

**Awaji Ningyo Joruri Performance Speech**  
**by Senior Consul Tomoko Dodo, August 17, 2013**

The Consulate General of Japan in Seattle, with our friends from Hyogo Prefecture, is very pleased to co-present this Awaji Ningyo Joruri puppet show, a Japanese national cultural asset, as part of the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Washington-Hyogo sister state relations.

Through the presentation we are about to see, we can all reflect upon and appreciate the true depth and magnitude of our half-century of friendship. The bond between our two peoples, like Awaji Ningyo Joruri, is an intangible treasure that we take pride in and must work together to preserve.

Now let us enjoy the performance and continue this beautiful and multifaceted friendship far into the future!