



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](#).



Ehime Prefectural Science Museum
Credit: Japan National Tourism Organization

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

In this edition, we will go over some events Prime Minister Kishida has been participating in around the world, including in Europe, South America, and East Asia. Be sure to read to the bottom to learn some information about the Ehime Food Fair that is currently happening at all of the Uwajimaya stores in western Washington and Oregon!

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. East Asian Relations

[The Ninth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

The trilateral summit among Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) celebrated the 25th anniversary of their cooperation and pledged to revitalize the trilateral process. The leaders discussed future trilateral cooperation and regional and global issues.

The significance of trilateral cooperation was reaffirmed, with a focus on priority areas proposed by the ROK. Prime Minister Kishida emphasized the need for cooperation to foster mutual benefits and lead to global cooperation. People-to-people exchanges, sustainable society, and cooperation with ASEAN were highlighted as key areas of focus.

People-to-people exchanges, particularly among youth, were underscored as essential for fostering mutual understanding and trust. Japan supported the ROK's proposal for a "Year of Cultural Exchange" and pledged to enrich the initiative under its chairmanship. Additionally, cooperation on addressing common societal challenges and global issues, such as pandemic prevention and response, was emphasized.

Cooperation with ASEAN was deemed crucial for regional stability and prosperity. The leaders pledged to mainstream the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific" and enhance practical cooperation under the ASEAN plus three framework. Efforts included financial cooperation, support for start-ups, and the promotion of Women, Peace, and Security initiatives.

On regional and global situations, Prime Minister Kishida expressed concerns over North Korea's nuclear activities and military cooperation with Russia. He emphasized the importance of denuclearization and stability on the Korean Peninsula. Regarding Ukraine, the leaders condemned unilateral attempts to change the status quo and pledged support for Ukraine. They also expressed concerns about the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and reaffirmed support for a "two-state solution" in the Middle East.

Economic cooperation was highlighted as crucial for sustainable growth. The leaders discussed promoting trilateral cooperation in intellectual property and exploring the possibility of a future-oriented free trade agreement. Prime Minister Kishida welcomed the ROK's initiatives in hosting events like the AI Seoul Summit. Prime Minister Kishida finally expressed

his hope for cooperation towards the success of the 2025 APEC Economic Meeting in South Korea and Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan.

Speech by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio at the “Future of Asia” Forum



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan delivered a speech at the Future of Asia forum, emphasizing the critical juncture the international community faces amidst multiple crises. Under the theme "Asian Leadership in an Uncertain World," Kishida highlighted Asia's growing importance as a global economic powerhouse and stressed the significance of shaping a future grounded in respect for human dignity and a free, rule-based international order.

Kishida outlined three pillars of his administration's diplomacy: enhancing cooperation within Asia, addressing new economic and social challenges, and fostering collaboration beyond the region. Central to this is Japan's commitment to the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP) initiative, which seeks to bolster regional growth through trusted partnerships, co-creation with ASEAN countries, and comprehensive connectivity initiatives.

In response to emerging challenges, Kishida proposed initiatives such as the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) to combat climate change and promote decarbonization. The plan involves collaboration on technology, finance, and human resources to achieve net-zero emissions across Asia. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of the automotive industry and digital transformation, highlighting strategies to maintain ASEAN's position as a hub for next-generation automobiles and promote a safe and secure digital society.

Kishida's vision extends beyond economic cooperation to nurturing talent and fostering human connections, particularly through initiatives aimed at cultivating digital professionals and promoting data sharing and utilization. Through partnerships with ASEAN and institutions like the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Japan aims to drive

collective progress in the digital age while strengthening ties across industry, government, and academia.

2. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM)

Keynote Speech by Prime Minister Kishida at the Opening Ceremony of the Ministerial Council Meeting of OECD



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On May 2, at the Opening Ceremony of the OECD MCM 2024, Prime Minister Kishida gave a keynote speech under the theme "Co-creating the Flow of Change," taking approximately 10 minutes. His keynote followed the opening remarks made by Secretary-General Matthias Cormann. The summary of Prime Minister Kishida's Keynote is as follows:

There are many shifts in international society, including the ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine, horrors in the Middle East, and the series of climate-caused natural disasters among others, that are having an impact on the global economy. We are facing many issues including inflation, disruptions in energy and food supplies, and risks of supply chain fragmentation. These hardships could be opportunities to realize a more prosperous life. We must unite and co-create the flow of change to overcome the crisis facing the international community.

The strengths of OECD are the human resource of over 2,000 economists and digital technology. OECD has been on the forefront of international discussions on AI, including AI principles.

It has been 60 years since Japan joined the OECD, and the world has been changing. The OECD needs to change too, by reinforcing its engagement with non-member countries around the world, including those in Southeast Asia.

As one of the few Asian members, Japan will continue to act as a bridge between the OECD and the Asian region, contributing to the OECD's continued leadership in the global economy.

Ceremony for the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Program



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On May 2, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio, Minister of Foreign Affairs KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy SHINDO Yoshitaka, and Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary MORIYA Hiroshi who were attending the OECD MCM, participated in the Ceremony for the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Program (SEARP) in the presence of Ministers from Southeast Asian countries and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the beginning of the Ceremony, Prime Minister Kishida gave remarks in the theme "Co-Creation of a Sustainable Future." He stated that it was the tenth year since SEARP had started, and he was excited to welcome the application for membership by Thailand and the adoption of the accession roadmap by Indonesia. He also spoke about launching the Japan OECD-ASEAN Partnership Program to be able to harness the OECD's strengths in reliable data and analysis for sustainable growth in Southeast Asia. He finally stated the intentions of Japan to enhance the operational strength of SEARP over the next decade, working to co-create a sustainable future.

Secretary General of OECD Mathias Cormann expressed his appreciation for Japan's strong commitment and support to the organization's activities in Southeast Asia. Ministers and other participants from Southeast Asian countries also expressed their appreciation for Japan's initiative as this year's MCM chair, to work towards strengthening the relationship between OECD and Southeast Asia.

3. Business and Technology

Prime Minister Kishida's Attendance at the Japan-Brazil Business Forum



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On May 4, Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, during his visit to Sao Paulo, Brazil, attended the “Japan-Brazil Business Forum” organized by Japanese and Brazilian business organizations. The overview is as follows.

Prime Minister Kishida made opening remarks, stating that, under the “Japan-Brazil Green Partnership Initiative (GPI),” the public and private sectors of Japan and Brazil will work together to strengthen cooperation between the two countries as Brazil has abundant food, energy, and mineral resources and there is tremendous potential for bilateral cooperation in the economic field. Furthermore, he stated that Japan is willing to reinforce trade and investment relations further in various fields including the digital and green sectors, and that it will also enhance its support for Japanese start-ups in Brazil. Prime Minister Kishida also presented an outcome of the Japan-Brazil summit meeting, where he and President Lula had concurred on the launch of a new international framework, the ISFM, aiming at achieving carbon neutrality by combining Brazil's high potential in biofuels and e-fuels with Japan's high-performance mobility equipment such as hybrid engines.

Following Prime Minister Kishida's remarks, Vice President Alckmin mentioned the long history between Japan and Brazil and the importance of Nikkei people and expressed his expectations for further investment from Japan, stressing the importance of the people-to-people exchanges.

Prime Minister Kishida's Participation in the AI Seoul Summit Leaders' Session

On May 21, the Leaders' Session of the AI Seoul Summit, co-hosted by the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United Kingdom, was held in online format, and Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, participated in the Session by delivering a video message.

Prime Minister Kishida stated that in order to maximize the innovative opportunities brought by AI, there is an urgent need to establish international governance to mitigate its risks and to achieve safe, secure, and trustworthy AI. In addition, he described that last year's G7 launched the Hiroshima AI Process, which led to the development of the International Guiding Principles as well as the Code of Conduct, contributing to the reduction in the specific risks posed by AI.

Prime Minister Kishida continued to say that the initiatives under the AI Seoul Summit matched the ones that were made under the Hiroshima AI Process, signaling his support and commitment to further contribute to the international discussion on AI.

4. Consulate News & Activities

Decoration Conferment Ceremony for Mr. Thomas Kevin Ikeda, Densho Founder



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

On May 16, 2024, a conferment ceremony and reception were held at the Official Residence to congratulate Mr. Thomas Kevin Ikeda, Densho Founder, on his receipt of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. Mr. Ikeda'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. Ikeda's many years of continued contributions and formally conferred the Order. Mr. Ikeda spoke about leading Densho for many years while coming to understand his own identity as a Japanese American. He thanked his family, Densho colleagues, and staff at the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle for their support and expressed gratitude for the honor of receiving the Decoration.

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 World War II and to preserve those accounts as historical documents for future generations. Serving as Executive Director for about 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.

2024 Spring Conferment of Decorations (Mr. Shiro Kashiba, Owner of Sushi Kashiba)



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan

On April 29, 2024, the Government of Japan announced that Mr. Shiro Kashiba, Owner of Sushi Kashiba, 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 training the next generation of Japanese food chefs.

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

Service: Promotion of Japanese food culture and training the next generation Japanese food chefs

Major Titles: Owner of Sushi Kashiba

Summary of Contributions:

Since moving to the United States in 1966, Mr. Kashiba has been a pioneer of Edomae (Edo-style) sushi in the northwest region of the United States. For nearly 60 years, he has been creating traditional Edomae sushi based on the basic Edomae spirit of eating locally caught seasonal ingredients. His activities have been featured in various media, and he has thus greatly contributed to the promotion of sushi and Japanese food in American society. In 2019, he was appointed as a "Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador" by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and in 2021, he was awarded the "Minister's Award for Overseas Promotion of Japanese Food" by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.



Dogo Onsen, Ehime Prefecture
Credit: Japan National Tourism Organization

Experience the flavors of Ehime Prefecture, known as the “Citrus Kingdom” of Japan. Go to Uwajimaya for food tastings, a live tuna cutting event, and explore a variety of specialty seafood and citrus products that showcase the region’s delicious offerings.

Uwajima City, the city Uwajimaya is named after, is located in Ehime Prefecture. This food fair continues until June 4, so be sure to take a look!

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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