



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. [Response to the Situation in Ukraine \(Updated regularly\)](#)

For a continually updated list of Japan's response to the situation in Ukraine please refer to the link above.

[Measures by the Japanese Government \(As of 3/8\)](#)

Over the last few days, Japan has announced further assistance for Ukraine, and additional sanction measures on Russia and Belarus.

Please see [this PDF for more information](#).

[Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk](#)

On February 26, FM Hayashi held a telephone talk with the Honorable Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State.

Minister Hayashi informed Secretary Blinken that in addition to the measures already announced, the Government of Japan has announced to implement tougher measures, aligning with the US and European countries, in the areas of finance and export control to respond to the recent aggression. The two ministers concurred to continue close coordination between Japan and the United States.

[Prime Minister's Telephone Talk with President Zelensky of Ukraine](#)

On February 28, PM Kishida held a telephone talk with President Zelensky of Ukraine. During the call, PM Kishida conveyed "heartfelt condolences towards the victims of Russian aggression and declared Japan's firm support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity." PM Kishida also offered humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, and announced further sanctions on individuals and entities in Belarus.

[Read the press conference transcript regarding the call here.](#)

[Japan-Australia-India-U.S.\(Quad\) Leaders' Video Conference](#)

On March 4, PM Kishida held a video conference with the leaders of Australia, India, and the US. The conference was called for and hosted by the US.

The four leaders also concurred to work closely together to respond to the situation in Ukraine. Furthermore, the four leaders concurred that any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force, such as this time, must not be tolerated in the Indo-Pacific region and that it is precisely because of this situation that it is critical to further promote efforts toward the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

Following the conference, [a Joint Readout was released](#).

[Referral of the Situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court](#)

On March 9, Japan referred the Situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Considering the UN General Assembly Resolution of March 2, the G7 Statement of March 4, and the ever-growing concern over war crimes, Japan referred the Situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court from the viewpoint of expressing clear support for the investigation by the International Criminal Court.

2. 11 Years since the Great East Japan Earthquake

March 11 marks eleven years since the Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami, and Daiichi Nuclear Plant Accident.

In the years since, reconstruction is proceeding and [agricultural exports from Fukushima now exceed pre-disaster levels](#).

[Watch this video to learn more](#) about Japan's initiatives on food security and why more than 50 out of 55 countries and regions have already lifted and eased their import measures on agricultural products from the Tohoku region.

3. [The Second Meeting of the Roundtable for Promoting the National Action Plan \(NAP\) on Business and Human Rights](#)

The Government of Japan introduced its efforts in relation to the NAP and reported on the discussions held in the Working Group set up under this roundtable in February this year. The stakeholders also expressed views concerning their recognition of the current situation and issues, as well as their expectations and requests for future measures encouraging business enterprises to respect human rights and for methods to follow up on the implementation of the NAP.

The NAP lists a series of measures related to business and human rights to be implemented by the government. It also sets out expectations for business enterprises to promote the implementation of human rights due diligence in the context of their business activities.

4. [Foreign Minister Hayashi's Meeting with Ambassadors and Representatives of Southeast Asian Countries to Japan](#)

On February 28, 2022, FM Hayashi held a meeting with ambassadors and representatives of Southeast Asian countries to Japan.

Regarding Japan-ASEAN relations, as 2023 is the 50th year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, Minister Hayashi expressed his intention to hold various events in both Japan and ASEAN countries, in addition to the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit, to further deepen the friendly and cooperative relationship.

Furthermore, Minister Hayashi and the ambassadors and representatives discussed common challenges facing Japan and ASEAN, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the most pressing issue at the moment, and agreed to continue close cooperation with each other.

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

[Miyagi Fair at Uwajimaya and Local Restaurants](#)

[Taste of Miyagi at Uwajimaya](#) is going on until March 15! Be sure to stop by the Seattle or Bellevue locations to see what products Miyagi has to offer. Additionally, [12 local Japanese restaurants](#) are currently featuring Miyagi sake and ingredients.

[Day of Remembrance Event](#)

On February 19, a Day of Remembrance event was held to mark 80 years since the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced removal and mass incarceration of Japanese Americans on the West Coast and beyond.

The event took place at the Puyallup Fairgrounds, where most Japanese Americans in the Seattle area spent their first few months until their transfer to incarceration camps at Minidoka, ID and Tule Lake, CA during WWII.

Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki were honored to attend the event, along with distinguished guests, surviving families, and friends, to commemorate the hardships the Japanese Americans faced and to remember their extraordinary patriotism to the United States.

[JASSW Japanese Language Festival 2022](#)

The Japan-America Society of the State of Washington is hosting a Japanese Language Festival again this year! Join for a fun afternoon packed with Japanese language learning, culture, and trivia, and celebrate Japanese language education in Washington State. This virtual event is free to attend, but registration is required.

[Register here!](#)

Meeting with WA Secretary of State Steve Hobbs



On March 9, Consul General and Mrs. Hisao Inagaki visited the newly appointed Secretary of State, The Hon. Steve Hobbs, in Olympia and exchanged views on Japan-Washington State relations. Did you know that Secretary Hobbs's middle name is Ryoma (竜馬), named after a Meiji-era hero from Kochi Prefecture?

Read the full post about their meeting [on our Facebook page](#).

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

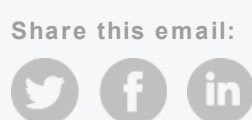
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