



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](#).

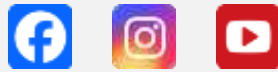


Credit: Japan National Tourism Organization

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

In this edition, we will cover Prime Minister Kishida's visit to the United States, as well as two conferment ceremonies for recipients of the Foreign Minister's Commendation.

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's Visit to the United States

[Visit to the United States: First Day - Part 2](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On September 21, 2024 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida visited the State of Delaware, the United States of America.

Prime Minister Kishida [held a summit meeting with the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America](#), and the [Honorable Anthony Albanese, MP](#),

[Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia](#) respectively. Afterwards, the Prime Minister [attended the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. \(Quad\) Leaders' Meeting](#).

Prime Minister Kishida then held a [summit meeting with H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India](#). The Prime Minister also [attended the "Quad Cancer Moonshot" launch event on the sidelines of the Japan-Australia-India-U.S. \(QUAD\) Leaders' Meeting and delivered a speech](#), after which he [attended the Quad Leaders' Working Dinner](#).

Visit to the United States: Second Day



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On September 22, 2024 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida, during his visit to New York, USA, [held a meeting with H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council](#), followed by a [summit meeting with H.E. Mr. Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau](#).

In the afternoon, Prime Minister Kishida [attended and addressed the UN Summit of the Future](#), followed by [summit meetings with H.E. Mr. Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, President of Mongolia](#), and the [Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada](#),

respectively, and finally [with H.E. Mr. António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations](#).

[Visit to the United States: Third Day - Part 2](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On September 23, 2024 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida, during his visit to New York, the United States of America, attended an exchange of views with asset management companies from Japan and the United States, where he delivered an address. Afterwards, the Prime Minister [had a working lunch with H.E. Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission](#). Prime Minister Kishida then spoke to the press regarding his visit to the United States.

Prime Minister Kishida also held a [summit meeting with H.E. Mr. Volodymyr ZELENSKY, President of Ukraine](#), followed by a [meeting with H.E. Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\)](#).

Afterwards, Prime Minister Kishida [attended the High-Level Launch Meeting of the Friends of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty \(FMCT\)](#) and [the U.S.-Japan Tourism Event](#), where he delivered addresses, respectively.

3. Prime Minister Kishida's Visit to South Korea

[Visit to the Republic of Korea](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On September 6, 2024 (local time), Prime Minister Kishida visited Seoul, Republic of Korea.

[Prime Minister Kishida held a summit meeting](#), including a small-group meeting and a plenary meeting, with H.E. Mr. YOON Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK). Afterwards, the Prime Minister spoke to the press regarding his visit to the ROK and attended a social dinner.

On the following day, the 7th (local time), Prime Minister Kishida visited Seoul National University and exchanged views with Japanese and Korean students enrolled in the university and its graduate school.

5. Consulate News & Activities

Foreign Minister's Commendation Ceremony for Mr. Yoshiaki Minegishi



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

On August 28, 2024, a conferment ceremony and reception were held at the Official Residence to congratulate Mr. Yoshiaki Minegishi, Celebrate Asia Founder, on his receipt of the Foreign Minister's Commendation. Mr. Minegishi's family, friends, colleagues, and many others were in attendance.

Consul General of Japan in Seattle IYORI Makoto expressed his appreciation for Mr. Minegishi's many years of continued contributions and formally conferred the Commendation. Mr. Minegishi spoke about the purpose of Celebrate Asia: to create a community concert that showcases unknown but talented musicians from Asia and fosters greater respect for Asia—not through street demonstrations, but through music, a universal language.

Mr. Minegishi joined the Seattle Symphony Board in 2001 and later founded “Celebrate Asia,” an annual concert dedicated to promoting harmony across the local Asian community regardless of ethnicity. This concert, held annually since 2009, celebrated its 16th anniversary in January 2024. It draws approximately 2,000 attendees of Asian descent, including individuals from Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Indian, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, and other communities. Through this groundbreaking event, Mr. Minegishi has made significant contributions to fostering a positive and collaborative spirit within the local Asian community.

Additionally, Mr. Minegishi served on the board of the Seattle Youth Symphony from 2011 to 2019, and has served on the board of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington since 2000. Through his service to these organizations, he has made substantial contributions to promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

Foreign Minister’s Commendation Ceremony for Dr. Marie Christine Anchordoguy



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

On September 24, 2024, a conferment ceremony and reception were held at the Official Residence to congratulate Dr. Marie Christine Anchordoguy, Professor Emerita and Former Chair of the Japan Studies Program, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, on her receipt of the Foreign Minister's Commendation. Dr. Anchordoguy's family, friends, colleagues, and many others were in attendance.

Consul General of Japan in Seattle IYORI Makoto expressed his appreciation for Dr. Anchordoguy's many years of continued contributions and formally conferred the Commendation. Dr. Anchordoguy spoke about the joy of researching and teaching Japanese culture and economics at the University of Washington, a pioneer and still one of the leading universities in Japan studies, as well as her work with *The Journal of Japanese Studies*. She expressed gratitude for the honor of receiving the Commendation and thanked all guests and staff for attending the ceremony.

Dr. Anchordoguy earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and taught at the University of Washington from 1989 until her retirement in 2024, having served as Chair of the Japan Studies program on three occasions. In addition to being co-editor of *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, one of the most prestigious journals in her field, for over 10 years, she worked as a consultant to the U.S. government and various technology companies, and is currently researching Japanese efforts to develop an ecosystem for startups backed by venture capital. Her research on the political economy of Japan has earned recognition both in the United States and internationally, earning grants and awards from leading research institutions.

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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