

Remarks by Consul General Jason R. Cubas
Japan America Society of Hiroshima
Tuesday, December 5, 2023

- Good evening and thank you for that kind introduction.
- I would like to express my thanks to the executive leaders of the Japan America Society of Hiroshima for tonight's invitation.
- Around this time of year there are so many reasons to gather, reflect, and be thankful, and so I want to start by wishing happy holidays to everyone celebrating the rich diversity of traditions during this season.
- I also want to offer early wishes for a peaceful and prosperous 2024.
- This is my first trip to Hiroshima as Consul General, and I appreciate this opportunity to meet with Japan-America Society of Hiroshima members to discuss U.S.-Japan relations, my priorities, and our activities in the region.
- As some of you already know, Consulate Osaka-Kobe was my first posting as an American diplomat 23 years ago, and I am excited to return to where I started my diplomatic career.
- I feel fortunate to return at a time when it feels as though the world is coming to this region of Japan.
- We saw that over the past year in the many G7 related events and meetings that took place, beginning with the G7 Leaders' Summit here in Hiroshima.
- And that will continue in the lead up to Expo 2025 and beyond.
- As I've returned relatively recently and this is my first opportunity to directly speak with you, I'd like to take a moment to discuss some of my priorities as Consul General.
- The "Consular District" for Consulate General Osaka Kobe includes 17 prefectures, and my staff and I will continue our robust outreach to both the leadership and people of this remarkable region.
- I've prioritized visiting each of the prefectures in our district within my first year. In each prefecture we'll meet with local leaders, the business community, students, and civil society groups to deepen U.S.-Japan ties and explore shared values.

- On trade and investment, the United States is the largest foreign direct investor in Japan, and Japan is the largest investor in the United States. Last year, two-way goods trade between the United States and Japan reached an all-time high.
- This region of Japan plays an important role in the U.S.-Japan economic relationship and Hiroshima is a trusted partner of the United States. It's home to Mazda and a number of its suppliers, all of whom are important investors in the United States, working together in an industry to meet the needs of the future mobility.
- It's also the home of Micron Memory in Japan, a U.S. tech leader that plays a huge role in strengthening the global semiconductor industry. Micron and Hiroshima University are also working together on the "UPWARDS for the Future" program to cross-collaborate on semiconductor research and development to solve future challenges.
- Launching the UPWARDS partnership with President Biden on the margins of the G7 Summit in Hiroshima was a major highlight for U.S.-Japan relations this year.
- Looking at the broader region, and the important role central Japan plays in Japan's security and regional stability, I also intend to harness the momentum of the Camp David leaders' summit to advance U.S.-Japan-South Korea ties locally.
- Given Hiroshima City's sister-city relationship with Daegu Metropolitan City in the Republic of Korea, these two cities are in a position to demonstrate for the world the power of what we call "sub national" diplomacy and I welcome innovative ideas on how we can employ cities and states to foster positive trilateral bonds.
- At our Consulate and throughout Japan we are also committed to engaging youth and giving them a platform to further the positive change that is important to them.
- Through some of our Consulate programs, like the Ambassador's Youth Council, I have the opportunity to meet and interact with talented and dynamic young people in this region who are all working in their communities and thinking about the roles they can play on climate change, diversity and inclusion, mental health awareness, and other important issue areas.

- I encourage the Japan-America Society of Hiroshima to seek greater opportunities to connect with young Japanese leaders to ensure that the next generation is prepared to inherit the important relationship between the United States and Hiroshima.
- And of course, my diverse team at the Consulate will continue to work hard to help facilitate the creation of new bonds at all levels, whether through student exchange, grassroots connections, business relationships, and more.
- Here in Hiroshima, a very important step forward in that relationship was taken just prior to my arrival, with the signing of a sister-park relationship between Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Pearl Harbor National Memorial Park.
- This relationship can facilitate a continuous conversation on peace and reconciliation and serve as an exemplar for today's youth and future generations on how much progress is possible even in the aftermath of unimaginable destruction; and remind them that they can play a role in realizing a more peaceful world.
- The United States and Japan have accomplished much over the last 70-plus years as friends and allies. It is through friendship and grassroots efforts that we will deepen the mutual respect, appreciation and understanding between our two peoples.
- Thank you.