



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](#).

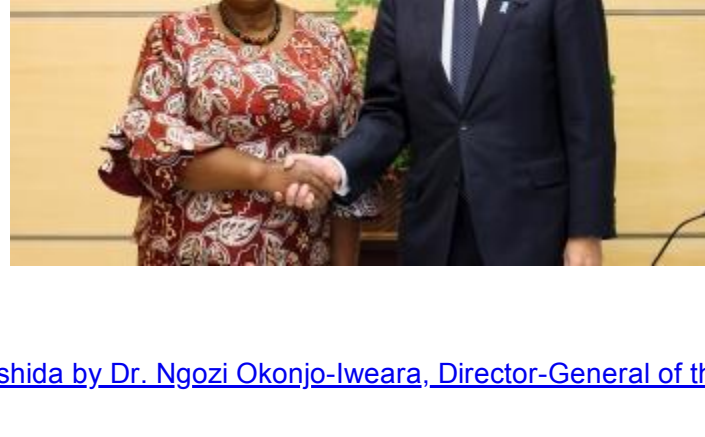
1. [Response to the Situation in Ukraine \(Updated regularly\)](#)

[Measures by the Japanese Government \(PDF\)](#)

[G7 Leaders' Video Conference](#)

On October 11, 2021, the Prime Minister attended the G7 leaders' video conference at the Prime Minister's Official Residence. Following the meeting, the G7 leaders released a statement on Ukraine. [Read the full statement here](#).

2. [Visit to Japan by Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

[Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Kishida by Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#)

On October 19, PM Kishida received a courtesy call from Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

PM Kishida stated that Japan would like to continue to actively contribute in discussions in the WTO. Dr. Okonjo-Iweala stated that the WTO is faced with various challenges but it must achieve outcomes. She stressed the importance of cooperation among Members, and expressed her expectation for the role of Japan as the G7 Presidency next year.

Both sides confirmed that while the environment surrounding international trade has been changing, Japan and the WTO will continue to work closely towards MC13 so that the WTO is able to perform its functions to meet current day demand.

[Working Dinner between Foreign Minister Hayashi and Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#)

Also on October 19, FM Hayashi held a working dinner with Dr. Okonjo-Iweala.

FM Hayashi welcomed the achievement made at MC12 which resulted in the conclusion of fisheries subsidies negotiations and indicated how the WTO could respond to the pandemic and food insecurity. Minister Hayashi further stated that Japan will continue to proactively contribute to the discussions on WTO reform, including the dispute settlement system, as well as to facilitate various negotiations including e-commerce.

Dr. Okonjo-Iweala expressed that the WTO must make progress in discussions on WTO reform in accordance with the agreement achieved at MC12 towards MC13, and stated that it is important to ratify the fisheries subsidies agreement as early as possible. Dr. Okonjo-Iweala expressed her expectation for Japan's role, as the G7 Presidency next year, to facilitate and accelerate discussions in the WTO.

Finally, Minister Hayashi and Dr. Okonjo-Iweala confirmed that Japan and the WTO will continue to work closely to build a free and open economic order and create rules that reflect the contemporary international situation by having the WTO fully perform its functions that meet current day demands.

3. [Emergency Assistance in Response to Hurricane "Ian" Disaster in the Republic of Cuba](#)

On October 11, the Government of Japan decided to provide emergency relief goods (water purifiers, water tanks, cord reels and adapters) through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to Cuba in response to the request from the Government of Cuba following serious damages caused by Hurricane "Ian" in the country.

In light of the humanitarian perspective and the close relations between Japan and Cuba, Japan has decided to provide emergency assistance to Cuba to support victims affected by the disaster.

[Reference]

In Cuba, the Hurricane "Ian" passed the country on September 26th and 27th causing damages due to heavy rain and storms. According to the Government of Cuba, as of October 5, 3 people died, approximately 7,000 people evacuated, and approximately 500,000 people were affected by the Hurricane.

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



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On October 18, PM Kishida met with H.E. Mr. Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg. The overview of the meeting is as follows.

PM Kishida expressed his intention to deepen collaboration between the two countries, as the world faces a historic challenge from Russia's aggression against Ukraine. In response, Prime Minister Bettel expressed his desire to strengthen bilateral relations in various fields.

The two leaders concurred to pursue a range of cooperation, including with startups, to strengthen economic ties between the two countries, especially in space, financial and pharmaceutical sectors. They also concurred to cooperate towards organizing a pavilion of Luxembourg at the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo.

The two leaders shared the view that united response by the international community was critical in addressing Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Prime Minister Kishida stated that illegal "annexation" by Russia and the recent missile attacks on various parts of Ukraine were in violation of international law, and that he strongly condemned them.

The two leaders also discussed regional issues including China and North Korea, and strongly condemned ballistic missile launches by North Korea which has been conducted at an extremely high frequency. Prime Minister Bettel stated that he highly appreciated the initiative of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" promoted by Japan and fully supported the initiative.

Both leaders affirmed that they would continue to work together toward the realizations of "a world without nuclear weapons" including maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime. The two leaders shared the view on the importance of strengthening the functions of the United Nations, including the Security Council reform.

5. [Japan-South Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#)



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On October 13, FM Hayashi held bilateral talks and a working dinner with the Honourable Dr. Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.

FM Hayashi stated that it is highly significant and a great pleasure to have held the first Japan-South Africa Partnership Forum in nine years with South Africa, which is a G20 member and a country in which approximately 160 Japanese companies are operating, the most in Africa. He also expressed his intention to deepen cooperation with South Africa by following up on the outcome of the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8).

Minister Pandor expressed her intention to steadily develop bilateral relations following on from TICAD 8. Both ministers affirmed that, under the Green Growth Initiative with Africa announced by Japan at TICAD 8, both countries will further cooperation in fields such as renewable energy and hydrogen. In addition, Minister Hayashi expressed Japan's intention to support investment by Japanese businesses. Minister Pandor expressed South Africa's intention to prepare a suitable business environment for attracting investment from Japanese businesses.

Minister Pandor expressed her gratitude for Japan's support for South Africa, including the ABE Initiative. Both ministers served as a compass for future Japan-Canada cooperation.

Both Ministers also discussed international and regional affairs, including Ukraine, North Korea's recent ballistic missile launches, unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the East and South China Seas, and the importance of transparent and fair development finance. They also exchanged views on a free and open Indo-Pacific, disarmament and non-proliferation, and the strengthening of the functions of the United Nations, including Security Council reform, among other matters, and confirmed that they will strengthen coordination between the two countries.

6. [Japan-Canada Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Working Dinner](#)



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On October 11, FM Hayashi held a meeting with the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, followed by a working dinner.

FM Hayashi stressed that this visit is also a testament to Canada's active engagement in the region as an Indo-Pacific nation. In response, Foreign Minister Joly stated that she would like to demonstrate Canada's active involvement in the Indo-Pacific region during her visit.

The two ministers concurred that as the security environment has become increasingly severe, the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific", a vision shared by Japan and Canada, is indispensable for the peace and prosperity of the region, and announced the [Japan-Canada Action Plan \(PDF\)](#) for contributing to a free and open Indo-Pacific region. This Action Plan will serve as a compass for future Japan-Canada cooperation.

The two ministers exchanged their views on regional issues including the situation in Ukraine, North Korea, and China, as well as on maintaining and strengthening the rules-based international order. Both ministers strongly opposed any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force and coercion in the East and South China Seas and confirmed that they will continue to work together in addressing issues related to China. They also discussed responses to economic coercion and CPTPP, and concurred to coordinate closely.

[Reference]

Japan-Canada Action Plan for contributing to a free and open Indo-Pacific region ([English\(PDF\)](#) / [Japanese\(PDF\)](#))

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

[Daily COVID Data Updates](#)

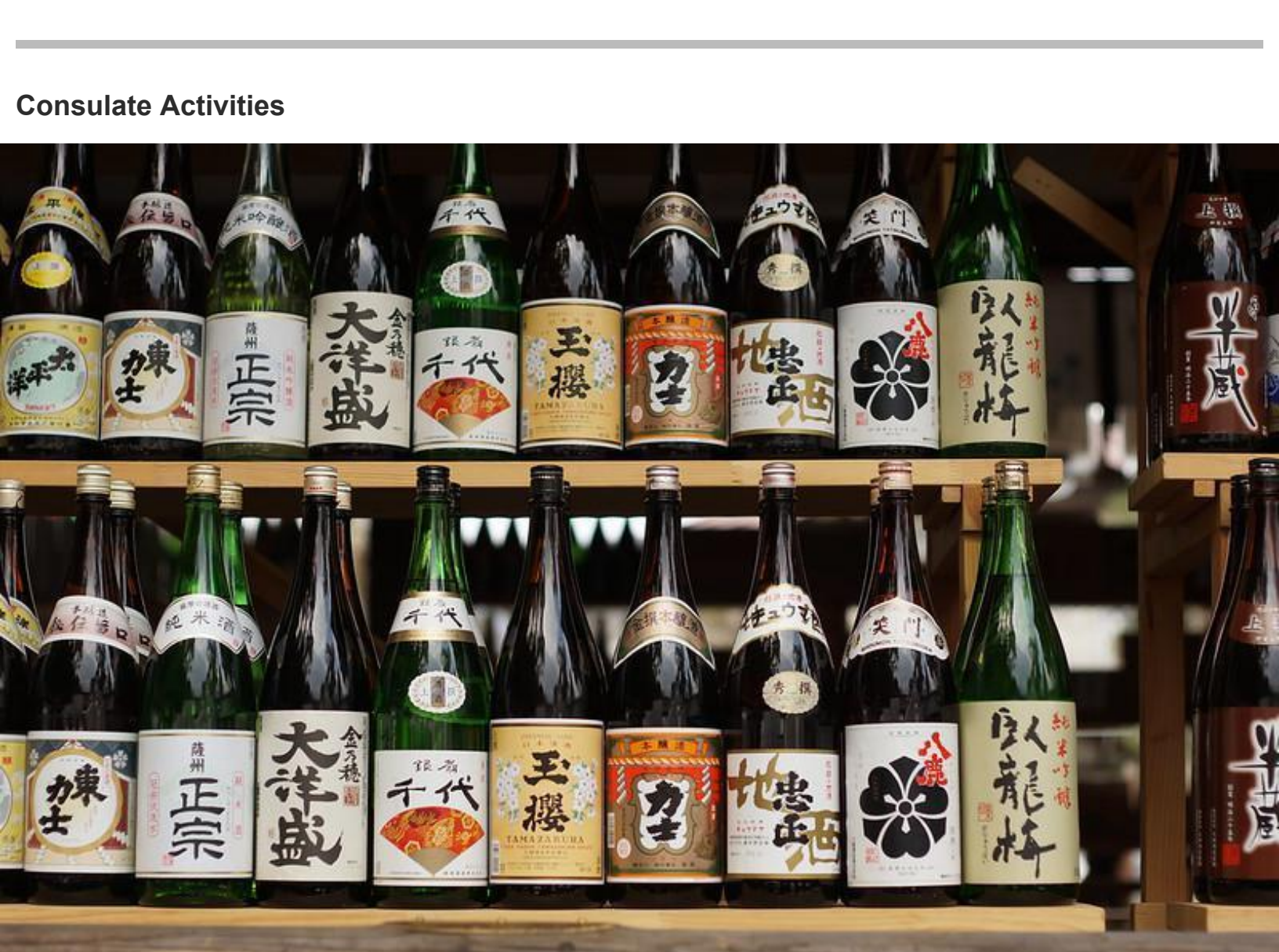
[Traveling from the U.S. to Japan:](#)

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



(Photo: "sake bottles" by onnuuoo is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#).)

[*Free Online Event* - Sake Secrets Revealed Seminar](#)

Join James Beard Award Best Chef: Northwest finalist Mutsuko Soma and Sake Samurai Marcus V. Pakiser at the Sake Secrets Revealed seminar on Thursday, October 27 at 5 pm (PST). Attend this free online event to learn how to enjoy sake at restaurants and at home, and how to make two appetizers that go well with sake! Participants will be able to ask questions of the panel in the chat.

Registration is required. [Click here for more information](#).

[JET Program Virtual Info Sessions](#)



LIVE AND WORK IN JAPAN!

Want to learn more about the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program?

Join one of our virtual info sessions to learn how you can become a cultural ambassador to Japan for a once in a lifetime work opportunity.

- **Monday, October 17:**
10:00-10:45 AM and 12:00-12:45 PM
- **Friday, October 21:**
11:00-11:45 AM and 2:00-2:45 PM
- **Thursday, November 3:**
2:30-3:15 PM and 4:30-5:15 PM

Please register at least 24 hours in advance.

Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree by June 29th, 2023.



[Additional Information:](#)

[jetprogramusa.org](#)
jet@se.mofa.go.jp
206-682-9107 ext. 134



The [Official JET Program USA](#) application is now open to United States citizens with a bachelor's degree by June 2023. Our virtual info sessions give details about the program and helpful hints for applying.

To join tomorrow's info sessions (October 21), please email jet@se.mofa.go.jp by 9AM tomorrow with which info session you would like to join (11AM or 2PM). The link will be emailed to you tomorrow morning.

For the November virtual information sessions, [please sign up here](#). For all recruiting events, check: <https://jetprogramusa.org/events/>

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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