



# 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: Higashihiroshima City Tourism Association via Japan National Tourism Organization

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

In this edition, we will cover the activities of Japan's new Prime Minister, as well as a conferment ceremony for recipients of the Foreign Minister's Commendation and a reception for JET Program returnees.

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 Steps Down

### [The Resignation En Masse of the Kishida Cabinet](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On October 1, 2024, the Kishida Cabinet resigned en masse.

At the Cabinet meeting on the same day, the Prime Minister decided on the resignation en masse of the Cabinet. Afterwards, the Prime Minister issued a statement on the occasion of the resignation en masse of the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister left the Prime Minister's Office as the staff bade him farewell.

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### **Statement by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio upon the General Resignation of the Kishida Cabinet**

At the time of the resignation of the Kishida Cabinet, Prime Minister Kishida gave remarks on his term before wishing for the support of the new Prime Minister. The summary is as follows.

The Kishida Cabinet has resigned collectively after three years in office, during which it faced significant challenges, particularly in economic and social policy, and diplomacy. The administration prioritized reviving Japan's economy, promoting a "New Form of Capitalism" aimed at fostering growth and distribution. Despite global inflation, Japan is positioned to overcome three decades of deflation. The government also focused on transforming energy policies and addressing population decline by allocating approximately 3.6 trillion yen to support children and families.

In terms of security, the cabinet acknowledged a complex global environment, particularly following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and secured a substantial defense budget to enhance Japan's capabilities. The government has committed to supporting recovery from natural disasters and maintaining a transparent and accountable political system despite issues with political fundraising that have affected public trust. The outgoing administration emphasized the importance of listening to citizens and fostering trust.

As Japan faces critical domestic and international challenges, the departing Prime Minister urged support for the new cabinet and its initiatives to shape the country's future.

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## **2. The Beginning of Prime Minister Ishiba's Term**

### **Designation of the Prime Minister**





Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On October 1, 2024, in the afternoon, the voting to designate the Prime Minister took place at both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. Member of the House of Representatives ISHIBA Shigeru was designated as the Prime Minister. Prime Minister Ishiba became the 102nd Prime Minister since ITO Hirobumi, the first Prime Minister of Japan.

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### [Statement by Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

Today, I have been appointed Prime Minister of Japan, and a new cabinet, based on the coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and the New Komeito Party, has been inaugurated. I will dedicate myself fully to fulfilling my responsibilities.

I aim to shape and safeguard Japan's future based on five key pillars: "upholding the rules," "protecting Japan," "protecting the people," "protecting local communities," and "protecting opportunities for youth and women."

To achieve this, we will promote a politics that is truthful, courageous, and sincere—one that is humble, warm, and action-oriented, and that earns the understanding and empathy of the Japanese people.

I ask for your understanding and cooperation.

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**Policy Speech by Prime Minister ISHIBA Shigeru to the 214th  
Session of the Diet**

In his policy speech, Prime Minister Ishiba focused on 14 main points he plans on working on over his term. These points are political trust and accountability, protecting Japan, addressing the declining birthrate, economic policy, protecting citizens, energy policy, social security, public safety, disaster recovery, regional revitalization, Expo 2025, opportunities for young people and women, constitutional reform, and restoring trust in politics.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister called for cooperation from citizens and members of the Diet to work towards a society where safety, security, and mutual support are paramount.

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### **3. Prime Minister Ishiba's First Diplomatic Summits**

#### **Japan-U.S. Summit Telephone Talk**

On October 2nd, Mr. ISHIBA Shigeru, Prime Minister of Japan, held a summit telephone talk with the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America. The overview of the talk is as follows.

At the outset, President Biden offered his congratulations to Prime Minister Ishiba on his assumption of office. Prime Minister Ishiba expressed his sympathies on the damage caused by the Hurricane in Southern U.S.

Prime Minister Ishiba stated that strengthening the Japan-U.S. Alliance is a top priority of the administration's foreign and security policy and that he wants to continue working closely together with the U.S. as global partners at the core of a free and open international order.

Prime Minister Ishiba expressed gratitude to President Biden for his strong commitment to the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and both leaders concurred on the importance of continuing to enhance the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. Alliance. The two leaders also concurred on working together on economic security cooperation.

The two leaders concurred on further developing networks of like-minded countries, including Japan-U.S.-Republic of Korea (ROK), Japan-Australia-India-U.S., and Japan-U.S.-Philippines.

The two leaders concurred on continuing working closely on issues related to China, dealing with North Korea including on the nuclear and missile issues as well as the abductions issue, and the situation in Ukraine.

Over the recent attack by Iran against Israel, the two leaders expressed their serious concern about the potential escalation into a full-fledged war in the Middle East, and reaffirmed their strong condemnation of such escalation.

The two leaders shared the view to start coordination at an appropriate time, aiming for an early realization of an in-person summit talk.

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### **Japan-ROK Summit Telephone Talks**

On October 2, Mr. ISHIBA Shigeru, Prime Minister of Japan, spoke over the phone with Mr. YOON Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK). The summary of the telephone talks is as follows.

At the outset, Prime Minister Ishiba stated that, in light of the current strategic environment, close cooperation between Japan and the ROK was crucial for both countries, and he was committed to further developing Japan-ROK relations, and that he looked forward to working closely with President Yoon. President Yoon expressed his congratulations to Prime Minister Ishiba on his assumption of office and his expectation for working closely with Prime Minister Ishiba to strengthen the Japan-ROK relations.

The two leaders confirmed that they would work together to make the current good relationship between the two countries sustainable, looking ahead to the next year, which marks the 60th anniversary of the normalization of the Japan-ROK relations.

The two leaders concurred on working closely together bilaterally and trilaterally among Japan, the ROK and the US regarding the current situation of serious concern such as dealing with North Korea including the nuclear and missile issues. The two leaders also discussed North Korea's human right's issues, and president Yoon reiterated his support to Japan regarding the abductions issue.

The two leaders affirmed that the two governments would continue close communication including through "shuttle diplomacy."

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### **G7 Leaders' Teleconference**

On October 2, the G7 Leaders' Teleconference in response to the deteriorating situation in the Middle East was held by H.E. Ms. Giorgia MELONI, this year's G7 Presidency. Mr. ISHIBA Shigeru, Prime Minister of Japan, attended the conference. The overview of the conference is as follows.

At the outset, Prime Minister Ishiba mentioned that the security of the Middle East, Europe including Ukraine, and the Indo-Pacific is closely connected to each other and close coordination and cooperation through the G7 framework are becoming increasingly important, and he expressed his intention to work closely with the G7 leaders.

Prime Minister Ishiba stated that Japan is seriously concerned about the situation in the Middle East including the recent attack by Iran, and strongly condemned such escalation, which is totally unacceptable.

In addition, Prime Minister Ishiba stated that it is important for the international community including the G7 to make efforts to calm down the situation, urging all parties concerned to exercise maximum self-restraint, in order to avoid the escalation into an all-out war. He also mentioned that Japan will make utmost diplomatic efforts and continue Japan's approaches to Iran as well.

G7 leaders concurred to continue to work closely together in the G7 to respond to the situation in the Middle East.

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## 4. ASEAN Summit Meetings

### [ASEAN-related Summit Meetings: Day 1 \(Part 2\)](#)



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

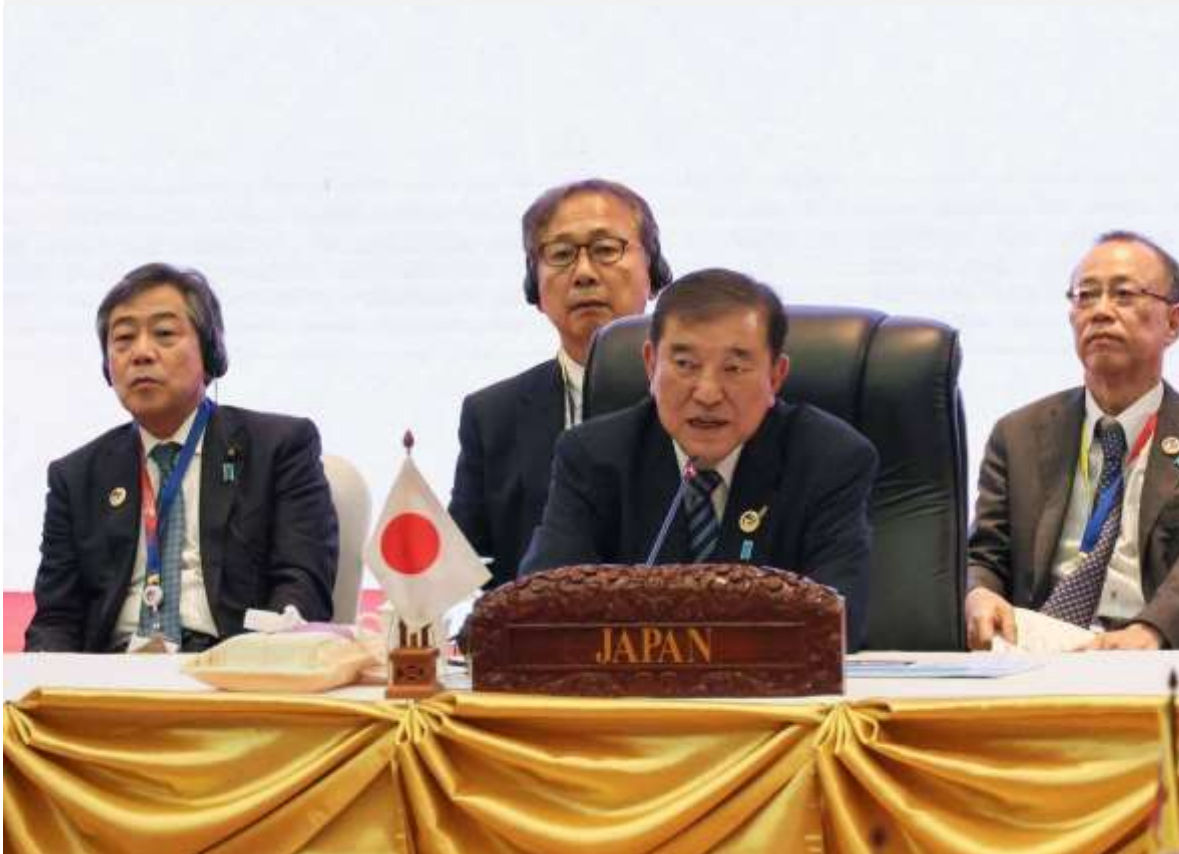


On October 10, 2024 (local time), Prime Minister Ishiba visited Vientiane, Lao PDR to attend the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)-related Summit meetings. Prime Minister Ishiba attended [the ASEAN-Japan Summit](#) and [the ASEAN Plus Three \(Japan-China-Republic of Korea\) Summit](#).

Later, Prime Minister Ishiba held summit meetings with [H.E. Mr. YOON Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea \(ROK\)](#), [H.E. Mr. Li Qiang, Premier of the People's Republic of China](#), and [H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India](#) respectively. Afterwards, the Prime Minister held informal talks with Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and [H.E. Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines](#) respectively, and later attended the gala dinner.

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### ASEAN-related Summit Meetings: Day 2



Credit: Prime Minister's Office of Japan

On October 11, 2024 (local time), Prime Minister Ishiba, during his visit to Vientiane, Lao PDR to attend the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings, attended a welcome ceremony hosted by H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic,

followed by [a summit meeting with Prime Minister Sonexay](#). Afterwards, the Prime Minister held [a summit meeting with H.E. Mr. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam](#), and had an [informal talk with H.E. Ms. Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand](#).

Later, Prime Minister Ishiba [attended the 19th East Asia Summit \(EAS\)](#). The Prime Minister then held a summit meeting with [the Hon. Anthony Albanese, MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia](#), and [convened the 2nd Asia Zero-Emission Community \(AZEC\) Leaders Meeting](#). Lastly, Prime Minister Ishiba held a press conference regarding his attendance at the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings and other matters.

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## 5. Consulate News & Activities

### [Foreign Minister's Commendation Ceremony for the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington \(Nikkei Heritage Association\)](#)



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

On October 2, 2024, a conferment ceremony and reception were held at the Official Residence to congratulate the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington on

receiving the Foreign Minister's Commendation. JCCCW board members, staff, family, and many others were in attendance.

Consul General of Japan in Seattle IYORI Makoto expressed his appreciation for the JCCCW's many years of continued contributions and formally conferred the Commendation. Ms. Lori Matsukawa, JCCCW Founder, accepted the Commendation and expressed gratitude to past community leaders who laid the groundwork for the founding of JCCCW, as well as co-founders of the Center, including the late State Representative Kip Tokuda and the late Seattle Municipal Court Judge Ron Mamiya. In addition, Ms. Karen Yoshitomi, JCCCW Executive Director, thanked all staff, volunteers, and family members for their support.

The Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington, also known as the Nikkei Heritage Association, was founded on April 1, 2003, with the mission of preserving, promoting, and sharing Japanese and Japanese American culture and traditions. The JCCCW organizes many historical preservation projects and various Japanese cultural events, including the annual Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day) and Bunka no Hi (Culture Day), and also offers programs for seniors, including crafts, exercises, and cultural activities. The facility is also home to the Seattle Japanese Language School, originally founded in 1902, a crucial resource for local Japanese language learners.

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### JET Program Returnees Reception



Credit: Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle

Consul General Iyori recently hosted a reception at the Official Residence to welcome back returnees from the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. The event celebrated their unique experiences in Japan and the vital role JET returnees will play in strengthening Japan-U.S. ties. Watch our recap video to relive the evening and hear inspiring stories from the JET alumni!

<https://youtu.be/L-uDD0AXdvl>

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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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