



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 \(PDF\)](#)

[G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory \(Abridged\)](#)

President Putin's efforts to incorporate Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions into the territory of the Russian Federation constitute a new low point in Russia's blatant flouting of international law. We will never recognise these purported annexations, nor the sham "referenda" conducted at gunpoint. We reiterate our call for all countries to condemn unequivocally Russia's war of aggression and its attempt to acquire territory by force. We call on the broader international community to reject Russia's brutal expansionism, its efforts to deny Ukraine's existence as an independent state, and its blatant violation of international norms.

Russia must immediately stop its war of aggression, withdraw all of its troops and military equipment from Ukraine, and respect Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We reaffirm that the regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhya as well as Crimea are integral parts of Ukraine.

[Japan-Ukraine Summit Telephone Meeting](#)

On September 30, Prime Minister Kishida held a summit telephone meeting with Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine. Prime Minister Kishida stated that the [purported "referenda" conducted recently, as well as the purported "incorporation"](#) of some areas of Ukraine, infringe upon Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, constitute a violation of international law, and shall never be recognized, and that Japan strongly condemns such moves. In addition, Prime Minister Kishida stated that, given the recent purported "incorporation," Japan will consider further sanctions in close cooperation with the G7.

PM Kishida also underlined his determination to lead discussions in the international community as next year's chair of the G7, with a view to working towards peace and the reconstruction of Ukraine at the earliest possible time. Both leaders concurred to act in mutual cooperation.

### 2. [State Funeral for the Late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On September 27, Prime Minister Kishida attended the state funeral for the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held in Tokyo, in the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess Akishino. The Prime Minister offered a silent prayer and delivered a memorial address, followed by the offering of flowers.

Below are excerpts from [PM Kishida's address](#):

*"It is with great reverence that I deliver this address on behalf of the Government to offer my heartfelt respects for the departed. Who among us could have predicted, even in the slightest measure, that such a day would come? Abe-san, you were someone we needed to stay with us for much, much longer. There was never a doubt in my mind that you would continue to do your utmost as a compass, pointing the way for Japan and the world for another decade, even two, into the future.*

*You were always emphatic that our nation Japan is a country blessed with stunning natural beauty, a rich history, and unique culture. It continues to hold tremendous potential. What will showcase that potential fully is our courage, our wisdom, and our efforts. Let us take pride in being Japanese and discuss what we should do for the future of Japan.*

*You advocated "the confluence of the two seas," putting forth for the first time the concept of the Indo-Pacific... [You] deepened that concept further, cultivating it to become the framework of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" that encompasses many countries and includes massive numbers of people. You not only markedly strengthened our ties with the United States and dramatically reinforced Japan-U.S. deterrence but also enhanced our cooperation with India and Australia to form the "Quad" framework, based on reasoning you had long promoted. Your multi-layered diplomacy fostered favourable relations with every region in the world without exception.*

*It is one of the proudest achievements of my life that I, as your Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I as your close friend who experienced the same era as you, was privileged to join your cabinet and single-mindedly engage in work that expanded Japan's diplomatic horizons.*

*While you may indeed have led the longest-serving administration since our nation adopted constitutional government, history will remember you not for the length of your time in office but for the achievements you made. I will forever remember you fondly as a man of wholehearted sincerity and exquisite compassion who took the utmost care of his friends, and as a husband who loved his wife Akie profoundly. There is no question that many people the world over reminisce over you, talking about Japan by saying, "When Mr. Abe was prime minister" or "In the era of Prime Minister Abe."*

*I will end my remarks with a pledge, that using the foundation you laid, I will do my utmost to build a Japan, a region, and world that is sustainable and inclusive, where everyone shines.*

*Abe-san. Prime Minister Abe.*

*Rest well, after all that you have done for our nation. And thank you most sincerely. May you rest in eternal peace."*

### 3. [Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Kishida by U.S. Vice President Harris before the State Funeral of former Prime Minister Abe](#)

On September 26, PM Kishida received a courtesy call from the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States of America, who was visiting Japan to attend the State Funeral of former Prime Minister Abe. The overview of the courtesy call is as follows.

Vice President Harris once again offered her condolences on the passing of former Prime Minister Abe.

The two sides concurred to continue close coordination between Japan and the U.S. toward further strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific," carrying on the legacy of the former Prime Minister.

The two sides exchanged their views on regional issues, such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine, China, and North Korea. They concurred to continue close coordination between Japan and the U.S., in strengthening the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, engaging in the Indo-Pacific region in a sustained manner, and reaching out to middle-ground countries, in order not to allow unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the region.

The two sides shared the recognition that engagement of the U.S. in the economic order in the region is becoming increasingly important. Prime Minister Kishida, from a strategic perspective, urged the U.S. to return to the TPP at an early time, while continuing close coordination on IPEF.

The two sides concurred to continue close coordination between Japan and the U.S. for the G7 Hiroshima Summit next year.

### 4. [Regarding North Korea's Launch of a Ballistic Missile](#)



On October 3, 2022, Prime Minister Kishida received a courtesy call from Admiral John C. Aquilino, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, at the Prime Minister's Office. (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

[In an press conference](#) PM Kishida stated the missile launch by North Korea "is an outrageous act and entirely unacceptable. We will respond immediately, maintaining the highest level of readiness. Just a short while ago today, [I had Commander John Aquilino of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command come to speak with me](#). We confirmed once again the strong will of Japan and the United States and also our cooperation, and we decided to undertake joint exercises."

On October 4, [PM Kishida held a telephone meeting with the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.](#), President of the United States of America. The two leaders strongly condemned North Korea's missile launch that flew over Japan for the first time in approximately five years as a serious and imminent threat to the national security of Japan and a clear and serious challenge to the international community.

The two leaders concurred to continue close coordination between Japan and the U.S. as well as among Japan, the U.S., and the ROK toward the complete denuclearization of North Korea in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

That same day, FM Hayashi also [held a telephone meeting with Honorable Antony Blinken](#), U.S. Secretary of State.

Minister Hayashi reiterated his determination to fundamentally reinforce Japan's defense capabilities, and the two ministers shared the view to promote related efforts including the strengthening of the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance and cooperation among Japan, the U.S., and the ROK.

The two ministers concurred to continue close coordination and cooperation to defend the peace and stability of Japan and the region.

### 5. [Virtual Event: Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad Convention - "Sustainable development of the Nikkei Community and Japan"](#)

The 62nd Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad will be held online on Oct. 21 (Fri) and 22 (Sat) Pacific Time. The theme is: Sustainable Development of the Nikkei Community, and Japan.

■ Program ■

Day 1 【Oct. 21】 18:00~19:30 PDT (Oct. 22 - 10:00~11:30 Japan Time)

-Address by Organizer

-Address by Guests

-Reports from the Nikkei Communities around the World

-Keynote Speech: [Masato NINOMIYA, Doctoral Professor at the University of São Paulo](#)

Day 2 【Oct. 22】 18:00~21:30 PDT (Oct. 23 - 10:00~13:30 Japan Time)

- Symposium "Toward a Sustainable Nikkei Communities – Practices and Achievement"

· [Panel Discussion 1: Nikkei Communities Expanding its Diverse Activities](#)

· Live Broadcast from Japanese Overseas Migration Museum

· [Panel Discussion 2: Textbooks Descriptions of Nikkei people, and Current Status of Learning Activities and Challenges](#)

日本語のページはこちら : <https://jadesas.or.jp/jp/takai01>

### 6. [Virtual Event: Leading a Competitive and Resilient Indo-Pacific Digital Transformation](#)

On Thursday, October 13 from 5:00pm-7:15pm PDT, the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) will host a virtual discussion on Indo-Pacific digital transformation.

Participating experts will discuss Japan's domestic digital transformation, including smart cities and the Kishida administration's Digital Garden City Nation strategy; U.S.-Japan bilateral cooperation in the digital economy; and ways the U.S. and Japan can more effectively drive regional cooperation.

This virtual event is free to attend. [Click here for event details and registration.](#)

### 7. [Current COVID-19 Situation and Travel to Japan](#)

[Daily COVID Data Updates](#)

**Traveling from the U.S. to Japan:**

**[The relaxation of border restrictions including visa exemption entry to resume after October 11, 2022. \\*NEW\\*](#)**

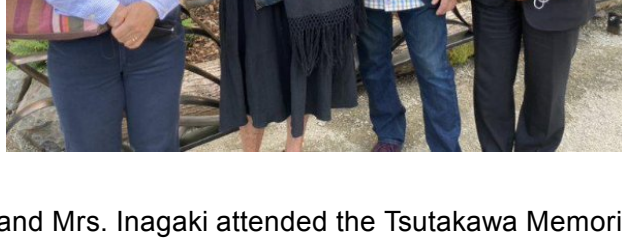
The Prime Minister of Japan announced that Japan will resume the **short-term stay** visa exemption measure after October 11, 2022. This will only apply to nationals of those countries that originally had visa exempt status, including the United States. (See list of visa exempt countries [here](#).)

For information on the current requirements and procedures for visiting Japan, [please check our website.](#)

### Consulate Activities

**Notice: Our [Consulate office will be closed October 10](#) in observance of Indigenous People's Day and Sports Day**

[Tsutakawa Memorial Gates Celebration at the Washington Park Arboretum](#)



On September 14, Consul General and Mrs. Inagaki attended the Tsutakawa Memorial Gates Celebration at the Washington Park Arboretum. This event celebrated the installation of the new Tsutakawa Memorial Gates. The original gates, created in 1976 by renowned artist George Tsutakawa, were stolen and destroyed in 2020.

The Consul General, along with Senior Deputy Mayor Monisha Harrell; Gerald Tsutakawa, the gates' designer who based the work off his father's original design; Jane Stonecipher of the Arboretum Foundation; and others, said a few words to mark the special occasion. In his speech, the Consul General emphasized the importance of these gates in supporting Japan-U.S. relations and as a symbol of a resilient and united community.

[Learn more about the gates here.](#)

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!

