

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN

601 UNION STREET, SUITE 500
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101

May 13, 2011

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it has been over two months since the devastating earthquake and tsunami ravaged the Tohoku region of Japan, killing approximately 13,000 people and displacing about 150,000 more. Nothing could have prepared us for the incredible destruction that took place, but outpouring of concern and kindness has been even more overwhelming.

At every turn, we have been touched by the benevolence of the American people. At the office, letters, cards and flowers express their sympathetic messages to us, and fundraising events, donations and other offers of aid are pouring in. We would like to express our profound gratitude to you for participating in the support efforts. It shows how close the friendship is between the people of our two countries. This heartwarming compassion is precious encouragement for us, and thanks to it, we will be able to pick ourselves up from this catastrophe.

Japan is now more united than ever. We are determined to maintain a disciplined and orderly society and to help each other. Although it will take weeks and months to fully clear away the damage and years to recreate the towns swept away, we are determined to rebuild stronger than before, regardless of the challenges that face us.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan issued a statement on April 11th expressing appreciation to the world for well wishes and support, as well as our determination to rebuild Japan and repay the world community. This statement is included with this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kiyoko Ohta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Consulate General of Japan in Seattle