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Greetings from the Consulate General of Japan in Seattle!

39th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival This Weekend: April 25 - 27!



Atsushi Fukui: Twin World (Japan Foundation)

Experience the sights, sounds and flavors of Japan this weekend at the Seattle Center. Join the [39th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival](#), which will feature interactive programming, cultural exhibits and historical tales of first encounters between Japan and the United States.

[Passage to the Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan](#)

The Japan Foundation presents a thought provoking view of art in Japan today, by showcasing an array of works by contemporary Japanese artists. This traveling exhibit will run from April 23 - April 28 at the Seattle Center Pavilion.

[31st Washington State Japanese Speech & Skit Contest](#)

This year the Cherry Blossom Festival welcomes Japanese language students from across Washington State as they gather to compete in this annual speech and skit contest.

[Full details](#)

8th International MANGA Award



Applications are now being accepted for the 8th Annual MANGA Award through May 15, 2014. Established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2007 in order to expand international exchange and mutual understanding through MANGA culture. This award honors those MANGA artists whose works promote MANGA culture to an international audience.

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[Full details](#)

Event reports of our previous activities

To catch up on past events as well as news from the Consulate, please visit our [homepage](#) or use the event links listed below.

Highlights (*chronological order*):

January 18th - **Oshogatsu in Olympia** The Olympia-Kato Sister City Association and the Consulate General of Japan co-hosted this lively event to ring in the New Year. Distinguished guests and community members joined in a day of celebration of Japanese culture. [Read more](#)

March 9th - **Act for Japan - 3rd Memorial Event for the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster** Co-hosted by the Japan-America Society and the Consulate General of Japan, this event brought together a vast array of people from the community to remember, reflect and share information related to the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster. [Read more](#)

March 17th - **iLEAP TOMODACHI Initiative Reception** Consul General Omura hosted a reception to provide an engaging forum for 25 Japanese students participating in the Social Innovation in Seattle Scholars Program to interact with representatives from local businesses, NPOs and Japan related organizations. [Read more](#)

March 20th - [KAKEHASHI Project - The Bridge for Tomorrow - Reception](#)
The Consulate General of Japan hosted a special reception at Shoreline Community College for participants in the KAKEHASHI Project, which is a two-way exchange program that seeks to nurture a new generation of internationally minded citizens both in Japan and the US. [Read more](#)

The Ceremony to Commemorate the Third Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake



(Cabinet Secretariat, Cabinet Public Relations Office)

**-Cabinet Secretariat,
March 11, 2014**

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended the Ceremony to Commemorate the Third Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake held in Tokyo in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

The ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the House of Councillors, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, bereaved family members, and others.

[Full text](#)

2014 National Cherry Blossom Festival's Featured Events

**-Washington, D.C.
March 20 - April 12, 2014**

The 2014 National Cherry Blossom festival starts on March 20th in Washington DC. The National Cherry Blossom festival is a commemoration of the gift of 3000 cherry trees from Japan to the city of Washington, DC in 1912. The festival celebrates the lasting friendship between Japan and the United States. The festivities will continue until April 13, 2014. The Embassy of Japan has compiled a list of featured events for your convenience.

Foreign Minister Kishida's Visit to the United States of America



(© Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

-Ministry of Foreign Affairs
February 7-9, 2014

On February 7, Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a meeting with the Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States during his visit to Washington D.C. [Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting \(Summary\)\(February 7, 2014\)](#)

[Full text](#)

Prime Minister Abe's Visit to India



(© Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
January 25-27, 2014

On January 25, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a summit meeting with Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. Following the meeting, the two leaders signed a joint statement titled "Intensifying the Strategic and Global Partnership."

[Japan-India Summit Meeting\(January 25, 2014\)](#)

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Interview with Times of India (January 25)

[English](#)

[Japanese](#)

[Full text](#)

Prime Minister Abe's Visit to Africa



(Cabinet Secretariat, Cabinet Public Relations Office)

-Ministry of Foreign Affairs

January 17, 2014

As a part of his "diplomacy that takes a panoramic perspective of the map", Prime Minister Abe visited Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique and Ethiopia from Friday, January 10 to Tuesday, January 14, 2014 following his visit to Oman.

This visit to Africa was the first full-scale visit to Africa by a Japanese prime minister in eight years, fulfilling the promise of an early visit to Africa that Prime Minister Abe announced at the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June last year.

[Full text](#)

Attendance of Prime Minister Abe at the Sochi Olympic Winter Games



*Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with the athletes.
(Cabinet Secretariat, Cabinet Public Relations Office)*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

February 7-8, 2014

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended the XXII Olympic Winter Games held in Sochi, Russia, on February 7 and 8, 2014, at the invitation of Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

On the night of February 7, Prime Minister Abe attended the Opening Ceremony, where he watched the ceremonies and the Parade of National Teams with leaders from around the world.

[Full text](#)

Second Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)



(© Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

-Ministry of Foreign Affairs
March 2, 2014

On March 1, the second ministerial meeting of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting, hosted by Indonesia was co-chaired by Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Dr. Marty Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and Dr. Rami Hamdallah, Palestinian Prime Minister.

[Read the Outline](#)

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