



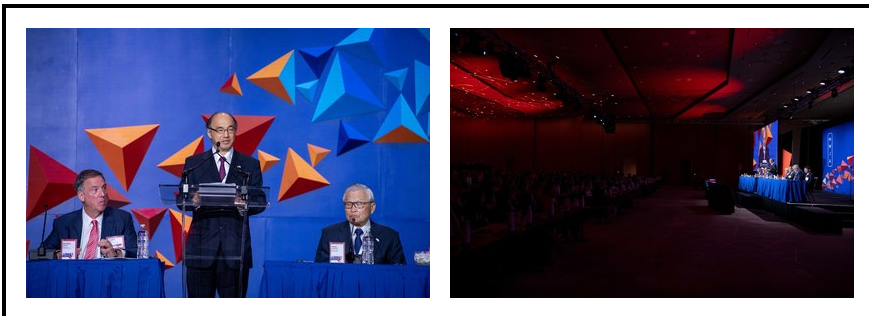
# ConsuLink

September/October 2024 Newsletter

*Keeping you updated on Japan-related news in Michigan and Ohio*

## **The Midwest Japan-America Conference Holds its 54th Annual Event in Columbus, Ohio**

From September 8th to the 10th, Consul General Yusuke Shindo attended the 54th Annual Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference held in Columbus, Ohio. The conference serves as a vital platform for fostering collaboration between Japan and the Midwest, bringing together government officials, business leaders, and professionals from various sectors. This year's topic of discussion covered "Building an Ecosystem for Innovation, Growth & Sustainability."



Notable speakers included Consul General Yusuke Shindo, Shiga Governor Taizo Mikazuki, Saitama Governor Motohiro Ono, Gunma Governor Ichita Yamamoto, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, and Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb. They shared valuable insights into the evolving relationship between Japan and the Midwest. The Consul General, pictured above, delivered thoughtful remarks on the deep economic and cultural ties between the two regions. His speech highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships, fostering innovation for a sustainable future, and the significant impact of Japan's investment in the Midwest.

A series of dynamic discussions throughout the conference focused on critical areas such as trade relations, technological innovation, sustainable development, and advancements in manufacturing. Participants explored how to leverage these sectors for long-term growth and prosperity.

The conference was supported by a robust group of sponsors, including Honda—one of Ohio's largest Japanese employers and the title sponsor of this year's event—alongside Canon and other major corporations. These sponsors played a key role in facilitating

## **CALENDAR Exhibits & Events**

September 14 - January 19, 2025

[Powerful Forces: Legends, Rituals, and Warriors in East Asian Art](#)  
@ Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, MI

Fri., October 4  
["Simple and Easy Japanese: Everyday Use" by Professor Monika Dix](#)  
@ Japanese Cultural Center, Saginaw, MI

Sat.-Sun., October 5-6  
[60th Annual BSGC Fall Bonsai Show at the Krohn Conservatory](#) @ Krohn Conservatory, Cincinnati, OH

Sun., October 13  
[Novi Japan Festival](#) @ Novi High School, Novi, MI  
[Momiji Matsuri: A Fall Japanese Minit-Festival](#)  
@ Boxland, Worthington, OH

Thurs., October 17  
[JASGC 36th Anniversary Gala](#) @ Hyde Park Golf & Country Club, Cincinnati, OH

Sun., October 20  
[Japanese Assoc. of Toledo Fall Fest](#) @ Arlyn's

discussions on the evolving landscape of Japan-U.S. relations. Looking ahead, the 2025 MWJA Conference will be held from September 7th to 9th at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, Japan.

---

## Saginaw Japan Festival



On September 15th, the city of Saginaw, Michigan, celebrated its rich cultural ties with Japan at the annual Saginaw Japanese Festival. This cherished event brought together community members to experience Japanese culture through a variety of engaging activities and performances.

Festivalgoers were treated to traditional music and dance performances, including taiko drumming and koto, along with a *kendo* demonstration, offering a vibrant glimpse into Japan's artistic heritage. The JBSD Women's Club gave a beautiful presentation of a *sado*--a traditional Japanese tea ceremony--adding to the authentic cultural experience of the festival.



*Pictured: Paper Sumo*

The festival also featured various booths offering authentic Japanese experiences such as calligraphy, origami, and other traditional crafts, as well as offering visitors a chance to try traditional Japanese refreshments. The Consulate General of Japan hosted a booth where guests could play with traditional Japanese toys like kendama, paper sumo, daruma otoshi, and also get a chance to try on happi, a traditional tube-sleeved Japanese coat worn for festivals. In addition to hands-on activities, there were informative demonstrations on bonsai, ikebana, and other aspects of Japanese culture.

The Saginaw Japan Festival continues to serve as an important celebration of cross-cultural appreciation and understanding,

Good Beer, Bowling  
Green, OH

Thurs., October 24

[JASGC Kimono  
Demonstration](#) @  
Cincinnati, OH

Thurs.-Sun., October 31-  
November 3

[Youmacon Cosplay/Anime  
Convention](#) @ Huntington  
Place, Detroit, MI

Sat., November 9

[Traditional Tea Ceremony](#)  
@ Japanese Cultural  
Center, Tea House, &  
Gardens, Saginaw, MI

---

## QUICK LINKS

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
Japan](#)



[Kizuna: The official magazine of the  
Government of Japan](#)

Digital publication reporting on a  
variety of topics, promoting stronger  
links between Japan and the world.

---

[Consulate General of Japan in  
Detroit](#)



drawing people from across the region to experience a unique blend of Japanese and Midwestern culture.



---

## **SPOTLIGHT FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN DETROIT**

### **Welcome to the New Deputy Consul General, Mr. Yamane!**



The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit is pleased to welcome Mr. Kentaro Yamane to his new post at our office. Mr. Yamane succeeds Mr. Ogawa as Deputy Consul General.

Before his posting in Detroit, Mr. Yamane served as First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, where he headed the protocol section and oversaw inter-sectional affairs in the Embassy. Prior to that, he worked at the headquarters office in Tokyo. His responsibilities there included official invitation programs between Japan and North America. He has also worked in the Japanese embassies in the Philippines, South Africa and Syria.

He likes visiting historical sites as well as places with beautiful nature or cultural heritage. He says working as a diplomat is not easy but, thanks to the profession, he has been blessed with opportunities to see various parts of the world.

His new posting here will surely be a wonderful addition to his travel experience. Welcome to the Great Lakes region and the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit!



---

*ConsuLink is the official newsletter of the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit*

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

400 Renaissance Center, Suite 1600  
Detroit, MI | 48243 US

This email was sent to .

*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

**emma**®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.