



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. The Passing of Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

On July 8, following the news of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's passing, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida [issued a statement](#).

In the statement, PM Kishida condemned the despicable act that took the life of the former Prime Minister in the strongest possible terms. He praised Mr. Abe's outstanding leadership during his time as the longest-serving Prime Minister in Japan's constitutional history, highlighting his "major contributions to the revitalization of the Japanese economy" and his "diplomacy that took a panoramic perspective of the world map." He also expressed respect for the former Prime Minister's tireless efforts "to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific" with policies focused on "building the foundation to foster the peace and prosperity of both Japan and the world." Finally, he extended his heartfelt sympathies and prayed that the former Prime Minister rest in peace.

In the following days, PM Kishida received messages of condolences from heads of state of many countries, including [President Joe Biden of the United States](#), [Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada](#) and [President Emmanuel Macron of France](#). On July 11, he received [a courtesy call from US Secretary of State Antony Blinken](#).

Consul General Hisao Inagaki also issued [a statement expressing his condolences](#) as well as his deepest respect for the achievements of the former Prime Minister.

### 2. Response to the Situation in Ukraine (Updated regularly)

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

On July 5, the Government of Japan decided to provide assistance totaling approximately 200 million US dollars as [a response to the deterioration of global food security](#), which has been exacerbated by the situation in Ukraine. This is to embody the approximately 200 million US dollars food security assistance conveyed by Prime Minister Kishida at the G7 Summit held last month. The Government of Japan will continue to make efforts to ensure global food security in collaboration with the international community, including the G7.

### 3. Japan's Cyber Security Cooperation with India and France

On June 30, the [Fourth Japan-India Cyber Dialogue was held virtually](#). Areas of discussion included national cyber policies and cybersecurity strategies, recent cyber threat landscape, ICT supply chain risks, and 5G policies. Both sides also discussed bilateral cooperation in the field of capacity building as well as cooperation under the UN, QUAD (Japan-Australia-India-U.S.) and ASEAN Regional Forum.

On July 6, [the 6th Japan-France Bilateral Consultations on Cybersecurity were held](#) in Tokyo. At this dialogue, the two sides exchanged views broadly on cybersecurity strategy and policy, bilateral and multilateral cooperation, 5G technology, and capacity building including human resource development in cybersecurity. The two countries affirmed that like-minded countries will work together to promote the Program of Action (PoA) to advance responsible state behavior in UN discussions on cybersecurity.

### 4. Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On July 8, Foreign Minister Hayashi, visiting Bali, Indonesia for the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held a Japan-U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK) Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States of America, and His Excellency Mr. Park Jin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

The three ministers concurred to strengthen the deterrence capabilities of the Japan-U.S. and U.S.-ROK alliances and to promote security cooperation among Japan, the U.S., and the ROK. They also agreed to ensure the full implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and to continue to work together on responses at the UN. They also shared a recognition that the diplomatic efforts are important, and they affirmed that Japan, the U.S., and the ROK would coordinate even more closely in this regard.

The three ministers also exchanged views on regional situations, which included the discussions on China and situation around Ukraine and efforts to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, given the strategic importance of cooperation among Japan, the U.S., and the ROK. In addition, they discussed global issues such supply chain resilience and global health.

### 5. Six years since the issuance of the Arbitral Tribunal's award as to the disputes between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China regarding the South China Sea (Statement by Foreign Minister Hayashi)

Abridged Statement by FM Hayashi on July 12, 2022:

*Today, six years have passed since the issuance of the Arbitral Tribunal's award as to the disputes between the Philippines and China regarding the South China Sea. The Philippines and China, are required to comply with the award. The claim by China that it will not accept the award is against the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law, and undermines the rule of law as a fundamental value of the international community. Japan strongly hopes that the parties' compliance with the award will lead to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea.*

*Japan highly appreciates the Government of the Philippines for having consistently complied with the award, and shown its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea. Japan renews its objection to maritime claims in the South China Sea that are inconsistent with international law and remains seriously concerned about the current situation. Furthermore, Japan reiterates its strong opposition to unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion.*

*Japan will continue working in coordination with ASEAN and other countries concerned to maintain and strengthen the maritime order based on the rule of law, and to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific.*

### 6. Address by Foreign Minister Hayashi on the UNDP/JICA Special Forum "Human Security and Africa's Challenges: Toward TICAD 8"

On July 13, FM Hayashi delivered an opening address at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Special Forum, "Human Security and Africa's Challenges: Toward TICAD 8." The overview is as follows:

In his opening address, Minister Hayashi stated that Japan will emphasize investing in people and supporting African-led development at the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8), noting that Japan has long taken initiatives through the TICAD process based on the principle of human security. In addition, Minister Hayashi announced that, through field-level activities implemented by TICAD co-organizers the UNDP and JICA, Japan intends to further contribute to sustainable development in Africa from a human security perspective.

### 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

#### [Montana-Kumamoto - 40th Anniversary of Sister State Relations](#)

Montana and Kumamoto are celebrating their 40th anniversary of sister state/prefecture relations this year!

In May, Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki visited Montana. They enjoyed their visit and appreciated the warm welcome from the people of Montana. Japan's Kumamoto prefecture is rich in culture and there is much to explore, such as river kayaking, hot springs, and specialty foods such as mandarins, apples, and Samurai Akaushi beef.

#### [Additional Links](#)

- [CG Inagaki's visit to Montana](#)
- [Learn more about Kumamoto](#)

#### [Updates from Previous Issue:](#)

Below are some additional links and photos of two Consulate news items that we were unable to include in our previous newsletter.

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



From Left: Chief of Staff Jamila Thomas, Governor Inslee, Ambassador Tomita, Consul General Inagaki  
(Photo courtesy of Office of Governor Inslee)

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 on June 29 extends cooperation under the MOC for four more years, further advancing the strong economic partnership between Japan and Washington State.

#### [Additional Links](#)

- [Consulate Website](#)
- [Consulate Facebook page](#)
- [Embassy of Japan Twitter](#)

#### [Decoration Conferment Ceremony for Ms. Lori Lei Matsukawa](#)



Ms. Matsukawa receiving the Order from Ambassador Tomita

On June 29, a conferment ceremony and reception were held at the Official Residence to congratulate Ms. Lori Lei Matsukawa, former KING-TV news anchor and former president of the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington, for her receipt of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. Ambassador TOMITA Koji, Ambassador of Japan to the United States who was visiting Seattle, Ms. Matsukawa's friends and relatives, regional government officials, Japanese American community leaders, and many others were in attendance.

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

Until next time, thank you for reading!

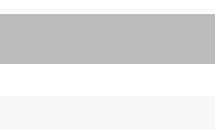
Sincerely,  
Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

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- [Homepage \(English - 英語\)](#)
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