



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 \(PDF\)](#)

[Press Conference by Prime Minister Kishida on His Attendance at the G7 Summit and NATO Summit](#)

"...As the world stands at a historic crossroads, we will engage in frank discussions on responses to Russian aggression against Ukraine, as well as such issues as the global economy including measures to address rising commodity prices, climate change, and regional issues including the Indo-Pacific.

I will also attend the NATO Summit as the first Japanese prime minister ever to do so. I intend to take advantage of this opportunity to raise Japan's cooperation with NATO to a new stage."

PM Kishida also contributed a column to El Pais, a Spanish language daily newspaper, regarding the NATO Summit. [Read PM Kishida's contribution here \(in English\)](#).

[Video message by Foreign Minister Hayashi at Three Seas Summit](#)

On June 20, the Three Seas Summit was held in Riga, the Republic of Latvia. FM Hayashi delivered a video message at the event.

FM Hayashi stated in the message that bolstering regional cohesion and connectivity across the Baltic states and Central and Eastern Europe has been a pressing issue especially now in the face of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and thus, the Three Seas Initiative is now more significant than ever. He reiterated that Japan is keen to step up its engagement with this Initiative.

Background:

The Three Seas Initiative was established in 2015 to strengthen connectivity and reduce the divide in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic states. It promotes development of infrastructure in the energy, transport and digital field in the region surrounded by three seas (Baltic Sea, Black Sea and Adriatic Sea). Currently, twelve countries participated in the Initiative (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia).

[Read Minister Hayashi's remarks here \(PDF\)](#)

## 2. [Outcome of Prime Minister Kishida's Attendance at the NATO Summit Meeting](#)

On June 29, Prime Minister Kishida of Japan attended the NATO Summit. It was at the invitation of NATO and the first time for a Japanese prime minister to participate in this summit. At the NATO Partner Session that Prime Minister Kishida attended were the leaders of the 30 NATO member countries and also of Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Finland, Georgia, and the EU, attending as NATO's major partner countries and organizations. Given Russian aggression against Ukraine and the increasingly severe security situation in the Indo-Pacific region, at the meeting, discussions were held regarding future cooperation between NATO and the partner countries and organizations and other such matters.

Prime Minister Kishida spoke at the summit meeting about Russian aggression, aid to Ukraine, the stability in East Asia, a new National Security Strategy that will be drawn up by the end of 2022, a reinforcement of defense capabilities, and a strengthening of security cooperation with like-minded countries, including the Japan-U.S. Alliance. He also spoke about NATO as an important partner for Japan, its involvement in the Indo-Pacific region, and efforts towards nuclear disarmament, all towards realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

## 3. [NATO Asia-Pacific partners \(AP4\) Leaders' Meeting](#)

On June 29, the Leaders' Meeting of the four Asia-Pacific partners (AP4) of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), namely Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, was held in Madrid, Spain. Prime Minister Kishida of Japan, who was visiting Madrid to attend the NATO Summit, hosted the meeting with the Hon. Anthony Albanese, MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand and H.E. Mr. Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea. The four leaders, prior to the NATO Summit, exchanged their views on the situation in Ukraine and its impact on the international society from the view of the Indo-Pacific region. The four leaders also exchanged their views on international affairs including the Indo-Pacific.

The four leaders concurred to condemn Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Based on the recognition that the security of the Indo-Pacific and Europe is indivisible, they also shared the view that they will closely coordinate and promote their cooperation as NATO partners and take the lead in deepening communication between the Indo-Pacific and NATO. The four leaders also affirmed that they will continue to communicate closely for the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

## 4. [Telephone Talk between FM Hayashi and Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

On June 22, FM Hayashi held a telephone talk with Mr. William (Bill) Henry Gates III, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

At the end, Minister Hayashi stated that Japan would continue to work closely with the Gates Foundation to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) and to build a global health architecture including through strengthening prevention, preparedness, and response to future pandemics.

In response, Mr. Gates expressed appreciation for Japan's contributions to international frameworks such as Gavi, the Global Fund, the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT) and Unitaid, as well as its support for the global COVID-19 response through the ACT-Accelerator and its COVAX Facility, while expressing his expectation for the continuous cooperation in these areas.

## 5. [Emergency Assistance to Afghanistan in Response to the Earthquake](#)

On June 24, upon the request of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Government of Japan has decided to provide emergency relief goods such as blankets, sleeping pads, etc. through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to Afghanistan in response to the damages caused by the earthquake.

In light of the humanitarian perspective, Japan has decided to provide emergency assistance to Afghanistan to support people affected by the earthquake.

## 6. [Japan-U.S. Extended Deterrence Dialogue](#)

From June 21-22, The Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America held a bilateral Extended Deterrence Dialogue (EDD) at King's Bay Naval Base in Georgia.

This round of the EDD follows the May 2022 Japan-U.S. Leaders' Summit, during which Prime Minister Kishida and President Biden underscored the importance of enhancing bilateral discussions on extended deterrence. During the EDD, Japan and the United States shared assessments of the regional security environment, and the U.S. side provided a briefing on the current state of U.S. nuclear capabilities, including the posture and modernization program of its nuclear triad, as well as its declaratory policy, including on the recently completed Nuclear Posture Review.

The two sides held in-depth discussions on extended deterrence and how arms control, nonproliferation, conventional forces, and missile defense contribute to integrated deterrence as well as to credible and resilient extended deterrence.

Background:

Extended deterrence forms the core of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. The EDD, established in 2010, provides Tokyo and Washington with a regularized process to discuss ways to sustain and strengthen extended deterrence.

## 7. [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](#).

### **Recent Updates (NEW)**

[Border measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[New entry of foreign nationals \(New\)](#)

Based on the New Border Measures (29), from June 10, 2022, foreign nationals who apply for new entry into Japan based on either of the following categories (1), (2) or (3) below are regarded as those with "special exceptional circumstances" and are allowed for new entry into Japan in principle, if the receiving organizations located in Japan complete prescribed applications in the Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS).

(1) Foreign nationals newly entering Japan for a short-term stay (less than three months) for purposes including business and employment (continued from March 1)

(2) Foreign nationals newly entering Japan for a short-term stay for tourism (only when a travel agency among others organizing the trip serves as the receiving organization of the entrants) (starts from June 10) (New)

(3) Foreign nationals newly entering Japan for a long-term stay (continued from March 1)

## Consulate Activities

### [Japanese Agricultural Trainees departed for the U.S](#)

31 Japanese Agricultural Trainees departed from Japan to the U.S on June 24 (Japan Time).

They are going to begin their 18-month agricultural training program, which includes a homestay with farmers across the country. Good luck to all the trainees!

### [Consulate closed on July 4](#)

In observance of Independence Day, our office will be closed on Monday, July 4. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, July 5.

### [Ambassador TOMITA Koji visits Washington State and signs MOC](#)

On June 29 (PST), the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on Economic and Trade Relations between Japan and Washington State was extended by Japan's Ambassador to the U.S. TOMITA Koji and Governor Jay Inslee in a signing ceremony at Toray Composite Materials' manufacturing plant in Tacoma.

The MOC, first signed in June 2016 and extended for four years in June 2018, established a formal framework for coordination between Japan and Washington to further support economic activities in 10 strategic areas. The renewal signed yesterday extends cooperation under the MOC for four more years, further advancing the strong economic partnership between Japan and Washington State.

### [Ambassador Tomita visits Boeing](#)

Ambassador Tomita and Consul General Inagaki visited the Boeing facility in Renton, WA and learned about sustainability efforts at the 737 MAX factory. About 150 Japanese suppliers work with Boeing, which makes Japan Boeing's largest international industrial partner.

### [Ms. Lori Matsukawa receives Imperial Decoration](#)

On June 29, a conferment ceremony was held to congratulate Ms. Lori Matsukawa for her receipt of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. Ms. Matsukawa was awarded the Decoration for her outstanding contributions to introducing Japanese culture in the U.S. and promoting friendly relations between Japan and the U.S.

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](#).

Visit the Consulate's Homepage here:

- [Homepage \(English・英語\)](#)
- [Homepage \(Japanese・日本語\)](#)

And be sure to follow us on social media using the icons below!



Manage your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™  
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.  
View this email [online](#).

701 Pike Street, Suite 1000601 Union Street, Suite 500 | Seattle, WA 98101 US

This email was sent to .  
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.