

Acting Consul General Dodo
Consulate-General of Japan
Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion
March 10, 2013



Speech at “Shout out to Japan! Cheers from Seattle”

Hello Seattleites, Washingtonians, Americans and friends of Japan all over the world.

Kizuna is a Japanese word meaning bond of friendship, camaraderie.

Japan has risen from the depths of destruction and sorrow, and is moving forward with determination and *kizuna*. The Kizuna Project presentations by high school students from both Tohoku, Japan and Seattle, Washington are examples of this brilliant bond.

Despite many challenges after the March 11th disasters, Japan continues to be committed to making significant contributions in the international community. You can see Japan's *kizuna* spirit in its collaboration with the Gates Foundation and with NOAA (The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) here in Seattle in dealing with global issues.

This “Shout out to Japan” event, co-organized by the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle, the Japan America Society of the State of Washington and the Seattle Center in cooperation with many individuals, organizations and volunteers, is proof of the bonds we share. I, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, wish to thank you all for such a wonderful expression of *kizuna*.

日本の皆様、世界中の日本の方々

半世紀前に万博が開催された、ここ、シアトルセンターから、日本応援の声を届けるために、シアトル市から、ワシントン州のあちこちから、多くの人々が集まっています。世界中のあちこちからビデオメッセージが届いています。

キズナプロジェクトでシアトル訪問中の被災地の高校生たちは、数々の試練と闘いながらも、前を向いて復興に励む日本の姿、国際社会に貢献し続ける日本の姿を、若い力で示してくれています。

3. 11を忘れないで、日本国内のキズナ、そして、世界とのキズナを大切に、東北の復興と日本の再生のために頑張りましょう。