



# From Japan to the Northwest

News From the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

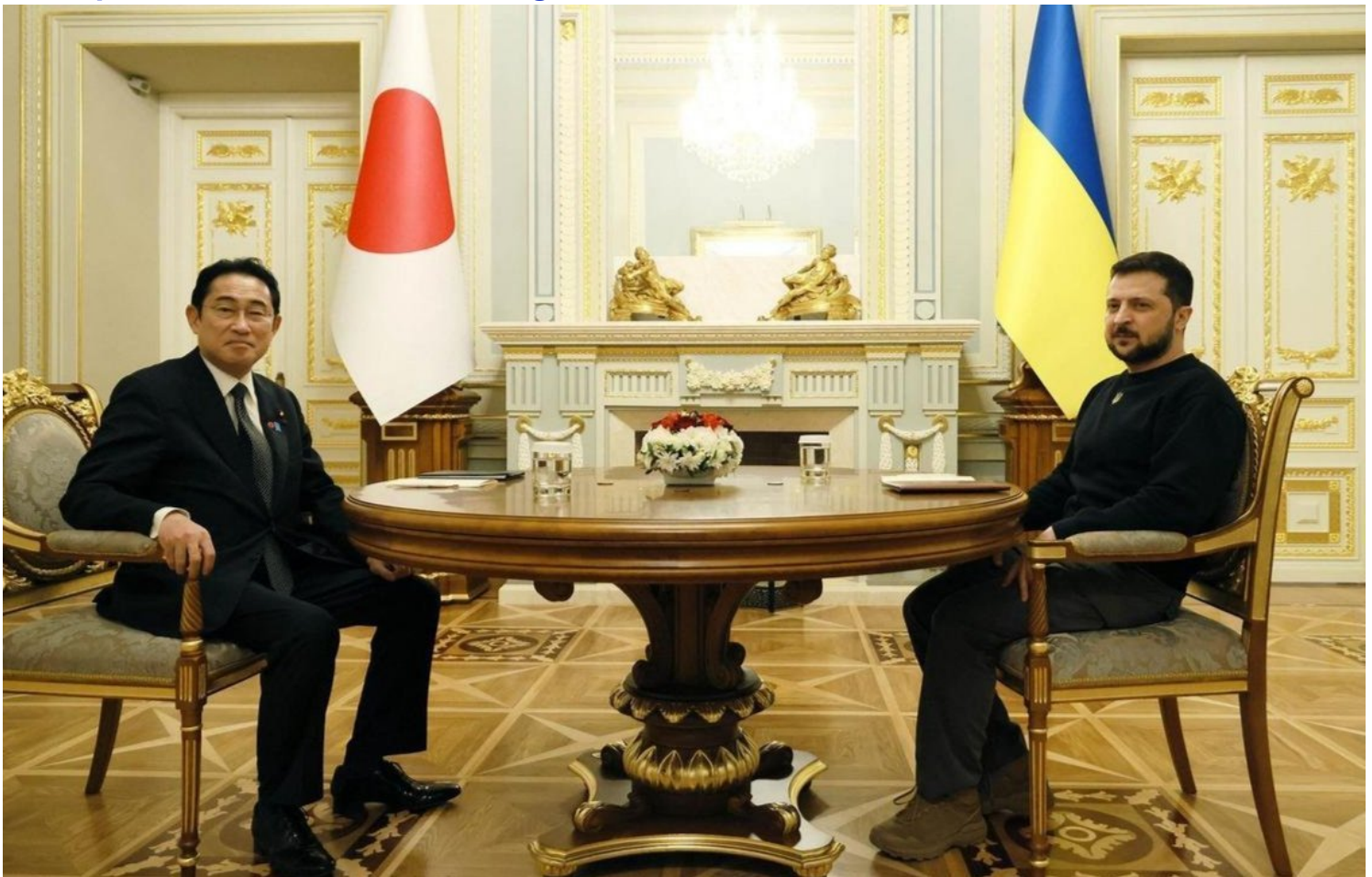


Dear friends of the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle,

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. [Japan-Ukraine Summit Meeting](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On March 21, Prime Minister Kishida held a summit meeting and working-dinner with H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine.

Prime Minister Kishida expressed his respect for the courage and perseverance of the Ukrainian people standing up to defend their homeland and democracy under the leadership of President Zelenskyy.

Prime Minister Kishida told President Zelenskyy that Japan has been working to impose severe sanctions against

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and at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May, Japan will demonstrate its determination to maintain the unwavering unity of the G7 and to uphold the international order based on the rule of law.

Prime Minister extended invitation to President Zelenskyy to participate online to G7 Hiroshima Summit since the Ukraine will be one of the main agenda items. President Zelenskyy gladly accepted the invitation.

In response, President Zelenskyy sincerely welcomed Prime Minister Kishida's visit to Ukraine, and appreciated the Prime Minister as the guardian of the international order. The President expressed his appreciation for Japan's position on the Russian aggression against Ukraine, and stated his willingness to further advance cooperation with Japan as the G7 chair this year.

The two leaders discussed humanitarian and financial assistance Ukraine, sanctions against Russia, response to nuclear threats, bilateral relations, and Japan's National Security Strategy and the situation in the Indo-Pacific.

The two leaders also agreed to strengthen their coordination even further and issued a Joint Statement on Special Global Partnership ([English \(PDF\)](#) / [Japanese \(PDF\)](#))

Read the [full summit meeting summary here](#).

#### Related Links:

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

- [G7 + Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Ukraine Energy Sector Support](#)
- [Support for Recovery of Ukrainian Agriculture's Production Capacity through Provision of Seeds](#)

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## 2. [Japan-South Korea Summit Meeting](#)



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On March 16th, Prime Minister Kishida held a Summit Meeting with H.E. Mr. Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea.

The two leaders shared the view that enhancing Japan-ROK relations was an urgent task in the current strategic circumstances, and that they would further advance the relationship based on the platform on which their friendly and cooperative bilateral relations had been built since the normalization of diplomatic relations.

Regarding the issue of former civilian workers from the Korean Peninsula, the two leaders had a candid exchange of views and Prime Minister Kishida made remarks in line with the position announced by the Government of Japan on March 6th.

In order to promote cooperation mutually beneficial for Japan and the ROK, the two leaders agreed to activate communication between their governments in a wide range of fields, including politics, economy and culture. Specifically the two leaders agreed on the importance of early resumption of the Japan-ROK Security Dialogue and the Japan-ROK Vice-Ministerial Strategic Dialogue, as well as early restart of the Japan-ROK-China trilateral process at high level. The two leaders also agreed to launch a bilateral consultation on economic security in order to resolve issues that both Japan and the ROK face, such as making supply chains more robust and tackling leaks of sensitive technologies.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the necessity to promote strategic coordination under the current severe security circumstances in the region. The two leaders agreed to further advance the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. alliance and the ROK-U.S. alliance in light of North Korea's recent intensification of nuclear and missile activities. They also agreed on the importance of advancing Japan-ROK bilateral and Japan-ROK-US trilateral security coordination. In addition, regarding the abductions issue, President Yoon reiterated his support for Japan.

In addition, the two leaders confirmed the importance of realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific at this turning point in history, and shared the view that like-minded countries should work together to uphold a free and open international order based on the rule of law.

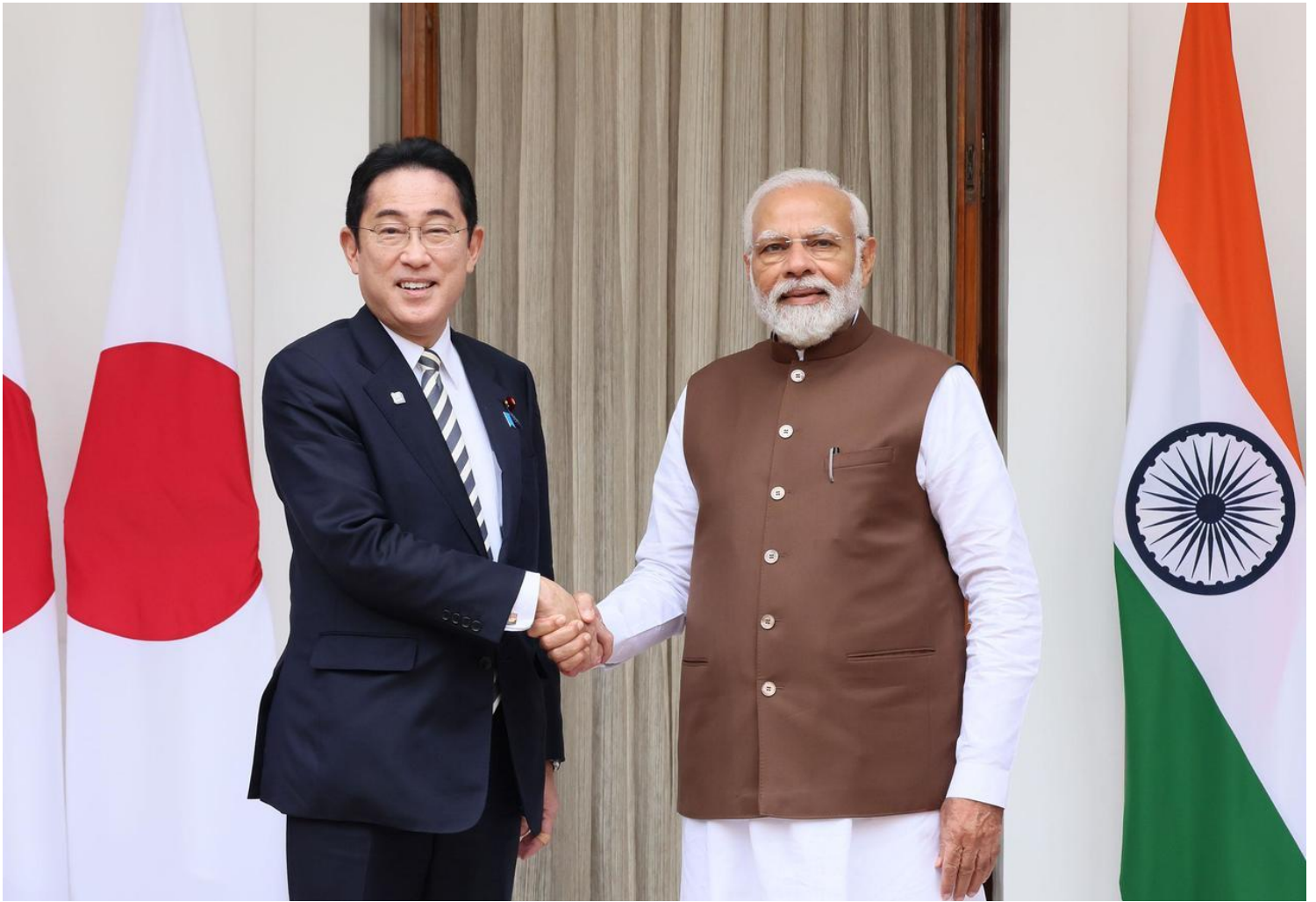
The two leaders also exchanged views on the situation in Ukraine, and agreed that Russia's aggression against Ukraine was an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo by force, and that such an outrageous act should not be tolerated anywhere in the world, including East Asia.

Read the [full summary of the Summit meeting here](#). Following the Summit meeting, [the two leaders held a joint press conference](#).

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### 3. [Japan-India Summit Meeting](#)





(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

On March 20, Prime Minister Kishida, visiting Delhi, India, held a Japan-India Summit Meeting with H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.

Prime Minister Modi once again welcomed Prime Minister Kishida's visit to India and expressed his hope to work closely with Japan, the G7 Presidency, as the G20 Presidency, and to further develop the bilateral relations under the "Japan-India Special Strategic Global Partnership."

In response, Prime Minister Kishida welcomed the opportunity to visit India again for the first time in a year and to meet Prime Minister Modi in the same venue again, and stated that he would like to hold thorough discussions in view of the upcoming G7 Hiroshima Summit in May and the G20 New Delhi Summit in September this year, as Japan serves as G7 Presidency and India serves as G20 Presidency. Prime Minister Kishida went on to extend his invitation to Prime Minister Modi to participate in the G7 Hiroshima Summit, to which Prime Minister Modi accepted the invitation.

The two leaders exchanged views on a wide range of issues, including development finance, food security, climate and energy, and confirmed their commitment to discuss and work together on various issues in the international community in the lead-up to both the G7 and G20 summits.

Regarding security and defense, both leaders welcomed the increasingly active defense exchanges since the second Japan-India Foreign Ministers' and Defense Ministers' Meeting ("2+2") held in September last year, including the first ever Japan-India joint fighter exercise.

On economic cooperation, the two leaders welcomed the steady progress made toward the 5-trillion-yen target of public and private investment and financing from Japan to India in the next five years, as well as the signing of a 300-billion-yen loan for the Project for Construction of high-speed rail and confirmed that they will continue cooperation in promoting the high-speed rail project as a flagship project of Japan and India.

Regarding people-to-people exchanges, Prime Minister Kishida noted that many cultural exchange projects were held last year to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and India, as well as the recent resumption of Japan's programs to invite youths from abroad. He also expressed his intention to utilize the programs of technical intern training and specified skilled workers and to further promote academic exchanges and exchanges between municipalities.

Read the [full summary of the Summit meeting here](#).

Related Links:

- [Policy Speech by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio at the Indian Council of World Affairs \(ICWA\)](#)

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#### 4. [Japan-Germany Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#)



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

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On March 18, Foreign Minister Hayashi held a Japan-Germany Foreign Ministers' Meeting with H.E. Ms. Annalena Baerbock, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany, who is visiting Japan to attend the Japan-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations.

Minister Hayashi stated that Japan-German relations are stronger and closer than ever, and that the Japan-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations held for the first time are an important framework to further expand bilateral cooperation.

Both ministers welcomed the progress in strengthening Japan-Germany security cooperation, including the holding of the Japan-Germany "2+2" in November 2022. In addition, the two ministers concurred on accelerating coordination towards starting negotiations for the legal framework to promote joint activities of the Japan Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and the German Federal Armed Forces.

Minister Hayashi stated that amidst Russia's protracted aggression against Ukraine, it is important to continue stringent sanctions against Russia and robust support for Ukraine in order to end Russia's aggression against Ukraine as soon as possible. Both ministers welcomed that the United Nations General Assembly resolution on Ukraine in February was adopted with an overwhelming majority, and confirmed that like-minded countries, including Japan and Germany, will continue to unite in the response.

Minister Hayashi stated that the security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific are inseparable, and expressed high appreciation for Germany strengthening its engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. Furthermore, both ministers exchanged views regarding Japan's National Security Strategy and the situation in the Indo-Pacific, as well as wide-ranging cooperation in the international arena, including United Nations Security Council reform.

Both ministers confirmed close cooperation towards the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano in April and the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May.

Read the [full meeting summary here](#).

## **5. Message from Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on International Women's Day**

Abridged Remarks by PM Kishida:

*Women's empowerment and gender equality contribute to sustained socioeconomic growth and are critically important as we bring about a society valuing diversity, where all people can feel their purpose in life.*

*The Kishida administration has positioned women's economic independence at the center of our highly prominent New Form of Capitalism policy, and the Government is working in unison to advance efforts towards that end. As one part of that, in 2022 we also began requiring disclosure of wage disparities between men and women.*

*Also, it is imperative that we work even harder to eliminate the strong tendency for new mothers to switch to non-regular employment, as well as to correct gender wage disparities, cultivate female digital professionals and female entrepreneurs, and appoint more women to executive positions.*

*We will also revise the Domestic Violence Prevention Law in order to strengthen efforts to prevent spousal violence and revise our criminal law to better deal with sex offenses.*

*Also, at this year's G7 summit meeting and ministerial meetings, we will advance discussions that incorporate the perspective of gender, taking into account the outcomes of our efforts to date, including the World Assembly for Women, WAW! 2022, which was held at the very end of last year.*

*Here as we mark International Women's Day, I renew my determination to work towards a society in which all women and girls around the world can realize their dreams and goals on the stage of their own choosing, whether it be in the workplace, in the home, in their local communities, in education, or elsewhere, while demonstrating their individuality and their capabilities.*



The Prime Minister's [full video message can be viewed here](#).

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## 6. [Courtesy call on Foreign Minister Hayashi by the Japanese American Leadership Delegation \(JALD\)](#)



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On March 8, Foreign Minister Hayashi received a courtesy call from the Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD) and Ms. Suzanne Basalla, President & CEO, US-Japan Council. The delegation comprised of 10 Japanese Americans leaders from various States in the United States and the U.S.-Japan Council President, who are invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to visit Japan.

From **Washington State, Mr. Calvin Terada of the US Environmental Protection Agency** (third from left in the photo above) **was one of this year's JALD members.**

Minister Hayashi welcomed the visit of the delegation to Japan, which is the 20th in total and the first in four years since March 2019. He also expressed his appreciation for the support of the US-Japan Council and Japanese American community in strengthening Japan-U.S. relations. With regard to contributions to deepening Japan-U.S. relations.

The delegation expressed their deep appreciation for the invitation to Japan, stating their intention to work in their various capacities to further enhance Japan-U.S. relations. The meeting also included a general exchange of views on such matters as the common challenges for Japan and the Japanese American community and the situation in East Asia.

Also on March 8, Prime Minister Kishida received a [courtesy call](#) from the JALD delegation members and Ms. Basalla.

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## 7. [Address by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio to the 2023 Memorial Ceremony for the Great East Japan Earthquake](#)



(Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)

### Abridged Remarks by PM Kishida:

*Twelve years have now passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake struck.*

*Here in Fukushima, among other places, many irreplaceable lives were lost, and some people remain unaccounted for even today. My heart aches in empathy and overflows with sorrow and condolences for those who have lost beloved family members, relatives, and friends. I express once more my most profound sympathies to all those affected by the catastrophe, including those unable to return to their hometowns.*

*In the 12 years since the earthquake wreaked its devastation, reconstruction has progressed steadily in the earthquake- and tsunami-stricken areas. Even in the areas of Fukushima affected by the nuclear disaster, in the areas where evacuation orders have been lifted, progress has been made in improving the living environment and revitalizing and bolstering industries and regenerating means of livelihood. It should go without saying that this is the result of the tireless efforts and support of the local residents and also all those affiliated with the agencies and*



*Medium- to long-term support will be critical for reconstruction from the nuclear disaster. The Government will continue to stand at the fore, pressing ahead with the safe and steady decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station of Tokyo Electric Power Company, on which reconstruction is premised, and with assistance to improve the living environment and restore and bolster industries and livelihoods to accelerate the return of residents.*

*We have learned invaluable lessons at the grave costs imposed by the earthquake and its consequent disasters. It is our responsibility to pass those lessons on to future generations, never allowing them to fade, and move forward in building a country that is resilient against disasters.*

*The present generation is now determined to follow the path of our ancestors. We will walk forever facing forward, extending a helping hand to each other.*

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## **8. International Symposium on the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation**

On March 16, Foreign Minister Hayashi attended the reception for the International Symposium on the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation held by the Japan Foundation.

Minister Hayashi expressed an intention to further strengthen ASEAN-Japan relations, taking into account the valuable opinions presented at the symposium. Minister Hayashi described the relationship between Japan and ASEAN, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, as being characterized by “heart-to-heart” mutual understanding. Touching on the Japan Foundation’s initiatives to promote exchanges such as the WA Project, Minister Hayashi stated that Japan will continue to promote cultural and people-to-people exchange initiatives that will succeed the WA Project.

This year marks the historic 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, and commemorative events and exchange programs are scheduled to be held by the public and private sectors throughout the year for building further hype for the 50th anniversary in Japan and ASEAN Member States. The special website of the ASEAN-Japan Centre for the 50th anniversary has opened a call for accreditation of events and use of the official logo and catchphrase, “Golden Friendship, Golden Opportunities.

During the Symposium, [Prime Minister Kishida delivered a video message.](#)

Abridged Remarks by PM Kishida:

*I would like to congratulate the Japan Foundation for organizing this International Symposium on the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.*

*The foundation of the current strong ASEAN Japan relationship is nothing less than trust and respect established through exchanges among people in all walks of life.*

*In order to pass this relationship on to the next generation, we would like to further promote attractive cultural and people to people exchange initiatives that will succeed these projects in the future.*

*Today, at this commemorative symposium for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan, it is very timely to discuss issues shared by ASEAN and Japan. These issues include peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and the entire world, the realization of sustainable and prosperous societies, and building mutual understanding and trust among people.*

*Japan and ASEAN share their wisdom with each other and discuss the future together. Based on such discussions, we would like to jointly launch a new vision for cooperation together with the Leaders of ASEAN*

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countries at the commemorative summit to be held in Tokyo around December this year.

Let's cherish the progress we have made so far and together take a new step forward for the next 50 years.

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

### [Daily COVID Data Updates](#)

#### **\*New\* Mask Use Guidance Starting From 13 March 2023**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan has issued new mask use guidance.

Please [see the new guidance here \(PDF\)](#).

#### **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.](#)

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## Consulate Activities

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Dillon Cherry Blossom Festival in Montana**

We are excited to join the Dillon Cherry Blossom Festival this year on March 24-25th! Check out our presentations on Japanese Samurai armor, fabric wrapping techniques, and visit our booth to meet our fuzzy seal robot, PARO!

#### **JCCCW's All Things Japanese Sale**

[The Japanese Cultural & Community Center of WA ワ州日本文化会館](#) (JCCCW) is having its All Things Japanese Sale this weekend! Check their website for more details!

<https://www.jcccw.org/atjs>



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# SPRING

## ALL THINGS JAPANESE SALE



**Main Sale: March 25 | 10 AM - 5 PM &  
March 26 | 10 AM - 2 PM | Free Admission**

Preview Sale | Friday, March 24 | 5 - 7 PM | Admission Required (\$25 - \$40)

at the JCCCW ワシントン州日本文化会館 | 1414 S. Weller St., Seattle WA 98144

### **Recent Events**

#### **Seattle Hiroshima Club - New Years Celebration**

On March 4, the Seattle Hiroshima Club (Hiroshima Kenjinkai) celebrated the new year with its first in-person New Years Celebration in two years.

Vice Consul Shiori Yamada, a Hiroshima native, spoke on behalf of the Consulate and presented special commendations from Hiroshima governor Hidehiko Yuzaki honoring club members who are over 80 years old. It was a wonderful start to 2023!

#### **Kumamoto Prefecture Club - New Years Celebration**

On Saturday February 25, Mrs. Yuki Inagaki, representing the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle, joined the

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After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the in-person gathering was made even more special by the attendance of both Mayor Bruce Harrell and Senior Deputy Mayor Monisha Harrell, whose family has roots in Kumamoto Prefecture.

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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

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