

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 International Expert Conference on the Recovery, Reconstruction and Modernization of Ukraine](#)

Excerpts from PM Kishida's remarks:

Japan strongly condemns Russia's missile attacks on civilians and civilian facilities in various parts of Ukraine and threats to use nuclear weapons, as these actions are in no way justifiable. It is important for us to be united in strongly promoting support for Ukraine as well as sanctions against Russia.

...
 In addition to protection and support for displaced people, provision of health and medical services, and food aid, the Government of Japan has been providing support to Ukraine in preparation for the coming harsh winter, including the provision of heating equipment in reception centers for displaced people and protection against cold. Furthermore, Japan will continue to provide assistance to Ukraine based on our country's unique knowledge and strengths. ... We will continue to play an active role in providing further assistance to the people of Ukraine as needed.

...
 Next year Japan will assume the G7 presidency. Toward the speedy restoration of peace and reconstruction in Ukraine, Japan will make utmost efforts and positive contributions and actively lead discussion within the international community.

2. Recent Missile Launches by North Korea

On November 2 & 3 (Japan Time), North Korea launched multiple ballistic missiles into the sea surrounding Japan on consecutive days.

[In a press conference, PM Kishida stated](#) that he regarded "the launch of ballistic missiles on consecutive days as an outrageous act that cannot be tolerated for any reason. I have already given instructions to confirm whether or not there has been any damage, to provide appropriate information to the public, and also to analyze information." PM Kishida then convened a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC). [Afterwards he announced](#) that one of the missiles launched today may have been an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

Foreign Minister Hayashi [held a telephone talk with H.E. Dr. Park Jin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea](#). The two ministers strongly condemned North Korea's provocations with unprecedented frequency and in unprecedented ways as they constitute a grave and imminent threat to the regional security including Japan and the ROK, and also pose a clear and serious challenge to the international community. Furthermore, the two ministers also reaffirmed that they will continue to work closely together bilaterally and trilaterally among Japan, the ROK and the U.S. toward the complete denuclearization of North Korea in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, including on enhancement of regional deterrence including security cooperation among Japan, the U.S. and the ROK and further responses at the UN Security Council.

3. PM Kishida's Visit to Australia



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On October 21, 2022 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida visited Perth in the Commonwealth of Australia.

The next day, October 22, PM Kishida attended an official welcoming ceremony, [held a bilateral meeting](#) with the Hon. Anthony Albanese, MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia and [released a Joint Statement](#) detailing areas for continuing and furthering Japan-Australia cooperation. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work together with Indo-Pacific partners to address the challenges facing the region.

PM Kishida then attended a [signing ceremony of the Japan-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation](#) and other documents, and a [joint press announcement](#) with Prime Minister Albanese.

Later, the Prime Minister held a luncheon with Japan-Australia business leaders and visited a nickel refinery. Afterwards, he spoke to the press regarding his visit to Australia and other matters.

4. Congratulatory Message by Prime Minister Kishida at the U.S.-Japan Council

On October 28, Prime Minister Kishida attended the U.S.-Japan Council Annual Conference in Tokyo. It was the first in-person conference held by the Council in three years. PM Kishida gave congratulatory remarks.

Excerpts from PM Kishida's remarks:

For the past two decades, the U.S.-Japan Council has been passionately working to strengthen the bonds between Japan and the U.S., and between Japan and Japanese Americans. This type of work has real significance, in creating the foundation for Japan-U.S. friendship in the future.

...
 When I met President Biden during his visit to Japan in May, we recognized the rich history of Japanese Americans, their contributions, and cultural achievements. We also agreed to have leaders of the next generation of Japanese Americans involved in future Japan-U.S. cooperation. I promise to continue to work with you to strengthen Japan's relationship with Japanese Americans, and with the United States of America, Japan's most important alliance partner.

5. Japan-U.S. Vice-Ministers' Meeting

On October 25, Mr. Takeo Mori, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a meeting with the Honorable Wendy R. Sherman, Deputy Secretary of State of the United States of America, during her visit to Japan to attend the Japan-U.S.-ROK Vice-Ministers' Meeting.

At the outset, the two sides noted the significance of a series of high-level consultations that Japan and the U.S. have held, and concurred to continue close coordination toward further strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance and realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

Vice-Minister Mori expressed his high appreciation for the U.S. National Security Strategy, which was recently released, and Deputy Secretary Sherman reiterated the unwavering U.S. commitment to the defense of Japan.

The two sides exchanged their views on regional issues, including denuclearization of North Korea, various issues related to China, Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and situations in Southeast Asia, including Myanmar.

The two sides shared the recognition that engagement of the U.S. in the economic order in the region is becoming increasingly important, and Vice-Minister Mori, from a strategic perspective, urged the U.S. to return to the TPP at an early timing, while confirming close coordination on IPEF. In addition, the two sides concurred to continue close coordination to secure economic security.

6. Citizens' Rally to Demand the Immediate Return to Japan of All Abductees at the Same Time



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On October 23, Prime Minister Kishida attended the Citizens' Rally to Demand the Immediate Return to Japan of All Abductees at the Same Time held in Tokyo and gave an address.

Excerpts from PM Kishida's address:

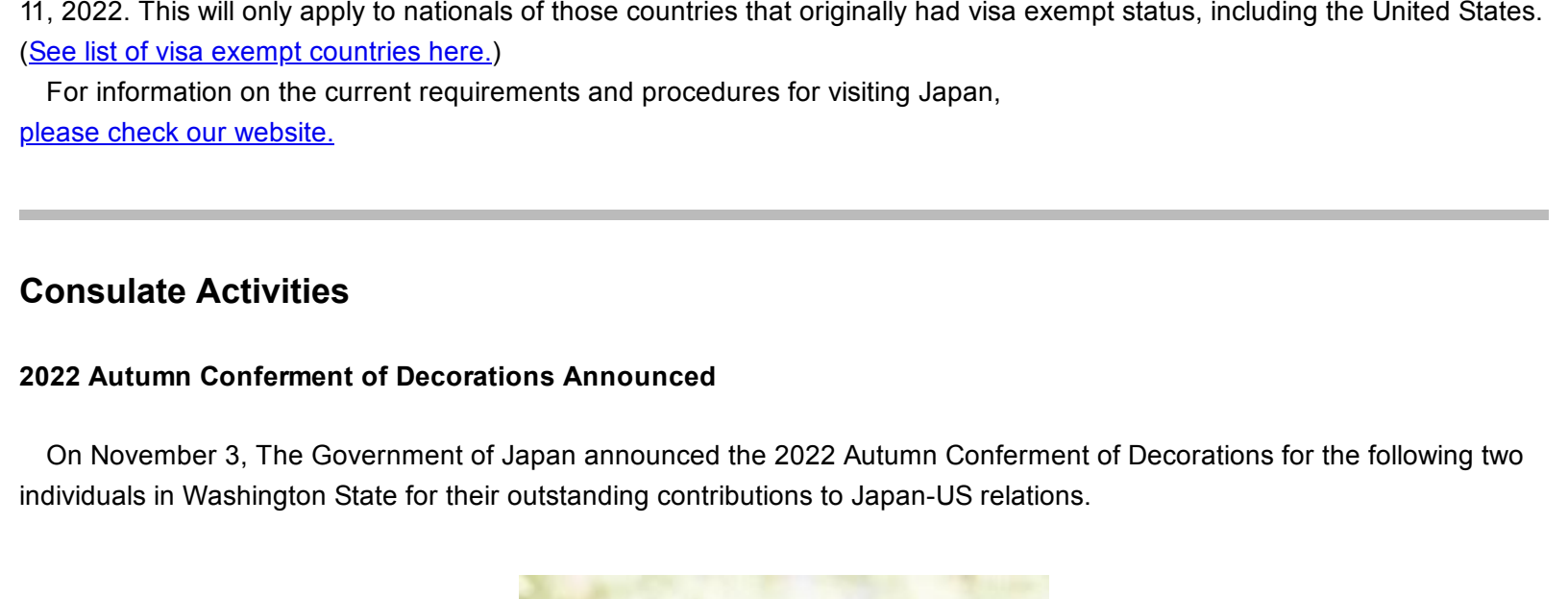
"Let me offer a few words on the occasion of the citizens' rally.

It is truly regrettable that we have not been able to bring back a single abductee since 2002. The abductions issue, one of the highest priority issues for the Kishida Cabinet, is a grave violation of human rights and we cannot be complacent about it for even a moment.

...
 With regard to North Korea, the Government of Japan seeks to normalize its relations with North Korea through comprehensively resolving outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear, and missile issues, and settling the unfortunate past...Establishing a constructive relationship between Japan and North Korea will not only serve the interests of both sides but also contribute greatly to regional peace and security. To this end, I believe that it is critical that both Japan and I make proactive efforts and build relations between leaders.

...
 Today, a firm, unanimous resolve of the Japanese citizens was expressed in this meeting. This will serve as a strong push toward the settlement of the abductions issue. I believe that it is this voice which will push the international community and then North Korea into action."

7. Courtesy Call on Foreign Minister Hayashi by Dr. Sheila Smith, the U.S. CULCON Chair, Ambassador KATO Ryozo, Japan CULCON Chair and the U.S. CULCON Panelists



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On October 26, Foreign Minister Hayashi received a courtesy call by Dr. Sheila Smith, the U.S. Chair of the United States-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON), Ambassador Ryozo Kato, Japan Chair of CULCON and the former Japanese Ambassador to the United States, and other U.S. CULCON panelists.

At the outset, Minister Hayashi noted the importance of people-to-people exchange between Japan and the U.S. and expressed his hope for continued contributions from CULCON in this field. He also congratulated the successful holding of CULCON Symposium in Kyushu.

In response, Dr. Smith and other U.S. CULCON panelists expressed their commitment to reinforcing exchanges between the U.S. and Japan by, based on the discussion at the symposium, strengthening exchanges at the local level between the two countries and improving access to information and education on Japan for youth living in rural areas in the U.S.

Note 1: CULCON was established in June 1961 based on a joint statement by Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda and President John F. Kennedy. Expert panels from Japan and the United States make proposals and recommendations to both governments regarding cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries. Its first meeting was held in Tokyo in January 1962. Since then, conferences have been held biannually in principle, in Japan and the U.S. alternatively.

Note 2: CULCON holds a symposium in the year when the conference is not held, and in 2022 the symposium was held on October 24 at the Kyushu National Museum with the theme of "Mutual Understanding between the U.S. and Japan".

8. Updates on the COVID-19 Situation and Travel to Japan

[Daily COVID Data Updates](#)

Traveling from the U.S. to Japan:

Fast Track function will be added to Visit Japan Web "NEW"

For all travelers entering Japan: the [Fast Track](#) pre-registration service for entry to Japan will be integrated into [Visit Japan Web](#) from November 1st, 2022.

If your **arrival date is after November 1**, please use [Visit Japan Web](#), an online **service for quarantine, immigration, and customs procedures**. The service is for **both international travelers and Japanese citizens**. Please refer to [Visit Japan Web](#) for further information.

The relaxation of border restrictions including visa exemption entry to resume after October 11, 2022.

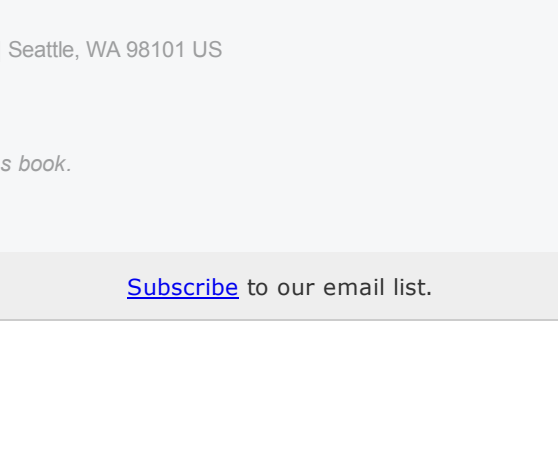
The Prime Minister of Japan announced that Japan will resume the short-term stay visa exemption measure after October 11, 2022. This will only apply to nationals of those countries that originally had visa exempt status, including the United States ([See list of visa exempt countries here](#).)

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

Consulate Activities

2022 Autumn Conferment of Decorations Announced

On November 3, The Government of Japan announced the 2022 Autumn Conferment of Decorations for the following two individuals in Washington State for their outstanding contributions to Japan-US relations.



Mr. Ralph Davies Munro, former [WA Secretary of State](#), has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, in recognition of his contributions in promoting regional exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.
[Read more about this decoration and Mr. Munro's contributions here.](#)

Mrs. Tsuchino Forrester, President of the Japanese International Marriage Friendship Club and former President of the Japanese Community Service of Seattle / Nikkeijinkai of Seattle, has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays, in recognition of her contributions in enhancing the welfare of the Japanese community in the United States.
[Read more about this decoration and Mrs. Forrester's contributions here.](#)

JCCCW Japanese Culture Day (Bunka no Hi)

The [Japanese Cultural & Community Center of WA ワ州日本文化会館](#) is hosting its Bunka no Hi (Japanese Culture Day) festival on November 5 at 11 am to 5 pm. This year's theme is "paper," and the festival will feature unique Japanese papercraft activities and exhibits. This festival is free and open to all.
[Click here to learn more.](#)

JET Applications Due November 18

Interested in teaching English in Japan through the JET Program? Don't forget to [submit your application](#) by November 18! You can check out one of our info sessions to learn more: <https://jetprogramusa.org/events/>

Kobe Hyogo Fair - Now at Uwajimaya!

Kobe Hyogo Fair is happening now until November 8 at Uwajimaya Seattle! [Enjoy a wide variety of sake and food from Kobe and Hyogo](#). The cities of Seattle and Kobe are celebrating 65 years of sister city relations this year. Experience the taste of Kobe (and Hyogo) here in Seattle too!

** Job Opportunity: Driver / Administrative Assistant **

The Consulate is seeking a well-qualified individual to serve as Driver/Administrative Assistant. This position is expected to start in January 2023.

For more information about the position and how to apply, please check the [consulate website here](#), or the [Indeed listing 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](#).

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- [Homepage \(English - 英語\)](#)
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