

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 Non-Proliferation Directors' Group on nuclear safety and security at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant](#)

"The G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group remains profoundly concerned by the serious threat the continued control of Ukrainian nuclear facilities by Russian armed forces pose to the safety and security of these facilities. These actions significantly raise the risk of a nuclear accident or incident and endanger the population of Ukraine, neighboring states, and the international community.

... We reaffirm that the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant and the electricity that it produces rightly belong to Ukraine and stress that attempts by Russia to disconnect the plant from the Ukrainian power grid would be unacceptable.

... The G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group welcomes the IAEA-led mission to address nuclear safety, security and safeguards concerns around the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. We also welcome UN Secretary General Guterres' efforts to provide necessary support to this mission. We continue to emphasize this visit must be conducted in a manner that respects full Ukrainian sovereignty over its territory.

... As founders of the G7-led Global Partnership, we have worked together with Ukraine for more than 20 years to increase the safety and security of its nuclear facilities. We therefore have a particular responsibility to support international efforts aimed at sustaining these facilities and assisting Ukraine in countering the serious risks Russia's war of aggression poses to the safety and security of Ukrainian nuclear installations."

[View Full Statement \(PDF\)](#)

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[The Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons \(NPT\) \(Statement by Foreign Minister Hayashi\)](#)

"The NPT is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and Japan has been striving with strong conviction that maintaining and strengthening the NPT is the only realistic path toward a world without nuclear weapons. On the first day of the Conference, Prime Minister Kishida attended the Conference and delivered a speech in which he proposed the "Hiroshima Action Plan". Since then, Japan had made utmost efforts for the adoption of a consensus document. Japan's proposals, including the "Hiroshima Action Plan," gained support and appreciation from many countries. Moreover, 88 countries joined the Joint Statement on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education submitted by Japan, which marked the largest number of support ever.

It is deeply regrettable, however, that Russia expressed its objection at the final stage of the Conference due to the issue surrounding Ukraine, resulting in Conference's failure to adopt the final document by consensus. Nevertheless, we consider it meaningful that a draft final document was created with the support of all State parties except for Russia through serious discussions among them.

As the division within the international community over nuclear disarmament has become even greater, it is of vital importance to maintain and strengthen the NPT that both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States participate. With the firm conviction that this is the only realistic pathway to nuclear disarmament, and in line with the "Hiroshima Action Plan", Japan will work to foster the momentum of the international community to realize a world without nuclear weapons through discussions including those at the G7 Summit in Hiroshima next year, and to make a step steadily and tenaciously to advance realistic and practical efforts."

2. The Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8)



Photograph of the Japan-Senegal Video Summit Meeting during the first day of TICAD 8
(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

[Conference Overview Page - The Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development \(TICAD8\)](#)

[TICAD 8 - Day 1](#)

On August 27, Prime Minister Kishida attended the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) held in Tunisia by video conference from the Prime Minister's Official Residence. The Prime Minister attended the opening session and delivered an opening speech, followed by video summit meetings with leaders from Senegal, Libya, Tanzania, and Egypt. The Prime Minister then attended the Business Forum and delivered a video message.

[TICAD 8 - Day 2](#)

On August 28, the Prime Minister attended the the Fourth Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize Award Ceremony and [delivered a video message](#), followed by video conference meetings with leaders from South Sudan, the Republic of Djibouti, and the African Union Commission (AUC).

The Prime Minister then attended the [Closing Session](#) and joined the [Joint Press Conference](#). At the Closing Session, the Prime Minister said (abridged):

"Japan launched TICAD in 1993, and since then we have been discussing the future of Africa together, addressing the various challenges we face, and growing together. As the environment surrounding us changes rapidly, I would like to reiterate Japan's commitment to continuing to work with Africa as "a partner growing together with Africa," building on the achievements of our past cooperation to achieve a resilient and sustainable world."

After officially adopting the TICAD 8 Tunis Declaration, PM Kishida concluded:

"Japan places importance on boosting the vitality of the people who support Africa's future, creating a quality living environment where people can fully unleash their vitality, and maintaining peace and stability so that their livelihoods are not threatened. Japan will help realize sustainable development together with Africa with these approaches unique to Japan, focusing on 'people.'"

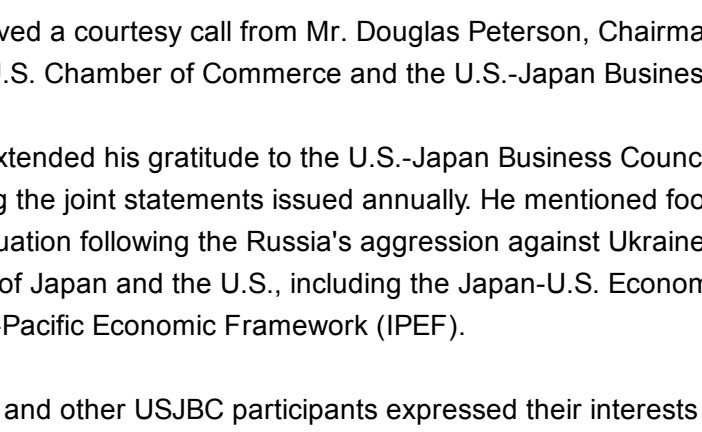
[View PM Kishida's Closing Remarks Here \(Video\)](#)

TICAD 8 Tunis Declaration

- [Overview of Declaration \(PDF\)](#)

- [Full text of Declaration \(PDF\)](#)

3. Courtesy Call on Foreign Minister Hayashi by the Delegation of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.-Japan Business Council



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On August 31, FM Hayashi received a courtesy call from Mr. Douglas Peterson, Chairman of the US-Japan Business Council and the delegation of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S.-Japan Business Council.

At the outset, Minister Hayashi extended his gratitude to the U.S.-Japan Business Council (USJBC) for its contribution to Japan-U.S. economic ties, including the joint statements issued annually. He mentioned food and energy security and an unstable international economic situation following the Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Furthermore, he touched upon recent efforts by the Governments of Japan and the U.S., including the Japan-U.S. Economic Policy Consultative Committee (the Economic "2+2") and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

In response, Chairman Peterson and other USJBC participants expressed their interests in such issues as regional affairs, digital economy, energy, and health care innovation. They also recognized the importance of the public-private partnership between Japan and the U.S. in light of the current international situation.

4. Telephone Talk between Foreign Minister Hayashi and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Raimondo

On Tuesday, September 6, FM Hayashi held a telephone talk with the Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce of the United States of America.

The two ministers expressed congratulations on the success of the Economic "2+2" in July and exchanged views on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), which is also important in the context of following up the "2+2," in light of the IPEF ministerial meeting to be held in Los Angeles on September 8 and 9.

Minister Hayashi valued the efforts made by the U.S. to date regarding the IPEF and conveyed Japan's commitment to contributing to the success of the IPEF, given its strategic importance. In response, Secretary Raimondo expressed appreciation for Japan's support for the IPEF and her desire for continued collaboration.

The two ministers concurred to continue to work closely together to materialize the IPEF in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region.

5. Meeting between Foreign Minister Hayashi and Mr. Gantz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the State of Israel



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On August 30, FM Hayashi held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Benjamin Gantz, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense of the State of Israel.

At the outset, Minister Hayashi mentioned that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Israel.

Both Ministers discussed the need for collaboration by the international community in the wake of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. They also exchanged views on the situation in East Asia and concurred to continue to work together.

During the discussion over the situation in the Middle East, Minister Hayashi reiterated Japan's support for a "two-state solution," and expressed his hope that confidence-building measures respectively taken by the Israeli and Palestinian sides would lead to an easing of tensions in the region. In response, Deputy Prime Minister Gantz shared Israeli views on the situation in the region, including Iran and the Middle East Peace.

6. Diplomatic Bluebook 2022 Released

On August 31, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs released its Diplomatic Bluebook for 2022.

Currently, only an excerpt from the English version is available:
[Overview of the International Situation and Outlook for Japan's Diplomacy \(PDF\)](#)

The full text of the latest Diplomatic Bluebook in English will be published online soon. Meanwhile, the latest Japanese version and past English versions are available here:

- [English](#) · [英語](#)
- [Japanese](#) · [日本語](#)

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

[Multiple Entry Visa \(for nationals of visa exemption countries/regions\) *NEW*](#)

[Nationals of visa exemption countries/regions](#) that are currently under temporary suspension will be able to apply for a multiple-entry short-term stay visa for the purposes of business affairs, etc. and for the spouse or child of a Japanese national from September 7.

(Note) The receiving organizations located in Japan should complete prescribed applications in the Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System (ERFS) and obtain a certificate of completion of Registration to the ERFS system. For details, please refer to "[Restrictions on New Entries of Foreign Nationals \(Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare\)](#)".

[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

Ichiro's Mariners Hall of Fame Weekend



Ichiro Suzuki was inducted into the Mariners Hall of Fame on August 27! To celebrate, the Mariners held events at T-Mobile Park that weekend.

Ichiro is a 10-time All-Star and was the American League Rookie of the Year and Most Valuable Player in 2001. His Major League career spanned 19 seasons playing for the Seattle Mariners, New York Yankees, and Miami Marlins, during which time he collected 3,089 hits. He also played nine seasons with the Orix Blue Wave in Japan's Pacific League, where he had 1,278 hits.

Before the induction ceremony, [Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki had the honor of meeting Ichiro](#) and other previous Mariners Hall of Fame inductees. Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki then [joined dignitaries and community leaders](#) to watch the game.

The following day, August 28, Consul General Inagaki was [invited to throw the ceremonial first pitch!](#) Be sure to check our next issue (and [our Facebook page](#) in the coming days) for a behind-the-scenes look at CG's First Pitch!

[Japan Week at Bellevue College \(Hybrid Event\) - September 24-30](#)

Japan Week will be held in-person and virtually on September 24-30. The [in-person event will be on Sept. 24 at Bellevue College](#) and will feature lectures, performances, and martial arts demonstrations. [Online webinars will be held daily Sept. 26-30.](#)

[Submit your photos](#) to their contests by Sept. 18!

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](#).

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