



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 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](#).



Rusutsu Ski Resort, Hokkaido, Japan
(Credit: Rusutsu Resort)

Welcome to the December 2023 edition of From Japan to the Northwest!

Because we missed last month's edition, this edition will cover events from November and December, including the APEC Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco last month and the COP28 conference in Dubai earlier this month.

We will continue a **once-a-month publication schedule** to bring you the most important news from Japan and our region. Please be sure to **follow us on social media by clicking the icons below** for more frequent updates on local Japan-related events and the consulate's activities.



1. 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28)

[U.S., Canada, France, Japan, and UK Announce Plans to Mobilize \\$4.2 Billion for Reliable Global Nuclear Energy Supply Chain](#)

On December 7th, leaders from the United States, Canada, France, Japan, and the United Kingdom announced plans to mobilize \$4.2 billion in government-led investments to develop a secure, reliable global nuclear energy supply chain. These investments will enhance uranium enrichment and conversion capacity over the next three years and establish a resilient global uranium supply market free from Russian influence.

This announcement, made at the Net Zero Nuclear Summit on the sidelines of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 28th Conference of the Parties, follows last week's pledge by 22 countries to triple nuclear energy capacity globally by 2050. Nuclear energy is key to achieving global net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and keeping the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.

To achieve these goals, the United States and other countries will need a reliable and secure supply chain for uranium. This means encouraging public and private investments in enriched uranium production and to advance efforts to secure reliable nuclear fuel suppliers. The five countries invite companies using nuclear power to increase their capacity, and also wish to find like-minded nations seeking reliable nuclear energy partners in securing the global uranium supply chain.

[9th JCM Partner Countries' High-level Meeting at COP28](#)



Credit: Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan

On December 9, 2023, the 9th JCM Partner Countries' High-level Meeting was held at the COP28 Japan Pavilion in Dubai, UAE.

ITO Shintaro, Minister of the Environment, Japan, shared that the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) is steadily contributing to global GHG emission reductions and removals, while partner country representatives stated efforts in each country and future expectations for the JCM.

Japan will continue to contribute to global decarbonization through the implementation of the JCM.

The meeting was attended by ITO Shintaro, Minister of the Environment, Japan, and representatives from 19 JCM partner countries. Minister ITO shared that the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) is steadily contributing to global GHG emission reductions and removals by formulating more than 240 decarbonization projects in cooperation with partner countries. The partner country representatives also stated efforts in each country and future expectations for the JCM.

While implementing the JCM consistent with the guidance on cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, Japan will continue to contribute to global greenhouse gas emission reductions and removals, the achievement of NDCs, and sustainable development in partner countries, thereby contributing to global decarbonization efforts.

Statement by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio at COP28 World Climate Action Summit



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

At COP28, the inaugural Global Stocktake revealed a shortfall in progress toward the 1.5-degree target, emphasizing the urgency for decisive action by 2030. Japan pledges a 46% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, striving for a 50% cut, having already achieved a 20% decrease. To achieve a worldwide net zero carbon emission by 2050, more drastic action must be taken.

Embracing a growth-oriented carbon pricing model and introducing the world's premier internationally certified national transition bond, Japan aims for emission reduction, energy stability, and economic growth alignment, fostering global decarbonization. Collaborating within the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), Japan is pushing for renewable energy dominance, scaling energy efficiency, and tripling renewable capacity. This effort commits \$70 billion USD to climate finance, boosting lending capacity for global development banks and vow to cease constructing new unabated coal plants domestically. Prioritizing a just clean energy supply chain, Japan aligns with global efforts while pledging to lead the international community in tackling climate change.

2. Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting

[APEC Leaders' Meeting 2023 Session I](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

The first session of the APEC Leaders' Meeting (Topic: Sustainability, Climate, and Just Energy Transitions) was held in San Francisco, U.S.A., on November 16, from 12:45 p.m. PST for about two hours, chaired by H.E. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America. H.E. Mr. Gustavo Francisco Petro Urrego, President of the Republic of Colombia, H.E. Mr. Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji and H.E. Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Industry of the Government of India were invited to the meeting. Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan attended the meeting.

Prime Minister Kishida stated the following three points that Japan attaches importance in order to contribute to sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

- (1) The climate crisis is a global common challenge and an urgent state of affairs that threatens people's livelihoods. It demands a global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- (2) Critical minerals are necessary to advance the transition to clean energy throughout the APEC region as a whole, and all economies should work together to build a supply chain that can realize a stable supply of critical minerals, including those for recycling.
- (3) The international community should work together to conserve biodiversity and natural resources.

Prime Minister Kishida concluded by stating that through these efforts, Japan will contribute to the sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region and will continue to work closely with economies inside and outside APEC to realize a world where "human dignity" is protected.

APEC Leaders' Meeting 2023 Session II



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

The second session of the APEC Leaders' Meeting (Topic: Interconnectedness and Building Inclusive and Resilient Economies) was held in San Francisco, U.S.A., on November 17, from 11:30 a.m. local time for about two hours under the chairpersonship of H.E. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America. Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan attended the meeting.

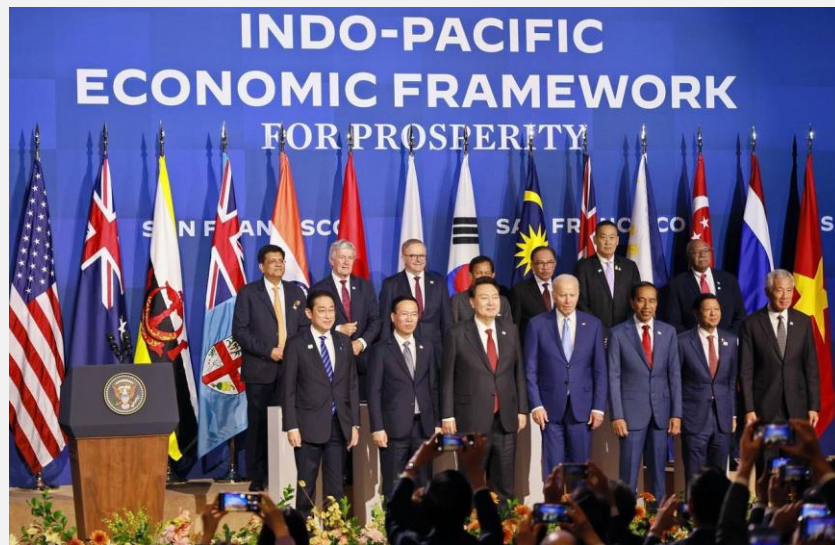
Prime Minister Kishida stated the following two points as important elements in realizing interconnected, inclusive and resilient growth for the Asia-Pacific region.

- (1) It is important to maintain and strengthen a rules-based free, open, fair, and transparent trade and investment environment for global stability and growth. Particularly, it is essential to maintain and strengthen the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.
- (2) Digital technologies, including AIs, are essential for realizing vibrant economy for the region, as they promote trade facilitation, regional connectivity, inclusiveness, and

resilience. It is also important to create an environment where risks are properly managed, and a digital economy that everyone can benefit from.

Prime Minister Kishida concluded his speech by expressing his determination to continue to work closely with APEC economies, including Peru, the Chair of APEC 2024 and to continue to contribute to the realization of the APEC Putrajaya Vision. After the meeting, an APEC Leaders' Golden Gate and Chair's Statement on the situation in Ukraine, the Middle East, and other issues were released.

Prime Minister Kishida Attends Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Leaders' Meeting



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

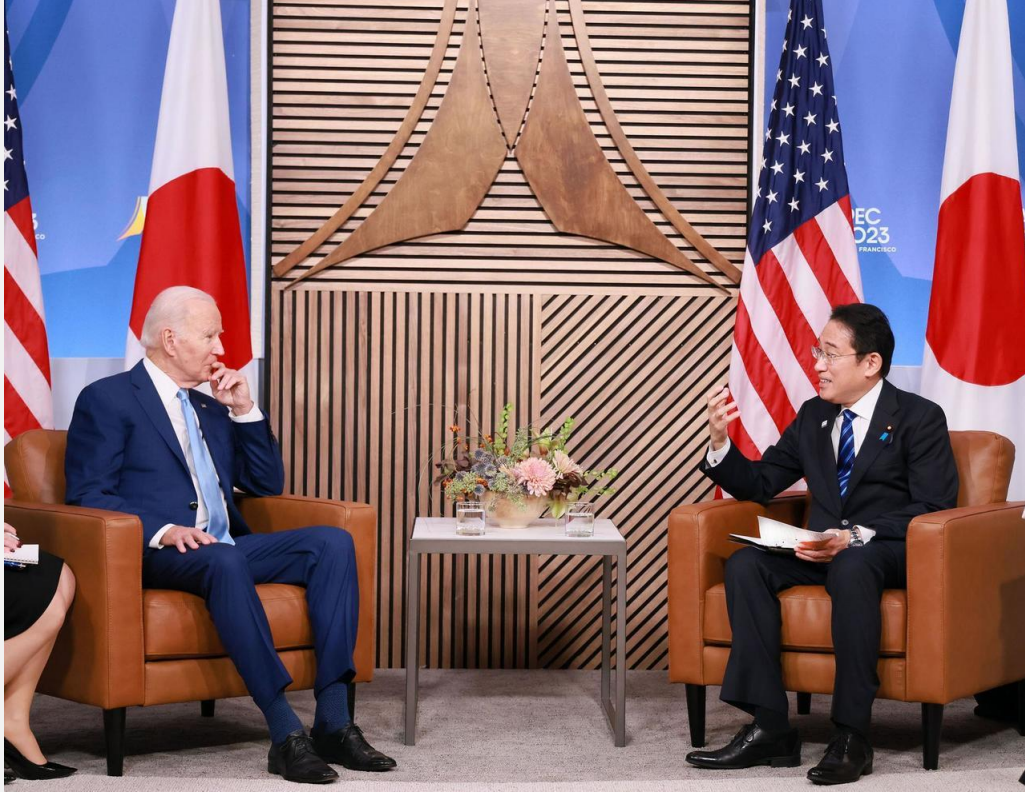
The IPEF Leaders' meeting was hosted by the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America, and attended by the representatives from Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan.

President Biden expressed his appreciation for the signing of the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement, the substantial conclusion of the negotiations of the IPEF Clean Economy Agreement and the IPEF Fair Economy Agreement. He also stated that further progress is needed aiming for high-level trade rules, including strong labor and environmental standards.

Prime Minister Kishida expressed his welcome for the significant progress made for just 1 year and a half since its launch in Tokyo as well as U.S. active commitment to the Indo-Pacific region. Prime Minister Kishida also stated that, in addition to setting high-level rules and standards, it is essential to formulate concrete cooperation projects and that Japan will continue to work to offer tangible benefits to participating countries in areas where they are needed.

Representatives from Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore also welcomed this outcome of IPEF and expressed their expectations for further collaboration in the future.

Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On November 16th, from 5:15 to 5:30 p.m., Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, who visited San Francisco to attend the APEC Summit Meeting, held a meeting with the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America.

Prime Minister Kishida stated that the coordination between Japan and the U.S. is becoming more important than ever with the situation in the Middle East, Ukraine, and the challenges of the Indo-Pacific region including China and North Korea. In response, President Biden stated that the importance of the Japan-U.S. Alliance is higher than ever, and that he would like to further strengthen the coordination between Japan and the U.S. Prime Minister Kishida also welcomed the significant progress on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) and stated that the Japan-U.S. Economic Policy Consultative Committee was timely.

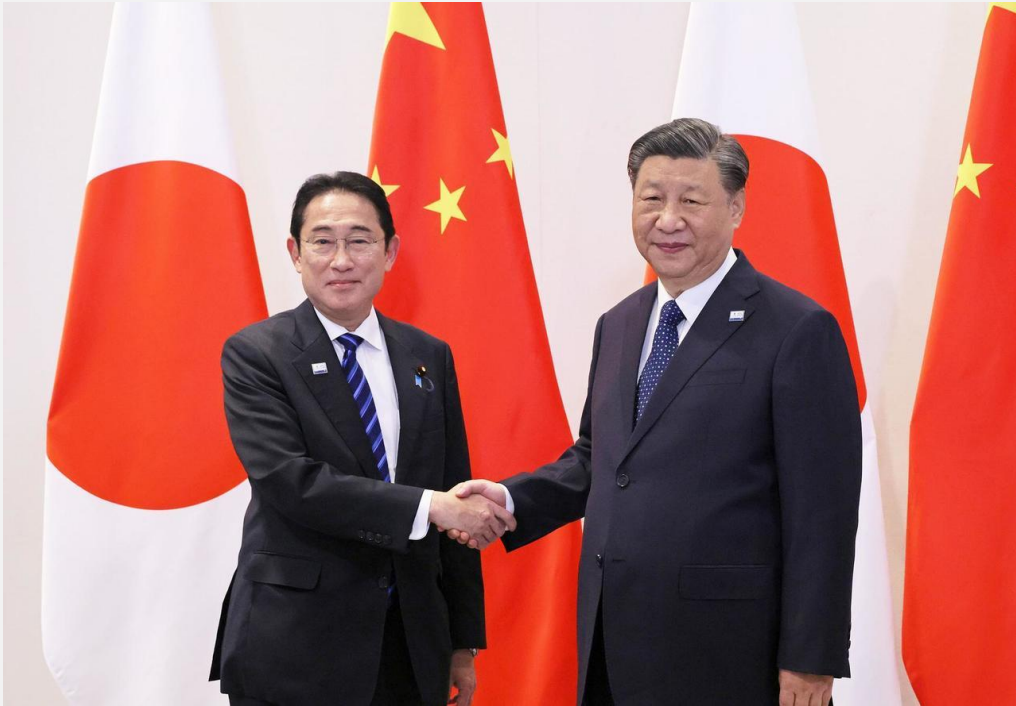
The two leaders exchanged views on regional issues.

(1) Prime Minister Kishida stated that he highly appreciates President Biden's leadership and the U.S. diplomatic efforts including the realization of humanitarian pauses regarding the situation in Israel and Palestine. The two leaders condemned the terror attacks by Hamas and others and concurred on continuing to work closely together to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza and toward realizing a twostate solution.

(2) Regarding Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the two leaders concurred on continuing severe sanctions against Russia and robust support for Ukraine.

(3) The two leaders, based on the results of the U.S.-China Summit Meeting on the 15th, agreed to continue to work closely together in addressing issues related to China. The two leaders also confirmed the importance of cooperating with China on shared challenges.

Japan-China Summit Meeting



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and the People's Republic of China. Both countries concurred to have close communication at all levels, including the summit level, for the sake of fulfilling their responsibilities to contribute to global peace and stability.

The two leaders agreed to hold the Japan-China High-Level Economic Dialogue at an appropriate time in order to achieve concrete results in areas of cooperation, such as green economy, including environment and energy conservation as well as medical care, nursing care, and healthcare. They also agreed to work together on global challenges such as climate change. Furthermore, the two leaders agreed to further expand people-to-people exchanges in various areas, and to hold the Japan-China High-Level People-to-People and Cultural Exchange Dialogue at an appropriate time.

Prime Minister Kishida welcomed the launch of a hotline between the Japanese and Chinese defense authorities in May and stated the importance of communication on security matters. However, he also voiced concerns about the buoy in the Japanese EEZ and the intensification of Chinese military activities around Japan. He stressed that peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is extremely important and stated that Japan's position on Taiwan has not changed since the Joint Communiqué between their countries from 1972. Prime Minister Kishida also reiterated his call for the early release of Japanese nationals detained in China. Furthermore, Prime Minister Kishida once again strongly called for calm response based on scientific evidence in response to the discharge of ALPS treated water into the sea and reiterated his call for the immediate lifting of import restrictions on Japanese food products.

Recognizing that there are differences in their respective positions, both sides shared the view that they will seek to find ways to resolve issues through consultations and dialogue in a constructive manner.

3. Events in Japan

[2025 World Exposition in Japan \(Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan\) Advance Sales of Admission Tickets Available Now](#)

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) hereby announces that on Thursday, November 30, 2023, the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition started advance sales of admission tickets for the 2025 World Exposition in Japan (Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan). The association offers various types of special tickets to attract many visitors to the exposition.

The admission tickets are available to purchase not only on the official sales website for Expo 2025 digital admission tickets but also via sales service providers such as travel agencies that have a contract with the association. METI hopes that many people will consider purchasing these tickets.

4. Consulate News & Activities

[2023 Autumn Conferment of Decorations \(Mr. Thomas Kevin Ikeda, Densho Founder\)](#)



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

On November 3, 2023 (JST), the Government of Japan announced that Mr. Thomas Kevin Ikeda, Densho Founder, has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, in recognition of his contributions in promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

Decoration: Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

Service: Contributed to promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the United States

Major Titles:
Founder of Densho

Summary of Contributions:

In 1996, Mr. Ikeda founded Densho to record and digitize firsthand accounts of the lives and experiences of first- and second-generation Japanese and Japanese Americans who lived in the U.S. before and during WWII, and to preserve those accounts as historical documents for future generations. Serving as Executive Director for 27 years after its founding, Mr. Ikeda played a central role in the organization's activities, contributing significantly to the preservation and understanding of the history of Japanese American immigrants in the United States.

Through his many contributions in promoting historical preservation and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States, Mr. Ikeda has made an invaluable and lasting impact on Japan-U.S. relations.

**2023 Autumn Conferment of Decorations (Mr. Dennis J. Yamashita,
Former Chair of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington)**



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

On November 3, 2023 (JST), the Government of Japan announced that Mr. Dennis J. Yamashita, Former Chair of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington, has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in recognition of his contributions in promoting regional exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

Decoration: Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

Service: Contributed to promoting regional exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States

Major Titles:

Former Chair of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington

Former President of Nikkei Concerns (Keiro Northwest)

Former President of the Japanese Community Service of Seattle (Nikkeijinkai)

Summary of Contributions:

Mr. Yamashita has dedicated over 30 years to the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington (JASSW), notably serving as Chair in 2009, where he significantly advanced the Society's collaboration with Japanese corporations in the region to boost economic exchange between Japan and the United States. Additionally, he has played a pivotal role in Nikkei Concerns since its establishment in 1976, focusing on improving welfare, particularly in elder care, for the local Japanese and Japanese American community. Over his four-decade involvement, including a term as President in 1997, Mr. Yamashita has made substantial contributions to the organization. In 2013, he assumed the role of President at the Japanese Community Service of Seattle (Nikkeijinkai), implementing policies to modernize operations and fostering connections with the local Japanese expatriate community, ensuring the organization's continuity and legacy. Through these multifaceted efforts, Mr. Yamashita has left an enduring and invaluable impact on Japan-U.S. relations by promoting understanding and collaboration between the two nations. Through his many contributions in promoting understanding of Japan in the United States between Japan and the United States, Mr. Yamashita has made an invaluable and lasting impact on Japan-U.S. relations.

Japan-America Society of the State of Washington Celebrates 100 Years



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle Facebook Page

On November 28, Consul General Iyori attended the Centennial Gala of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington and gave a speech congratulating JASSW on 100 years of fostering biliteral cultural, economic, and educational exchange between Japan and Washington State.

The Gala also featured a speech by JASSW Chair Shoko Farmer, congratulatory letters from President Biden and Prime Minister Kishida read by Vice Chair Dennis Yamashita, a commemorative certificate from Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs, and a video message and ukulele performance by Jake Shimabukuro.

Congratulations to the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington on its 100-year anniversary! May the Society continue to foster great achievements in Japan-Washington exchange for the next century to come.

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

Thank you for reading. Until next month!

Sincerely,
Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

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