



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)

[Measures by the Japanese Government \(PDF\)](#)

[Japan-Ukraine Summit Telephone Talk](#)

On April 26, PM Kishida held a summit telephone talk with H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine.

Prime Minister Kishida stated that, in response to the Ukrainian government's request, the amount of financial assistance has been increased from US\$100 million to US\$300 million to support the economy, and Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) equipment, such as small drones and protective masks and suits against chemical weapons, have been provided. He further stated that Japan has decided to provide food, medicine, and other supplies requested by Ukraine as early as possible.

Following the telephone talk, PM Kishida [held a press conference](#).

[Support for Emergency Economic Recovery and Health and Medical System Development to Ukraine](#)

On April 28, FM Hayashi and H. E. Mr. Sergiy Korsunsky, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine, signed and exchanged notes concerning financial support and grant aid in Tokyo.

The Emergency Economic Reconstruction Development Policy Loan is to provide financial support, with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to the Government of Ukraine. This program is expected to contribute to the economic stabilization and the promotion of self-sustained governance in Ukraine.

The Economic and Social Development Programme is to provide health and medical equipment such as endoscopes to the Government of Ukraine, in which the health and medical system is vulnerable due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of Russian invasion. Thus, this project will contribute to strengthening the health and medical system in Ukraine.

2. [Japan-Viet Nam Summit Meeting](#)

On May 1, PM Kishida held a summit meeting with H.E. Mr. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

PM Kishida stated that Viet Nam is a key partner in the realization of the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" and that he would like to enhance bilateral ties between Japan and Viet Nam as the world stands at a historical crossroads over the foundations of the international order. In response, Prime Minister Chinh expressed his intention to work closely with Prime Minister Kishida on bilateral relations and responses to various regional and international affairs.

[Read a full overview of the Summit meeting here](#).

PM Kishida visited Viet Nam as part of a series of visits to countries in Southeast Asia and Europe. Find [more information about his visits to Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Italy and the United Kingdom here](#).

3. [Courtesy calls by Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum \(WEF\)](#)

On April 25, [PM Kishida](#) and [FM Hayashi](#) each received a courtesy call from Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

PM Kishida pointed out that as a result of Russia's aggression to Ukraine, in addition to the pandemic, economic and social transformation of countries is more important than ever and that unity is required to create global political trends, which give a boost to economic and social transformation.

FM Hayashi expressed his appreciation to WEF's contribution to promoting dialogues between public and private sectors in various areas while predicting new global trends and his expectation that his stay in Japan will give a boost to the partnership between Japan and the WEF.

Read the full press releases about Professor Schwab's courtesy calls [here](#) and [here](#).

4. [The Provision of COVID-19 vaccines to the Republic of Sierra Leone through the COVAX facility](#)

The Government of Japan has decided to provide approximately 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines manufactured in Japan, through the COVAX facility, to Sierra Leone. These vaccines were airlifted from Japan to Sierra Leone on April 29.

These vaccines are expected to contribute to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 in Sierra Leone. Japan will continue to provide various assistance in cooperation with relevant countries and international organizations towards the earliest convergence against COVID-19.

5. [Publication of the IAEA's Report on Safety Review of the Handling of ALPS Treated Water at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station](#)

On April 29, IAEA published a report on Safety Review on the ALPS treated water which was conducted in February 2022. The report describes the IAEA's review related to eight different technical areas, including the characterization of discharge and source term, the safety-related aspects of system and processes for controlling discharges, and the radiological environmental impact assessment.

The [IAEA](#) and [METI](#) released press releases summarizing the results of the report.

[The full report can be found here \(PDF\)](#).

6. [Updates on the COVID-19 Situation and Travel to Japan](#)

[- Daily COVID Data Updates](#)

Traveling from the U.S. to Japan:

All foreigners, including U.S. citizens, are currently required to get a visa to enter Japan. For information on the requirements and procedures for getting a visa to visit Japan, please check our website below.

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

Recent Updates

Please see links below for recently updated information regarding applying for visas and travel to Japan.

[Changes to Methods of Visa Application and Receipt from May 9, 2022](#)

From May 9, 2022 until further notice from the Consulate-General of Japan at Seattle, we will only accept visa applications by mail or by dropping them off at the drop-off box located in the Consulate-General of Japan at Seattle office (available only when the Consulate-General is open).

After that date, visa applications submitted by e-mail will NOT be accepted. Visa receipt will also be mailed with a self-addressed envelope.

For details on the application process, [please click here](#) (Open PDF file).

[Shortened deadline for Fast Track \(part of the quarantine procedure at the time of entry\)](#)

From April 27, 2022 (10 am JST), the deadline for pre-screening registration for Fast Track (part of the quarantine procedure at the time of entry) that has been available at Haneda Airport, Narita International Airport, Chubu International Airport, Kansai International Airport, and Fukuoka Airport is shortened to 6 hours prior to the scheduled arrival time in Japan, instead of 16 hours. This measure will allow more travelers to use Fast Track, enabling smoother entry.

For more information on Fast Track, [please click here](#).

7. [Consulate News & Activities](#)

[Sakura Matsuri - Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival](#)

The 47th annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival was held on April 8-10. After two years as a virtual event, the festival returned to the Seattle Center as a hybrid event offering both online and in-person programming. Local Japanese and Japanese American organizations hosted booths, sharing Japanese culture and welcoming many visitors.

[Read the full event report on our website](#).

[2022 Spring Conferment of Decorations](#)

On April 29, the Government of Japan announced the recipients of the Spring 2022 Decorations. There were two recipients from within the Consulate's jurisdiction.



Mr. Tsutomu Sasaki, former chair of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington, and former president of the Japanese Community Service of Seattle, was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in recognition of his efforts to create a foundation for furthering friendly relations between Japan and the United States.

[Facebook Announcement](#)

[Homepage Announcement](#)



Ms. Lori Matsukawa, former KING 5-TV news anchor, and former president of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of WA, was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, in recognition of her contributions in promoting mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and the United States.

[Facebook Announcement](#)

[Homepage Announcement](#)

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

Until next time, thank you for reading!

Sincerely,

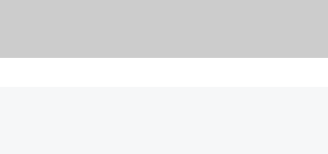
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View past issues of "From Japan to the Northwest" here: https://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/08182021_e-newsletter.html

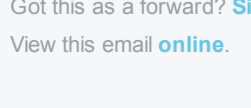
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