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## Greetings from the Consul General of Japan

September 2014

As colors in the Pacific Northwest begin to change with the arrival of fall, anticipation builds for the annual Aki Matsuri. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, this festival has truly established itself as a unique and vibrant local tradition, which introduces and celebrates Japanese culture.

Aki Matsuri invites the community to experience the sights, sounds and flavors of Japan through its rich and diverse programming, to the enrichment of all who attend. The grassroots exchange of ideas and the sharing of common experiences strengthen the friendship between our two countries.

The Consulate General of Japan in Seattle is honored to be part of the Aki Matsuri. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association and all of the organizers, sponsors, volunteers, participants and performers whose dedication and hard work make this event a success. I hope that all attendees will enjoy the spirit of friendship and community created by this festival.



*Masahiro Omura*

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Consul General of Japan