



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: Hanamaki City via Japan National Tourism Organization

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

In this edition, we will cover the memorials for those lost in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Prime Minister Kishida's decision not to run for reelection this year. The Consulate sent off this year's JET Program recipients, and you can hear from the departees in a YouTube video linked at the end of the 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. Atomic Bomb Memorials

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony and Other Events



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On August 6, 2024, Prime Minister Kishida attended the annual Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony held in the Peace Memorial Park in the City of Hiroshima.

Approximately 50,000 people including atomic bomb survivors and bereaved family members, as well as representatives of 109 nations, the European Union, and international organizations such as the United Nations attended the ceremony marking the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing.

At the ceremony, Mr. MATSUI Kazumi, Mayor of the City of Hiroshima, and the representatives of the bereaved family members added the names of atomic bomb victims whose passing was confirmed in the past year to the cenotaph, and Prime Minister Kishida, the representatives of the bereaved family members, and the atomic bomb victims offered flowers. Afterwards, the Peace Bell was rung at 8:15 a.m., the time when the atomic bomb was dropped, and all the participants offered a minute of silent prayer.

Next, after Mayor Matsui offered a Peace Declaration and two child representatives recited the Promise for Peace, Prime Minister Kishida expressed his heartfelt prayers for the repose of the souls of the victims and delivered an address.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister Kishida moved to a hotel in the City of Hiroshima and attended a meeting to listen to requests from representatives of atomic bomb survivors. After receiving requests from the representatives of seven groups of atomic bomb survivors, he held a press conference. The Prime Minister then visited residents in a nursing home for atomic bomb survivors in the city.

Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony and Other Events



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On August 9, 2024, Prime Minister Kishida attended the annual Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony held in the Peace Park in Nagasaki City.

Approximately 3,200 people including atomic bomb survivors and bereaved family members, as well as representatives of 100 nations and regions, the European Union, international organizations such as the United Nations, and others attended the ceremony marking the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing, praying for the repose of the souls of the atomic bomb victims and for world peace.

Mr. SUZUKI Shiro, Mayor of Nagasaki City, and representatives of bereaved family members, and atomic bomb survivors enshrined at the site the list of the names of atomic bomb victims whose passing was confirmed in the past year. Then the representatives of the bereaved family members and the atomic bomb survivors, and elementary, junior high, and high school student representatives offered water. Afterwards, the representatives of the bereaved family members and the atomic bomb survivors, Prime Minister Kishida, and other guests offered wreaths. At 11:02 a.m., the time that the atomic bomb was dropped, all the participants prayed in silence for one minute.

Then, following Mayor Suzuki's Peace Declaration and the recital of the Promise for Peace by a representative of the atomic bomb survivors, Prime Minister Kishida expressed his heartfelt prayers for the repose of the souls of the victims and delivered an address.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister Kishida attended a meeting to listen to requests from groups of atomic bomb survivors at a hotel in Nagasaki City. After receiving requests from the representatives of seven groups of atomic bomb survivors, the Prime Minister held a press conference and then visited residents in a nursing home for atomic bomb survivors in the city.

2. Prime Minister Kishida Announces Plans to Not Run for Reelection

Press Conference by Prime Minister Kishida



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On August 14, Prime Minister Kishida gave a press conference, explaining his recent work and informing all of his impending decision to step down. The Prime Minister's opening remarks are summarized below:

A recent phone call with Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene of Mongolia marks the end of Prime Minister Kishida's diplomatic engagements for the summer. With the Obon holidays approaching, attention will shift to preparing for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) presidential election this autumn. In a move to underscore the LDP's commitment to transparency and change, Prime Minister Kishida has decided not to seek re-election and will support the new leader as a regular party member.

During Prime Minister Kishida's three-year tenure as Prime Minister and LDP President, he achieved notable progress, including ending a 30-year period of deflation, introducing carbon pricing, advancing nuclear power initiatives, and significantly strengthening defense capabilities. However, his term also faced challenges such as controversies over political fundraising and connections with the former Unification Church, which he has addressed through legislative reforms and increased transparency.

Looking forward, Prime Minister Kishida encourages candidates for the LDP leadership to engage in meaningful policy debates and work towards party unity after the election. Japan faces significant domestic and international challenges, including constitutional revisions and energy policy. He remains committed to fulfilling his responsibilities until his term ends in September, focusing on recovery efforts from recent natural disasters and other pressing issues.

3. Anniversary of the Trilateral Leaders' Summit at Camp David

[Joint Leaders' Statement on the Anniversary of the Trilateral Leaders' Summit at Camp David](#)

On August 18th, Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, together with the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America and H.E. Mr. YOON Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK), issued the Japan-U.S.-ROK Joint Leaders' Statement to commemorate the progress in the trilateral cooperation over the past year on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Japan-U.S.-ROK Summit at Camp David in the United States on August 18th, last year. Below, the statement is linked:

[Joint Leaders' Statement on the Anniversary of the Trilateral Leaders' Summit at Camp David](#)

4. Nankai Trough Earthquake

[Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Earthquake Centered in Hyuga-nada, Miyazaki Prefecture, and the Nankai Trough Earthquake Emergency Information](#)

Prime Minister Kishida gave a press conference following the magnitude 7.1 earthquake along the Nankai Trough on August 8. The following is a summary of the Prime Minister's comments:

The Chief Cabinet Secretary provided an update on the damage from the recent earthquake in Miyazaki Prefecture, noting that a megaquake advisory was issued by the Japan Meteorological Agency. The Government plans to hold a Conference on Disaster Countermeasures led by Disaster Management Minister Matsumura to prepare for potential further damage. People are advised to stay informed, be prepared for earthquakes, and avoid spreading false information.

Regarding the planned official trips, including an overseas trip, the decision will be based on how the situation develops. The Chief Cabinet Secretary emphasized that the public should follow updates from the Government and the Japan Meteorological Agency for more information. No immediate plans for setting up a disaster countermeasures headquarters were mentioned, and further announcements will come from the relevant authorities.

5. Consulate News & Activities

[2024 JET Program Departures!](#)



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

Check the link above for a video recap of the orientation and sendoff reception for this year's Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program participants. We hope you enjoy!

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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