

From Left to Right: Pat Kohler, Washington State Department of Licensing Director, Masahiro Omura, Consul General of Japan in Seattle

The Government of Japan and the State of Washington sign a Memorandum of Cooperation for the Reciprocal Partial Exemption of Driver's License Examination

On Friday, November 4 in Olympia, Washington, Consul General of Japan in Seattle Masahiro Omura and Washington State Department of Licensing Director Pat Kohler signed a memorandum of cooperation (MOC) for the reciprocal partial exemption of driver's license examination.

This MOC exempts the holders of driver's licenses issued by the relevant authorities in Japan and Washington State from having to take knowledge and skill examinations when applying for driver's licenses from the other authority in accordance with the respective laws.

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Statement by the Consul General on the arrival of the Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ) in Moses Lake

I would like to give a warm welcome to the first flight-test Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ), which successfully arrived today (9/28) in Moses Lake, Washington.

U.S. flight-testing of the MRJ will now begin based out of Moses Lake's Grant County International Airport; a location blessed with a long runway, wide-open airspace and good weather throughout the year. Testing will also be supported by a wealth of experience and know-how possessed by state's aerospace industry and skilled workforce.

Japan and Washington have a historically deep tradition of both cultural and people-to-people exchange and also share a close economic relationship, which was fortified in June of this year when both sides signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on Economic and Trade Relations.

For the development of the MRJ, it is very reassuring that we have such a strong relationship with our partner, Washington. The MRJ is really an aircraft "developed and made with U.S. and Washington State".

We look forward to continuing our support for the successful development of the MRJ project.

Masahiro Omura
Consul General of Japan in Seattle

2016 Fall Conferment of

Decoration Mr. Thomas

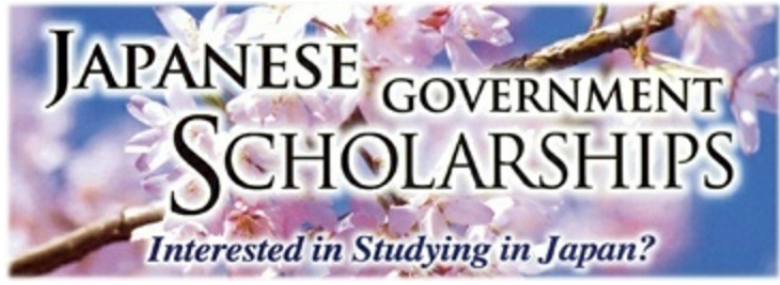
**Brooke (President of Eastside
Nihon Matsuri Association)**

On November 3, 2016, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2016 Fall Imperial Decorations. Mr. Thomas Brooke, of the Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association, has been awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, in recognition of his contributions in promoting the mutual understanding between Japan and the United States by introducing Japanese culture to Washington State.



*Mr. Thomas Brooke, President of Eastside
Nihon Matsuri Association*

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**Japanese
Government
Scholarship
Applications Now**

Available

Deadline: February 9, 2017

The Consulate General of Japan in Seattle is now accepting applications for 2017 Japanese Government Scholarship (Japanese Studies Students), available to U.S. citizens residing in states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Alaska.

[2017 Application Information](#)

Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan

Last month, we were lucky enough to welcome Former Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki and a delegation of young professionals, each representing a different interest area, during their stay in the Puget Sound for the [Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan](#) program. This program aims to deepen the understanding of contemporary Japan and challenge preconceived conceptions of Japanese society, economy, and culture.



*Walk in U.S. Delegation at the Rotary Club of
Seattle's luncheon*

During their short time in the area, Ambassador Fujisaki's group engaged with the community on topics such as promoting the role of women in the job market, alternative energy, and job prospects for Americans in Japan with the UW Japan Studies Program at the University of Washington, the Rotary Club of Seattle, the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of WA 日本文化センター and Everett Community College. We thank them again for spending time in Seattle.



**The Japanese Agricultural Training Program (JATP)
Graduation Ceremony**

On October 4, the Japan Agricultural Exchange Council (JAEC) and the Consulate- General of Japan co-hosted the Japanese Agricultural Training Program (JATP) graduation ceremony at the Consul General's official residence.

In his opening remarks, Consul General Omura expressed his appreciation for those involved in the program and encouraged the trainee graduates. Dr. Terrance Leas, President of Big Bend Community College, and Takashi Yoshikawa, JAEC U.S. branch director all gave greetings, speaking of the importance of the program and their memories with and hopes for the trainees.

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