



From Japan to the Northwest

News From the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle



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 \(PDF\)](#)

[Statement of the G7 Foreign Ministers in support of the IAEA's efforts to promote Nuclear Safety and Security at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine](#) (Abridged)

We, the G7 Foreign Ministers and the High Representative of the European Union, reiterate our strongest condemnation of the ongoing unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

We demand that Russia immediately hand back full control to its rightful sovereign owner, Ukraine, of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant as well as of all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders to ensure their safe and secure operations. It is Russia's continued control of the plant that endangers the region.

We remain profoundly concerned by the serious threat that the seizure of Ukrainian nuclear facilities and other actions by Russian armed forces pose to the safety and security of these facilities, significantly raising the risk of a nuclear accident or incident and endangering the population of Ukraine, neighboring states and the international community.

We reiterate our full and continued support for the IAEA. IAEA staff must be able to access all nuclear facilities in Ukraine safely and without impediment, and engage directly, and without interference, with the Ukrainian personnel responsible for the operation of these facilities.

We encourage all countries to support the IAEA's efforts.

[G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Energy Security](#) (Abridged)

We, the G7 Foreign Ministers, and the High Representative of the European Union, are steadfast in our condemnation of Russia's brutal, unprovoked, unjustifiable, and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. We reiterate our demand that Russia put an end to this war of choice, immediately and unconditionally cease all hostilities, and withdraw its troops from Ukraine.

We further condemn Russian attempts to weaponize its energy exports and use energy as a tool of geopolitical coercion. We are working to ensure Russia does not exploit its position as an energy producer to profit from its aggression at the expense of vulnerable countries. We will build on our recent actions to secure energy supplies, stabilize markets and mitigate the increases in energy prices driven by Russia's actions and extraordinary market conditions.

We continue to explore further measures to prevent Russia from profiting from its war of aggression and to curtail Russia's ability to wage war.

We will further reduce our reliance on civil nuclear and related goods from Russia, and assist countries seeking to diversify their supplies. In all these actions, we will support each other and coordinate our actions to preserve G7 unity and reinforce our collective energy security and resilience.

We remain steadfast in our solidarity with Ukraine and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to support the Government and people of Ukraine in their courageous defense of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and in their fight for a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic future.

2. Prime Minister Kishida Announces New Cabinet Members

On August 10 (Japan Time), Prime Minister Kishida announced the new Members of his Cabinet.

The [full list of Ministers can be found here](#).

3. G7 Foreign Ministers Statement on Preserving Peace and Stability Across the Taiwan Strait (Abridged)

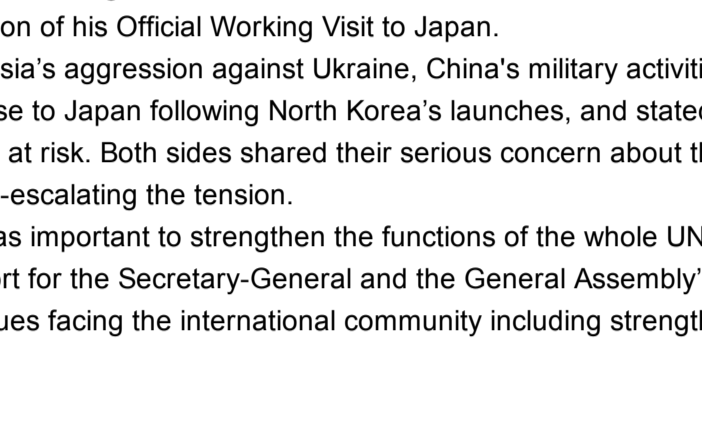
We, the G7 Foreign Ministers and the High Representative of the European Union, reaffirm our shared commitment to maintaining the rules-based international order, peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and beyond.

We are concerned by recent and announced threatening actions by the People's Republic of China (PRC), particularly live-fire exercises and economic coercion, which risk unnecessary escalation. There is no justification to use a visit as pretext for aggressive military activity in the Taiwan Strait.

We call on the PRC not to unilaterally change the status quo by force in the region, and to resolve cross-Strait differences by peaceful means.

We reiterate our shared and steadfast commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and encourage all parties to remain calm, exercise restraint, act with transparency, and maintain open lines of communication to prevent misunderstanding.

4. Foreign Minister Hayashi's Meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Guterres



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On August 8, FM Hayashi held a meeting with H.E. Mr. António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), on the occasion of his Official Working Visit to Japan.

Minister Hayashi referred to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, China's military activities near Taiwan, and China's launch of ballistic missiles into the sea close to Japan following North Korea's launches, and stated that maintaining the international order based on the rule of law was at risk. Both sides shared their serious concern about the tense situation in the region and concurred on the importance of de-escalating the tension.

Minister Hayashi stated that it was important to strengthen the functions of the whole UN, including Security Council reform as well as strengthening the support for the Secretary-General and the General Assembly's role. Both sides confirmed to work closely together to address the issues facing the international community including strengthening the functions of the UN as a whole.

5. Prime Minister Kishida at the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

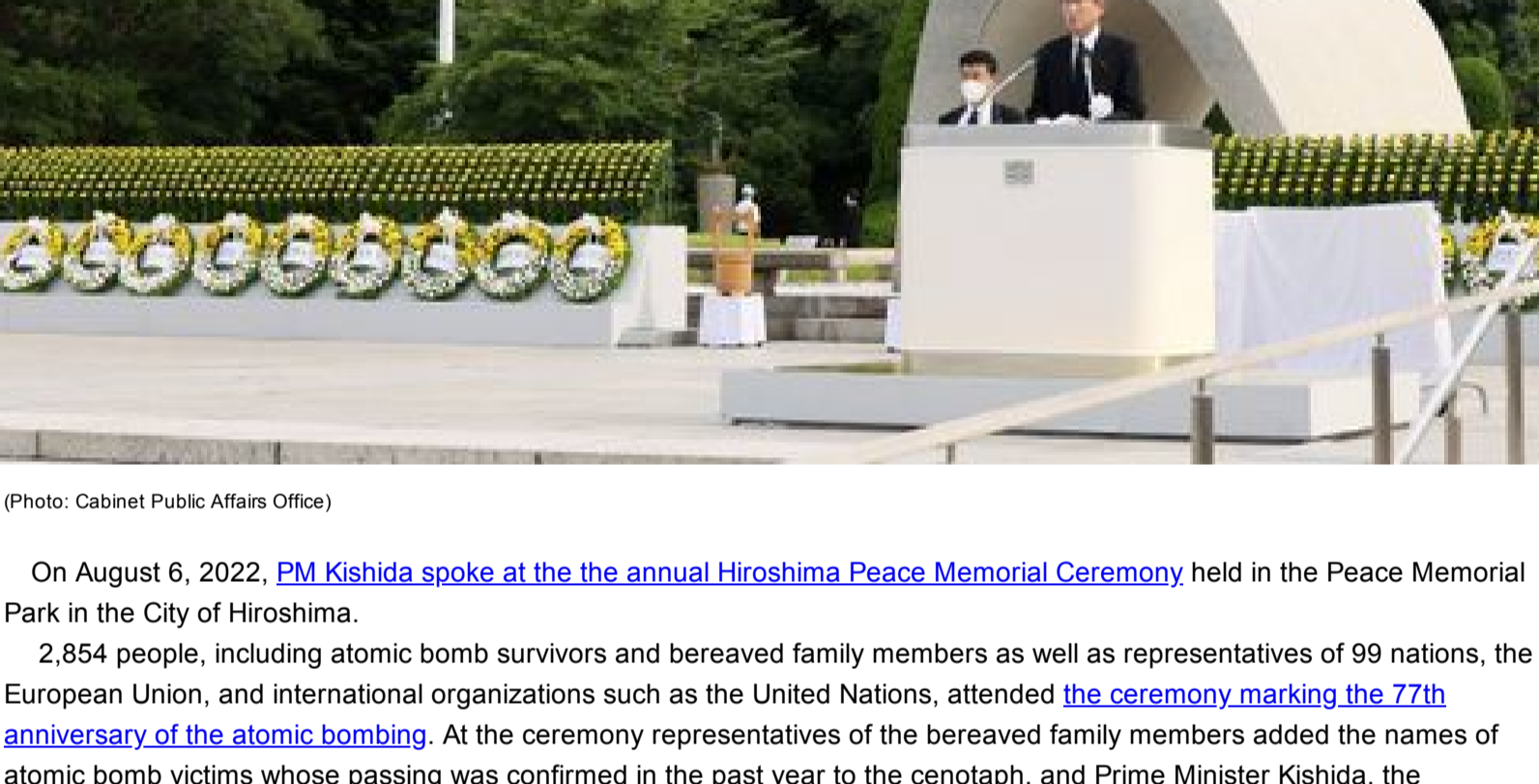
On August 1, during his visit to the United States, Prime Minister Kishida spoke at the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the first Japanese prime minister to attend a NPT Review Conference.

At the outset, PM Kishida underlined the current situation, within which the international community has become even more divided over how to advance nuclear disarmament. Recognizing that the path towards a world without nuclear weapons has become even more severe, the Prime Minister stressed that maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime is in the interest of the entire international community. The Prime Minister called upon the States Parties to cooperate in the interest of our common goal, and expressed Japan's determination to firmly uphold the NPT as its guardian along with other States Parties.

PM Kishida stressed that Japan would simultaneously engage in nuclear risk reduction and working on the "Hiroshima Action Plan," which is rooted in the following five actions: (1) a shared recognition on the importance of continuing the record of non-use of nuclear weapons, (2) enhancing transparency, (3) maintaining the decreasing trend of the global nuclear stockpile, (4) securing nuclear non-proliferation and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and (5) encouraging visits to the affected communities by international leaders and others.

After the conference, PM Kishida [gave a press conference](#). Photos from the Prime Minister's visit [can be found here](#).

6. Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremonies & Meeting between Prime Minister Kishida and UN Secretary-General Guterres



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On August 6, 2022, [PM Kishida spoke at the annual Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony](#) held in the Peace Memorial Park in the City of Hiroshima.

2,854 people, including atomic bomb survivors and bereaved family members, as well as representatives of 99 nations, the European Union, and international organizations such as the United Nations, attended [the ceremony marking the 77th anniversary of the atomic bombing](#). At the ceremony representatives of the bereaved family members added the names of atomic bomb victims whose passing was confirmed in the past year to the cenotaph, and Prime Minister Kishida, the representatives of the bereaved family members, and the atomic bomb survivors offered flowers.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister Kishida [held a meeting with H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations](#).

Prime Minister Kishida stated that, as the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during wartime, Japan will lead international efforts towards a world without nuclear weapons. Secretary-General Guterres welcomed such efforts by Japan stating that no other country can speak about nuclear weapons with moral authority as strongly as Japan, and they concurred to continue to work closely together.

Following the meeting, Mr. Guterres and PM Kishida visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.



Prime Minister Kishida and UN Secretary-General Guterres visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On August 9, PM Kishida also [spoke at the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony](#).

Speech Excerpt:

"Even in the midst of a severe security environment, we must continue the history of not using nuclear weapons, keeping Nagasaki as the last place to endure the horror of their use. Ensuring transparency, achieving further nuclear arms reductions, and nuclear non-proliferation all continue to be critically important efforts."

Japan will work in tandem with the many who wish for a world without nuclear weapons, including atomic bomb survivors, in its ongoing efforts to promote understanding of the tragic realities of the atomic bombings."

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

Judo Athlete Hiroaki Hiraoka Visits Seattle



Olympic silver medalist in judo Hiroaki Hiraoka visited Seattle in July to train with local dojos and judoka (judo athletes).

Mr. Hiraoka also visited the Consul General's Official Residence and enjoyed discussions about the history of judo, judo's deep roots in Seattle, how the sport has served as a cultural bridge to Japan for local judoka, and how it has provided opportunities for kids and adults to grow by learning a traditional Japanese sport.

Members of Seattle's Budokan Dojo hosted his visit. Budokan Dojo, together with Seattle Dojo, [received Japan's Foreign Minister's award in 2019](#) for their contributions to promoting Japanese culture in the Seattle area.

Mariners Game with JBA Members

On August 7, Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki joined the Japan Business Association of Seattle (Shunju Club) and the Japanese Business Association (JBA) of Portland for the Seattle Mariners v. LA Angels game! It was a wonderful day to meet new people and enjoy a beautiful summer day at the ballpark, which was made extra special by the Mariners' win over the Angels!

Seattle Fleet Week



On August 2, in celebration of Seattle Fleet Week, Consul General and Mrs. Hisao Inagaki attended a reception hosted by Rear Admiral Mel and Mrs. Mimi Bouboulis onboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Henry Blake. They had a wonderful time interacting with the Coast Guard and fellow guests and thank the Rear Admiral and Mrs. Bouboulis for their kind hospitality.

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.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.