



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 page linked above, or see [this PDF for the latest information on measures taken by Japan](#).

[Atrocities against civilians near Kyiv \(Statement by Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa\)](#)

The Ukrainian government and various media reports have revealed that atrocities including the mass killing of innocent civilians, were committed in the area near Kyiv, which was occupied by the Russian forces.

Japan takes extremely seriously the fact that a large number of civilians in Ukraine have been killed as a result of the acts of the Russian forces, and is deeply shocked by this revelation. The killing of innocent civilians is a grave breach of international humanitarian law and absolutely unacceptable. Japan vehemently condemns it.

The truth about these atrocities must be uncovered and Russia must be held strictly accountable. Japan has referred the Situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on the grounds that war crimes appear to have been committed, and counts on progress in the investigation by the ICC Prosecutor.

[Additional Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in Ukraine and neighboring countries](#)

On April 5, the Government of Japan decided to provide additional 100 million US dollars in emergency humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine who are facing hardship in Ukraine and neighboring countries. This assistance includes [financial support for WHO emergency response to address COVID-19](#) and other infectious diseases.

[Read more about the assistance here.](#)

[Statement of the G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group Statement in support of the IAEA's efforts to ensure Nuclear Safety and Security in Ukraine](#)

On April 7, the G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group released the Statement in support of the IAEA's efforts to ensure Nuclear Safety and Security in Ukraine.

The Group expressed profound concerns at the attacks perpetrated by Russia at and in the direct vicinity of nuclear and radiological facilities in Ukraine. Such acts threaten the safety and security of nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes in Ukraine, significantly raising the risk of a nuclear accident or incident and endangering civilians and the environment.

[Read the full statement here.](#)

2. [G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on the launch of an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile by North Korea](#)

The G7 Foreign Ministers strongly condemned the continued testing of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), including the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) launch conducted on March 24, 2022.

The Ministers strongly urged the DPRK to accept the repeated offers of dialogue, and to abandon its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

[Read the full statement here.](#)

3. [Tokyo International Conference on African Development \(TICAD\) Ministerial Meeting \(Overview\)](#)

The TICAD Ministerial Meeting was held virtually on March 26 and 27. FM Hayashi chaired the meeting and Ms. SUZUKI Takako, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, took the role of acting chair during the meeting.

Looking ahead to TICAD 8 to be held in August this year, the participants discussed priority issues on African development based on three pillars: Economy, Society and Peace and Stability.

African countries expressed their appreciation for Japan's commitments to African development through the TICAD process and their gratitude for Japan's support including contribution to the COVAX Facility, vaccine donation and improving Cold Chain

See the overview at the link above, and [read the summary here \(PDF\)](#).

4. [High-Level Pledging Event on Supporting the Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan](#)

On March 31, FM Hayashi delivered a pre-recorded video message at the High-Level Pledging Event on Supporting the Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan

Minister Hayashi stated that while the world focuses its attention on the situation in Ukraine, the response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan remains important, and emphasized the necessity of the international community's concerted effort. Moreover, he stated that the Government of Japan has decided to contribute a total of approximately 109 million US dollars (from the FY2021 supplementary budget) to address the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries.

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

5. Updates on the COVID-19 Situation in Japan

[- Daily COVID Data Updates](#)

[Japan Updates COVID-19 Travel Advisory Levels](#)

Due to the global spread of COVID-19, 162 countries and territories, including the United States, have been placed on "Level 3 (Do not travel)" in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' infectious disease risk information. All countries/regions other than level 3 countries/regions were designated as level 2 countries/regions (non-essential travel should be stopped)

Although the global infection situation of COVID-19 continues to require caution, the government has now reviewed the infectious disease risk information, taking into account the actual situation in each country and region, including the number of newly infected persons, vaccination status, infectious disease countermeasures and medical systems, and various measures being taken in each country and region. **As a result, on April 1, the infectious disease risk information level for countries including the U.S. was changed from Level 3 (travel should be stopped) to Level 2 (non-essential travel should be stopped).**

This change of the Level from Level 3 to Level 2 could make it easier for businessmen and students who had previously refrained from traveling to visit other countries, thereby stimulating economic activities and human exchange.

As for traveling from the U.S. to Japan, all foreigners including U.S. citizens are still required to get a visa to enter Japan. For information on the requirements and procedures for getting a visa to visit Japan, please check the below website.

https://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/visa.html

6. Consulate News & Activities

[Concert for Ukraine](#)

On April 4, Consul General Inagaki attended the Mayor's benefit concert for Ukraine and refugees worldwide. The audience enjoyed a wonderful performance by the Seattle Symphony and a very impressive dance and chorus by local Ukrainian artists.

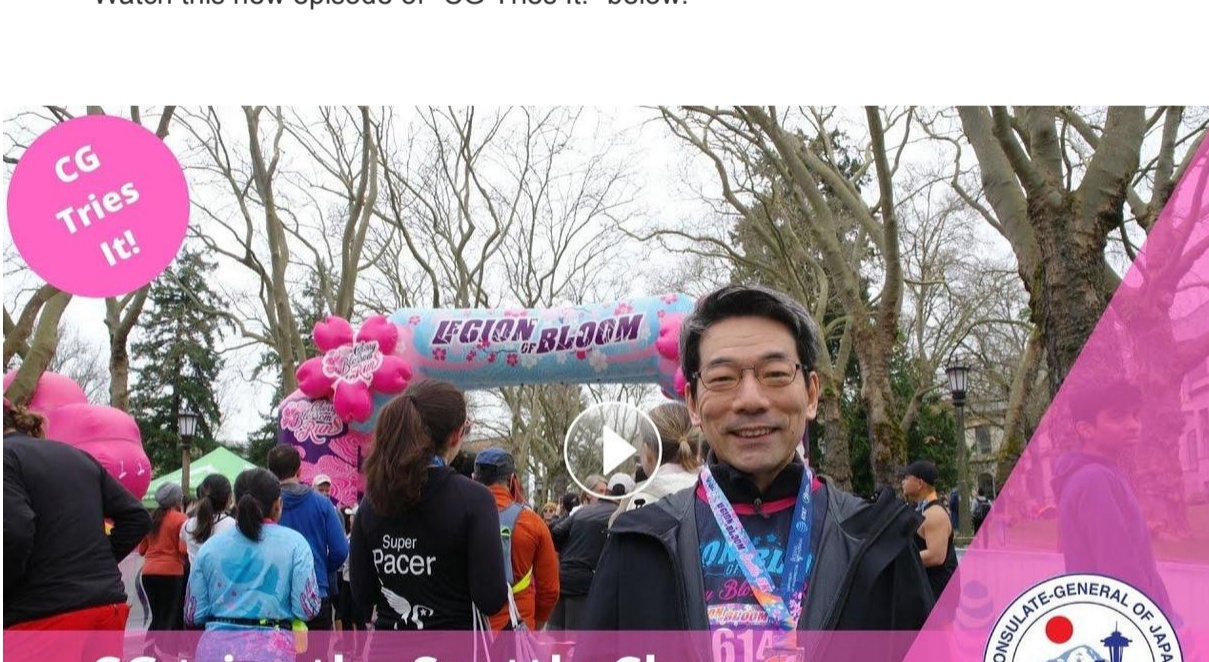
[Seward Park Torii Gate](#)

On April 2, taiko drums welcomed visitors to Seward Park in celebration of its new torii gate. See photos from the event and find out more in [our Facebook post!](#)

[VIDEO: CG Tries It! - Cherry Blossom Run](#)

CG Inagaki joined the Seattle Cherry Blossom Run on March 26. He walked around the UW campus and enjoyed "Hanami" under the fully bloomed cherry blossoms in the quad.

Watch this new episode of "CG Tries It!" below!



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

Until next time, thank you for reading!

Sincerely,

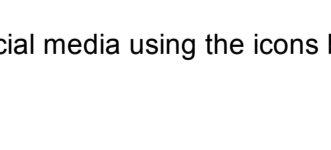
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View past issues of "From Japan to the Northwest" here: https://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/08182021_e-newsletter.html

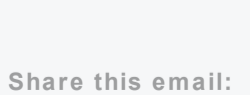
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