

The Japanese Agricultural Training Program (JATP) Graduation Ceremony

October 8, 2014

On October 8, the Japan Agricultural Exchange Council (JAEC) and the Consulate General of Japan co-hosted the Japanese Agricultural Training Program (JATP) graduation ceremony at the Consul General's official residence.

In his opening remarks, Consul General Omura expressed his appreciation for those involved in program and encouraged the trainee graduates. Dr. Terrence Leas, president of Big Bend Community College (BBCC), LeAnne Parton, executive director of the BBCC Foundation, Cass Gebbers, host farmer representative, and Takashi Yoshikawa, JAEC U.S. branch director all gave greetings, speaking of the importance of the program and their memories with and hopes for the trainees. It was also announced that JATP's 50th anniversary celebration will be held next year.

Following the speakers, training-completion certificates were awarded to each of the 58 graduating trainees, and trainee representative Hideo Tomitaka delivered remarks on behalf of the group, sharing his hopes for the future. With the goal of starting a blueberry farm after returning to Japan, he reflected on his life-changing time on the program and expressed gratitude to those who supported him.



Remarks by BBCC president Dr. Leas



Training graduate Hideo Tomitaka

Utilizing the knowledge and experiences gained during their training in the U.S., we expect the graduates to contribute to the development of Japanese agriculture for many years to come.

