

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 \(PDF\)](#)

- [Handover Ceremony of Broadcasting Equipment to Ukraine](#)
- [Additional Emergency Grant Aid for winterization assistance in Ukraine](#)

## 2. Response to the Recent Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

On February 6, upon the request of the Government of the Turkey, the Government of Japan decided to [dispatch the Japan Disaster Relief \(JDR\) Rescue Team](#) to Turkey in response to the damage caused by the earthquake in order to conduct search and rescue operations.

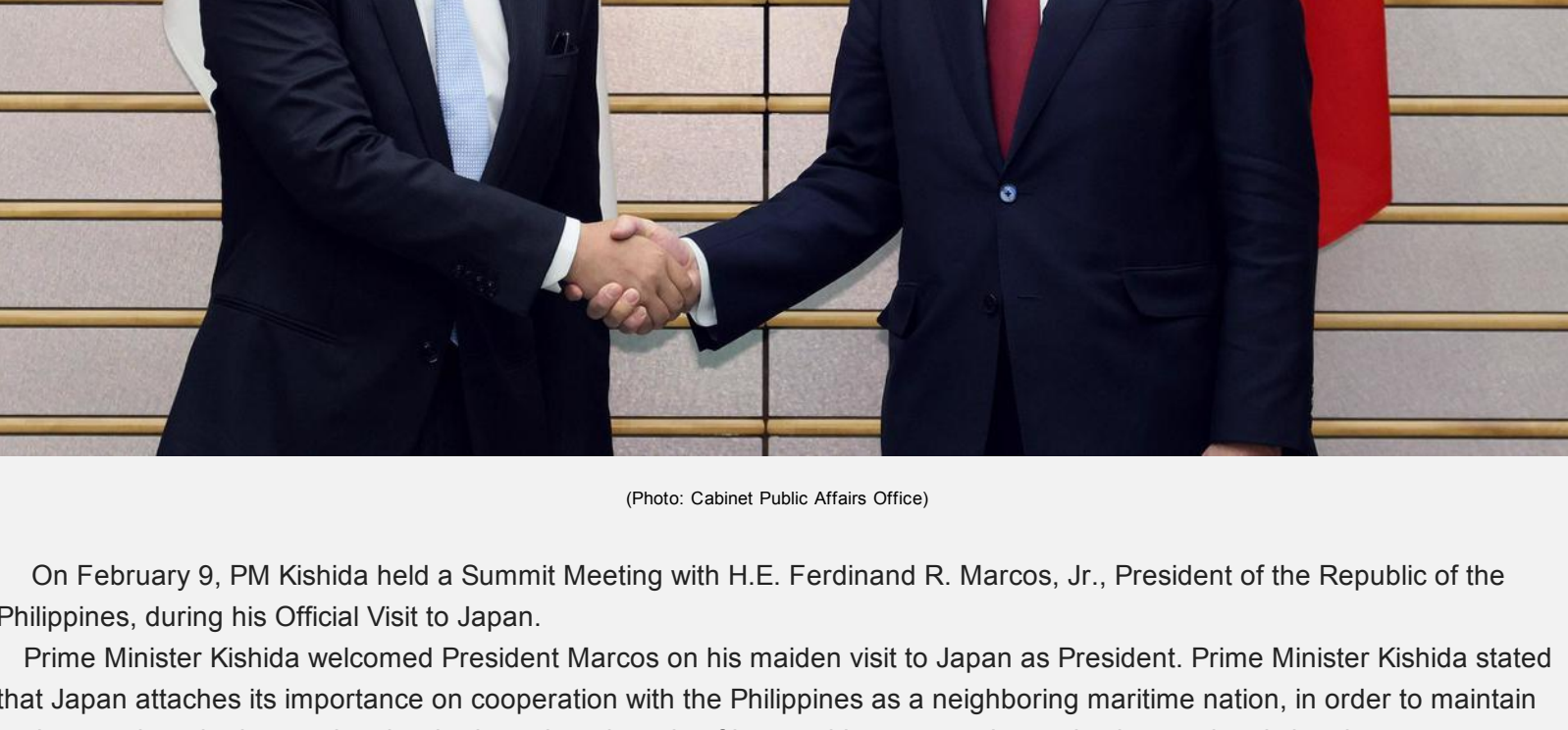
On February 7, Foreign Minister Hayashi [released a statement of condolences](#) saying: "Japan expresses solidarity with the people of affected countries and endeavors to swiftly provide necessary assistance, through collaborating with international organizations, so that the affected people in Tukey and Syria can overcome the hardships they are facing."

Prime Minister Kishida also offered [a message of condolences](#) to President Erdoğan of Turkey: "Like Turkey, Japan has also experienced serious damage from earthquakes many times, and in past disasters as well, Japan and Turkey have provided support for each other. Japan will stand reliably alongside the Turkish people as Turkey works to overcome this difficult time. Japan is ready to provide to the greatest degree possible the support Turkey requires, taking into consideration the needs in the disaster areas."

On February 10, upon the request of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Government of Japan has decided to provide emergency relief goods (Blanket, Sleeping Pad, Plastic Sheets, Tent) [for Syria](#) and [Turkey](#) through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

On February 14 and 15, the Government of Japan conducted the 3rd and 4th [dispatches of members of the Japan Disaster Relief Expert and Medical Team](#) in response to the damages caused by the earthquake that occurred in the southeastern part of Turkey.

## 3. Japan-Philippines Summit Meeting



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On February 9, PM Kishida held a Summit Meeting with H.E. Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines, during his Official Visit to Japan.

Prime Minister Kishida welcomed President Marcos on his maiden visit to Japan as President. Prime Minister Kishida stated that Japan attaches its importance on cooperation with the Philippines as a neighboring maritime nation, in order to maintain and strengthen the international order based on the rule of law, amid severe and complex international situations.

The two leaders concurred to implement ODA projects as well as explore possibilities of public-private partnership (PPP) in infrastructure development such as railways, bridges and roads, among others, through the High Level Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation.

Prime Minister Kishida explained the "National Security Strategy" and other documents, and President Marcos welcomed Japan's commitment to a free and open rules-based international order. The two leaders concurred to materialize the security and defense cooperation through bilateral consultations including the Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting ("2+2"). The two leaders welcomed the signing of the terms of reference (TOR) concerning the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Activities of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) in the Philippines, and concurred to continue to consider ways including additional frameworks to enhance and facilitate joint exercises and others between the two countries.

President Marcos extended to Prime Minister Kishida an invitation to visit the Philippines at an early time, and Prime Minister Kishida accepted the invitation.

Read the full summary of the Summit Meeting, including the Summit-level Working Dinner, and the Document Exchange Ceremony and Joint Press Occasion [here](#).

Read the [Japan-Philippines Joint Statement here](#) (PDF).

## 4. Meetings with the Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On February 6, FM Hayashi held a meeting with the delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), led by Hon. Mark Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. Hon. Henry Puna, Secretary General of the PIF Secretariat also attended the meeting.

Both sides discussed issues of the security environment including climate change, and sea level rise. Minister Hayashi stated that Japan would strengthen its support to the Pacific Island countries region in the area of climate change. Minister Hayashi also stated that, with regard to climate-change-related sea-level rise, Japan has decided to take the position that it is permissible to preserve the existing baselines and maritime zones established in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), notwithstanding the regression of coastlines and the PIF side welcomed Japan's decision. Both sides concurred on continuing cooperation on this front.

Minister Hayashi emphasized the importance of revitalizing Fukushima Prefecture and explained that discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea would be conducted while firmly ensuring no harm to the environment and human health based on the PALM 9 commitment. Minister Hayashi also explained that the discharge would be conducted in accordance with domestic and international safety standards, and Japan will conduct monitoring prior to and after the discharge under reviews by the IAEA, and make the information available in a transparent manner. Both sides concurred in the importance of the intensive dialogue.

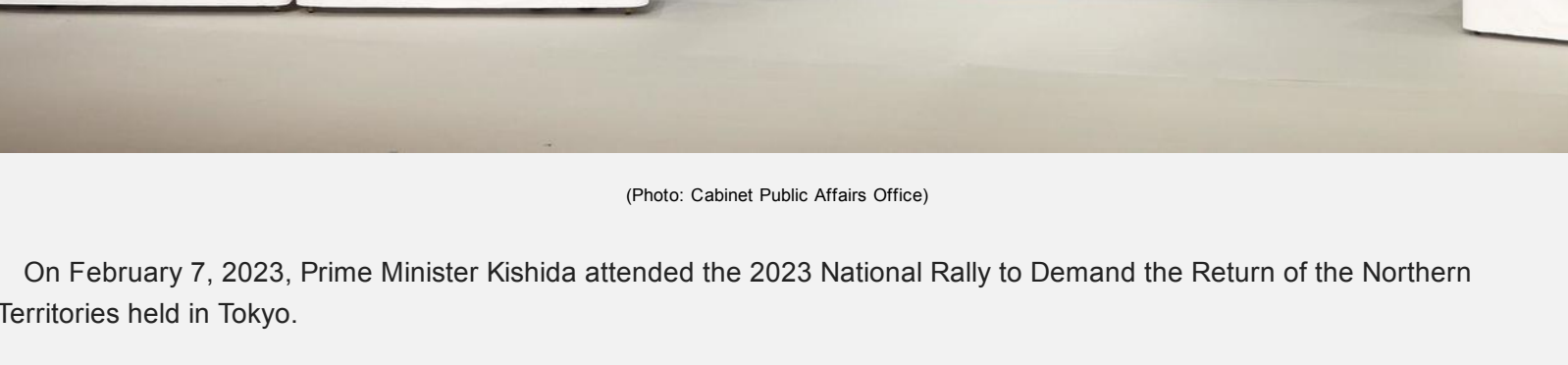
On February 7, PM Kishida held a meeting with the delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), led by Hon. Mark Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands. Hon. Ms. Kitlang Kabua, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Hon. Henry Puna, Secretary General of the PIF Secretariat also attended the meeting.

PM Kishida stated that Japan has built cooperative relationship with the PIF for more than 20 years and welcomed the trust-based dialogues taking place in a variety of areas. Prime Minister Kishida also expressed his desire to further deepen ties with Pacific Island countries region under the vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

The PIF side expressed appreciation for Japan's commitment and support to the Pacific Island countries through the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) and other initiatives.

Both sides concurred to work closely together for the success of the PALM 10 in 2024.

## 5. 2023 National Rally to Demand the Return of the Northern Territories



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On February 7, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida attended the 2023 National Rally to Demand the Return of the Northern Territories held in Tokyo.

Below is an abridged version of PM Kishida's address:

"It is extremely regrettable that we have not yet resolved the Northern Territories issue and concluded a peace treaty with Russia, even 77 years after the end of World War II.

The current Japan-Russia relations are facing difficult circumstances due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. However, the Government adheres to its policy of resolving the territorial issue and concluding a peace treaty.

The restart of exchange programs involving the four islands, including grave visits to these islands, is one of the highest-priority issues in the future relations between the two countries, and I have strong expectations that the situation will become favorable for the resumption of the programs at the earliest date possible.

The Northern Territories issue is one that concerns the entire nation. It is essential for each and every citizen to increase awareness and understanding of the issue, and the Government and people must work together to tackle it, all the more because of the present situation."

[References]  
[Northern Territories](#)

## 6. Foreign Minister Hayashi's Visit to Munich (Upcoming)

From February 17 to 19, FM Hayashi will visit Munich, Germany to attend 59th Munich Security Conference, and at the occasion, he will convene the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting for the first time in this year of Japan's G7 presidency.

[Schedule]  
February 17: Depart from Haneda Arrive in Munich

February 18: Munich Security Conference  
G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting  
Depart from Munich

February 19: Arrive in Haneda

[Outline of the Munich Security Conference]  
(1) Date: From February 17 to 19

(2) Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa will attend a session on the regional security situation of Indo-Pacific region.

[Outline of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting]  
(1) Date: February 18

(2) Foreign Ministers of Japan (Chair), Germany, Italy, Canada, France, the U.S., and the U.K., as well as a senior EU representative, are expected to attend.

## 7. Japan-U.S. Vice Ministers' Meeting

On February 14, 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 his visit to Washington D.C. to attend the Japan-U.S.-ROK Vice Ministers' Meeting.

At the outset, the two sides welcomed that during Prime Minister Kishida's visit to the U.S. in January, Prime Minister Kishida and President Biden reconfirmed to strengthen solidarity in all fields between Japan and the U.S. and among the international community to ensure the peace and prosperity of the region and the international community. The two sides concurred to strongly follow up on its outcomes. Based on the national security strategies of both countries, the two sides concurred to follow up on the discussions at the Japan-U.S. "2+2" and the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in January to lead to concrete actions to further deepen the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

The two sides exchanged their views on regional issues. They concurred to continue to work closely together in addressing various issues related to China, to continue to work closely together between Japan and the U.S. as well as among Japan, the U.S. and the ROK in addressing North Korea's nuclear and missile issues, building upon the result of the Japan-U.S.-ROK Vice Ministers' Meeting that was held on the day before.

The two sides reconfirmed that Japan and the U.S. will continue to work together toward the success of the G7 Hiroshima Summit. Vice Minister Mori once again conveyed Japan's thoughts on the U.S. credits for clean vehicles. Furthermore, the two sides shared the recognition that U.S. engagement in the regional economic order is becoming increasingly important, and concurred in working together for the progress of IPEF negotiations. Vice Minister Mori conveyed Japan's position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), from a strategic perspective.

## 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 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](mailto:info@se.mofa.go.jp) by **March 5th, 2023**.

### Consul General Inagaki Folds 900th Crane

As you may know, since his arrival in Seattle, CG Inagaki has folded a paper crane every day to pray for everyone's health and peace. He recently folded his 900th crane! See the video from his Instagram below!



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!



Manage your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

701 Pike Street, Suite 1000601 Union Street, Suite 500 | Seattle, WA 98101 US

This email was sent to \_\_\_\_\_

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.