

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. Meeting between Foreign Minister Hayashi and The Honorable Ambassador Tai, United States Trade Representative



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On April 19, commencing at around 3.20 p.m., Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a meeting (for approximately 20 minutes) with The Honorable Ambassador Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative, who is visiting Japan. The overview of the meeting is as follows:

Minister Hayashi welcomed Ambassador Tai's visit to Japan and congratulated the conclusion of the Japan-U.S. Critical Minerals Agreement and exchanged views on the application of the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act's EV tax credit. He emphasized the importance of Japan-U.S. cooperation in strengthening supply chains from the perspective of economic security. In response, Ambassador Tai stated that she hopes to further develop the bilateral cooperation on both bilateral and multilateral trade matters.

Ambassador Tai stated the progress of negotiations on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and emphasized the importance of cooperation with Japan. Minister Hayashi welcomed the U.S. engagement in the Indo-Pacific economic order through the IPEF and stated that Japan would proactively contribute to discussions under the framework along with other in the region. Minister Hayashi also conveyed Japan's position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) from a strategic perspective.

Both sides exchanged their views on key trade matters between two countries. They addressed economic security issues including economic coercion and affirmed their commitment to close cooperation toward the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting in October.

## 2. Evacuation of Japanese Citizens and Others from the Republic of the Sudan

On April 27, as part of the effort to evacuate Japanese citizens in response to the situation in Sudan, four Japanese citizens and one family member of a Japanese citizen who had requested evacuation were evacuated to Djibouti from Wadi Seidna air base, located north of the capital Khartoum, with cooperation of Canada.

The Government of Japan expresses its sincere appreciation for the cooperation extended by Canada, Djibouti and all other parties in evacuating Japanese citizens and others.

The Government of Japan will continue to do everything possible to ensure the safety of Japanese citizens in Sudan and provide them with the necessary support while working closely with relevant countries at the Japanese Embassy's temporary office in Djibouti.

[Reference] Japanese citizens and family members of other nationalities evacuated from Sudan:  
Total of 65 people (57 Japanese citizens, 8 family members of other nationalities)

## Arrival of the Chartered Flight from Japanese Nationals and Others Evacuated from the Republic of Sudan to Djibouti

On April 29, at 06:17 a.m. Japan time, Japanese evacuees who resided in Sudan and their families and others, 48 persons in total, arrived in Japan from Djibouti on a chartered flight arranged by the Government of Japan.

Those who boarded this chartered flight had evacuated from Sudan on the Japan Air Self-Defense Force's C-2 transport aircraft and with the cooperation of various countries and organizations, and were staying in Djibouti.

## 3. Meeting and Working Dinner between Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi and Governor DeSantis of the State of Florida



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On April 24, commencing at 7:00 p.m., for approximately 30 minutes, Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a meeting with the Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, followed by a working dinner commencing at 7:35 p.m. for approximately 60 minutes. The overview of the meeting is as follows.

At the outset, Minister Hayashi welcomed Governor DeSantis's first visit to Japan, and stated that he hopes this visit to Japan will be an opportunity to deepen understanding of Japanese politics, economy, and culture. Governor DeSantis stated that he is grateful for this opportunity and that he wished to deepen ties with Japan, an important partner for the U.S. and Florida.

Minister Hayashi stated that the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. relationship is important to secure the peace, stability, and prosperity in the international community. The two sides exchanged their views on regional affairs.

The two sides exchanged their views on Japan-Florida relationship, and Minister Hayashi welcomed the active cooperation between Japan and Florida in a wide range of fields including economy, space cooperation, and sister city exchanges.

Governor DeSantis expressed that he would like to further deepen Japan-Florida economic relationship. Governor DeSantis also stated that he would like to work on advancing Japan-Florida and Japan-U.S. relationships through multilayered exchanges in all levels including people-to-people exchange.

## 4. Visit of Members of Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

On April 17th, Mr. Endo Kazuya, Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held a meeting with Mr. Markiyano Dmytrasevych, Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine and other members. The overview of the meeting is as follows.

Director-General Endo welcomed the ministry members' visit to Japan, and expressed his hope that Japan's experience in reconstruction from Great East Japan Earthquake in the agricultural sector would be shared, thereby contributing to recovery and reconstruction of the said sector in Ukraine. Mr. Endo also stated that recovery of agricultural production capacity in Ukraine is a serious challenge not only for Ukraine's economic reconstruction but also for the improvement of the global food supply and that Japan, as the G7 presidency, will continue to provide Ukraine with fine-tuned assistance.

Deputy Minister Dmytrasevych expressed his appreciation for Japan's assistance to Ukraine, and Director-General concurred to continue to cooperate with Ukraine in recovery and reconstruction of agriculture.

[Reference]  
The members of Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine are in Japan from April 16th to 22nd and will visit Tokyo as well as Miyagi Prefecture in order to see the reconstruction of Tohoku region.

Other Ukraine News:

- [Response to the Situation in Ukraine \(Overview\)](#)
- [Measures by the Japanese Government](#)

## 5. The 8th Japan-US Cyber Dialogue

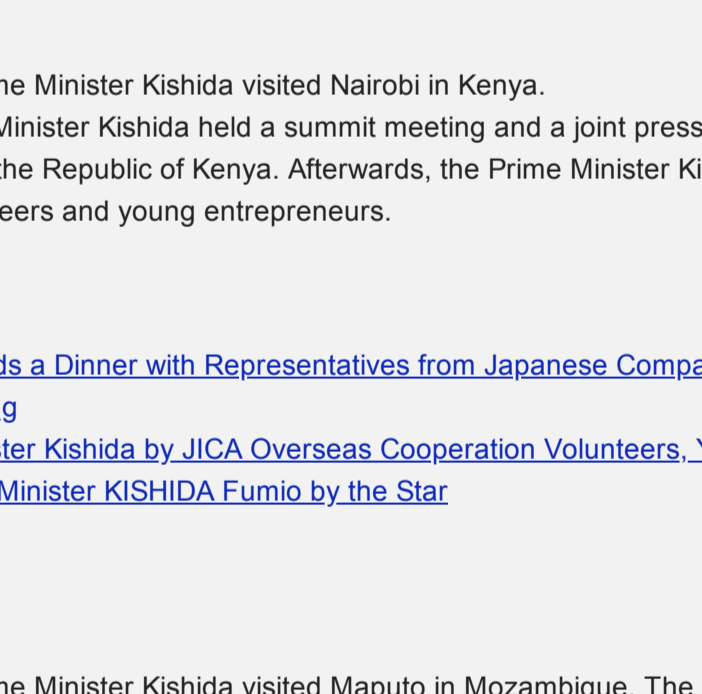
The 8th Japan-US Cyber Dialogue was held in Tokyo on May 1st, 2023.

At this dialogue, based on the necessity for whole-of-government efforts by both Japan and the United States, participants had discussions on a wide range of issues regarding Japan-US cooperation on cyber, including domestic cyber policies, cooperation in regional and international areas and bilateral operational cybersecurity cooperation.

Mr. Ishizuki Hideo, Japan's Ambassador in charge of Cyber Policy and Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Policy Bureau, led the interagency delegation representing relevant ministries and agencies, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Security Secretariat, National Center of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity, National Police Agency, Public Security Intelligence Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Defense. From the US side, Mr. Nathaniel C. Fick, Ambassador at large, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, Department of State, led the US interagency delegation representing the Department of State, Department of Defense, and others.

Both sides confirmed that the two countries will continue to hold the Japan-US Cyber Dialogue to bolster their cooperation.

## 6. Courtesy Call on Foreign Minister Hayashi by Four Members of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC)



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On May 8, commencing at 14:05 for approximately 15 minutes, Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, received a courtesy call from representatives of the Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC), chaired by United Nations University Senior Vice-Rector Shirahase Sawako. The overview is as follows.

Minister Hayashi welcomed the GEAC representatives visiting him from both inside and outside Japan and expressed his gratitude to them for their efforts in preparing the GEAC recommendations. He also noted that the importance of women's empowerment and meaningful participation was discussed at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in April, and that GEAC's input is very important for Japan to lead the discussion on gender issues.

Chair Shirahase and other GEAC members expressed their expectations that Japan, as this year's G7 presidency, will lead the discussions on gender issues.

[Reference]GEAC: the Gender Equality Advisory Council  
The GEAC is an external advisory body that makes recommendations on gender equality for G7 leaders. Launched in 2018 by Canada, the then G7 Presidency, and convened by the respective G7 Presidency every year since then, the GEAC has submitted useful recommendations to the leaders of the G7 Presidency to achieve gender equality and promote the empowerment of women. This year, 14 members actively involved in the gender field from the G7 countries and international organizations were appointed, and the first meeting was held on March 24.

## 7. Prime Minister Kishida Visits Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, and Mozambique

### Visit to Egypt

On April 29, 2023 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida visited Cairo in Egypt.

On the next day (April 30), after receiving a courtesy call from H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Prime Minister Kishida held a summit meeting, signing ceremony, and a joint press announcement with H.E. Mr. Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Afterwards, Prime Minister Kishida visited the Grand Egyptian Museum and attended the Japan-Egypt Friendship Reception. Then, the Prime Minister had a talk with H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and attended the Japan-Egypt Business Forum.

Related Links:

- [Visit to the League of Arab States Headquarters by Prime Minister Kishida](#)
- [Japan-Egypt Summit Meeting and Luncheon Meeting](#)
- [Prime Minister Kishida's Visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum \(GEM\)](#)
- [Japan-Egypt Friendship Reception Hosted by Prime Minister Kishida](#)
- [Talk between Prime Minister Kishida and H.E. Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt](#)
- [Prime Minister Kishida's Attendance at the Japan-Egypt Business Forum](#)
- [Contributed Article by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio the Ahran Newspaper](#)

### Visit to Ghana

On May 1, 2023 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida visited Accra in Ghana.

After attending a salute and guard of honor ceremony, Prime Minister Kishida received a courtesy call from JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and young entrepreneurs working in Ghana and then visited the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research.

Afterwards, Prime Minister Kishida held a summit meeting, signing ceremony, and a joint press announcement with H.E. Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, and attended the dinner banquet hosted by the President. In the end, the Prime Minister spoke to the press regarding his visit to Egypt and Ghana and other matters.

Related Links:

- [Lunch Meeting with Members of Japanese Companies in Ghana and Courtesy Calls by JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Young Entrepreneurs](#)
- [Prime Minister Kishida's visit to the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research](#)
- [Japan-Ghana Summit Meeting](#)
- [Contributed Article by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio the Daily Graphic](#)

### Visit to Kenya

On May 2, 2023 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida visited Nairobi in Kenya.

On the next day (May 3), Prime Minister Kishida held a summit meeting and a joint press announcement with H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya. Afterwards, the Prime Minister received a courtesy call from JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and young entrepreneurs.

Related Links:

- [Prime Minister Kishida Attends a Dinner with Representatives from Japanese Companies based in Kenya](#)
- [Japan-Kenya Summit Meeting](#)
- [Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Kishida by JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, Young Entrepreneurs and Others](#)
- [Written Interview with Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio by the Star](#)

### Visit to Mozambique

On May 3, 2023 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida visited Maputo in Mozambique. The Prime Minister attended the Japan-Mozambique Business Exchange Meeting.

On the next day (May 4), Prime Minister Kishida held a summit meeting and a joint press announcement with H.E. Mr. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique. After attending a working lunch, the Prime Minister held a press conference and received a courtesy call from young JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.

Related Links:

- [Prime Minister Kishida's Attendance at a Japan-Mozambique Business Exchange Meeting](#)
- [Japan-Mozambique Summit Meeting and Working Lunch](#)
- [Prime Minister Kishida's Visit to Tola's Maputo Office](#)
- [Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Kishida by Young JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Others](#)
- [Written Interview with Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio by Jornal Noticias](#)

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

### Daily COVID Data Updates

**\*New\* - Updated Policy Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination and Test for Entry**  
Beginning April 29, 2023, a valid vaccination certificate or pre-departure test **are no longer required for entry into Japan**. Please note, travelers entering Japan with symptoms of a suspected COVID-19 infection will be tested upon arrival. Furthermore, those who test positive will be required to quarantine at a designated facility. Learn more about this update here: <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/covid-19/bordercontrol.html>

### 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.](#)

## Consulate Activities

### 2023 Spring Conferment of Decorations

On April 29, 2023 (JST), the Government of Japan announced that four individuals within the consulate's jurisdiction of Washington, northern Idaho, and Montana would receive the Imperial Decorations for Spring 2023.

- **Dr. Judith Nancy Rabinovitch**, Karashima Tsukasa Professor Emerita of Japanese Language and Culture at the University of Montana, [has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon](#), in recognition of her contributions to the promotion of academic exchanges and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States with a focus on Japanese studies, including language and cultural education, and scholarly research.

- **Mr. Hideo Dale Kaku**, Former Commander of the Nisei Veterans Committee, Inc., [has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays](#), in recognition of his contributions in improving the welfare of the Japanese and Japanese American community in the United States and promoting friendship between Japan and the United States.

- **Mr. Takeyuki Suetsugu**, President of Seattle's Japanese Restaurant Association, [has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays](#), in recognition of his contributions to the promotion of Japanese food culture and its continuation among the next generation as an educator.

- **Mr. Akira Takeda**, former local staff member of the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle, [has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays](#), in recognition of his contributions to the activities of Japanese diplomatic establishments abroad.

That's it for this issue of "From Japan to the Northwest."

Thank you for reading. Until next time!

Sincerely,  
Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

View [past issues of "From Japan to the Northwest" here](#).

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