

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 \(PDF\)](#)

[Video Message by Prime Minister Kishida at the Second Summit of the Crimea Platform](#)

Excerpts from PM Kishida's remarks:

Japan has consistently supported Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including Crimea, and strongly opposes unilateral attempts to change the status quo.

In particular, as a Prime Minister who comes from Hiroshima, I will never tolerate the use of, or the threat to use, nuclear weapons.

...

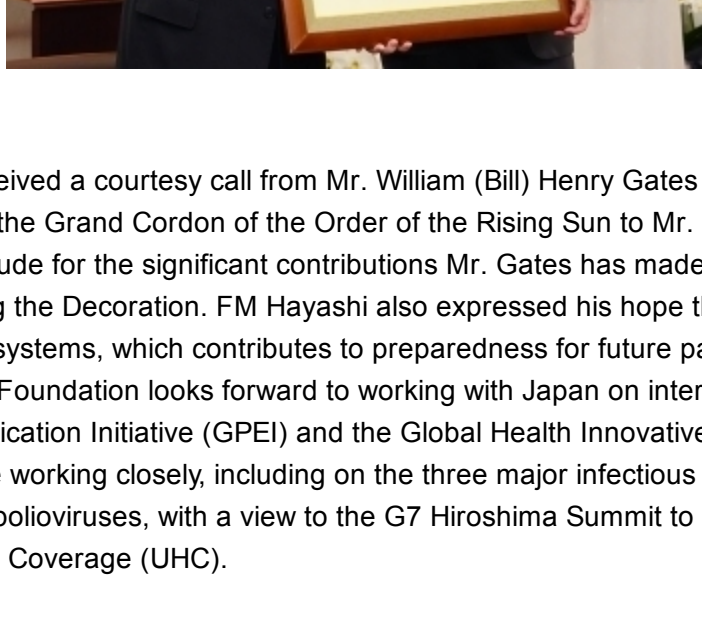
As Russia's aggression against Ukraine becomes ever more protracted, it is imperative for the international community to demonstrate solidarity in its response.

As the leader of the sole Asian G7 member country, I have had successive dialogues with regional leaders such as those of India and Southeast Asian nations, through which we have concurred on the importance of upholding the principles embraced by the international community.

...

As the country holding the G7 presidency next year, Japan, through close collaboration with the international community and by applying its own experience, will do its utmost to help bring about peace and the reconstruction of Ukraine as soon as possible.

2. [Courtesy Call on Foreign Minister Hayashi by Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Mr. Bill Gates, and presentation of the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun](#)



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On August 18, FM Hayashi, received a courtesy call from Mr. William (Bill) Henry Gates III, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and presented the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun to Mr. Gates.

FM Hayashi expressed his gratitude for the significant contributions Mr. Gates has made to global health over the years and congratulated him on receiving the Decoration. FM Hayashi also expressed his hope that the Global Fund will accelerate its efforts on strengthening health systems, which contributes to preparedness for future pandemics.

Mr. Gates stated that the Gates Foundation looks forward to working with Japan on international frameworks such as the Global Fund, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT).

Both sides confirmed to continue working closely, including on the three major infectious diseases, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and polioviruses, with a view to the G7 Hiroshima Summit to be chaired by Japan next year, as well as to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun is the highest honor bestowed by the Government of Japan to a non-Japanese citizen. Read more about [Mr. Gates' outstanding contributions to technology and global health here](#).

3. [Attendance by FM Hayashi at the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development \(TICAD 8\)](#)

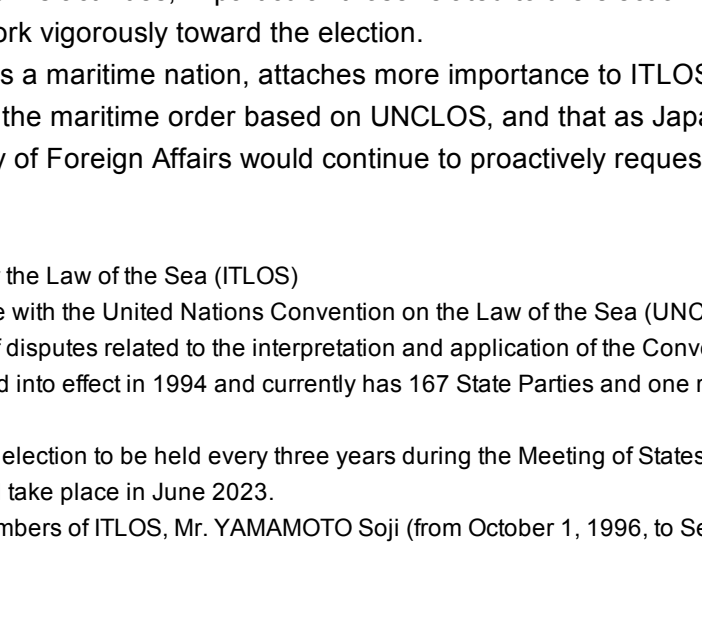
FM Hayashi will visit the Republic of Tunisia from August 25 to 29, as the Special Envoy of PM Kishida, to attend the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8). FM Hayashi will also take this opportunity to conduct bilateral meetings with African countries.

The Government of Japan has been leading the TICAD conference since 1993, co-hosted by United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and African Union Commission (AUC).

In July 2020, the Government of Japan announced that TICAD8 to be held in 2022 would be hosted by the Republic of Tunisia. TICAD will take place in Africa for the second time after Kenya hosted one in 2016. In light of the outcomes of TICAD7 held in Yokohama in August 2019, Japan will continue to strongly support African-led development toward TICAD8.

[More information about TICAD can be found here](#).

4. [Report of activities to FM Hayashi by Ambassador Horinouchi, Candidate for the election of the members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to be held in 2023](#)



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On August 15, FM Hayashi received a report of activities from Mr. Hidehisa Horinouchi, Ambassador of Japan to the Netherlands and for the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Japanese government has decided to nominate Ambassador Horinouchi as its candidate for the election of the members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) to be held in 2023.

Ambassador Horinouchi reported his activities, in particular those related to the election of the members of ITLOS, and stated that he would continue to work vigorously toward the election.

FM Hayashi stated that Japan, as a maritime nation, attaches more importance to ITLOS, which contributes significantly to the protection and development of the maritime order based on UNCLOS, and that as Japan intends to make personnel contributions to ITLOS, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would continue to proactively request support from each country for Ambassador Horinouchi.

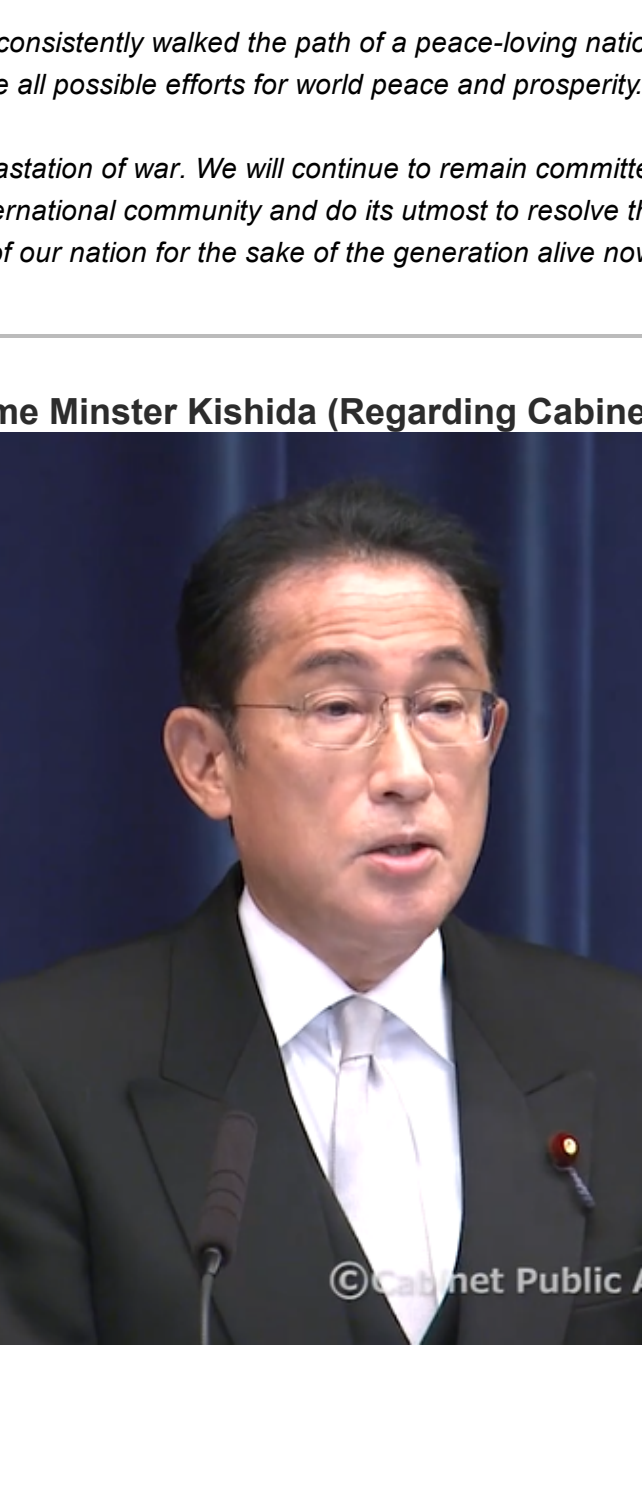
Reference: The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

(1) ITLOS was established in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in 1996 in Hamburg, Germany, with the mandate of judicial settlement of disputes related to the interpretation and application of the Convention. The Tribunal is composed of 21 independent members. UNCLOS entered into effect in 1994 and currently has 167 State Parties and one region (EU). Japan ratified UNCLOS in 1996.

(2) Seven members are reelected by the election to be held every three years during the Meeting of States Parties to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The next election will take place in June 2023.

(3) To date, Japan has produced two members of ITLOS, Mr. YAMAMOTO Soji (from October 1, 1996, to September 30, 2005) and Mr. YANAI Shunji (in office since October 1, 2005).

5. [Address by Prime Minister Kishida at the Seventy-Seventh National Memorial Ceremony for the War Dead](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office (via Twitter))

Excerpts from PM Kishida's remarks:

We will not forget, even for a moment, that the peace and prosperity we enjoy today was built atop the precious lives and the history of suffering of the war dead.

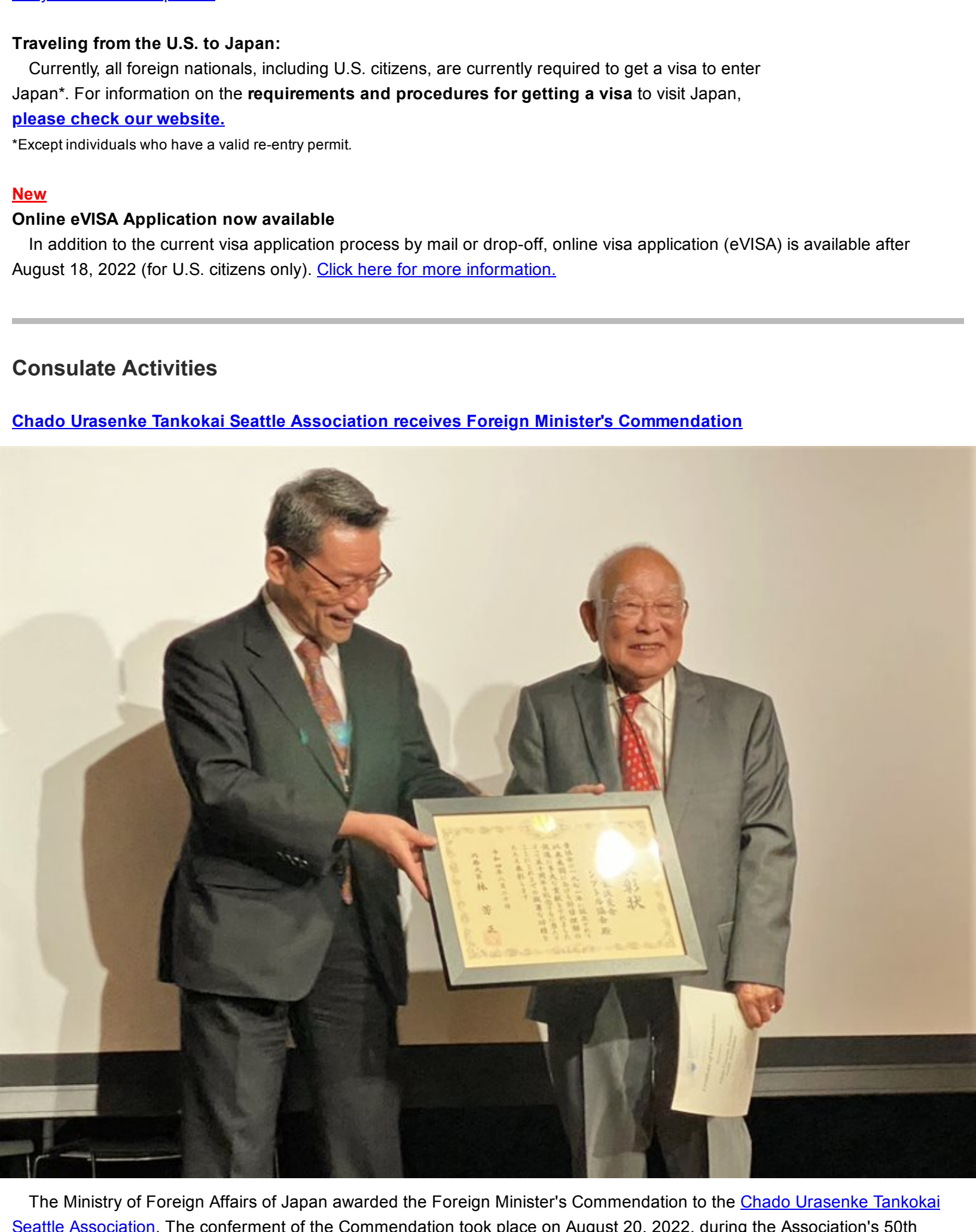
...

Since the end of the war, Japan has consistently walked the path of a peace-loving nation. Taking the lessons of history deeply into our hearts, we have made all possible efforts for world peace and prosperity.

...

We must never again repeat the devastation of war. We will continue to remain committed to this resolute pledge. ... Japan is determined to join forces with the international community and do its utmost to resolve the various challenges facing the world. We shall carve out the future of our nation for the sake of the generation alive now and the generations of tomorrow.

6. [Press Conference by Prime Minister Kishida \(Regarding Cabinet Reshuffle\)](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

Excerpts from PM Kishida's remarks:

I have launched a new LDP-Komeito coalition government, rich in experience and highly capable, in order to carry out policies decisively and thereby overcome challenges said to arise only once every few decades.

...

Transforming the confidence the public invested in the Kishida Cabinet in the recent House of Councillors election into concrete shape at the earliest possible time, I have decisively carried out a cabinet reshuffle in order to swiftly assemble a cabinet, tasked with addressing emergencies, that will rise to the expectations of you, the Japanese citizens.

...

I will not waver from my basic stance of realizing politics that earns the public's trust and sympathy by listening earnestly to the voices of the citizens, an approach that I have emphasized ever since I first assumed office as prime minister last year. I will transform the confidence the public has invested in me in two national elections into the strength to advance policies and, with the government and ruling parties joining forces, I will dedicate myself completely to carrying out our policies and overcoming these challenges. I ask the public for its understanding and cooperation.

7. [Updates on the COVID-19 Situation and Travel to Japan](#)

[Daily COVID Data Updates](#)

Traveling from the U.S. to Japan:

Currently, all foreign nationals, 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](#).

*Except individuals who have a valid re-entry permit.

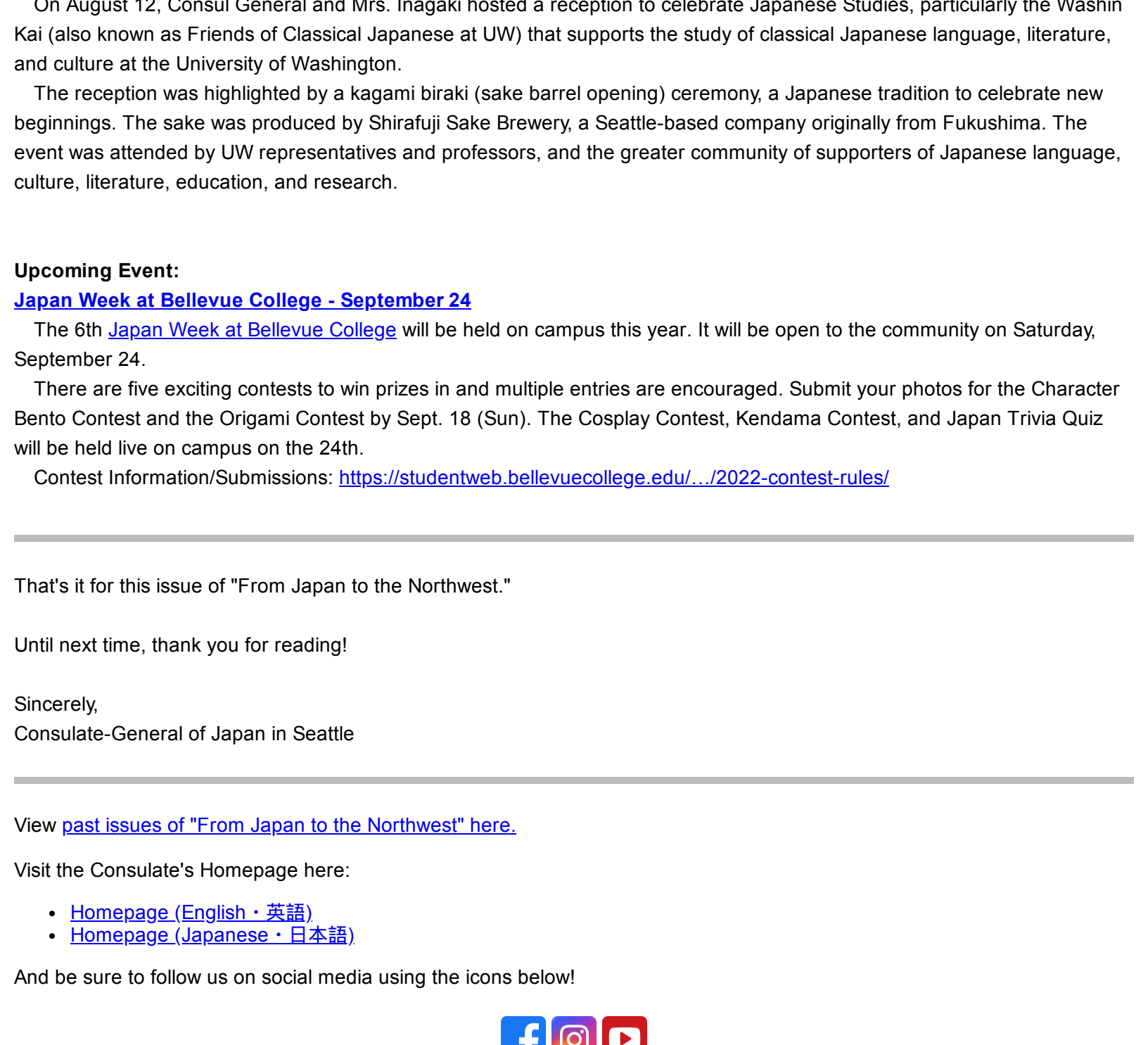
New

Online eVISA Application now available

In addition to the current visa application process by mail or drop-off, online visa application (eVISA) is available after August 18, 2022 (for U.S. citizens only): [Click here for more information](#).

Consulate Activities

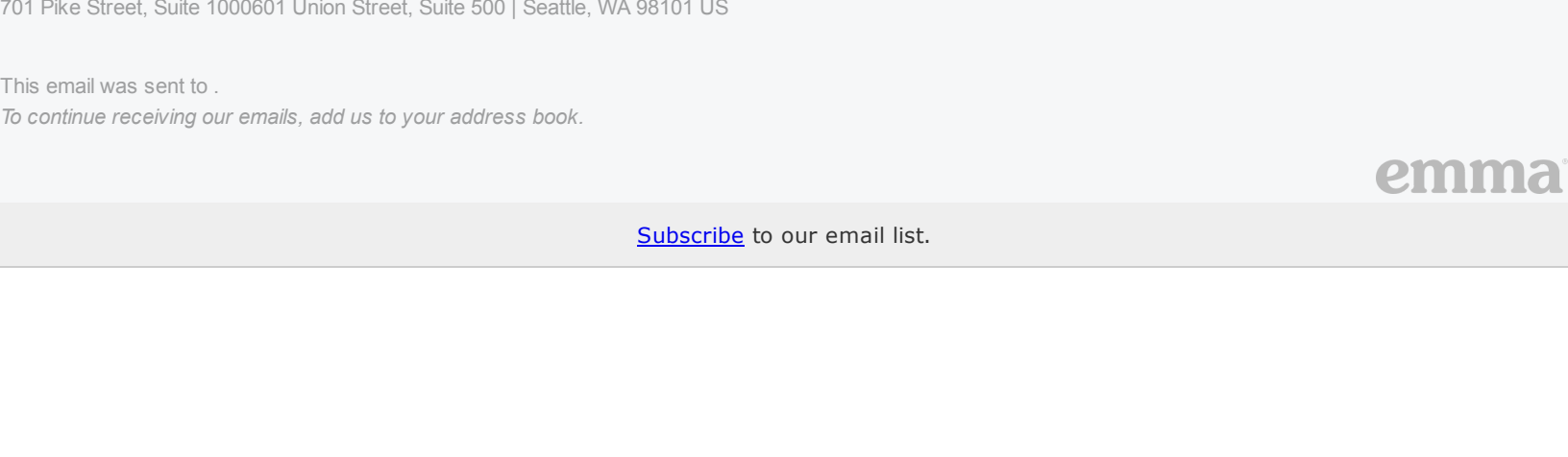
[Chado Urasenke Tankokai Seattle Association receives Foreign Minister's Commendation](#)



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation to the [Chado Urasenke Tankokai Seattle Association](#). The conferment of the Commendation took place on August 20, 2022, during the Association's 50th anniversary celebration. Consul General Inagaki presented the Foreign Minister's Commendation to Honorary President Tomio Moriguchi.

Consul General Inagaki expressed his sincere respect and appreciation to the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Seattle Association for its significant contributions to spreading Japanese traditional culture and spirit through the practice and dissemination of the tea ceremony in Seattle and throughout Washington State over the past half-century since its establishment in 1971.

[Reception for the Washin Kai of the University of Washington](#)



On August 12, Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki hosted a reception to celebrate Japanese Studies, particularly the Washin Kai (also known as Friends of Classical Japanese at UW) that supports the study of classical Japanese language, literature, and culture at the University of Washington.

The reception was highlighted by a kagami biraki (sake barrel opening) ceremony, a Japanese tradition to celebrate new beginnings. The sake was produced by Shirafuji Sake Brewery, a Seattle-based company originally from Fukushima. The event was attended by UW representatives and professors, and the greater community of supporters of Japanese language, culture, literature, education, and research.

Upcoming Event:

[Japan Week at Bellevue College - September 24](#)

The 6th [Japan Week at Bellevue College](#) will be held on campus this year. It will be open to the community on Saturday, September 24.

There are five exciting contests to win prizes in and multiple entries are encouraged. Submit your photos for the Character Bento Contest and the Origami Contest by Sept. 18 (Sun). The Cosplay Contest, Kendama Contest, and Japan Trivia Quiz will be held live on campus on the 24th.

Contest Information/Submissions: <https://studentweb.bellevuecollege.edu/.../2022-contest-rules/>

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.