



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](#).



Hokuriku-Shinetsu

Credit: Japanese National Tourism Organization

Welcome to the April 2024 edition of From Japan to the Northwest!

This edition will mainly review Prime Minister Kishida's visit to the United States earlier this month. It will also include a G7 video conference and a message from Prime Minister Kishida on the world expo in Osaka one year from now.

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. Prime Minister Kishida Visits the United States

Visit to the United States: First Day



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On April 9, Prime Minister Kishida [visited Arlington National Cemetery](#) and then [received a courtesy call from Mr. Brad Smith, Vice Chair and President of Microsoft.](#)

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister [attended a luncheon meeting with U.S. business leaders](#) and [had a dialogue with the next generation for Japan-U.S. friendship and cooperation](#), before [planting a tree to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Mr. Daniel K. Inouye.](#) Prime Minister Kishida then [attended an event between the Prime Minister, Mrs. Kishida, President Biden and Dr. Biden.](#)

Visit to the United States: Second Day



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On April 10, 2024, Prime Minister Kishida [attended the Arrival Ceremony at the White House](#) and [held a Summit meeting with the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America.](#)

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister [held a joint press conference](#) and [attended a cherry tree sapling presentation ceremony](#) before [attending the State Dinner.](#)

Visit to the United States: Third Day



On April 11, 2024, Prime Minister Kishida [met with the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives](#), before [meeting the U.S. Congressional House and Senate Leadership, including Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries.](#)

Next, the Prime Minister [delivered an address entitled "For the Future: Our Global Partnership" at a Joint Meeting of the United States Congress](#), before [joining Speaker of the House Mike Johnson afterwards for a short reception.](#) He then [attended the State Luncheon hosted by Ms. Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States of America and Mr. Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State.](#)

The Prime Minister subsequently [held a Japan-U.S.-Philippines Summit meeting with the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America and H.E. Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines](#), before departing Washington, D.C. and arriving in North Carolina.

Finally, the Prime Minister [held a press conference on his visit to the United States.](#)

Visit to the United States: Fourth Day



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On April 12, 2024, Prime Minister Kishida, who is visiting the State of North Carolina in the United States, [visited Toyota Motor Corporation's automotive battery manufacturing plant and other facilities](#) and afterwards, [visited Honda Aircraft Company's production facility.](#)

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister [attended a luncheon meeting with the Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor of the State of North Carolina, and First Lady Mrs. Kristin Cooper.](#) Afterwards, the Prime Minister [held talks with Japanese students studying abroad,](#) followed by [a conversation with Japanese language learners](#) and [with Japanese business representatives](#) respectively, before [having a dinner with individuals who have ties with Japan residing in the State of North Carolina.](#)

Finally, the Prime Minister [held one last press conference on his visit to the United States and other matters.](#)

2. G7 Meeting

[G7 Leaders' Video Conference](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On April 14, commencing at 11:00 p.m. (JST), for approximately 45 minutes, the G7 Leaders' Video Conference on Iran's attack against Israel was held by President Giorgia Meloni of Italy, this year's G7 Presidency. Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, attended the meeting.

Prime Minister Kishida stated that Iran's attack against Israel, despite the various approaches, will further deteriorate the current situation in the Middle East and explained Japan's position that Japan is deeply concerned about the attack and strongly condemns such escalation.

Prime Minister Kishida explained Japan's approaches to Iran which has been made so far and stressed that the whole international community should strongly urge the parties to calm down the situation and to exercise self-restraint, in order to prevent further heightening of tensions. He mentioned that it is important for the G7 to take the lead in such discussions and that Japan will make all diplomatic efforts.

Prime Minister Kishida also stated that he would work in close coordination with the G7 to protect and evacuate each country's citizens while closely sharing information on the situation on the ground.

G7 leaders agreed to continue to closely cooperate in the G7 on this matter.

3. Courtesy Visits to Prime Minister Kishida Prior to the U.S. Visit

Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Kishida by the Delegation of the President of the Iwo Jima Association of America



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

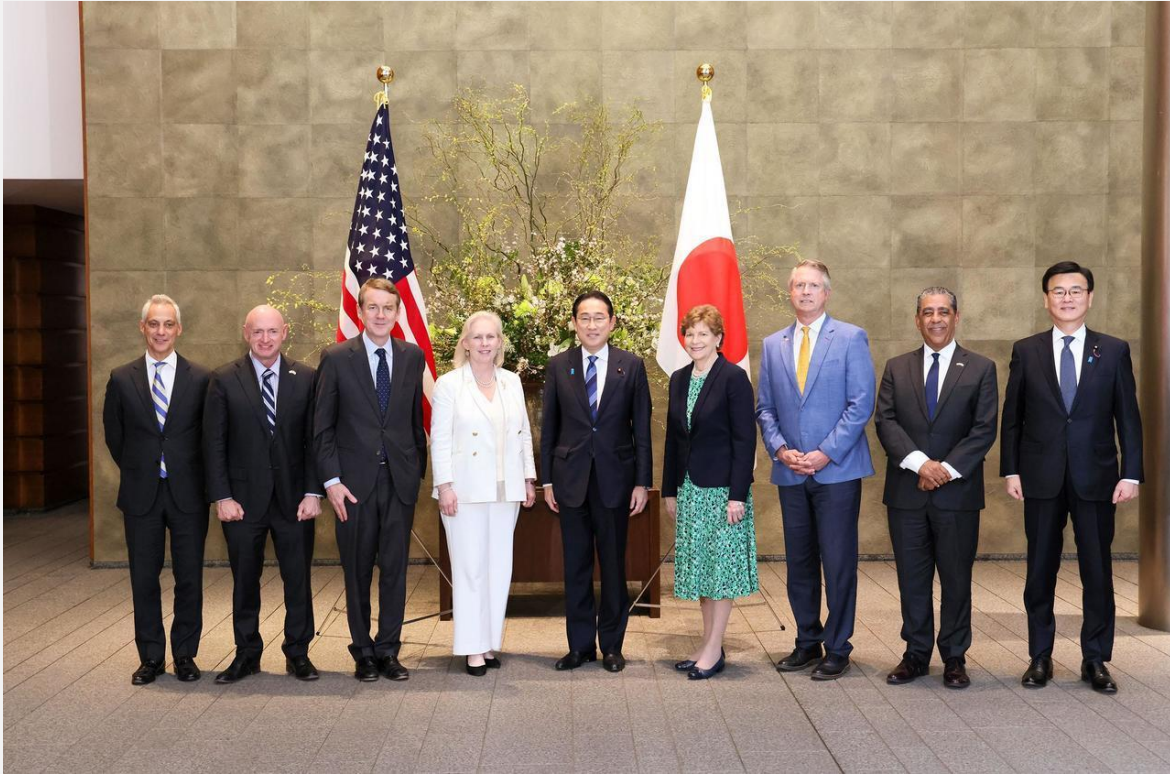
On April 1, commencing at 6:05 p.m. for approximately 10 minutes, Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, received a courtesy call from Major General (retired) David Bice, President of the Iwo Jima Association of America and its delegation, who are visiting Japan for the Reunion of Honor Ceremony. Mr. SHINDO Yoshitaka, Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy, also attended the courtesy call.

The Reunion of Honor Ceremony is co-hosted by the Iwo-To Association of Japan and the Iwo-Jima Association of America to commemorate the people who died during the Battle of Iwo-Jima and pray for Japan-U.S. friendship as well as eternal peace.

At the outset, Prime Minister Kishida stated that the Iwo-To Association of Japan and the Iwo-Jima Association of America, which have been co-hosting the Reunion of Honor Ceremony, are the symbols of reconciliation between Japan and the U.S. The Prime Minister also mentioned that he is very pleased to welcome the delegation of the Iwo-Jima Association of America before his official visit to the U.S. In response, President Bice stated that the Iwo-Jima Association of America is proud of having contributed to a strong Japan-U.S. relation through the Reunion of Honor and having the opportunity to pay a courtesy call this time.

Prime Minister Kishida stated that it is necessary for Japan and the U.S. to cooperate further closely today when the international community is facing various challenges. Prime Minister mentioned that he aims to further deepen a close coordination between Japan and the U.S. and demonstrate strong Japan-U.S. relations to the world during his official visit to the U.S. in April and encouraged to continue the Reunion of Honor Ceremony that is an important connection supporting an unshakable Japan-U.S. bond. In response, President Bice stated that he would like to continue the Reunion of Honor Ceremony, which is a symbol of Japan-U.S. friendship.

Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Kishida by a Delegation Led by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senate



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On March 31, commencing at 1:40 p.m. for approximately 25 minutes, Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, received a courtesy call from a delegation led by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York. The delegation also included Senator Jeanne Shaheen, D-New Hampshire, Senator Michael Bennet, D-Colorado, Senator Roger Marshall, R-Kansas, Senator Mark Kelly, D-Arizona, and Representative Adriano Espaillat, D-New York.

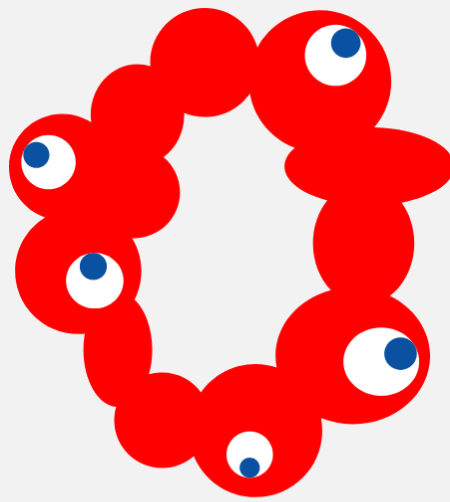
At the outset, Prime Minister Kishida welcomed the visit to Japan by the delegation and stated that the U.S.-Japan partnership is now a global one and that it plays a significant role in addressing regional and global challenges.

The attending members of the delegation made statements praising Japan's leadership, including the fundamental strengthening of its defense capabilities, and expressing gratitude for Japanese companies' investments in the United States. They also welcomed Prime Minister Kishida's official visit to the United States on the following week.

The Prime Minister and the delegation also exchanged views regarding regional affairs, cooperation between Japan and the U.S. on space field and other issues.

4. Tourism to Japan

Message from Prime Minister Kishida on the Occasion of the Event Marking One Year to the Opening of Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai



OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN

EXPO
2025

Credit: Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Official Website

"There is now one year to go until the curtain rises on Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai. The World Expo is again coming to Japan.

The theme of the expo, "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," poses a fundamental question to us. In an era in which the future is uncertain because of division and confrontation, what can we do to make all lives on earth into ones that shine brightly?

We are now called to spread the wings of our imagination to the world's future possibilities and take action. I very much look forward to this grand event of the World Expo serving as a catalyst setting that in motion.

The Expo venue will offer visitors a glimpse of the society of the future. For the visitors coming to the Expo from every corner of Japan and nations around the world, and especially for the children, who will be tomorrow's leaders, this will surely be an unparalleled experience as they savor a taste of what the future holds.

For all involved, including the local governments, the business community, and the national government, over the upcoming year until Expo 2025 opens, let us press forward in our preparations united in an "all Japan" effort to together create an expo that will carve out the future. And let us together lead this endeavor to certain success.

I very much look forward to having an inspiring and invigorating experience in Osaka together with all of you one year from today." - Prime Minister Kishida

**Ministerial Council on the Promotion of Japan as a Tourism-Oriented
Country**



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On April 17, 2024, Prime Minister Kishida held the 23rd meeting of the Ministerial Council on the Promotion of Japan as a Tourism-Oriented Country at the Prime Minister's Office.

During the meeting, they spoke about how foreign tourism to Japan had already exceeded pre-pandemic levels, but mainly to major areas in Japan. They hope to introduce more tourism centers away from the major metropolitan areas to spread out the tourism to rural Japan. This involves improving public transportation in these areas and increasing the attractiveness of staying near national parks.

They also mentioned that domestic and outbound tourism has yet to reach pre-COVID levels, and should be encouraged.

5. Consulate News & Activities

Consul General Iyori Visits Montana Governor Greg Gianforte and Other Montanan Officials



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

**Decoration Conferment Ceremony for Mr. Dennis J. Yamashita, Former
Chair of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington**



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan

On April 16, 2024, a conferment ceremony and reception were held at the Official Residence to congratulate Mr. Dennis J. Yamashita, former Chair of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington, on his receipt of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette. Mr. Yamashita's family, friends, Japanese American community members, and many others were in attendance.

Consul General of Japan in Seattle IYORI Makoto expressed his appreciation for Mr. Yamashita's many years of continued contributions and formally conferred the Order. Mr. Yamashita spoke about his many years of service to Nikkei organizations motivated by his values of hard work and kindness to others. He thanked his family, friends, colleagues, and Japanese American community members for their support and expressed gratitude for the honor of receiving the Decoration.

In addition to serving as Chair of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington (2009 - 2010), Mr. Yamashita also served as President of Nikkei Concerns, now Keiro Northwest (1999 - 2001), and as President of Japanese Community Service of Seattle (2013). He was awarded the Decoration for his outstanding contributions to promoting regional exchange between Japan and the United States as well as to improving the welfare of the Japanese and Japanese American communities in the United States.

[The Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle at Sakura-con](#)

Join the Consulate's Culture Crew as they dive into the exciting festivities at this year's Sakura-Con in Seattle!

Don't miss out on the excitement – watch our video recap in the link above!

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

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

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