

# 2012 Sakura-Con Opening Ceremony

## Greeting by Consul General Ota



### Section 1

CG: *(waves to the audience with gumbai fan)* Ohayo SAKURA – CON!

Thank you everybody for warm support of Japan, especially after March 11<sup>th</sup> Earthquake & Tsunami!

All: *(Bow)* Arigato Gozaimashita!

CG: *(gestures to staff wearing character masks)* I have many friends with me today! I believe you already know them.

CG: I want to introduce you my new REALLY BIG friend, the carp, or as we say in Japanese “KOI!”

*(Staff shakes the koi flag)*

The “KOI” has become the new symbol of Japan’s fighting spirit for recovery. This fish is very strong and never gives up! Like this poster says, Japan is rising again!

*(Staff raises poster and koi flag one by one like a wave)*

CG: We are open for business, so please come and visit Japan soon!



CG: As Consul General, I wear many different hats. *(points to helmet)* This is my fighting spirit hat. It looks really cool, but *(leans forward to speak in a stage whisper)* I must confess, this helmet is actually *(grimace and rub neck)* quite heavy! I have decided to change from TOUGH GUY SAMURAI to...

*(Alana covers CG with the poster, Lynn changes CG's hat, then Alana pulls poster away to reveal CG)*

CG: Consul General of *(cute pose)* kawaii CULTURE!

CG: *(moves head side to side as though stretching neck)* Ahhhh...much better. I am so happy to be back at Sakura-Con, because I can find many friends who share my passion for Japanese culture, especially anime and manga! I can tell you all about my favorite classic manga like "Astro Boy" and "Doraemon." And you can tell me more about new manga like *(points to cute hat)* "ONE PIECE!"



CG: Sakura Con has reached 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year!

So to celebrate, we all are wearing our "Happi"

*(CG, Lynn and Alana pose a little for the audience)*

Just for YOU!

CG: You are all wonderful Cultural Ambassadors for Japan! The staff like Christopher, Mira and all the volunteers that make Sakura-Con possible are Super-Ambassadors, don't you agree?

CG: Let's tell the volunteer staff members "congratulations" in Japanese which is *Omedeto!*"

*(Alana shows the sign "Omedeto")*

Please repeat after me! *O!*

Audience: *O*

CG: *ME*

Audience: *ME*

CG: *DE*

Audience: *DE*

CG: *TO*

Audience: *TO*

CG: Please join me in telling the Sakura Con Staff "*Omedeto!*"

Audience: "*Omedeto!*"

*(CG & Audience repeat "Omedeto!" three times)*



CG: Wow! Your Japanese is very good!!! Let's learn one more! "*Gambaro*"

*(Lynn shows the sign "Gambaro")*

It means "Let's do our best together!" Sakura-Con has had 15 successful years, so let's do our best together to make this year's Sakura-Con even better and more exciting!

CG: Please join me everybody! *Gambaro!*

*(CG & The Audience repeat "Gambaro!" three times)*

CG: Thank you! Enjoy Sakura-Con 2012 !

"*Omedeto!*" and "*Gambaro!*"

*(All wave their hands and leave)*

