



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 twice-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 Secretary-General of ASEAN](#)



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On June 5, Foreign Minister Hayashi held a meeting with H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the beginning of the meeting, Minister Hayashi expressed his appreciation for H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn's frequent visits to Japan and his efforts to strengthen ASEAN-Japan relations. Minister Hayashi also noted that this year marks the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, and expressed his will to cooperate closely with each other for the success of the Commemorative Summit in Tokyo in December this year.

Minister Hayashi stated that Japan would continue to support attractive cultural and people-to-people exchanges, such as "WA Project" and "JENESYS", in order to pass on to the next generation the "heart to heart" mutual trust and understanding that have been the foundation of ASEAN-Japan relations for many years.

Minister Hayashi stated that Japan would continue to support for ASEAN centrality and unity, and Japan would assist the mainstreaming of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

Minister Hayashi stated that he would like to issue a strong message on pressing regional and international issues at the ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings in July.

2. [Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity \(IPEF\) Ministerial](#)



(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

On May 27th, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial was held in Detroit. Mr. NISHIMURA Yasutoshi, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry, and Mr. YAMADA Kenji, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the meeting to represent Japan.

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial was co-hosted by H.E. Ambassador Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative, and the Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce of the United States of America, and attended by representatives from Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Japan.

The participants exchanged views on the following four pillars: trade, supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy. They announced the substantial conclusion of the negotiations of the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement (Pillar 2) .

During the ministerial, State Minister YAMADA stressed that ensuring inclusivity of the IPEF is essential and announced that Japan will implement training programs with Singapore among other initiatives as examples of concrete cooperation. These programs are aimed to be conducive to implementation of the IPEF initiatives, including (2)Pillar 2(supply chain) for which the negotiations were substantially concluded.

During his stay, State Minister YAMADA held informal talks with all IPEF members individually as well as bilateral meetings with representatives of the United States, Fiji, Malaysia, and Vietnam. In these meetings and talks, State Minister YAMADA and his counterparts discussed the IPEF and other matters in the Indo-Pacific region, and confirmed that they will continue their cooperation in this regard.

Reference Documents:

[Press Statement on the Substantial Conclusion of IPEF Supply Chain Agreement Negotiations \(PDF\)](#)

[Press Statement for the Trade Pillar, Clean Economy Pillar, and Fair Economy Pillar \(PDF\)](#)

3. The Second Meeting of the International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons

On April 4 and 5, the second meeting of the International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons (IGEP) was held in Tokyo.

In the first session on April 4, Foreign Minister Hayashi participated through a video message. He stated that it was important to promote realistic and practical efforts without stopping moving forward toward a world without nuclear weapons, as the circumstances for advancing nuclear disarmament are becoming increasingly severe, and expressed his expectation for candid discussions at this meeting.

At this meeting, the IGEP members had frank and in-depth discussions on the importance of maintaining and strengthening the NPT regime in light of the current extremely severe security environment as well as the situations surrounding the New

START, with a view to making a positive contribution to the next NPT review process, which will start with the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the next NPT Review Conference to be held from the end of July this year.

The IGEP members concurred that it would be meaningful to compile a concrete message based on the discussions at this meeting as to provide input to the first session of the Preparatory Committee. They decided on the basic pillars of the message as follows: (1) reinforcing and expanding norms, (2) taking concrete measures on nuclear disarmament, arms control, and confidence building measures, and (3) measures to strengthen the NPT review process. They also decided to continue discussions on specific wordings and other details of the message.

Reference Document:

Video message addressed by Minister HAYASHI at the first session ([English \(PDF\)](#) / [Japanese \(PDF\)](#))

4. [Public Opinion Survey on Japan’s Diplomacy in Fiscal Year 2022](#)

1. OFY 2022 Domestic Public Opinion Survey on Japan’s Diplomacy

From March 16 to 20, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducted a domestic public opinion survey on Japan’s diplomacy. This survey was conducted by telephone, with responses from 1,000 people at the age of 18 or over in Japan’s 47 prefectures. An overview of the results of the survey is as [attachment 1 \(PDF\)](#).

2. [Opinion Poll on Japan in FY2022](#)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan commissioned research agencies to conduct an opinion poll on the impression of Japan in the United States, Canada, five European Countries, and three African Countries from October 2022 to February 2023. An overview of the results of the poll is shown in [attachment 2 \(PDF\)](#).

5. [Measures based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act regarding the situation surrounding Ukraine](#)

In view of the current international situation over Ukraine, and for the purpose of contributing to the international efforts for achieving international peace aimed at a solution of the issue, in line with the measures taken by other major countries, the Government of Japan has introduced the following measures under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, based on the Cabinet Understanding of “Asset Freeze for individuals and entities of the Russian Federation and other measures as of May 26, 2023”.

Contents of the measures

- (1) Asset Freeze measures
 - (i) Restriction on payment
 - (ii) Restriction on capital transactions
- (2) Prohibition on exports to specific entities of the Russian Federation
- (3) Prohibition on exports to the Russian Federation of items which could contribute to the enhancement of Russian industrial capacities
- (4) Prohibition on providing services to the Russian Federation

Further details on these measures [can be found here](#).

Reference Documents:

- [\(Appendix 1\) Individuals and entities of the Russian Federation subject to asset freeze measures and others \(PDF\)](#)
- [\(Appendix 2\) Individuals considered to be directly involved in the “annexation” of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol or the destabilization of Eastern Part of Ukraine, as well as individuals of eastern and southern regions of](#)

[Ukraine, who are considered to be directly involved in the purported “incorporation” by Russia, subject to asset freeze measures and others \(PDF\)](#)

[\(Appendix 3\) Specific entities of the Russian Federation subject to export-related prohibitions \(PDF\)](#)

6. Citizens’ Rally to Demand the Immediate Return to Japan of All Abductees at the Same Time



(Photo: Prime Minister's Cabinet Office)

On May 27, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida attended the Citizens’ Rally to Demand the Immediate Return to Japan of All Abductees at the Same Time held in Tokyo.

Prime Minister Kishida's abridged remarks are below:

"It is truly regrettable that we have not been able to bring back a single abductee since 2002, and the Government once again takes this fact seriously.

The Government of Japan seeks to normalize its relations with North Korea through comprehensively resolving outstanding issues of concern, such as the abductions, nuclear, and missile issues, and settling the unfortunate past, in accordance with the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Declaration of 2002. In particular, the abduction of Japanese nationals, an issue whose resolution has time constraints, is a human rights issue about which we cannot let our mindfulness dwindle for even a moment, as the families of the victims continue to age.

We will do our utmost to boldly tackle the issue to realize the return of all the abductees to Japan at the earliest possible date.

To this end, I believe that it is critical that both Japan and I make proactive efforts and build relations between leaders. This is why I have always said that I am determined to meet with Chairman Kim Jong-Un face-to-face anytime without any conditions, and I will do everything within my power in this regard.

I will continue to seize every possible opportunity to convey my determination to Chairman Kim Jong-Un from the perspective of resolving outstanding issues of concern in Japan-North Korea relations and jointly carving out a new era. At the same time, Japan will press forward proactively, engaging in high-level consultations while reporting directly to me, to bring about summit-level talks at an early time.

Today, a firm, unanimous resolve of the Japanese citizens was expressed in this meeting. This will serve as a strong push toward the settlement of the abductions issue. I believe that it is this voice which will push the international community and then North Korea into action."

7. Photos - Prime Minister Kishida in Action

[Courtesy Call from Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin of the United States](#)



On June 1, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida received a courtesy call from The Honorable Lloyd Austin III, United States Secretary of Defense, at the Prime Minister's Office.

[Request from the Governor of Hokkaido on the Resolution of the Northern Territories Issue and Other Matters](#)



On June 13, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida received a request from Mr. SUZUKI Naomichi, Governor of Hokkaido, and others on the resolution of the issue of the Northern Territories and other matters at the Prime Minister's Office.

[Awards Ceremony for the Nippon Startup Award 2023](#)



On June 9, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida attended the awards ceremony for the Nippon Startup Award 2023 at the Prime Minister's Office.

(All photos: Prime Minister's Cabinet Office)

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

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



Recent Events:

[JADC 50th Anniversary Reception](#)

On May 23, the Japan Aircraft Development Corporation (JADC) marked its 50th anniversary with a reception co-hosted by Consul General Inagaki.

Established in 1973, the JADC is a consortium of Japanese manufacturers for development of commercial aircraft that helps coordinate with international partners like Boeing. Since its founding, JADC has worked with Boeing to develop and produce parts for the 767, 777, 787, and most recently the 777X. This truly represents a very long and fruitful history of Japan-U.S. cooperation in the aircraft industry.

The anniversary reception was attended by representatives of Japanese industry, Boeing, and Washington State and Japanese governments, and was a celebration of the partnerships that have successfully enabled Japan's aerospace manufacturing industry to thrive over the past five decades, especially those in Washington State. The consulate would like to congratulate the JADC on this anniversary milestone, and we look forward to the next 50 years of innovation.

[JCCCW Children's Day Event \(Video\)](#)

The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington recently held its annual Children's Day event. This year focused on the four seasons and how they are celebrated in Japan. The Consulate-General of Japan offered moon-related activities to reflect fall, when many people in Japan gather to enjoy moon viewing. Check out this video for some of the fun highlights!

Upcoming Programs/Competitions:



日本食 ● 食文化普及
人材育成支援協議会

Japanese Cuisine and Food Culture Human Resource Development Program



[Japanese Cuisine and Food Culture Human Resource Development Program](https://tow.co.jp/program)

Join the Japanese Cuisine and Food Culture Human Resource Development Program, now accepting applications for 2023 trainees! Enhance your skills and knowledge of Japanese cuisine with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan. Don't miss this opportunity. Apply now!

More information: <https://tow.co.jp/program>



JAPANESE
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文化庁

Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan

8th JLPP International Translation Competition English

Submission Period

Thursday, June 1st - Friday, June 30th, 2023

The JLPP (Japanese Literature Publishing Project) hosts this translation competition to uplift and nurture emerging translators of contemporary Japanese literature.

[8th JLPP International Translation Competition](https://www.jlpp.go.jp/competition8/index_en.html)

Join the 8th JLPP International Translation Competition hosted by JLPP, a project of Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs! Previous winners have gone on to make their mark globally. Submissions are being accepted now until June 30.

More information: https://www.jlpp.go.jp/competition8/index_en.html

The 17th Japan International **M**anga Award

by Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Accepting applications
NOW!

April 14 - **July 7**

Check the details here:



Are you a manga/comic creator? Submit your work for the 17th Japan International MANGA Award! The 17th Japan International MANGA Award from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is accepting applications now until July 7.
More information: <https://www.manga-award.mofa.go.jp/.../appl.../17/index.html>

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

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