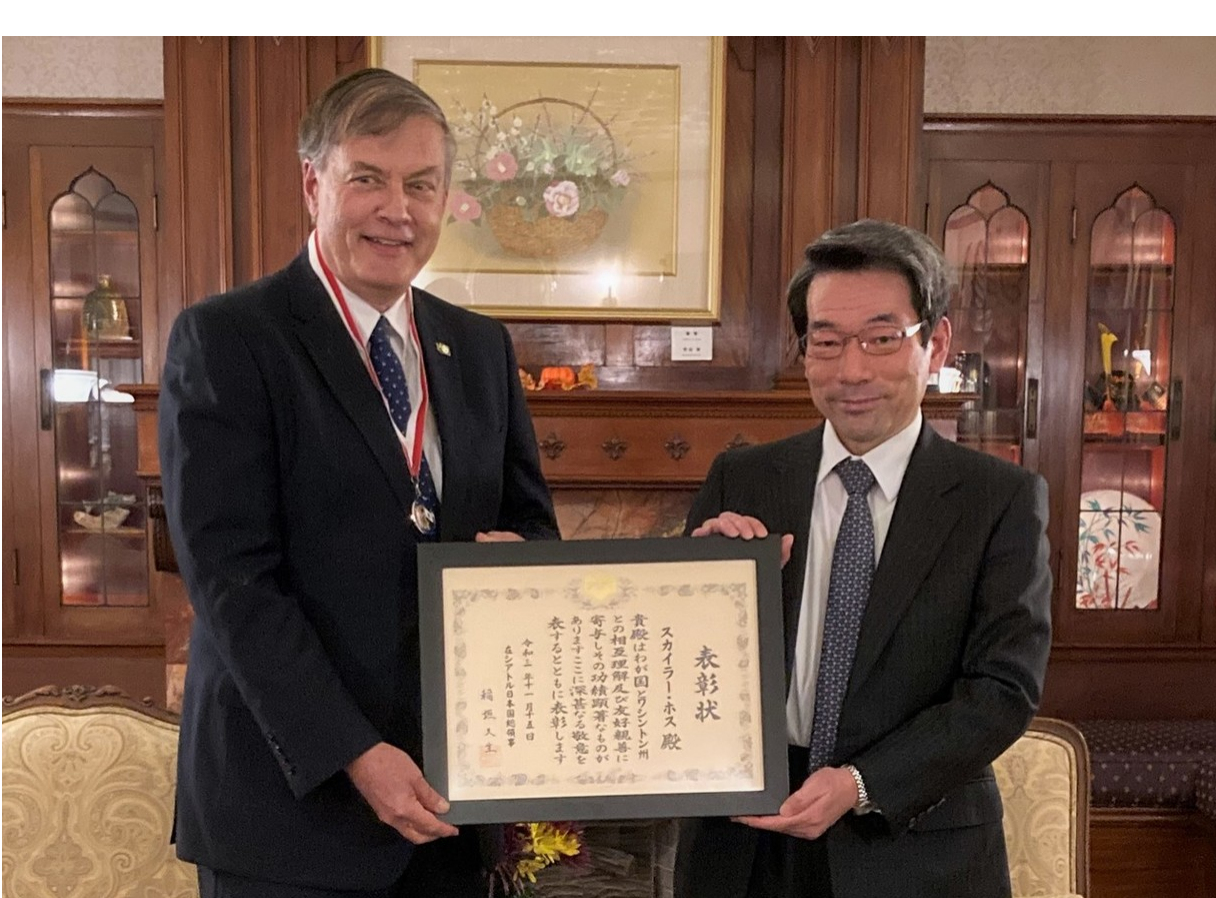
[- Daily COVID Data Updates](#)

[- New Measures for Border Enforcement into Japan \(11/5/21\)](#)

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

[Consul General's Award given to Mr. Schuyler Hoss](#)



Consul General Inagaki [presented the Consul General's Award to Mr. Schuyler Hoss](#) for his efforts and overall contribution toward the further development of Japan-Washington State relations and the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

Mr. Hoss is holding his role as Director of International Relations and Protocol (Offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor), a position he has had since 2013. During that time, he has been a key figure in strengthening the relations between Japan and Washington State.

[Read more here.](#)

[CG and Mrs. Inagaki's visit to JCCW for Bunka no Hi](#)

Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki visited the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of WA for its Bunka no Hi (Culture Day) festival on Nov. 12, 2021. This year's exhibit showcased many traditional Japanese crafts including pottery, metalware, textiles, woodwork, and paper products.

[JASSW 98th Holiday Celebration and Auction - Nov. 30](#)

Please join the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington (JASSW) at their [98th holiday celebration and auction this month!](#)

Date & Time: November 30th, 2021 at 5:30 PM

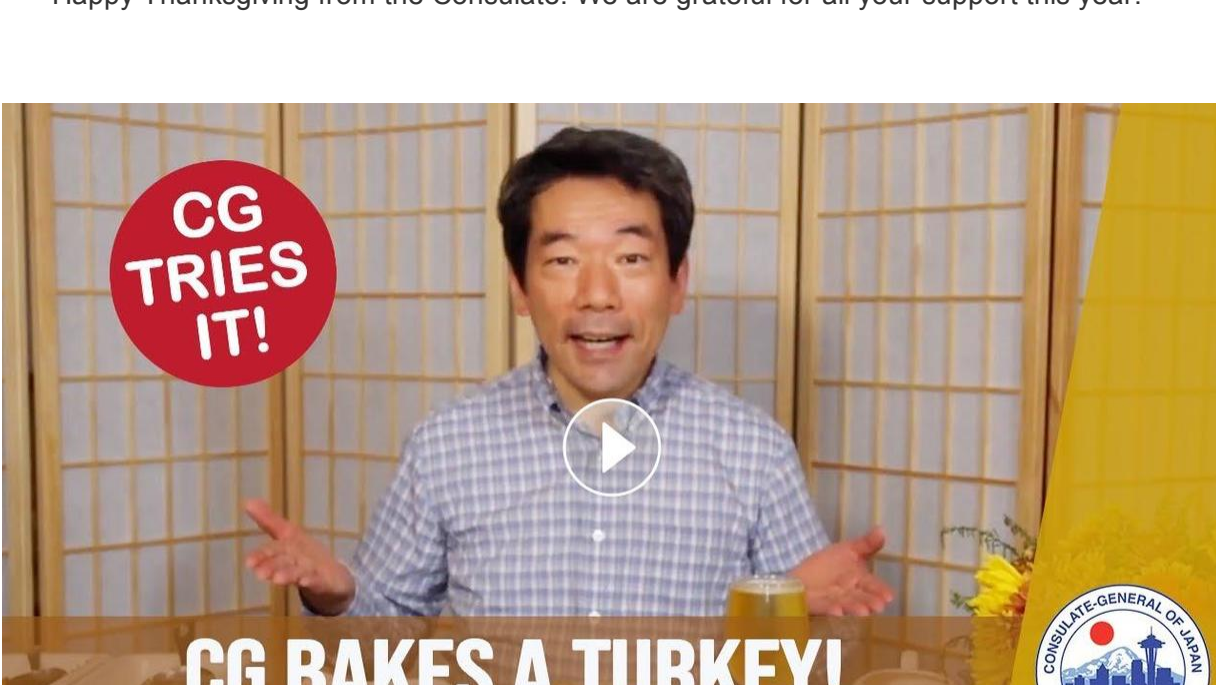
Consul General Inagaki will be making a speech at this online event.

[- Register Here -](#)

[Consul General's Thanksgiving Turkey Video](#)

In our latest episode of "CG Tries It!" Consul General Inagaki tries baking a turkey for thanksgiving! Watch it here on [Facebook](#) or [Youtube](#).

Happy Thanksgiving from the Consulate! We are grateful for all your support this year.



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

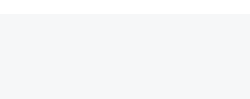
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