



# US-Japan Alliance Digest

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Image Source: [The Wall Street Journal](#)

## Happy New Year Headlines:

- “Japanuary” in DC headlined by Biden-Kishida Summit
- Alliance “2+2” meeting in DC sets ambitious agenda for 2023
- METI Minister meets US counterparts in DC, signs cyber agreement
- Japanese lawmakers discuss US-Japan relations across Washington

## Details:

- **President Biden and Prime Minister Kishida held a bilateral summit [meeting](#) in Washington** January 13, capping an unusually busy two weeks of high-level alliance diplomacy. The lead up to this [summit](#) involved numerous agreements and joint projects (highlighted below) including a new [Space Framework Agreement](#) signed at NASA headquarters. The leaders’ [Joint Statement](#) referenced the [CoRe Partnership](#), [Economic 2+2](#), and the [Indo-Pacific Framework](#), among other items. Kishida also [met](#) with Vice President Harris and gave a public speech at Johns Hopkins SAIS.
- US Secretaries of State (Blinken) and Defense (Austin) met with Japanese Ministers for Foreign Affairs (Hayashi) and Defense (Hamada) in Washington on January 11 to **convene the US-Japan Security Consultative Committee** (or 2+2). Their joint [statement](#) reflected “the convergence of their nations’ new national security and defense strategies” and outlined an ambitious agenda for the next couple of years including the [reorganization](#) of the US 12<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment in Japan to become a Marine Littoral Regiment (MLR) by 2025 with more significant surveillance, anti-ship, and transportation capabilities. They also agreed to establish a US [Composite Watercraft Company](#) at Yokohama North Dock from where it can move military personnel and equipment from both countries in support of amphibious operations. They also finalized agreements on defense technology research and development, a Security of Supply Arrangement, and affirmed that Article V of their Security Treaty could apply to assets in space, among other moves.
- **METI Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura [met](#) Commerce Secretary Raimondo** in Washington January 5. The pair discussed expanding cooperation on critical technologies and mitigating economic vulnerabilities. They [agreed](#) to take cooperation beyond next generation semiconductor R&D and into AI and biotech. Separately, Nishimura [met](#) with Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas on January 6 to continue dialogue on cybersecurity cooperation and human rights issues along supply chains. They [signed](#) an updated agreement on cybersecurity cooperation to further operational collaboration, enhance critical infrastructure, and foster new partnerships Asia. He also gave a [speech](#) at CSIS and [met](#) with Energy Secretary Granholm on January 9 to discuss a range of topics within energy security from renewables and clean energy to the energy agenda for Japan’s hosting of the G7 Summit and related meetings in 2023.
- In the days leading up to the “2+2” on January 11 and the Biden-Kishida summit on January 13, **several Japanese lawmakers visited Washington** and gave talks at multiple think tanks. At the CSIS, **Digital Minister Kono [spoke](#)** on the topic of digital transformation, as Japan places it at the head of its policy agenda. **Former Defense Minister Onodera [lectured](#)** at the Stimson Center on three new security and defense strategy documents. Separately, Honorable **Hirofumi Nakasone** led a delegation of Japanese lawmakers to meet US members of Congress, in addition to visiting local businesses, government offices, and think tanks (including Sasakawa USA). Among the delegates was the **Honorable Iwao Horii**, who spoke on January 11 at Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA about the recently released National Security Strategy and Japan’s future defense posture.

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