



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. [Congratulatory Message from Foreign Minister HAYASHI to Ambassador Emanuel](#)

On December 18, Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, sent a congratulatory message to the Honorable Rahm Emanuel, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, upon his confirmation as the U.S. Ambassador to Japan. [Read the message here](#).

2. [5th Ministerial Meeting of the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Treaty](#)

On December 14, Mr. ODAWARA Kiyoshi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, virtually attended the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

State Minister ODAWARA underlined the importance of maintaining and strengthening the NPT as the cornerstone of international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. [Read more here](#).

3. [Emergency Assistance to the Philippines in Response to the Typhoon Disaster](#)

Today, on December 20, upon the request of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, the Government of Japan has decided to provide emergency relief goods (generators, portable jerry cans, tents, sleeping pads, and plastic sheets) through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the Philippines in response to the damages caused by Typhoon Odette. [Read more here](#).

4. Updates on the COVID-19 Situation in Japan

[- Daily COVID Data Updates](#)

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

5. Consulate Activities

[AAPI Unity Celebration for Mayor-elect Bruce Harrell](#)

On December 10, Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki attended the AAPI Unity Celebration for Mayor-elect Bruce Harrell. Many attended the event to celebrate the first AAPI mayor in Seattle's history. Congratulations to Mayor-elect Harrell!

[Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries to honor Mr. Shiro Kashiba and Mr. Takeyuki Suetsugu](#)

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) announced the recipients of the 15th Minister's Award for Overseas Promotion of Japanese Food. Mr. Shiro Kashiba and Mr. Takeyuki Suetsugu from Washington State were among those selected for this honor. [Read the announcement on our website](#), and see the [full list of recipients on the MAFF website](#).

[Washington State Japanese Language Speech & Skit Contest](#)

Registration for the 39th annual Washington State Japanese Speech and Skit contest is now OPEN! [Apply here!](#)

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

The newsletter will return in January 2022. Until then, happy holidays, and a happy new year to all!

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/itpr_en/08182021_e-newletter.html

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