

**US-Japan: Bringing Together the Next Generation of Visionary and Innovative Spirits Speech
by Acting Consul General Tomoko Dodo, June 26, 2013**

Welcome to the Japanese Government Official Residence, one of the well-respected historical sites on Queen Anne Hill.

How many of you know of the following things? **TICAD. GHIT. ODA.**

Have you heard these names? **Chie Kaminakabep. Gyou Tanaka. Jack Andraka.**

How many of you have heard of these companies? **Nikki Fron. Toray Composite America.**

TICAD is the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. It represents Japan's commitment to African development. **GHIT** is Global Health Innovative Technology, a recent collaboration between our government and the Gates Foundation, to develop new age pharmaceuticals that will have a global impact. **ODA** is Official Development Assistance, which our government offers and administers to developing countries.

Chie Kaminakabep is an 83-year-old high school student and baseball player who led her team to second place victory in Kanagawa Prefecture's baseball tournament.

Gyou Tanaka is a 16-year-old high school student from Chiba Prefecture who won in Earth and Planetary Sciences at this year's Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. His project proved that, 300,000 years ago, Eastern Japan was part of the Pacific seafloor.

Jack Andraka, a 16-year-old high school student and the winner of the first place medical prize at the same science fair, has now invented a miracle pancreatic cancer test. The test costs only three cents and takes only five minutes, so it's 26,000 times cheaper and several thousand times more effective than the traditional test.

Nikki Fron is a small company from Nagano Prefecture that came up with an advanced technique of producing rare plastic, called "Blanc Bijou" in French, meaning white jewel. It is a beautiful, long-lasting material that can be utilized for a variety of things, ranging from artificial joints to high-end dinner ware.

Toray Composite America is a Japanese company with a large factory here in Washington that constructs composite prepreg materials for Boeing Dreamliners.

I shared this list with you because I wanted to show you some examples of amazing, inspiring stories about individuals, young or old, corporations, small or big, as well as the public-private partnership undertakings, involving the United States and Japan, that are having an actual impact on a global scale.

We are living in a transformative era. Facing us are such difficulties as the speed of technological, demographic, and wrenching economic changes. But with open-mindedness, tranquil yet steady perseverance, ingenuity and collaboration among us, we will find solutions. And I expect that Generation Y and the Millennials will play a major role in it.

I would like to echo sentiments expressed by President Obama in Maryland and the First Lady in Kentucky: you must reach out to others and use your skills and experience in order to make a positive global impact, for a broader cause, not just seeking personal gain.

Tonight we have leaders, and future leaders, here from both our countries and together we can affect positive change.

Finally, to those of you who aren't sure if you could relate to Generation Y and the Millennials, please do not feel left out. What I say tonight applies to the audience as a whole. "Youth" can, and should, be subjective. It isn't just a matter of physical age, but how old you are in heart and mind and what you do. Just recall Chie, that 83-year-old woman in Japan.

I would like to close my remarks with the 2009 remix slogan of a very famous song by Bob Dylan, "Forever Young". It goes: every generation refreshes the world.

Thank you.