

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 [past issues of the newsletter here](#).

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

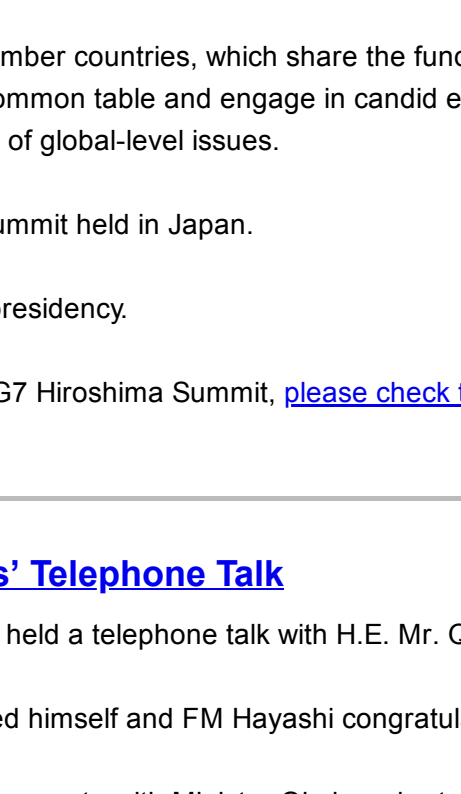
[Measures by the Japanese Government \(PDF\)](#)

- [Visit of Members of State Emergency Service of Ukraine to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)
- [G7 + Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Ukraine Energy Sector Support](#)
- [Establishment of the Multi-agency Donor Coordination Platform for Ukraine](#)
- [Measures based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act regarding the situation surrounding Ukraine](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

2. [G7 Hiroshima Summit 2023](#)



The G7 Hiroshima Summit will be held from May 19 to 21, 2023, in Hiroshima.

What is the G7 Summit?

The G7 Summit is an annual international meeting attended by the leaders of the seven countries of France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada*, together with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.

At the G7 Summit, the leaders of the G7 member countries, which share the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, and human rights, among others, sit around a common table and engage in candid exchanges of views regarding the global economy, regional issues, and various kinds of global-level issues.

The 2023 meeting will be the seventh G7 Summit held in Japan.

* Listed in the order of the group's rotating presidency.

For the latest information leading up to the G7 Hiroshima Summit, [please check this page on the Prime Minister's Cabinet Office website](#).

3. [Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk](#)

On February 2, Foreign Minister Hayashi held a telephone talk with H.E. Mr. Qin Gang, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

At the outset, Minister Qin Gang introduced himself and FM Hayashi congratulated Minister Qin for assuming the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs.

FM Hayashi stated that he would like to cooperate with Minister Qin in order to realize the broad direction of building a "constructive and stable relationship," which was an important shared recognition between the two leaders. Minister Qin expressed the same view.

FM Hayashi stated that Japan-China relations face many challenges and concerns, and that public opinion in Japan toward China is extremely severe. FM Hayashi again expressed serious concerns regarding the East China Sea including the situation surrounding the Senkaku Islands, China's increasingly active military activities near Japan including its coordination with Russia, and the situations in the South China Sea, Hong Kong, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and others. FM Hayashi also expressed the importance of the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. In addition, FM Hayashi again made requests based on Japan's positions regarding cases including the detention of Japanese nationals in China.

Furthermore, FM Hayashi strongly called for the prompt lifting of import restrictions on Japanese food products.

The two ministers concurred on continuing close communication at all levels, including at the summit level.

[Read the full overview of the telephone talk here](#).

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



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On February 2, Prime Minister Kishida held a summit meeting and working dinner with H.E. Mr. David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

PM Kishida explained that Japan will continue to strongly support the sustainable development of FSM through the [Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting \(PALM\)](#), which will mark its 10th anniversary next year, and bilateral efforts.

PM Kishida explained that, under the most severe and complex security environment surrounding Japan in the postwar era, Japan formulated a new National Security Strategy at the end of last year to fundamentally strengthen its defense capabilities and enhance its diplomatic initiatives. In response, President Panuelo offered his understanding and support for Japan's policy.

The two leaders discussed the situation in the Pacific Island countries region and shared the importance of ensuring the integrity of the Pacific Island countries, including through cooperation in the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). PM Kishida also stated that Japan would continue to provide support for the Pacific Island countries in cooperation with like-minded countries, including by utilizing the "Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP)."

The two leaders expressed grave concern over attempts to unilaterally change the status quo with force or coercion in the East and South China Seas.

Following the summit meeting, a signing ceremony of the Exchange of Notes on the provision of medical equipment (Grant Assistance for Economic and Social Development Program) was held in the presence of the two leaders. In addition, the two leaders issued the [Joint Statement between Japan and FSM](#).

5. [Japan-Israel Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk](#)

On January 20th, Foreign Minister Hayashi held a telephone talk with H.E. Mr. Eli Cohen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel.

At the outset, FM Hayashi extended his congratulations to Minister Cohen's assumption and mentioned that it is very encouraging that Minister Cohen, who is familiar with Japan, has been appointed as the Israeli Foreign Minister. In response, Minister Cohen expressed his appreciation.

The two ministers exchanged views on the issues including the situations in Ukraine and East Asia, and FM Hayashi stated that he would like to strengthen cooperation with Israel, touching upon the importance of maintaining and strengthening the free and open international order based on the rule of law.

On the Middle East Peace, stating that Japan is concerned about recent unilateral measures resulting in the escalation of tensions, FM Hayashi explained Japan's approach of assisting Palestinians in order to achieve a two-state solution, and asked for cooperation of Israel. Minister Cohen stated that Israel respects the status quo with regard to holy sites.

The two Ministers concurred to continue their efforts to further develop bilateral relations in multiple aspects.

6. [Japan-Armenia Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk](#)

On January 31, FM Foreign Minister Hayashi held a telephone talk with H.E. Mr. Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

At the outset, FM Hayashi expressed his pleasure to speak with Minister Mirzoyan again following their meeting in September last year. He also stated that Armenia is an important partner in maintaining and strengthening the free and open international order based on the rule of law, and that he would like to continue to deepen cooperation in the fields, such as economy, human resources development and culture.

In response to Minister Mirzoyan's explanation of the recent situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, FM Hayashi noted that Japan pays close attention with concern to the recent destabilization of the situation surrounding the Lachin corridor and deterioration of the humanitarian situation. He also stated that Japan hopes that tensions will be de-escalated as soon as possible and that the dialogue for peace, stability, and development of the entire region will be promoted, in accordance with principles of the UN Charter and other international law as well as the agreement among relevant parties.

The two Ministers also exchanged views on the situation in Ukraine and bilateral cooperation in the international arena, and confirmed that they would continue to work closely together in various fields.

7. [Japan-Greece Summit Meeting and Other Events](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

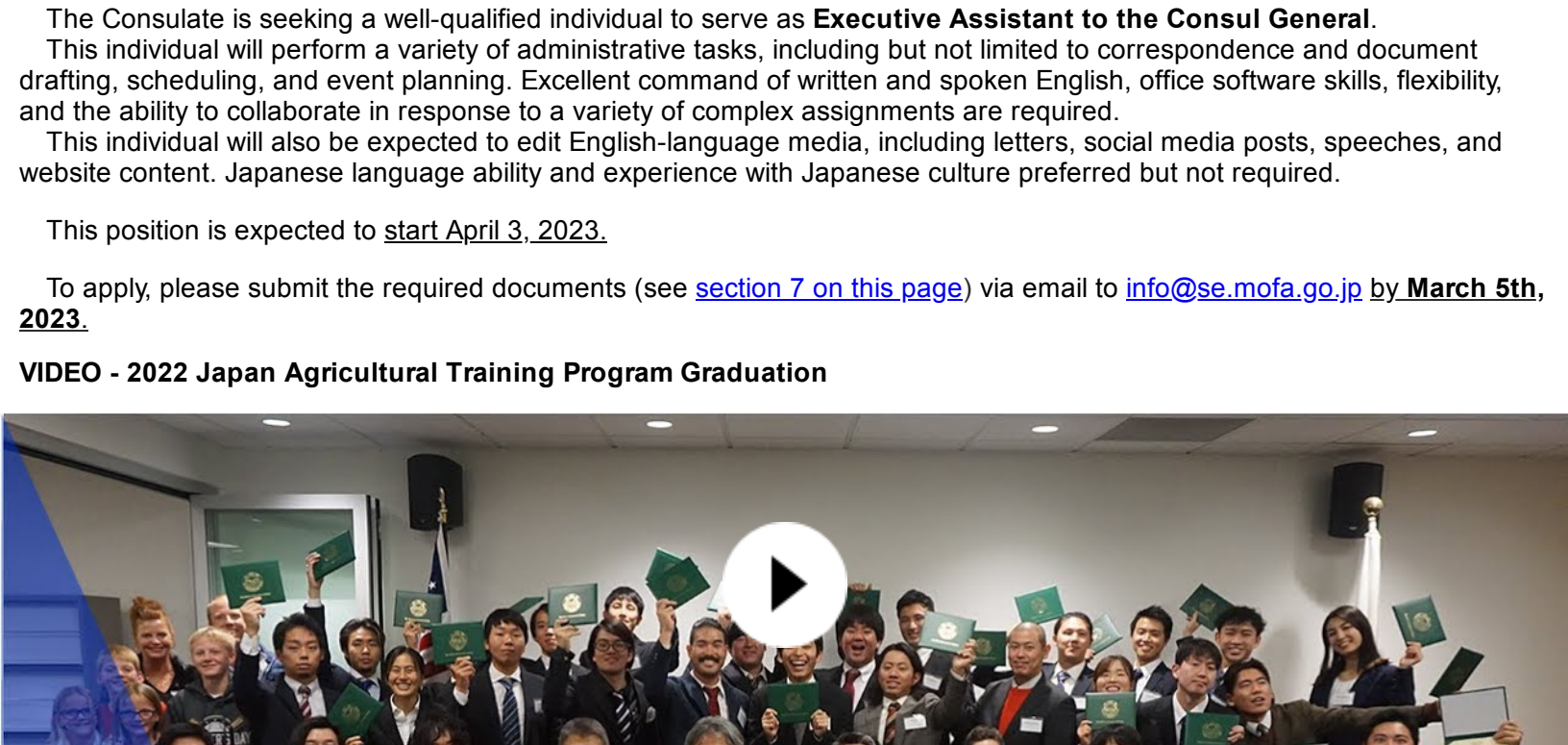
On January 30, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida met with H.E. Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, at the Prime Minister's Office. The two leaders held a summit meeting followed by a joint press announcement and an exchange of documents ceremony.

The two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation between the two countries, based on the close ties of friendship and the common understanding that the international community are facing a difficult international situation, calling for further coordinated action. They affirmed that both countries share fundamental values such as democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights, and stressed their unwavering commitment to the rule of law and the fundamental principles enshrined in the UN Charter that constitute the foundation of international order based on the rule of law.

The two leaders committed to enrich and upgrade their relations to a Strategic Partnership, covering cooperation in a wider spectrum of fields of common interest and concern, including political and economic cooperation on global and regional issues.

[Read the full Joint Statement here \(PDF\)](#).

8. [New-Year Meeting with Ambassadors of the Middle East Countries in Japan to Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Middle East Institute of Japan](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On February 1, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida attended a new-year meeting with ambassadors of the Middle East countries in Japan to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Middle East Institute of Japan held in Tokyo.

PM Kishida's abridged remarks are below.

The situation surrounding the Middle East and the world is rapidly changing now. People in the Middle Eastern region are suffering from rising food prices and other problems, following Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

At this historical juncture, this year will be a year when Japan will lead the international community. Our country will be a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for two years from the beginning of this year to the end of next year.

In addition, Japan will play a leading role in discussions on global issues of great concern to countries in the Middle East in the G7 Hiroshima Summit slated for this May.

Needless to say, Middle Eastern countries are the most important partners in energy supply for Japan. Our country will also advance cooperation in industrial diversification in these countries and new energy source materials including hydrogen and ammonia, thereby further developing friendly relations between the region and Japan.

Last but not least, think-tanks which can produce high-quality and independent analyses and assessments like the MEIJ are extremely precious assets not only for Japan's diplomacy, but also for all the people concerned and active in the region. I hope that everyone present here will continue to fully leverage the MEIJ and actively promote its activities.

9. [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 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

*** Job Opportunity: Executive Assistant (Application Deadline: Mar. 5, 2023) ***

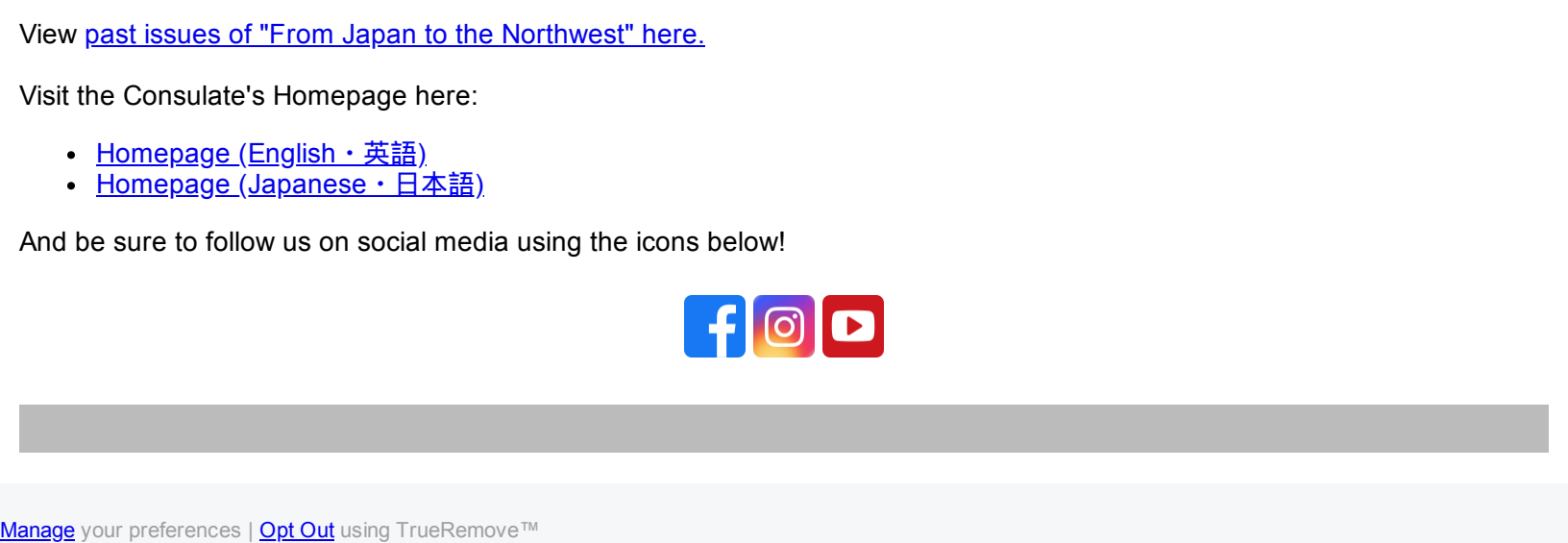
The Consulate is seeking a well-qualified individual to serve as **Executive Assistant to the Consul General**. This individual will perform a variety of administrative tasks, including but not limited to correspondence and document drafting, scheduling, and event planning. Excellent command of written and spoken English, office software skills, flexibility, and the ability to collaborate in response to a variety of complex assignments are required.

This individual will also be expected to edit English-language media, including letters, social media posts, speeches, and website content. Japanese language ability and experience with Japanese culture preferred but not required.

This position is expected to **start April 3, 2023**.

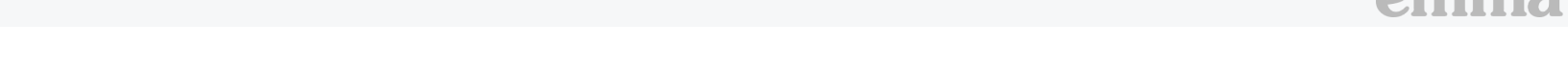
To apply, please submit the required documents (see [section 7 on this page](#)) via email to info@se.mofa.go.jp by **March 5th, 2023**.

VIDEO - 2022 Japan Agricultural Training Program Graduation



The Japan Agriculture Training Program (JATP) recently held a graduation ceremony for its trainees at the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle. Check out the short video above to see the graduates and learn about the JATP.

VIDEO - CG Inagaki's 888th Crane



Consul General Inagaki folds an origami crane each day and posts it to his Instagram account to pray for everyone's health and peace. On January 26, he folded his 888th crane! See the video above!

Upcoming Events

Japanese Speech and Skit Contest

Updated info!

40th ANNIVERSARY

Washington State

JAPANESE SPEECH & SKIT CONTEST

HYBRID EVENT

Register and submit your video ONLINE

DEADLINE: February 17, 2023

Selected winners present IN-PERSON

at the Contest Award Ceremony

DATE*: April 15 or 16, 2023 (TBD)

LOCATION*: Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival @ Seattle Center

*Date and location are subject to change

SPEECH COMPETITION

• Win a gift card (up to \$100)!

• GRAND PRIZE for top winner of highest speech level:

Round-trip flight to Japan!

SKIT CONTEST

• \$50 gift card for each member of the winning groups!

Visit our contest website for more info!

<https://hyogobcc.wixsite.com/wajssc>

Questions? Email sscontest@hyogobcc.org

Time is running out to apply for the Washington State Japanese Speech & Skit Contest! High school and college students can show off their Japanese skills for prizes and even qualify to compete on the national level.

The deadline for submissions is **February 17**.

Learn more here: <https://hyogobcc.wixsite.com/wajssc>

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!

