

## Dinner in Appreciation of the Great Efforts on the Washington - Hyogo Sister State 50th Anniversary Celebration and a Toast to Even Stronger Ties

2013 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Washington – Hyogo sister state ties, celebrated with a series of activities primarily in August. On November 14, an appreciation dinner was hosted at the Consul General’s Official Residence for volunteers from Washington whose hard work helped to make the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration a great success. The dinner also served to toast ongoing and future efforts, including “Oshogatsu in Olympia” co-hosted by the Consulate and the Olympia-Kato Sister City Association again next January for the second year in a row.

The dinner was a venue for the valuable exchange of ideas with Washington State Senators Karen Fraser and Bob Hasegawa, former state Secretary of State Ralph Munro, Weyerhaeuser Company president & CEO Doyle Simons, and many other opinion leaders. For stakeholders, including those involved in grassroots exchange in the state capital Olympia, this was a significant opportunity to reaffirm strong collaboration with a goal of promoting even friendlier ties into the future.



Greetings by Consul General Omura



Greetings by Senator Fraser

