

OSUMI Yo was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ukraine in August 2026.

Born in Japan in 1966, Ambassador OSUMI graduated from the University of Tokyo (Economics) and earned a Master's Degree in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in New York.

Throughout his diplomatic career, he has had wide experience in Tokyo and abroad. Most recently, he served as the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco from 2023 to 2025 and devoted himself to strengthening political, economic, and cultural relations between Japan and Northern California and Nevada. In particular, he worked on expanding technology, science and business cooperation between Japan and Silicon Valley as Japan sought to upgrade its competitive edge in technology and innovation. He also spent much time on promoting the “four pillars” of grassroots exchanges - youth exchange, Japanese language, Japanese Americans, and sister city relationships.

In Tokyo, he served as Councillor, Cabinet Secretariat (2021-23) and Deputy Assistant Minister (DAM) for Foreign Affairs for Crisis Management and Cyber Security and Information Technology Management (2019-21). As DAM, he also served as Deputy Director General for Intelligence and Analysis Service in the run-up to the crisis in Ukraine and for Consular Affairs at the time of COVID-19. His previous directorial and assistant directorial experiences include intelligence, economic security (energy and food security), South Asia, as well as Japan-US Security Treaty and Status of US Forces.

His overseas assignments include Israel (Deputy Chief of Mission, 2017-19), United Kingdom (Political Minister, 2014-17), Netherlands (First Secretary, 2003-05) and Saudi Arabia (Second Secretary, 1993-95). He was also seconded to the Paris-based International Energy Agency (2005-09), where he served as Director for Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Africa, responsible for the Agency's first serious endeavor to engage with India, China and Southeast Asia.

He is a prolific writer (mostly in Japanese). His first publication, “*The Introduction of Israel to Japanese*” (2020), identifies five issues—high birth rate, tradition-centered society, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, the

relationship between the military and civil society, and sense of (in)security and spirit of self-reliance—which could serve as reference points for Japan and beyond. His second book, “*Cherry Blossom and Silicon Valley*” (2026), is a compilation of essays written during his time as Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, covering the history and people connecting the two sides of the Pacific, the challenges Silicon Valley poses to Japan, and his view on four characteristics that make Japan a unique country in the world. Meanwhile, his online column series, “*A Japanese Diplomat’s View on Silicon Valley and the Future of Japan*” (2026), focuses on the great transformation in technology and how Japan should cope with this mega trend.

He is married to Misao and has two children. As his name Yo means “ocean,” he loves the sea and water and acquired an operator’s (skipper’s) certificate in Israel. He is an avid follower of history and an extensive traveller, having visited more than 100 countries in the world and all 47 prefectures in Japan. He is a lover of Japanese culture and himself practices the Way of Tea (tea ceremony).