



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 \(PDF\)](#)

[Agreement among the United Nations, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia to resume grain export from Ukraine through the Black Sea \(Statement by FM Hayashi\)](#)

On July 22, the United Nations, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia have agreed to resume grain export from Ukraine through the Black Sea.

Japan welcomes the agreement by the four parties on lifting a de facto blockade of the Ukrainian Black Sea ports in order to resume the worldwide export of grain. Many issues still need to be clarified until the actual resumption of the grain export, but it is an important step towards overcoming the global food crisis.

Japan will closely monitor whether the agreement will be steadily performed and will expect all parties involved to implement necessary further steps swiftly so that grain exports can start quickly. Japan also calls on Russia to stop its unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine and to immediately allow for the safe and secure passage of grain exports from the Ukrainian Black Sea ports. Japan will continue to contribute to supporting grain export from Ukraine and strengthening global food security through cooperation with G7 and the international community.

[The Attack on the Port of Odesa \(Statement by FM Hayashi\)](#)

Japan strongly condemns the attack by Russia on the port of Odesa on July 23.

On the very previous day (July 22), the United Nations, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia had agreed to resume grain exports from Ukraine through the Black Sea, and it is supposed that all Parties involved should implement necessary steps swiftly for the resumption of grain exports from Ukraine. The attack ruins these efforts toward improving the situation, including the mediation efforts of the United Nations and Turkey, and seriously undermines its credibility in the implementation of the latest agreement.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is the root cause of the current difficulties in exporting Ukrainian grain and the resulting worsening of the global food crisis, for which Russia bears full responsibility. Japan strongly urges Russia to fulfill its responsibility to improve the situation, including the implementation of the four-party agreement between the United Nations, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia.

2. Regarding Executions of Myanmar Citizens including Pro-democracy Activists (Statement by FM Hayashi)

On July 25, the Myanmar's state-owned newspaper reported that the executions of Myanmar citizens including pro-democracy activists were carried out according to the relevant department, despite the strong calls against it from the international community including Japan and the ASEAN Chair to the Myanmar military.

Japan seriously deprecates these actions by the Myanmar military, as they completely go against the "release of the detainees," which Japan has consistently called for, and also lead to deeper conflict due to the hardening of public sentiment and further isolation of Myanmar from the international community. Japan expresses its deepest condolences to the families of all those who have lost their lives after the coup.

Japan will continue to support the efforts of ASEAN, including Cambodia as the ASEAN Chair, to improve the situation in Myanmar. Japan once again strongly urges the Myanmar military to faithfully work towards the peaceful resolution of the situation through taking concrete actions to (1) immediately stop the violence, (2) release those who are detained, and (3) swiftly restore Myanmar's democratic political system and swiftly implement ASEAN's "Five-Point Consensus."

On July 26, FM Hayashi [released a joint statement](#) together with the High Representative of the European Union, and the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States, condemning the military regime's execution of pro-democracy and opposition leaders in Myanmar.

On July 28, the G7 Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, and the High Representative of the European Union [released a statement](#) strongly condemning the four executions by the military junta in Myanmar.

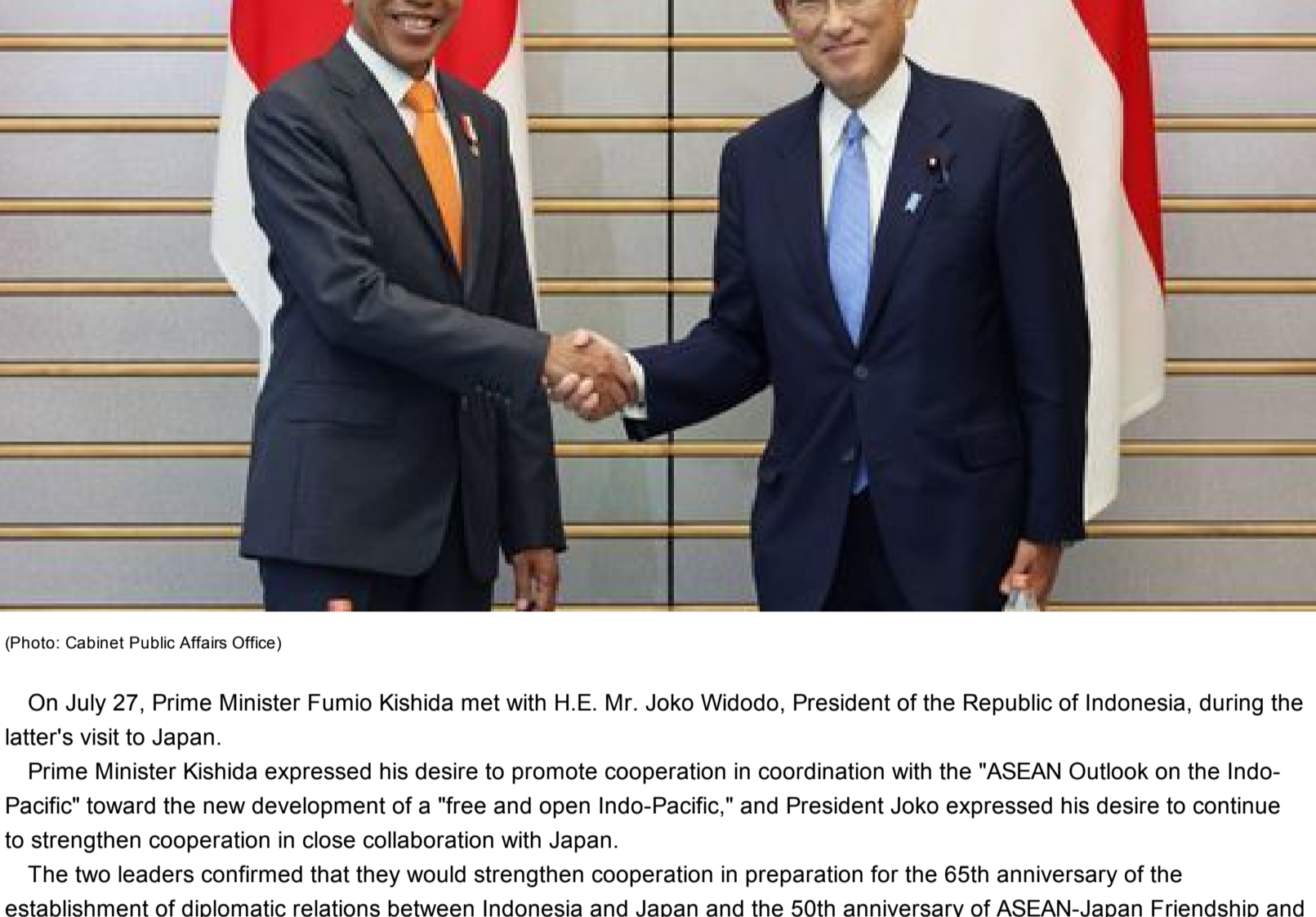
3. [Foreign Minister Hayashi's visit to the United States of America \(Currently Underway\)](#)

FM Hayashi will visit Washington D.C. on July 28-31.

During the visit, Minister Hayashi will attend the [Japan-U.S. Economic Policy Consultative Committee \(the Economic "2+2"\)](#). He will also hold a Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Blinken and deliver a speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Minister Hayashi's first visit to Washington D.C. as Foreign Minister will be an opportunity to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance, which is the cornerstone of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and the international community.

4. [Japan-Indonesia Summit Meeting](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On July 27, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met with H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, during the latter's visit to Japan.

Prime Minister Kishida expressed his desire to promote cooperation in coordination with the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific" toward the new development of a "free and open Indo-Pacific," and President Joko expressed his desire to continue to strengthen cooperation in close collaboration with Japan.

The two leaders confirmed that they would strengthen cooperation in preparation for the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Japan and the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation next year.

A full summary of the summit meeting [can be found here](#) (Japanese).

PM Kishida released [this Facebook post about the visit](#).

It has been a great pleasure to welcome President Joko Widodo of #Indonesia to Tokyo.

We discussed the wonderful news that Indonesia has lifted all import restrictions on Japanese food products. This decision will be extremely encouraging to everyone in the area affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and I highly appreciate President Joko's leadership.

I will work closely with President Joko towards a successful G20 Bali Summit. (July 27)

[View photos from President Joko Widodo's visit here.](#)

5. [Japan-Ireland Summit Meeting](#)

On July 20, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held a summit meeting with H.E. Mr. Micheál Martin, Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, during the latter's visit to Japan.

Prime Minister Kishida welcomed Prime Minister Martin's visit to Japan on the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Ireland. Kishida also expressed his desire to work closely with Ireland, currently a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, as Russia's aggression against Ukraine shakes the very foundations of the international order.

In response, Prime Minister Martin expressed his happiness at this being his first visit to Japan in about 20 years on occasion of the 65th anniversary. He also expressed his desire to further develop bilateral relations, including economic relations, and to strengthen cooperation with Japan in regional and international affairs, including the situation in Ukraine.

The two leaders also [issued a Joint Statement \(PDF\)](#) by the Heads of State and Government of Japan and Ireland.

A full summary of the summit meeting [can be found here](#) (Japanese).

View [photos from Taoiseach Martin's visit here](#).

6. [Event to Mark 1,000 Days to the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On July 18, 2022, Prime Minister Kishida attended an event to mark 1,000 days to the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan, held in Tokyo.

After delivering an address, Prime Minister Kishida attended the announcement of the nickname of the official character, a special lighting ceremony, and a photo session.

PM Kishida's Remarks (Abridged):

"We have reached a major milestone, with only 1,000 days away from the Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan. I have expectations that this event today will be another opportunity to trigger further interest in it not only in Osaka and Kansai, but also in Tokyo and other parts of Japan.

The theme of the Osaka-Kansai Expo is "Designing Future Society for Our Lives." Currently, we are facing COVID-19, the situation in Ukraine, and other major challenges that will leave their mark on history at home and abroad. We must overcome these challenges to carve out a new era. I think that the theme of the expo is suited to the times.

Now I advocate an economic model of a new form of capitalism, proposing that we transform decarbonization, digital, health and healthcare, and other social issues into engines for growth, thereby creating a sustainable society and economy. From this perspective, I earnestly hope that this Osaka-Kansai Expo will serve as an opportunity for Japan to take the lead in carving out an era and solving social challenges with cutting-edge technologies and the cooperation of people from more than 150 countries and regions around the world."

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

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

New entry of foreign nationals

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)

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

Consulate Activities

North American Post and Soy Source Anniversary Celebration



Pictured (from left): Former NAP Editor Misa Murohashi, Hokubei Hochi Foundation Founding Executive Director Elaine Ko, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, Hokubei Hochi Foundation Board President and Former Uwajimaya CEO Tomio Moriguchi, Consul General Hisao Inagaki, State Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos

On July 21, Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki hosted a reception to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the North American Post (北米報知, Hokubei Hochi) and the 30th anniversary of Soy Source magazine, its sister publication. The North American Post (NAP) is the longest-running Japanese-language newspaper in North America. It is a bilingual publication that covers the Japanese and Japanese American (Nikkei) community in the Pacific Northwest.

At the event, Tomio Moriguchi of Uwajimaya received an award in recognition of his efforts to ensure that both publications can continue to thrive. Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell gave remarks about the history of the NAP and its importance to the Nikkei community. The event was attended by Japanese and Japanese American community leaders, and supporters of NAP and Soy Source.

For more [photos and information about the event, visit our Facebook page](#).

Washington-Japan Sister City Relations

The cities of Bellingham (WA) and Tateyama (Chiba, Japan) are [celebrating their sister city relationship this month](#).

Additionally, the city of Renton (WA) and the city of Nishiwaki (Hyogo, Japan) are also [celebrating sister city relations this month](#).

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](#)

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

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.