



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](#).

Announcement: Special Edition Next Week (5/25)!

With President Biden visiting Japan over the next few days, we will be sending out a special edition of the newsletter next week on May 25. Please keep an eye out for it! The newsletter will then return to its regular bi-weekly schedule.

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

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

PM Kishida's Video Message on Ukraine Situation

On May 19, PM Kishida released a video message regarding Japan's response toward Ukraine.

[Watch the video message here](#) (Facebook link), or [read the text of the message here](#).

Statement by the G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group

On May 9, the G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group released a statement condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine and stating its position on pressing issues in disarmament and non-proliferation, including strengthening the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and addressing the imminent dangers of nuclear proliferation. The G7 recognized that awareness of the reality of any use of nuclear weapons will help strengthen global efforts towards nuclear disarmament. Upon such recognition, the G7 encouraged political leaders, the younger generation, and others to visit the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. [Read the full statement here \(PDF\)](#).

Press Conference by FM Hayashi - Comments about Situation in Ukraine (Possibility of Russia Using Nuclear Weapons)

When asked about the possibility of Russia using nuclear weapons at a press conference on May 17, FM Hayashi responded:

"Japan has grave concerns about the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons amidst Russia's invasion of Ukraine...it is important to maintain and strengthen the initiative for international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

As the only country to have suffered wartime atomic bombing, Japan will continue to strongly urge in various international fora that Russia must never threaten nor use nuclear weapons.

The security environment surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly severe and uncertain...we are determined to consider all options and work to drastically strengthen our defense capabilities...we will strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. alliance, and further strengthen cooperation to achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" with related countries and regional partners."

2. [Japan-EU Summit Meeting](#)

On May 12, 2022, Prime Minister Kishida held the 28th Japan-European Union (EU) Summit Meeting with H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and H.E. Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission.

The three leaders held a joint press announcement and issued a joint statement ([PDF](#)) and a document regarding the Japan-EU Digital Partnership ([PDF](#)).

3. [Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Video Conference](#)

On May 18, FM Hayashi held a video conference with H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China

FM Hayashi, noting the difficulties Japan-China relations is facing and the extremely severe public opinion in Japan towards China, stated that both sides need to say what needs to be said while continuing dialogues and cooperate in appropriate ways in areas needing cooperation, and fulfill our responsibilities to the international society.

Both ministers confirmed to promote dialogue and cooperation related to Japan-China economic relations in a variety of areas and at a variety of levels in an appropriate manner and stressed the importance of pushing forward the people-to-people and economic exchanges between the two countries through efforts of both sides.

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

4. [PM Kishida's visit to Okinawa to Attend the Ceremony Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Reversion of Okinawa to Japan](#)

On May 14 and 15, PM Kishida visited Okinawa Prefecture.

[On the first day](#), PM Kishida offered flowers at the National Cemetery for the War Dead in Okinawa and the Shimamori Monument, both in the Peace Memorial Park, before visiting the Monument to Students Mobilized during the Battle of Okinawa and the Cornerstone of Peace.

[On the second day](#), PM Kishida visited the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma. Later, in the online presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the Prime Minister attended a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa to Japan before receiving a new "Okinawa Promotion Plan" from Mr. Denny Tamaki, Governor of Okinawa Prefecture.

5. [Joint video message by Foreign Ministers of Japan and Israel Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations](#)

May 15 of this week marked exactly 70 years since Japan and the State of Israel established diplomatic relations, in 1952.

With a view to celebrate the 70th anniversary and wish for further development of the bilateral relations, FM Hayashi and H.E. Mr. Yair LAPID, Alternate Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, issued a congratulatory joint video message.

[Watch the video message here.](#)

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](#) (PDF).

[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](#)

[JCCCW Kodomo no Hi](#)

Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki attended the Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) Festival at the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of WA on May 14, 2022. There were a variety of live performances, activities, and workshops for attendees to enjoy, including a furoshiki workshop presented by our office.

[Early Departure JETs](#)

On May 14, five Early Departure JET Program participants left for Tokyo to start their new lives in Japan. Though most participants leave in the summer, a few leave earlier to follow the Japanese school year, which begins in the spring. Learn about the JET Program [here](#).

[MEXT Scholarships](#)

The MEXT Scholarship applications are now open! There are currently three available categories: Research, Undergraduate, and Specialized Training College. Applications must be mailed to the consulate and received by June 5. Learn more [here](#).

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

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