

**“Act With Japan: Moving Forward Together”
Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami 4th Anniversary
Event**

March 7th, 2015

“Act With Japan” was held on March 7th to commemorate the 4th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The event was organized in cooperation with the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington, and took place in Seattle at the Seattle Asian Art Museum.

The panel discussion was moderated by KING5 news anchor Lori Matsukawa, and featured Ben Erickson (Founder of SeattleJapanRelief.org), Jon Ehrenfeld (Peace Winds America), Dr. Britt Yamamoto (iLEAP), and Naveed Safavi (Kizuna Project Participant). The four panelists discussed the person-to-person connections forged between Japan and the United States following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Through their own firsthand experiences, the panelists shared their thoughts on new grassroots exchange connections born from restoration efforts in affected areas, as well as their opinions on the future of Japan-US cooperation. Ms. Karin Zaugg Black (Seattle-Kobe Sister City Association) also shared her thoughts on the importance of continued relations with disaster-affected areas, in light of the 20th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Northwest Boychoir Apprentices and Songs of Hope performed choral pieces at the beginning and end of the program.

The venue’s 200 seats were filled to capacity, with some guests standing to observe the proceedings. With such strong community turnout, the event was a great success.

