

The Japanese Agricultural Training Program(JATP) Graduation Ceremony

(October 8, 2013)

On October 8, 62 trainees graduated from the Japan Agricultural Training Program in a ceremony at the Consul General official residence co-hosted by the Japan Agricultural Exchange Council (JAEC) and Consulate General of Japan.

Consul General Omura led off the ceremony with words of appreciation for those who involved with the program and encouragement for the trainee graduates. Dr. Terrence Leas, president of Big Bend Community College (BBCC); LeAnne Parton, executive director of the BBCC Foundation; Roger and Sandy Short, host farmer representatives; and TJ Yoshikawa, JAEC U.S. branch director, all spoke of the importance of the program, and their memories with and hope for the trainees' bright futures.



Opening remarks by Consul General Omura



Remarks by BBCC president Dr. Leas

Following the speakers, the graduating trainees each received their certificates of completion, including Akane Hirosawa who later spoke on behalf of her fellow graduates on her experience and what she learned while on the program. With the goal of livestock farming after returning to Japan, Ms. Hirosawa reflected on the friends she made in the U.S. and expressed appreciation for their support during her time here.



Training graduate Akane Hirosawa

Utilizing what they have learned in the U.S., we expect that the training graduates will become active leaders in agriculture around Japan.

