



From Japan to the Northwest

News From 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](#).



Credit: Japan National Tourism Organization

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

In this edition, we will cover the NATO Summit that took place earlier in this month, and take a look at the future of Japan's green transformation, also known as GX 2040. The Consulate also had a few events this month, of which three are highlighted at the end of this newsletter.

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 Attends Leaders' Meetings

[NATO Summit and Bilateral Summit Meetings: First Day](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On July 10, 2024 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida, during his visit to Washington DC, the United States to attend the summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), held summit meetings with [H.E. Mr. YOON Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea \(ROK\)](#) and [H.E. Mr. Ulf Kristersson, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden](#) respectively.

Afterwards, Prime Minister Kishida [attended a dinner hosted by U.S. President Biden and Dr. Biden.](#)

[NATO Summit and Bilateral Summit Meetings: Second Day](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On July 11, 2024 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida, during his visit to Washington DC, the United States to attend the summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), held a [joint press occasion with H.E. Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General of NATO](#), followed by a meeting with Secretary General Stoltenberg. Then, Prime Minister Kishida attended the [Japan-Australia-New Zealand-ROK Leaders' Meeting](#), followed by the [Japan-Australia-New Zealand-ROK \(IP4\) + Ukraine Leaders' Meeting](#). Afterwards, Prime Minister Kishida attended the Partners Session of the NATO Summit.

In the afternoon, Prime Minister Kishida held summit meetings with [H.E. Mr. Dick Schoof, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands](#), [H.E. Dr. Alexander Stubb, President of the Republic of Finland](#), and [the Rt Hon Keir Starmer MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#) respectively. Afterwards, Prime Minister Kishida [attended the ceremony of issuing the Ukraine Compact](#). At the end, Prime Minister Kishida spoke to the press regarding his attendance at the NATO Summit and other matters.

[The Tenth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting \(PALM10\)](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On July 18, the Tenth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10) was held under the co-chairmanship of Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, and Hon. Mr. Mark Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, with the participation of leaders and representatives from 19 countries and regions, including Japan, 14 Pacific Island countries, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Australia, and New Zealand, and the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

In line with the seven areas outlined in the PIF's "2050 Strategy," the leaders mainly discussed the following seven topics: Political Leadership and Regionalism, People-Centered Development, Peace and Security, Resources and Economic Development, Climate Change and Disasters, Ocean and Environment, and Technology and Connectivity, as well as regional and international affairs.

Reaffirming the relationship between Japan and Pacific Island countries and regions to tackle common challenges and "stride forward together" towards the future, the leaders adopted "the Tenth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 10) Leaders' Declaration" and "the Tenth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 10) Joint Action Plan" as the outcome of the discussions.

2. Foreign Minister Kamikawa Attends Japan-Arab Economic Forum

[The 5th Japan-Arab Economic Forum](#)



Credit: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On July 10-11, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI), and the League of Arab States cohosted the 5th Japan-Arab Economic Forum in Tokyo. Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. SAITO Ken, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Mr. KOZUKI Ryosuke, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry attended the meeting from Japan. The H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States and economic ministers and others attended the meeting from the Arab countries. The overview is as follows.

During the Public-Private Business and Economic Conference on the 10th, Minister Saito, Minister Kharabsheh, Mr. Ali, Mr. Miyata and Dr. Hanafi gave their opening remarks. Secretary General Aboul Gheit gave a keynote speech on his expectation for the enhancement of partnership among Japan and Arab states.

Discussions were held by the speakers from government and private sector on a wide range of fields including the enhancement of mutual trade through the diversification of economic relationships and innovation collaboration, response for climate change, including green products and waste management, emerging technologies (communication and AI), and the resilience of supply chain through these points.

At the outset of the Ministerial Conference on the 11th, Minister Kamikawa, Minister Saito, Secretary General Aboul Gheit and Minister Kharabsheh gave their opening remarks. Minister Kamikawa stated that the concept of the forum is to create synergy between Japan and the Arab countries and to progress toward prosperity together, and that the aim of the Ministerial Conference is to deepen discussions on directions for new economy and business cooperation between Japan and the Arab countries on the agendas of Japan-Arab "Resilient Economic Development" and "Sustainable Economic Development."

During the Ministerial Conference, the participants exchanged their views on a wide range of fields including energy security for both supply and demand sides, digital infrastructure and innovation with emerging technology including AI and metaverse, clean energy technologies for the achievement of Net-zero, actions for SDGs and human resource development in energy and digital.

A joint press release that offers directions for the future economic cooperation between Japan and the Arab countries was released after the closing session on the 11th. It was also announced that the two sides decided to hold the 6th Japan-Arab Economic Forum in one of the Arab countries in 2026.

3. Green Transformation in Japan

[GX 2040 Leaders Panel](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On July 23, 2024, Prime Minister Kishida attended the second meeting of the GX 2040 Leaders Panel at the Prime Minister's Office.

At the meeting, the participants exchanged views.

Following the discussions, Prime Minister Kishida said:

“In the second meeting today, we listened to your insights mainly on the ideal form of energy, industrial structures, and industrial locations, in light of the global situation. I would like to extend my gratitude for your cooperation.

I believe that, based on today's discussions, we need to incorporate the following three points when drawing up a comprehensive national strategy to be formulated at the end of the year and the next Strategic Energy Plan. I ask Minister in charge of GX to advance necessary deliberations with the relevant ministers.

Firstly, we must realize green transformation (GX) that will fully utilize Japan's strengths. We received valuable proposals again today, such as that what is important in utilizing Japan's advantages is comprehensive engineering capabilities that will draw out the strengths of Japan, a country with a full set of industries, as well as the combination of initiatives open to overseas, such as "GX combined with DX (digital transformation)" and "GX combined with Asia." With a view to giving shape to a mechanism that will make state-of-the-art knowledge, including that from abroad, serve as a catalyst for growth from these perspectives, we will push ahead with discussions from both viewpoints of GX and our growth strategy of a New Form of Capitalism.

Secondly, we must realize industrial locations that will accelerate GX. The decarbonization of industrial structures will bring about a huge transformation of what industrial locations and industrial accumulation should be like. It requires the realization of an ideal form of efficient and effective industrial locations from brand-new points of view, such as by going beyond the existing assumption of supplying energy to meet demand, supplying either energy or data in an optimal manner, or concentrating industries in areas where supply sites of hydrogen and other decarbonized energy sources are located. From these perspectives, we will give concrete shape to regulatory and institutional measures more swiftly.

Thirdly, we must create realistic pathways to transition. We were informed that there is a growing recognition of the importance of realistic transition to a decarbonized society in Europe and the United States as well. Since 2021, Japan has advocated for various transition pathways depending on industrial structures of each country, while adhering to its goal of achieving carbon neutrality. Following the discussions in the Hiroshima Summit and the COP28 (28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), Japan has been promoting the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) initiative. We will compile the comprehensive national strategy and next Strategic Energy Plan with an eye on our response to transition finance and carbon border adjustment mechanisms and make them policies that will demonstrate Japan's high ambition toward decarbonization.

I would like to repeat my appreciation for your valuable insights and hope for your continued cooperation. Thank you very much for today."

4. Business in Japan

[Awards Ceremony for the Nippon Startup Award 2024](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On July 22, 2024, Prime Minister Kishida attended the Japan Startup Awards 2024 Award Ceremony at the Prime Minister's Official Residence.

In his address, Prime Minister Kishida stated the following:

"Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan.

Today, I would like to make a few remarks on the occasion of the Japan Startup Awards 2024 Award Ceremony.

The winner of the 8th Japan Startup Awards is SmartHR Inc. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to SmartHR Inc. I would also like to extend my congratulations to all the winners of the awards.

SmartHR, which won the Grand Prize, is a company whose mission is to eliminate social issues related to labor and create a society in which everyone can work in their own way. I would like to once again pay tribute to all of you who have boldly taken up the challenge of tackling the universal yet difficult theme of work and pioneered the new field of "HR Tech".

I believe that startups, including those of you gathered here today, embody the new capitalism, in which solving social issues is the engine of growth. Since the inauguration of my administration, I have been mobilizing all available policy resources to create an environment conducive to the growth of startups, based on the "Five-Year Plan for Startup Development," which was formulated in 2022. And results are steadily being produced. The number of university-launched startups in Japan continues to reach record highs, and the base of startups in Japan is rapidly expanding, attracting the keen attention of foreign investors and others.

In addition, startups are making a strong contribution to the Japanese economy. The latest survey estimates that startups generate 10 trillion yen in GDP (gross domestic product). This figure is equivalent to the nominal GDP of the telecommunications and broadcasting

industry, and if indirect ripple effects are included, the scale of this contribution is as large as 20 trillion yen.

In this way, startups are the driving force of the Japanese economy. And all of you here today are at the forefront of this movement, serving as role models for those who aspire to start their own businesses in the future. In fact, many of the past award winners have recently gone public or received high recognition from overseas award programs.

Your journey does not end today, but will continue in the future. I hope that the signs of change will swell and blossom, and the entire administration will continue to provide strong support for you. In conclusion, I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing all of you here, and all Japanese start-ups, continued success and development in the future. Congratulations on your success today."

5. Consulate News & Activities

Summer Reception



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

On July 18, Consul General Iyori hosted a Summer Reception at the Official Residence attended by over 120 guests, including Washington elected officials, local dignitaries, businesspeople, and members of community organizations.

Guests were treated to a sake tasting booth in the garden by Shirafuji Sake Brewery, a brewery founded in Futaba, Fukushima Prefecture in 1650. After losing their business to the Great East Japan Earthquake, Shirafuji Sake Brewery resumed full-scale production two years ago in Woodinville, Washington.

This Summer Reception commemorates the economic and trade relations between Japan and Washington State under the Memorandum of Cooperation, first signed in June 2016 and renewed in 2018 and 2022. The reception was also held for the purpose of strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing mutual understanding between Japan and Washington State, a mission the Consulate will continue to work toward.

[U.S. Army Tomodachi Reception](#)



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

On July 23, Consul General Iyori and Mrs. Iyori hosted a Tomodachi Reception for U.S. Army servicemembers of Joint Base Lewis-McChord with experience being stationed in Japan. Over 100 guests attended this reception held to continue and strengthen ties between Japan and U.S. military personnel who have served in Japan.

To bring back fond memories, attendees were treated to sake from Hyogo Prefecture, sushi, and dishes prepared by the Consul General's chef, as well as tea ceremony demonstrations by Chanoyu Seattle.

[Seattle Japanese Researchers and IT Professionals Reception](#)



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

On July 12, Consul General Iyori hosted a summer reception at the Official Residence for over 80 Japanese researchers, IT professionals, and business leaders.

As Consul General of Japan in Seattle, CG Iyori will continue to foster a hub for Japanese researchers and IT professionals working in this region by supporting the expansion of networks and strengthening of cooperation, thereby supporting the promotion of Japan's science and technology diplomacy and the strengthening of science and technology capabilities.

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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