

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](#).

NOTICE: Special Edition next week!

Next Thursday, December 8, we will send out a special edition of this newsletter focusing on the issue of [Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea](#). We will resume our normal newsletter schedule from December 15.

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

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

[Emergency Grant Aid for winterization assistance in Ukraine](#)

On November 22, the Government of Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid of approximately 2.57 million US dollars as support for winterization assistance in the electric power sector, etc. in Ukraine.

The Government of Japan will provide generators and solar lanterns for Ukraine. While the winter gets colder and days get shorter, this aid has significant importance as winterization support for those who cannot use heating facilities and lighting equipment due to blackouts. The Government of Japan will continue to provide support for and stand by the people of Ukraine who are facing hardship, in collaboration with the international community, including the G7 members.

[Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative \(PSVI\) Conference in London](#)

From December 28th to 29th, Mr. Kei Takagi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, delivered a video message ([English translation \(PDF\)](#)) at the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) Conference hosted by the Government of UK in London.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister Takagi expressed deep concerns about the situation in Ukraine and stated that sexual violence in conflict is a serious crime that threatens the international peace and security. He added that to prevent this violence, it is important to punish perpetrators and end the culture of impunity by strengthening the judiciary.

He also introduced that Japan has provided support to the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to strengthen judiciaries to prosecute perpetrators, as well as provided medical and economic empowerment support. Japan will continue to provide support and make great efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict alongside with the UK and other like-minded countries.

2. Japan-China Summit Meeting



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On November 17, Prime Minister Kishida, who was on a visit to Thailand to attend an APEC-related Summit Meeting, held his first Summit Meeting in a face-to-face format with Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.

PM Kishida stated that while Japan-China relations face many challenges and issues as well as various possibilities for cooperation, both countries have huge responsibilities for the peace and prosperity of the region as well as the international community, it is for these challenges and issues the two countries face that both sides should accelerate their efforts to build a "constructive and stable Japan-China relationship," where both sides engage in candid dialogue, act together as responsible nations on international challenges and cooperate on common issues. President Xi expressed his desire to work with PM Kishida to build a Japan-China relationship that commensurate with the demands of the new era.

Prime Minister Kishida expressed grave concern about the situation surrounding the Senkaku Islands, as well as military activities by China around Japan. Prime Minister Kishida reiterated the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and once again called on China to respond to Japan's position on human rights and the detention of Japanese nationals.

PM Kishida expressed his expectation that China will make positive contributions to the international community under established international rules. The two leaders shared the view that mutually beneficial cooperation is possible in specific areas of the economy and exchanges of people and agreed to encourage cooperation in areas such as the green economy and healthcare. At the same time, PM Kishida stated that it is important that China guarantees legitimate business activities of Japanese companies by ensuring a transparent, predictable, and fair business environment.

Regarding the situation in Ukraine, PM Kishida called on China to play a responsible role in maintaining international peace and security. Furthermore, the two leaders shared the concern that Russia's indication of the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine is extremely alarming and agreed on the view that nuclear weapons must never be used and that nuclear war must never be fought.

Regarding North Korea, PM Kishida expressed his expectation that China will fulfill its role, including in the UN Security Council, while referring to his serious concern about North Korea's increased nuclear and missile activities. He also requested for understanding and support toward the immediate resolution of the abductions issue, and the two leaders confirmed that they would continue to work closely together on this issue.

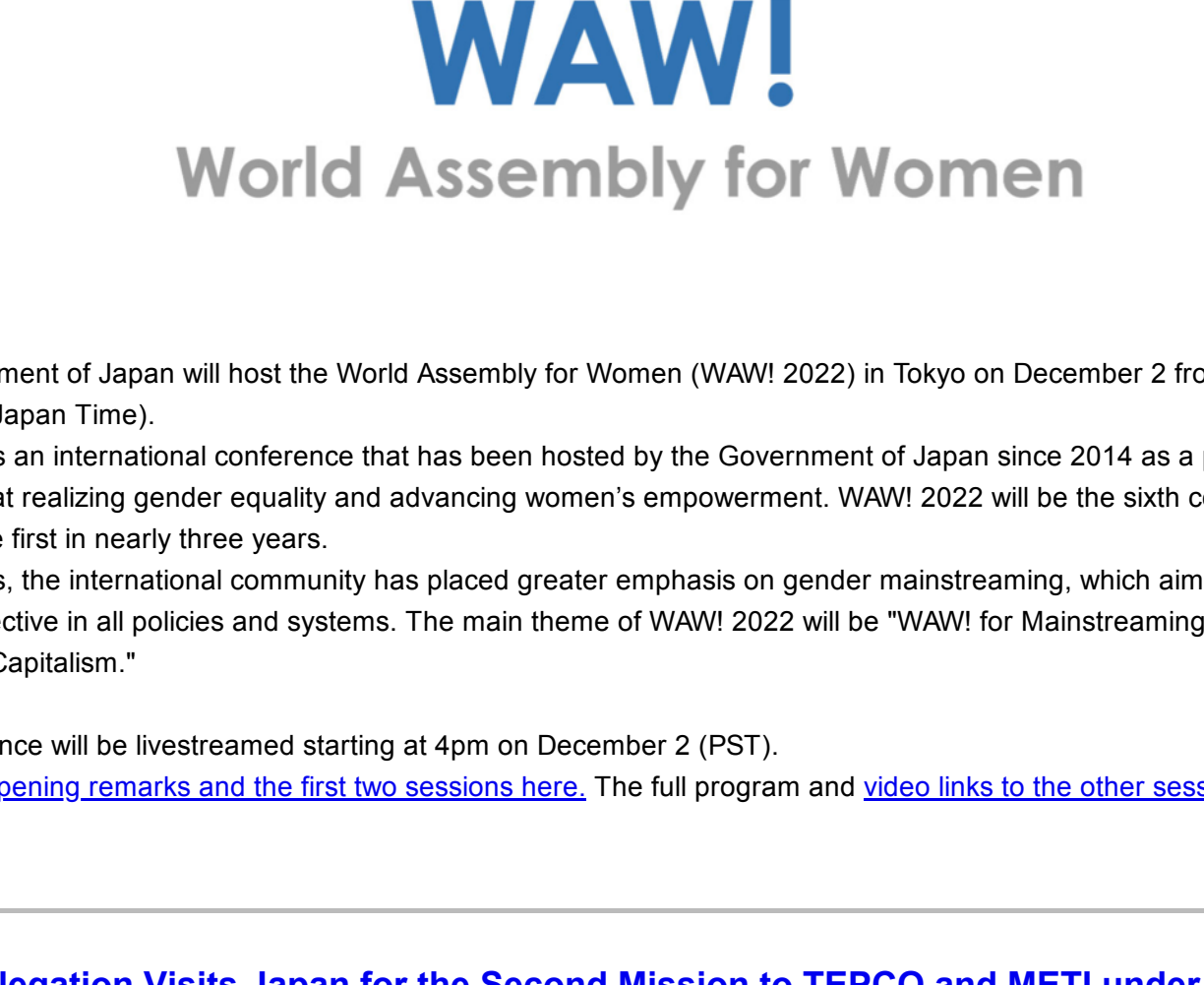
3. [Announcing the Indo-Pacific Business Forum \(IPBF\) - January 12, 2023](#)

The Indo-Pacific Business Forum (IPBF) will be held on January 12, 2023, co-hosted by the Governments of Japan and the United States, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the US-ASEAN Business Council (USABC).

The IPBF is a business forum aimed to promote trade, investment and economic cooperation between the United States and Indo-Pacific nations. In this upcoming forum, various government officials as well as private sector representatives will be invited to deliver remarks and take part in panel discussions under the theme of Inclusive and Sustainable Growth, including on topics such as expectations and future prospects for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and respective priorities for Japan's G7 presidency and the United States' APEC host year in 2023.

Registration for attendees (media included) will [open soon on the official IPBF website](#).

4. [World Assembly for Women: WAW! 2022 - December 2 at 4pm PST \(Livestream\)](#)



The Government of Japan will host the World Assembly for Women (WAW! 2022) in Tokyo on December 2 from 4pm PST (December 3 Japan Time).

The WAW! is an international conference that has been hosted by the Government of Japan since 2014 as a part of its efforts aimed at realizing gender equality and advancing women's empowerment. WAW! 2022 will be the sixth conference overall and the first in nearly three years.

In recent years, the international community has placed greater emphasis on gender mainstreaming, which aims to reflect a gender perspective in all policies and systems. The main theme of WAW! 2022 will be "WAW! for Mainstreaming Gender into a New Form of Capitalism."

The conference will be livestreamed starting at 4pm on December 2 (PST).

Watch the [opening remarks and the first two sessions here](#). The full program and [video links to the other sessions can be found here](#).

5. [IAEA Delegation Visits Japan for the Second Mission to TEPCO and METI under the Safety Review of the Handling of ALPS Treated Water at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station](#)

From 14th to 18th November, an IAEA delegation, composed of IAEA officials and international experts, visited Japan to conduct a mission focused on TEPCO and METI, under the auspices of the IAEA's Safety Review on ALPS treated water at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS).

This is the second IAEA review mission of safety aspects of the ALPS treated water. The first mission was conducted from 14th to 18th February this year.

The report of the review mission is expected to be issued by the IAEA at the beginning of 2023.

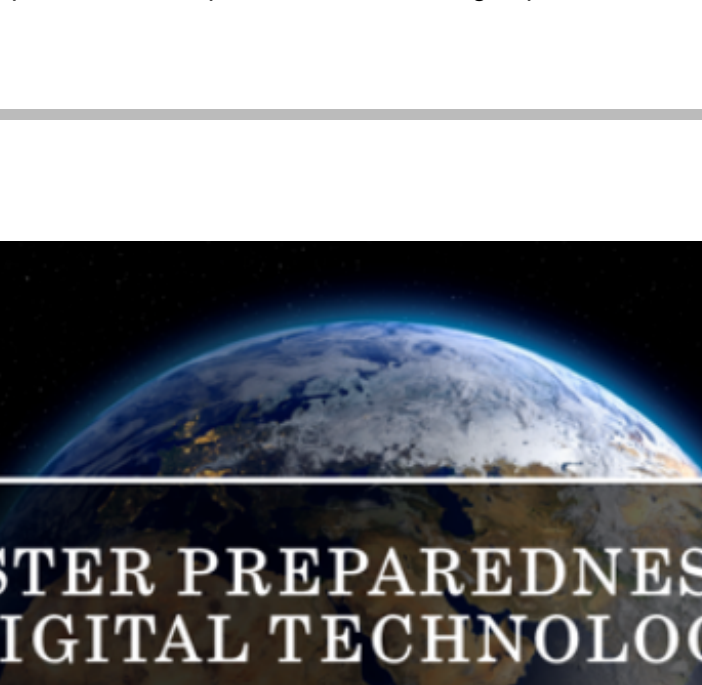
On 16th November, the delegation visited the TEPCO's FDNPS to review progress of the construction work related to the discharge of Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated water, such as in the harbor area where facilities for dilution and discharge of the treated water are to be installed.

On November 25, [a video conference briefing session](#) for diplomatic missions and others in Tokyo was organized regarding the handling of ALPS treated water at the FDNPS. 33 participants from 24 countries, regions and organizations attended the session. It was the 119th session after the FDNPS accident.

6. In Case You Missed It: [Prime Minister Kishida Attends ASEAN-related Summit Meetings, G20 Bali Summit and APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting](#)

The 25th ASEAN+3 Summit, the G20 Bali Summit, and the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting concluded shortly after our previous issue. For more detailed information about these meetings and events, [please refer to this page](#).

7. [Foreign Minister Hayashi attends Reception in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Israel](#)



On November 22, Foreign Minister Hayashi attended the reception hosted by H.E. Mr. Gilad Cohen, Ambassador of Israel to Japan, in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Israel and delivered a congratulatory address.

Minister Hayashi expressed his congratulations on the 70th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between the two countries and the 74th Independence Day of the State of Israel and stated that Japan and Israel have maintained a close and cordial relationship despite the geographical distance between the two countries.

Referring to the potential for further cooperation between the two countries in the economic field, which has been growing significantly in recent years, Minister Hayashi announced the launching of a Joint Study on the possibility of a Japan-Israel Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). He also reaffirmed his commitment to continue to advance the bilateral relations between the two countries in cooperation with the incoming Israeli government.

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](#)

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.

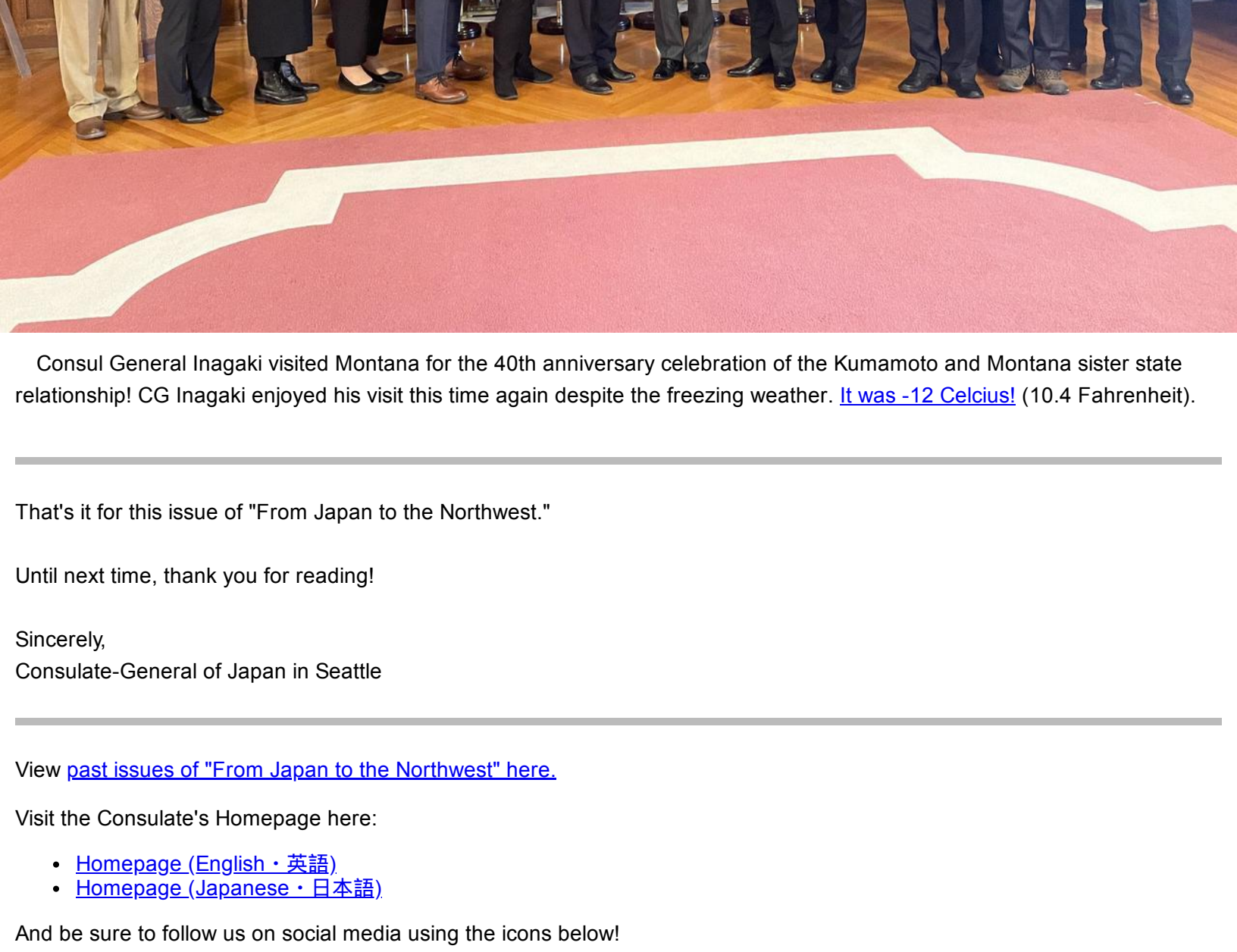
If your **arrival date is after November 1, please use [Visit Japan Web](#), an online service for quarantine, immigration, and customs formalities**. The service is for **both international travelers and Japanese citizens**. Please refer to [Visit Japan Web](#) for further information.

[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



[Disaster Preparedness and Digital Technology Seminar - December 6, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM](#)

The threat of destructive earthquakes and tsunamis that have historically hit the Washington coastline are a major concern. While the risk of land liquefaction and damage to critical infrastructure such as power lines and underground utilities during an earthquake in the Seattle area is known, recent studies suggests that the Seattle Fault can also generate a tsunami with the same level of destruction as could be experienced on the coast.

This seminar will introduce technology from Japan's experience preparing for and recovering from destructive earthquakes and tsunamis that could occur in Washington State and share recent research into disaster preparedness.

[Find out more and register for the seminar here](#)

[Japanese Speech and Skit Contest 2022](#)

Attention all high school and college students in Washington State! Are you learning Japanese? If so, compete in the 40th Anniversary Washington State Japanese Speech & Skit Contest! Winners will receive a gift card worth up to \$100! The grand prize winner of the Level 4 Speech Competition wins a **roundtrip flight to Japan** during summer 2023! Registration is now open! You must sign up by February 17, 2023. For more information, [please visit the new contest website](#).

[CG Inagaki Visits Montana with Kumamoto Delegation](#)

Consul General Inagaki visited Montana for the 40th anniversary celebration of the Kumamoto and Montana sister state relationship! CG Inagaki enjoyed his visit this time again despite the freezing weather. [It was -12 Celcius!](#) (10.4 Fahrenheit).

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!

