



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. [Japan-U.S. Summit Video Teleconference Meeting](#)

On January 21, Prime Minister Kishida held a Japan-U.S. summit video teleconference meeting with President Biden.

The two leaders shared the intention to coordinate closely under the strong Japan-U.S. Alliance and to deepen cooperation with like-minded countries toward realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." In this regard, Prime Minister Kishida expressed his intention to host the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. (QUAD) Summit Meeting in Japan in the first half of this year by inviting President Biden to Japan.

They also exchanged their views on the recent regional issues, including North Korea's nuclear and missile activities, and the situation in Ukraine.

[Read more about the summit meeting here.](#)

## 2. [Foreign Policy Speech by Foreign Minister Hayashi to the 208th Session of the Diet](#)

At the 208th Session of the National Diet of Japan, Foreign Minister Hayashi outlined Japan's foreign policy. Some of the main points included dealing with the increasingly severe security environment, promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific vision, COVID-19, and expanding a free and fair economic order.

[Read FM Hayashi's speech here.](#)

## 3. [Emergency Assistance Activity for the Damage Caused by Volcanic Eruption and Tsunami Disaster in the Kingdom of Tonga](#)

In response to the damage caused by the volcanic eruption and tsunami disaster in Tonga, on January 22, Japan delivered 3 tons of drinking water as the first batch of emergency relief goods to be provided through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

## 4. [Japan-U.S. Joint Statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons \(NPT\)](#)

On January 21, Japan and the U.S. released the "Japan-U.S. Joint Statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)."

[The full text of the joint statement can be read here](#)

## 5. 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](#).

## 6. Consulate News & Activities

### In Case You Missed It: Sake Webinar

Consul General Inagaki and Chef Soma of Kamonegi and Hannyatou participated in a sake webinar on January 20. You can view a recording of the event by registering at the link below. Learn more about Japan's national beverage and recipes for Chef Soma's easy-to-make appetizers that go well with Japanese sake!

[Register and view the recording here.](#)

### In Memoriam: Don Wilson

Don Wilson, the founding member of the groundbreaking Pacific Northwest instrumental rock band The Ventures, passed away on January 22 at the age of 88 in Tacoma.

The Ventures and their unique "teke teke" guitar sound were extremely beloved in Japan and the band had many tours there. In 2010, the Emperor of Japan bestowed the Order of the Rising Sun to The Ventures for their cultural impact on the country.

Our thoughts go out to Mr. Wilson's family and his many fans.

[Obituary for Don Wilson](#) (via Seattle Times)

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/itpr\\_en/08182021\\_e-newsletter.html](https://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/08182021_e-newsletter.html)

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