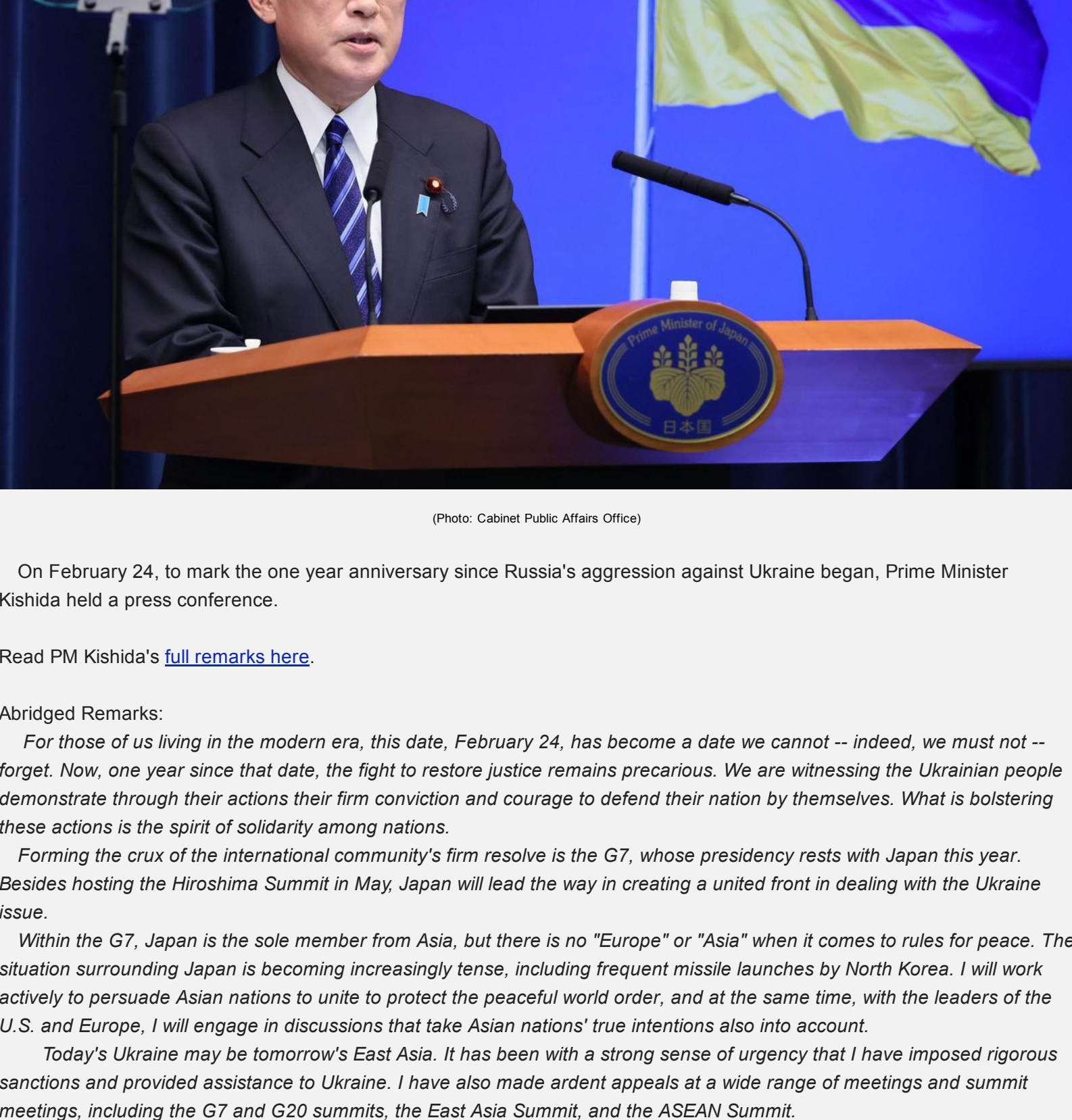


Dear friends of the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle,

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. Marking One Year of Russia's Aggression Against Ukraine



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On February 24, to mark the one year anniversary since Russia's aggression against Ukraine began, Prime Minister Kishida held a press conference.

Read PM Kishida's [full remarks here](#).

### Abridged Remarks:

*For those of us living in the modern era, this date, February 24, has become a date we cannot -- indeed, we must not -- forget. Now, one year since that date, the fight to restore justice remains precarious. We are witnessing the Ukrainian people demonstrate through their actions their firm conviction and courage to defend their nation by themselves. What is bolstering these actions is the spirit of solidarity among nations.*

*Forming the crux of the international community's firm resolve is the G7, whose presidency rests with Japan this year. Besides hosting the Hiroshima Summit in May, Japan will lead the way in creating a united front in dealing with the Ukraine issue.*

*Within the G7, Japan is the sole member from Asia, but there is no "Europe" or "Asia" when it comes to rules for peace. The situation surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly tense, including frequent missile launches by North Korea. I will work actively to persuade Asian nations to unite to protect the peaceful world order, and at the same time, with the leaders of the U.S. and Europe, I will engage in discussions that take Asian nations' true intentions also into account.*

*Today's Ukraine may be tomorrow's East Asia. It has been with a strong sense of urgency that I have imposed rigorous sanctions and provided assistance to Ukraine. I have also made ardent appeals at a wide range of meetings and summit meetings, including the G7 and G20 summits, the East Asia Summit, and the ASEAN Summit.*

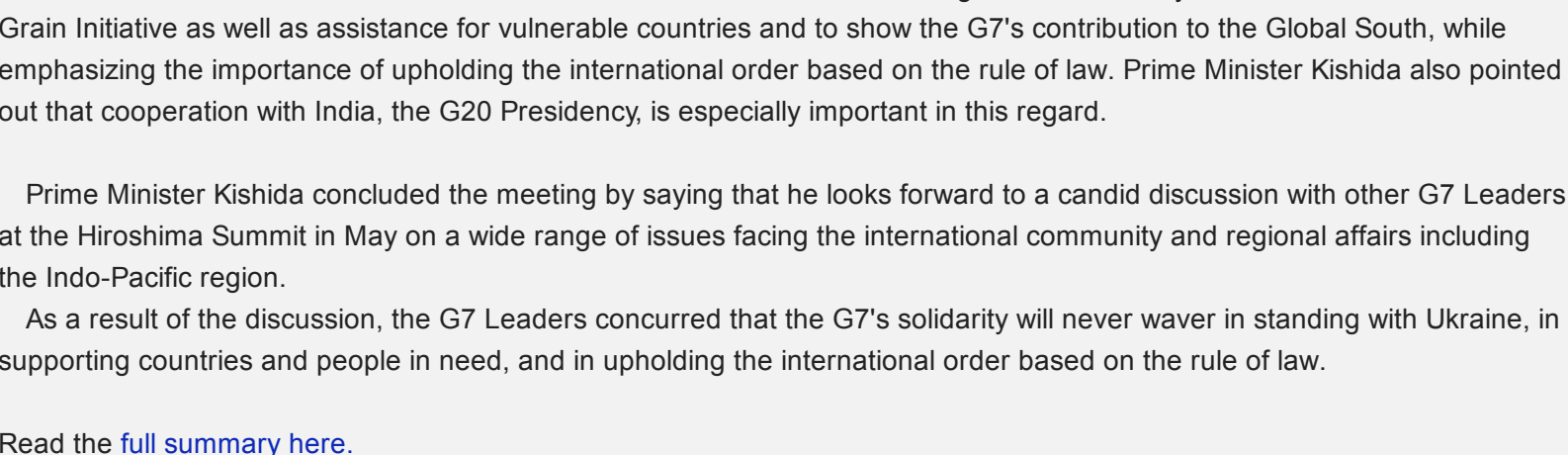
*Supporting Ukraine as it endures aggression is a matter of not only providing assistance to Ukraine but also demonstrating through our actions our determination to fully defend the international order based on the rule of law, never recognizing unilateral changes to the status quo by force.*

*Now, with the world at a historic turning point, we will demonstrate our diplomatic capacity, leveraging Japan's unique position. Moreover, we will act in cooperation with like-minded countries to contribute to building the next peaceful world order.*

### Related Links:

- [Measures by the Japanese Government \(PDF\)](#)
- [Measures based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act regarding the situation surrounding Ukraine](#)

## 2. G7 Leaders' Video Conference



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On February 24, one year since Russia's aggression began, the G7 Leaders' Video Conference was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Kishida. The meeting was called for by Japan as this year's G7 Presidency.

After the opening remarks by Prime Minister Kishida as the Chair and a statement by H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine, the G7 Leaders had a discussion. The G7 Leaders' Statement was released following the meeting.

A summary of the meeting is as follows:

Prime Minister Kishida expressed his support for President Zelenskyy who proposes basic principles toward peace in his Peace Formula and continues to make sincere efforts to achieve peace. Moreover, he expressed that the G7 will continue to make its utmost efforts to support Ukraine under his chairmanship this year.

### Sanctions

PM Kishida stated that he would like to show the G7's clear message by announcing additional sanctions regarding goods and technology that support Russia's military and manufacturing sector in the Leaders' Statement this time. He also pointed out that measures against evasion and circumvention of sanctions are now especially important.

### Assistance to Ukraine and its neighboring countries

PM Kishida stated that the Leaders' Statement this time confirmed the G7's commitment to continued humanitarian assistance, assistance to support the energy sector as well as assistance to help maintain Ukraine's economic and financial stability. He announced that the G7 has increased its budget and economic support to Ukraine to 39 billion US Dollars for 2023, as well as additional budget support from Japan.

### Engagement with and support for the Global South

Prime Minister Kishida emphasized the importance of engagement with and support for the so-called Global South. He stated that it is essential for the G7 to make efforts in the food sector including the EU Solidarity Lanes and the Black Sea Grain Initiative as well as assistance for vulnerable countries and to show the G7's contribution to the Global South, while emphasizing the importance of upholding the international order based on the rule of law. Prime Minister Kishida also pointed out that cooperation with India, the G20 Presidency, is especially important in this regard.

Prime Minister Kishida concluded the meeting by saying that he looks forward to a candid discussion with other G7 Leaders at the Hiroshima Summit in May on a wide range of issues facing the international community and regional affairs including the Indo-Pacific region.

As a result of the discussion, the G7 Leaders concurred that the G7's solidarity will never waver in standing with Ukraine, in supporting countries and people in need, and in upholding the international order based on the rule of law.

Read the [full summary here](#).

### Related Links:

- [G7 Leaders Statement \(PDF\)](#)

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

On February 17, PM Kishida [held a summit telephone talk](#) with H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye.

Regarding the earthquake on February 6 in southeastern Türkiye, which caused a large number of casualties, PM Kishida expressed his heartfelt condolences to those who lost their lives and conveyed his sympathies to those affected.

PM Kishida also conveyed that, in addition to Japan's assistance so far in the wake of the earthquake, including the deployment of the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Urban Search and Rescue Team and Medical Team as well as provision of emergency relief goods, Japan is going to provide emergency assistance on a scale of \$8.5 million and additional provision of emergency relief goods for Türkiye.

President Erdoğan expressed his deep gratitude for Japan's assistance.

### Japan Disaster Relief Team Returns from Turkey (VIDEO CLIP)

Japan Disaster Relief Team, which has been engaged in rescue operations in Turkey, has safely returned to Japan. Upon their arrival, the Turkish Ambassador to Japan expressed his gratitude, saying, "The team arrived in Turkey immediately after the earthquake from physically distant Japan, and their devotion has been deeply impressed in the hearts of the Turkish people".

(Source: JICA - Japan International Cooperation Agency)

### Related Links:

- [Dispatch of the Second Japan Disaster Relief Expert and Medical Team in Response to the Earthquake Damage in the Republic of Türkiye](#)
- [Press Conference by Prime Minister Kishida regarding the Summit Telephone Talk with President Erdoğan of Türkiye](#)
- [Courtesy Call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada by the Japan Disaster Relief Urban Search and Rescue Team in Response to the Earthquake in Southeastern Türkiye](#)
- [Emergency Grant Aid, etc., in Response to the Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria](#)

## 4. Courtesy Call from a Delegation of the U.S. Congressional Study Group on Japan



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On February 20, PM Kishida received a courtesy call from a delegation of the United States Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ).

At the outset, Prime Minister Kishida welcomed the delegation to Japan by the delegation of the U.S. Congressional Study Group on Japan. Referring to the delegation's plan to visit Hiroshima, Prime Minister Kishida stated that it is truly meaningful for the delegation members to have a close look at the realities of atomic bombings.

Prime Minister Kishida also stressed the importance of strengthening the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance as the regional security environment becomes even more severe. In response, the participating delegation members expressed their desire to provide continued support for the efforts of the Japanese and U.S. governments to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance. The participants also exchanged views regarding regional affairs and other issues.

[Reference 1] United States Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ)

- Established in 1993 to focus on Japan, the non-partisan U.S. Congressional group now consists of approximately 80 current members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.
- The group promotes understanding of Japan in the U.S. Congress and builds personal connections between the U.S. Congress and Japan through holding various lectures and study sessions.

[Reference 2] Members of the U.S. Congress who took part in the courtesy call

1. Representative Diana DeGette, United States Congresswoman (co-chair) (Democrat--Colorado, currently serving her 14th term)
2. Representative Lanny Brechen, United States Congressman (co-chair) (Republican--Indiana, currently serving his seventh term)
3. Representative Ami Bera, United States Congressman (Democrat--California, currently serving his sixth term)
4. Representative Ted Lieu, United States Congressman (Democrat--California, currently serving his fifth term)
5. Representative Chisley Houlahan, United States Congresswoman (Democrat--Pennsylvania, currently serving her third term)
6. Representative Guy Reschenthaler, United States Congressman (Republican--Pennsylvania, currently serving her third term)
7. Representative Kathy Manning, United States Congresswoman (Democrat--North Carolina, currently serving her second term)

## 5. The 17th Japan-China Security Dialogue (Overview)

On the morning of Wednesday February 22, the 17th round of the Japan-China Security Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Dialogue gathered government officials on the Japan side from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense, and on the China side from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National Defense. Participants exchanged views on both countries' security and defense policies, their communications on security and defense matters, as well as international and regional affairs.

### Security and defense policies of Japan and China

Both parties explained their respective security and defense policies followed by a frank exchange of opinions. Japan reiterated its serious concerns about matters such as the situation in the East China Sea, including the Senkaku Islands, and Chinese military activity near Japan that includes joint exercises with Russia. Japan clearly reiterated its position regarding the balloon-type flying object detected in Japanese airspace. Japan also reconfirmed its position in regard to the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

### Communications on security and defense matters

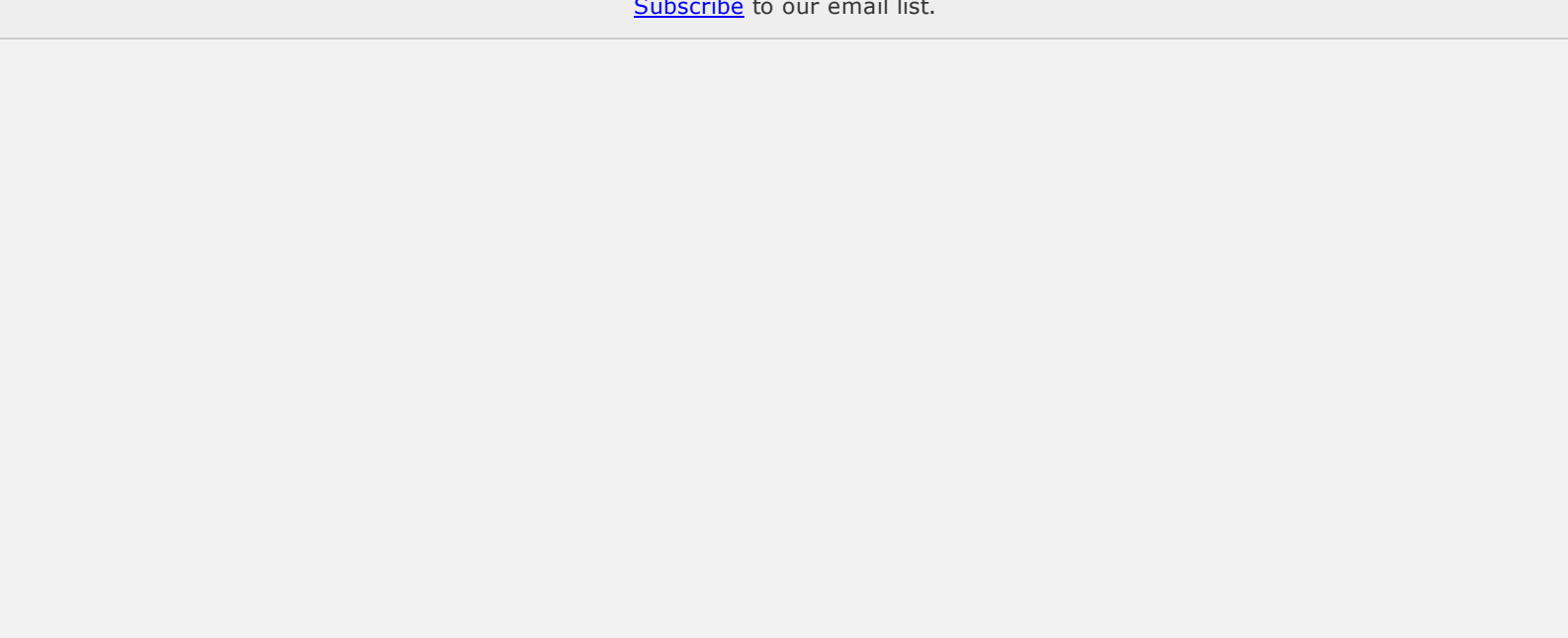
Both parties continued to continue coordination to commence operations of the "Hotline between Japanese and Chinese Defense Authorities" under the "Maritime and Aerial Communication Mechanism between Defense Authorities of Japan and China" around spring of this year.

In addition, both parties agreed to continue and strengthen communications on security and defense matters between Japan and China utilizing various frameworks for various dialogue between the two countries on multiple levels such as the Japan-China High-Level Consultation on Maritime Affairs.

### International and regional issues

In regard to the situation in North Korea, Japan reiterated strongly condemnation of the launch of the intercontinental-class ballistic missile (ICBM) conducted by North Korea on the 18th and the launch of ballistic missiles on the 20th and confirmed to continue close coordination in dealing with North Korea. In regard to Ukraine, Japan strongly called upon China to fulfill its responsible role in maintaining the peace and security of the international community.

## 6. The G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting



On February 18, during his visit to Germany, Foreign Minister Hayashi hosted the first G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting under Japan's G7 Presidency this year. Foreign Ministers of the G7 countries and EU High Representative attended. In the latter half of the meeting, H.E. Mr. Dmytro Kuleba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, joined the discussion, expressing his gratitude for the support provided by the G7 members to date and expectations for further support.

[A Chair's Statement \(PDF\)](#) was issued after the meeting.

Minister Hayashi expressed his desire to demonstrate the G7's strong determination to be united to support Ukraine, as well as to uphold the international order based on the rule of law as almost one year will soon pass since Russia's aggression against Ukraine. He also stated that he would like to continue close coordination among the G7 foreign ministers, including not only working together on Ukraine but also deepening discussions on the Indo-Pacific, toward the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano, in April and the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May.

The discussion at the meeting focused on the situation in Ukraine. The G7 Foreign Ministers underlined their commitment to upholding the international order based on the rule of law. They welcomed Ukraine's commitment to a just and lasting peace and concurred on their commitment to actively working with Ukraine to this end. They also reaffirmed their determination to continue supporting Ukraine.

The G7 Foreign Ministers condemned Russia's continued aggression against civilians and critical infrastructure in Ukraine and agreed that they would hold all those responsible to account in accordance with international law. They reiterated that Russia's irresponsible nuclear rhetoric is unacceptable and that any use of nuclear weapons would be met with severe consequences. Furthermore, they agreed to maintain and intensify sanctions on Russia and called on third parties to cease assistance to Russia.

The G7 Foreign Ministers also reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific and reiterated their strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion.

## 7. Press Conference by Prime Minister Kishida regarding the Ballistic Missile Launch by North Korea

Following ballistic missile launches by North Korea on February 18 and 20, PM Kishida held two press conferences. His remarks were as follows:

### February 18

North Korea has launched an ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile)-class ballistic missile...The latest missile launch is an outrageous act that escalates the provocation against the entire international community, and we naturally have lodged a strong protest against North Korea. The safety and security of the people is our utmost priority. We will continue to take all possible measures in gathering intelligence, as well as in ensuring vigilance and surveillance, while also working in close collaboration between Japan and the U.S., as well as among Japan, the U.S. and the ROK.

### February 20

The Ministry of Defense announced a short while ago, North Korea launched short-range ballistic missiles and I was also briefed on this matter. The latest missile launches by North Korea follow that of an ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile)-class ballistic missile the day before yesterday, and we have requested that an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council be convened. We remain committed to gathering intelligence, as well as to ensuring vigilance and surveillance, while also working in even deeper collaboration between Japan and the U.S., as well as among Japan, the U.S. and the ROK.

## 8. "Global Business Seminar" Business Environment and Expansion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) will hold "Global Business Seminar" on March 20 under the theme of Business Environment and Expansion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan. Capturing robust overseas demand will enhance Japan's economic vitality and long-term growth potential. It is also becoming even more important for the recovery and strengthening of regional earning power in Japan.

In this seminar, representatives of the business world will give remarks regarding the trend of investing in Japan, business environment and the merit of investing. Also, government representatives and local government officials will give remarks on the efforts and actions to promote foreign direct investment in Japan.

This event will be in-person, with online viewing available upon registration. For more information, and to register, [please see this PDF](#).

## 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 1st**, 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 a 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**.

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!

