

**Closing Ceremony Reception
for the Japanese Agricultural Training Program (JATP)
“Group 2011” Trainees
(September 07, 2012)**

The Japan Agricultural Exchange Council (JAEC) and the Consulate-General of Japan jointly hosted a closing ceremony reception for Japanese Agricultural Training Program (JATP) “Group 2011” trainees at the official residence on September 07, 2012.

Congratulatory speeches were delivered to the trainees by Consul-General Kiyokazu Ota, the new Big Bend Community College (BBCC) president Dr. Terrence Leas, University of California-Davis Extension Int’l Enterprise director Mrs. Trish Reiff, host farmer Ms. Leda Langley and JAEC U.S. Branch Director Mr. Takashi Yoshikawa. Completion certificates were awarded to each trainee. Trainee representative Sayaka Nishijima made an address on behalf of the trainees, and a slideshow of pictures of the trainees’ time in the United States was presented.



Each trainee was confident and proud after their 18-month training in the United States. We know that they have benefited from their experiences, and will contribute to the development of Japanese agriculture.



In addition to the graduation ceremony, the Decoration Ceremony for former JATP director Dr. Michael Lang, and the Consul-General Commendation Award Ceremony for former BBCC president Dr. William Bonaudi were held as well. Dr. Lang received The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Both Dr. Lang and Dr. Bonaudi were awarded in recognition of their contributions to the development of agriculture in Japan, the encouragement of Japanese future farmers, and the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and the United States through Japanese Agricultural Training Program at Big Bend Community College.

