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JAS CONNECTIONS

Fall 2012

News and Information for Members and Friends
of the Japan America Society of Southern California



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Japan America Society of Southern California (JAS) has had an ambitious schedule. March 11th marked the one-year anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Working with tsunami survivor and JAS governor, Masako Unoura Tanaka, we presented “Love To Nippon,” a memorial service held at the LAPD headquarters’ auditorium to commemorate both the victims and the survivors, and to pay tribute to Southern California residents involved in the relief effort. ABC7 anchor David Ono opened the event with his documentary screening. Featured

speakers also included Consul General of Japan Jun Niimi, L.A. County Fire Department Urban Search and Rescue Battalion Chief Larry Collins, and a panel of local citizens who shared their personal experience in relief efforts and as survivors.

In June, we held the 103rd JAS Anniversary Dinner and Gala. It was an astounding success, thanks to the dinner committee, led by Dinner Co-Chairs Tammie Kanda and Terry Hara. Thanks to the efforts of GolinHarris and the communications committee, led by Communications Chair Judy Johnson, news of the

gala spread quickly and reached more than 158 million media impressions through numerous media channels. Not only did the gala’s success fulfill JAS’ fund-raising goal, but the immense public outreach and nationwide recognition received benefitted JAS, and all organizations dedicated to the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationships.



Nancy Woo Hiromoto

Nancy Woo Hiromoto
Chair, JAS

Fukushima Aikuen Orphanage Thanks JAS for Its Support

The JAS board of directors approved a \$30,000 tranche from the 2011 Japan Relief Fund to “adopt” Fukushima Aikuen, a children’s home (orphanage) in Fukushima, Japan, as announced in the Fall 2011 issue of *JAS Connections*. It is home to 91 children, ages two to 18, all of whom are affected daily by the nuclear radiation crisis. The funds were delivered through Smiles & Dreams: Tohoku Kids Support Project that is managed by Living Dreams, a recognized Japanese NPO that supports children’s homes in Japan.

JAS recently received a letter of appreciation from Fukushima Aikuen’s director, Hisao Saito.

While Saito addressed the letter to the JAS president, it is in fact, a heartfelt message for all JAS members and the generous donors to the 2011 Japan Relief Fund.

On March 19, 2012, JAS President Douglas Erber made his second visit to Fukushima Aikuen. Living Dreams team members Mikiko Matsumoto and Yukie Takei accompanied him. The objective of the visit was to review the home’s living environment, examine future needs, and to see how the \$30,000 donation from the 2011 Japan Relief Fund was used. On a positive note, the visit illustrated improvements to the children’s overall living condition, and the home’s staff indicated the children have a relatively more peaceful lifestyle. However, deep concerns over the nuclear power plant’s radiation effects remain. Accordingly, staff diligently monitors all safety issues for the children. ■



Douglas Erber (left) with Living Dreams’ Executive Director, Mikiko Matsumoto (in white coat), three Fukushima Aikuen staff and six preschool age children enjoy a walk. The children are wearing masks to protect themselves from radiation. The children have always enjoyed outdoor activities. But due to radiation concerns, these outdoor activities have to take place far from Fukushima.



With JAS’s donation, two electric generators were purchased to keep essential lights and computers working, as well as refrigerated food safe, in case of blackouts or any future earthquakes.



This laptop and printer were purchased with JAS’ donation funds. Without family members to document the children’s lives with photos, our staff takes many photos and now create memory photo albums for our “graduating” children, who either complete high school or reach the age of 18.



The Japanese government installed solar powered dosimeters at every school and children’s home in Fukushima. The radiation level during our visit in March was 1.009μSv/h, which is the highest constant level of any children’s home in Fukushima Prefecture (a normal level would be 0.009μSv/h).

Mr. Douglas G. Erber
President
Japan America Society of Southern California

Dear Mr. Erber,

On behalf of the children and staff of Fukushima Aikuen children's home, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the Japan America Society of Southern California's generosity and kindness in supporting us through your 2011 Japan Relief Fund.

Thank you so much for the large donation and for caring so much for our children. We also cannot thank you enough for traveling such a long way to visit us in Fukushima. In an environment even now tainted by the explosion of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, we have been able to purchase so many items to put smiles on the children's faces and to help them grow in a healthy manner.

Please find images below of the children playing with the indoor toys and musical instruments. Although the photos show only a fraction of what you have given us, I hope they will help show the children's happiness — they were so delighted when they saw the new toys and instruments, and are so lively when playing with them.

Here in Fukushima, I believe we will have to continue living with radiation for quite a while. In this environment, we would like to continue thinking of the health, safety and security of our children as top priorities; we will endeavor to do this without losing hope. We all would like to move forward together with the support of your organization. Thank you so much for your continued support.

We would like express again our deepest appreciation for the support of the Japan America Society of Southern California.

Best regards,

Hisao Saito

Director
Fukushima Aikuen Children's Home



We purchased this tea ceremony set through JAS' donation. The Tea Ceremony Club at Fukushima Aikuen meets once a week. A tea ceremony teacher (the woman in the blue kimono) leads group lessons for girls aged seven to 17 years old.



The older children enjoy a music club, formed thanks to the musical instruments purchased with JAS' donation. One member of our staff used to be in a band and he helps instruct the children.



Tumbling mats and soft building blocks were purchased for the younger children, who play indoors every day since the earthquake to avoid radiation..

44th Golf Classic & Tennis Open Provides Fun and a Solid Fundraiser for JAS

On a clear and breezy September 24th, JAS members and supporters enjoyed participating in the 44th Japan America Golf Classic & Tennis Open, held concurrently at SeaCliff Country Club, located in Huntington Beach. JAS returned to SeaCliff Country Club for the first time since 1968, when then JAS golf chairman, Sakaye Aratani, chose the club for JAS's inaugural golf tournament. Aratani continued to chair the Golf Classic until the mid-1980s. By popular demand, the Tennis Open was added to the Golf Classic in 2004.

"These two events are important fundraisers for the Japan America Society, and we were pleased that the Tennis Open was another success, and the Golf Classic was sold out for the second year in a row," said Michael Feyder, chair of the Golf Classic & Tennis Open committee. "We truly appreciate everyone who came out to play, as well as our sponsors, especially our presenting sponsor, the international law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman," said Feyder.

Adding to the energy and fun was sports anchor for ABC7 Eyewitness News, Rob Fukuzaki, who served as the events' awards dinner emcee. "It is clear everyone had a great time, and I am pleased to help support



Tennis Open Winners Mens + Womens 1st and 2nd Place (L to R): Nancy Woo Hiromoto - Chair, JASSC, Kumi Suio (Women's 2nd Place), Irene Anderson (Women's 1st Place), M. Nakano (Men's 2nd Place), Yoshihiro Mori (Men's 1st Place), and Michael J. Feyder - Chair, Japan America Golf Classic & Tennis Open



Golf Classic Winners Julie Perron and Jack Grundeen (L to R): Julie Perron (Women's Low Gross) and Jack Grundeen (Men's Low Gross)



Recipient of Japan America Cup Brian Jelilian [center] from Yamaha Corporation of America (L to R): Douglas Erber - President, JASSC, Joel Littleford - Board Member, JASSC and Partner, Deloitte Tax, Brian Jelilian - Senior Vice President, Finance & Administration, Yamaha Corporation of America (Japan America Cup Recipient), Nancy Woo Hiromoto - Chair, JASSC, and Michael Feyder - Chair, Japan America Golf Classic & Tennis Open

the Japan America Society," Fukuzaki said. Fukuzaki helped present The Japan America Cup, a perpetual award that has been presented since 1997 to recognize corporations and individuals participating in the Golf Classic that exemplify sportsmanship, corporate integrity and contributions to the U.S.-Japan relationship. The Golf & Tennis committee was pleased to announce this year's honoree, Yamaha Corporation of America.

The Tennis Champions Trophy, which was donated to JAS eight years ago by R. Thomas Decker, JAS chairman emeritus, is awarded each year to the women's and men's champions; congratulations to Irene Anderson and Yoshihiro Mori. One final perpetual award, The Foreign Ministers Cup, a solid sterling silver trophy that was donated to JAS in 1968 by then Foreign Minister Takeo Miki, was presented to the winning women's and men's golfers; congratulations Julie Perron and Jack Grundeen.

We thank all of our generous sponsors and participants, as well as our dedicated volunteers, for making this year's 44th Golf Classic & Tennis Open a resounding success. We also invite JAS members who enjoy golf or tennis to become active on the Golf Classic & Tennis Open committee by contacting JAS Programs Director Kay Amano at 213-627-6217, ext. 207, or amano@jas-socal.org. ■

Mari Miyoshi Honored

Congratulations to board member Mari Miyoshi, the recipient of the 2012 Women of Achievement Awards! On Oct. 18, 2012, the Century City Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2012 Women of Achievement Annual Awards Luncheon at The Beverly Hilton Hotel. Along with five other extraordinary women in business, Mari Miyoshi accepted the honor amongst 300 guests at the luncheon.

Honoree Mari Miyoshi is the president of Sumitomo Realty and Development (USA), ownership group of the luxury hotel, InterContinental Los Angeles Century City. Born and raised in Tokyo, Japan, Miyoshi has worked at Sumitomo for more than 20 years. She was the first woman in the corporation to be transferred overseas when she moved to New York in 1999 to serve as the director of commercial real estate.

Miyoshi also is dedicated to the mission of Japan America Society of Southern California and has been a strong supporter since joining the organization in 2010. As a member of the board of directors, Miyoshi has been instrumental in many of the society's fund-raising efforts. ■



Back row (From L to R): Irene Anderson, Yoshi Murakami, Yoshihiro Mori, Nancy Woo Hiromoto, William Haberman, Cuoie Arigotti, Michael Labasan Front row (From L to R): Kumi Suio, Chiyo Yoshikuwa, Koko King, Yuka Mizutani, Mike van Zutphen (Head Tennis Pro), M. Nakano



(L to R): Richard Wahlgren, Amy Young, Brian Cambra, Dean Catalano (all from Wells Fargo Private Mortgage Banking)



Rob Fukuzaki and his Friends (L to R): Ron Tanaka, Calvin Higashigawa, Danny Naritoku, Rob Fukuzaki - ABC7 Eyewitness News Sports Anchor



(L to R): Kurt Miyamoto (accepting Men's 3rd Place on behalf of Yoshitsugu Shima), Richard Wahlgren (Men's 2nd Place), Osamu Ota (Men's 1st Place) and Michael Feyder - chair, Japan America Golf Classic & Tennis Open

Japanese Language and Culture Competition Comes to Southern California

JAS will host its first annual Japan Bowl® of Southern California on March 9, 2013, in collaboration with the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts at Loyola Marymount University. The event is made possible in large part by a generous support from The Freeman Foundation.

Japan Bowl is an academic competition that tests the achievements of high school students who are studying the Japanese language. Its uniqueness stems from its dedication to test students not only on the language itself, but also on knowledge of Japan, the country.

The competition format is modeled on popular quiz shows such as “It’s Academic.” Teams of high school students from across Southern California will compete at two different levels, depending on how long they have studied Japanese.

“JAS has a special responsibility to the next generation of Americans to help them learn about Japan as a country – its language, its history and culture, and its relationship with the U.S.,” says JAS President Douglas Erber, who adds, “One-third, or approximately 15,000, of all high school students studying Japanese in the U.S. live and go to school in

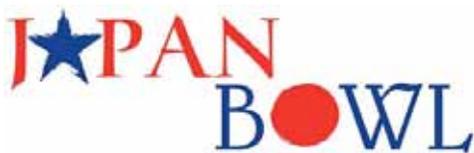
Southern California. Japan Bowl recognizes and encourages these students, who have chosen to study Japanese as their foreign language.”

Japan Bowl was created in 1992 by JAS’s sister organization, the Japan-America Society of Washington, D.C. The JASWDC’s competition is now the “National Japan Bowl®” and is held in April at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Md.

During the preliminary round of the competition, students will be tested with written questions, covering both language and non-language topics. Some non-language areas include Japanese history, arts and traditional and modern culture, geography, society and daily life, popular culture and current events. Finalists are tested with verbal communication skills in the championship round. Throughout the competition, students must have a decent comprehension of kanji (including names of topics, people and places), idiomatic expressions, onomatopoeic expressions, and affective expressions. The winning Level 3 and 4 teams will be declared Southern California champions, and the advanced-level champions will be invited to compete in the National Japan Bowl®.

For more information about Japan Bowl® of Southern California, please visit the JAS website at jas-socal.org or contact Kay Amano, programs director, at 213-627-6217, ext. 207, or amano@jas-socal.org.

The Japan Bowl® name and logo are the registered trademarks of the Japan America Society of Washington, Inc., and are used with its permission. ■



All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.

Founded in 1952, Tokyo-based All Nippon Airways (ANA) is the ninth largest airline in the world by revenues and the largest in Japan by passenger numbers.

ANA has 33,000 employees and operates about 1,000 flights a day covering an extensive domestic and international network, with scheduled service to more than 50 domestic destinations and 25 international destinations across Europe, South Asia, East Asia and North America. In 2011, ANA carried 43 million passengers and generated revenues in excess of \$17 billion.

ANA has been a core member of Star Alliance since 1999, and last year it launched a trans-Pacific joint venture with United Airlines. Through the joint venture, the airlines can now connect nearly 300 U.S. cities, more than 40 Japanese cities, and 11 routes between the two countries with nearly 120 flights per week. ANA passengers can take advantage of more choices and seamless booking on itineraries that combine flight segments on any of the partner carriers within the U.S., over the Pacific, and within Japan on ANA. More than 23 million members of the ANA Mileage Club now receive the same mileage accrual benefits on United as they receive on ANA. Additionally, elite-level members of the United and ANA frequent-flyer programs can accumulate bonus miles on any United or ANA flight.

The new first-class seat on ANA's

Boeing 777-300ER aircraft is known as "ANA First Square," as it is a square personal cabin, where high panel walls, furnished in contemporary wood tones, create a perfect room exclusively for each passenger. It includes a 23-inch TV, wardrobe and international telephone. When fully reclined, the bed is furnished with sheets, a throw or a down-filled duvet of silk, down-filled pillow and sleep suit. There is full audio and video on demand, plus iPod and USB connections.



touch-panel screen, as well as a full-size pillow and down-filled duvet, plus a shoe case, accessory box and coat hook for personal items.

The newly renovated "ANA Premium Economy" and "ANA Economy" are synonymous with comfort. Premium Economy provides independent cabin space with the 19-inch seat width, 38-inch seat pitch (10% wider than the regular Economy seat), and a 10-inch personal touch panel TV monitor. Passengers may enjoy complimentary sparkling wine and soup in addition to regular Economy class meals. Premium Economy class is now available on ANA flights from New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. ANA Economy has an increased seat pitch of 34 inches for spacious comfort.

Since 1986, ANA has been a corporate member of JAS, and the general manager assigned to ANA's Los Angeles office has served on the JAS board of directors.



Additional support from ANA has benefited countless JAS fundraisers and other special events. In March 1995, ANA sponsored JAS's first official Japan trip for members. A second Japan trip was sponsored by ANA in April 2007. In 2009, ANA

served as the official Japanese airline for JAS' 100th anniversary. We invite you to visit ANA's website at www.fly-ana.com for route maps, inflight service information, or to book your next flight. ■

In business class, ANA offers the appropriately slated, "ANA Business Staggered," as every passenger has aisle access with the staggered seat configuration. Each seat is equipped with the largest-in-class 17-inch LCD

served as the official Japanese airline for JAS' 100th anniversary.

We invite you to visit ANA's website at www.fly-ana.com for route maps, inflight service information, or to book your next flight. ■

Katsuya Takamiya President and CEO, Mitsubishi Electric US

“The reason we can be here in the U.S. is because there is a society and market that accepts us,” explains Katsuya Takamiya, president and CEO of Mitsubishi Electric US. “We have an obligation to return something, to give value back to the society that allows us to be here and to do business.”

During his long tenure at Mitsubishi Electric, Katsuya Takamiya spent significant portions of his career in both Japan and the United States. Through this experience, Takamiya developed a unique perspective on our respective societies and a deep commitment to both the Japanese and American communities. Through his personal involvement in those communities and the lives of his employees, Takamiya has used his leadership to foster stronger relationships and understanding between the people of Japan and the U.S., and he views the Japan America Society as a valuable forum for the development of those relationships.

Born in Miyazaki city, Japan, Takamiya joined the Tokyo office of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation in 1979. He was subsequently assigned to work in the United States from 1994 to 1998, and again from 2003 to 2006. During both assignments, Takamiya worked with Mitsubishi Electric Power Products (“MEPPI”) in Pittsburgh, Penn., as a strategic marketing manager and later as executive vice president. In addition to serving the power systems, rail transportation and water treatment industries, one of MEPPI’s divisions produced an especially visible product with a unique connection to Los Angeles: the Diamond Vision screen.

The first Diamond Vision scoreboard was installed at Dodger Stadium

in 1980. Today, Diamond Vision produces large-scale video displays used in marquee stadiums for many teams, including the Dallas Cowboys, New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves, San Francisco Giants and Boston Red Sox. “The quality of our products is first-class,” explains Takamiya, who adds, “And new LED technology also makes the giant screens very energy-efficient products.” The Diamond Vision scoreboard at San Francisco’s AT&T Park, for example, uses 78% less energy than the prior scoreboard, contributing to its reputation as the greenest ballpark in the nation.



In 2010, Takamiya’s third assignment brought him to Southern California as the president and CEO of Mitsubishi Electric U.S. (MEUS). MEUS markets consumer, commercial and industrial products as diverse as semiconductors, heating and air conditioning systems, and elevators and escalators. MEUS also has been at the leading edge of solar product innovation for nearly 40 years. For example, a number of

Costco stores have solar panels supplied by Mitsubishi Electric, while Costco’s distribution center in Ontario, Calif., has one of the largest solar plants in the United States.

Mitsubishi’s commitment to the environment is central to its corporate vision. According to Takamiya, Mitsubishi Electric’s Environmental Vision 2021 is a preeminent theme throughout the company. Implemented to coincide with Mitsubishi Electric’s 100th anniversary, the current initiatives impact every aspect of Mitsubishi’s business, such as reducing carbon emissions both from its factories and from product usage; designing products that consume less energy; increasing the number of components that can be recycled; and using less energy in manufacturing.

Under Takamiya’s leadership, the contributions of MEUS are local, as much as they are global. When Takamiya returned to the U.S. in 2010, he also became the president of the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF) board of directors. MEAF provides funding for projects that assist young people with disabilities in the communities where each company is located. Takamiya encourages his employees to become personally involved in these projects and leads by his own example.

At MEUS, employee volunteer committees coordinate projects in Southern California. For example, in December 2011, a volunteer crew installed solar panels on the home of a low-income family in Santa Ana that has two children, including one with a disability. “Doing such projects not only helps other people, but it also is

personally fulfilling,” adds Takamiya. Other programs include inviting disabled children to play “hallway golf” with Mitsubishi employees in their Cypress office, and painting facilities at the Blind Children’s Learning Center in Santa Ana.

Takamiya believes that the Japan America Society provides an important venue for his employees to build relationships within the surrounding community. As a result, he was personally involved in the JAS of Pennsylvania during his first two assignments in the U.S., and now serves on the board of directors for the JAS of Southern California.

“It is one of the easiest ways for someone from Japan to associate with local people,” Takamiya explains. “If I do not participate in such programs, my experience in the United States will be limited to interactions within the company or with customers.

Participating in outside activities with JAS helps me get acquainted with people outside of my business and broadens my experience.”

Because of the value he has personally found in being involved with JAS, Takamiya also encourages the involvement of his employees. For example, MEUS recently hosted a JAS Day, which provided an opportunity for all of its employees to learn about the Japan America Society. Mitsubishi Electric offered to pay the registration fee for each employee to attend a JAS event in the coming year.

But Takamiya not only urges his Japanese employees to build relationships in the U.S. – he also encourages U.S. employees to experience and build relationships in Japan. One unique program provides such opportunities to the children of MEUS employees. Through Youth for Understanding USA, MEUS sends

three children of its U.S. employees to Japan every year as part of a summer exchange program. Since 1985, 95 students have participated in this program, staying at the homes of Mitsubishi Electric employees in cities such as Fukuoka, Kyoto, and Tokyo, and attending school with the children of their Japanese hosts.

Takamiya describes the experience of this exchange program as “a life-changing opportunity,” that gives students a broader perspective of today’s world. “It is very interesting how they didn’t know very much about Japan, but after six weeks, they come back to the U.S. and they want to share what they have experienced with others. Almost all of them say they want to go back to Japan again, but they also want to experience other countries. It is great that we can provide such an opportunity for young kids.” ■



Katsuya Takamiya (right) volunteers with MEUS employees.

Building Green is the New Black

In May, JAS, in conjunction with the Port of Los Angeles, held its 6th Annual US-Japan Green Conference: SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION. We thank Miyako Hybrid Hotel as the sponsor of that event. Featured speakers included Hitoshi Abe (director, UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies), Robert Moore (president, Gray West Coast Operations) and Elmond K. Wan (president, Kajima Construction Services West). The event was moderated by Jim MacLellan, director of trade services, Port of Los Angeles.

The conference discussed the green construction processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle. The construction of sustainable buildings is an important key to using resources wisely and efficiently, as well as protecting the health of occupants and reducing waste and pollution in the environment. We asked distinguished panelist Robert Moore to enlighten JAS members with his summary for that day.

The marketplace is demanding sustainable, energy efficient solutions and, today, there's no impediment to building green. The availability of green products, either LEED®- or Energy Star-rated, allows nearly every element of a building project to be sourced based on its energy efficiency. The prospect of sustainable and economical green buildings are more attainable today than at any other time in history.

LEED®, an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a rating system first developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org) in 2000. A LEED® checklist scorecard is used to identify the categories and credits the building owner wants to attain for the facility. These categories include water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, environmental quality and innovation in design. The more credits earned through the application of a LEED® process determines the level of certification. A facility can, at a minimum, become Certified, or can

achieve LEED® Silver, LEED® Gold or the highest level, LEED® Platinum status. The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® rating system has undergone three revisions in just over 10 years to include new technology and additional standards, placing emphasis on priorities such as energy use and carbon dioxide emissions.

Over the past 30 years, Gray has listened to the changing needs of our customers and their desire to become better stewards of the environment. As a result, it has driven us to continuously research building materials, plumbing fixtures, lighting solutions and other means and methods to produce energy-efficient designs and deliver sustainable building solutions. We continue to see an ever-increasing environmental awareness and desire for green buildings across all of the industrial and commercial markets we serve. Lean processes, energy-efficient design and sustainable buildings make economic sense for all types of facilities.

Examples of Gray's customers who have embraced sustainable design include:

- Nestlé Waters North America built a new 519,720 sq. ft. bottled water production and distribution facility in Dallas, TX, realizing a 15.6 percent reduction in energy consumption per year due to its energy-efficient design.
- Kentucky Eagle Beer, a distributor for Anheuser-Busch, incorporated day-lighting features, a computer-controlled refrigeration system, and heat-reducing roofing materials into its new distribution center in Lexington, KY. The application of energy efficient designs, driven by the LEED® process, resulted in a drastic reduction in utility costs.



- The United States Postal Service prioritized the investments in sustainable design solutions that have resulted in a savings of \$39.4 million in energy cost over a three-year period.
- Siemens Energy challenged Gray's designers to investigate and incorporate sustainable design elements into its new wind turbine nacelle manufacturing facility in Hutchinson, KS. Through the application of a sustainable site design, water-saving plumbing fixtures, and energy-efficient lighting and electronically-tintable glass provided by Sage Glass, Siemens achieved a LEED® Gold certification—Siemens first LEED® Gold manufacturing facility in the U.S. and the first LEED® Gold new construction/industrial facility in Kansas.

Sustainable building design and construction isn't just a fleeting trend. Our customers understand the long-term benefits from their investments in sustainable facilities as good stewards of our natural resources. And, as their partner, Gray considers a sustainable project approach as an obligation to minimize the impact their facilities make to the environment through deliberate and thoughtful designs and construction practices. ■



Shin Koyamada Appointed Special Ambassador for JAS

Shin Koyamada has been appointed a Special Ambassador to the Japan America Society of Southern California (JAS). Best known for his roles in Warner Bros. film *The Last Samurai* (2003) as Nobutada and Disney Channel movie *Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior* (2006) as Shen, Koyamada is both a talented actor and an accomplished athlete, competing in everything from gymnastics to several fields of martial arts, including Karate, Tae Kwon Do and Shaolin Kung Fu. His work with the Shin Koyamada Foundation raised more than \$120,000 for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and provided valuable supplies to citizens in need. Koyamada is also a strong supporter of U.S.-Japan relations. At the invitation of the U.S. State Department, he toured five Japanese

cities in March 2012, to inspire high school and college students to study in the United States, and he is a goodwill ambassador for his hometown of Okayama, Japan.

In 2010, the JAS board of directors created the Ambassadors Circle, a committee with the purpose of promoting the mission and goodwill of JAS to those selected segments of the general public as determined by the JAS board of directors. Members of the Ambassadors Circle, known as "Special Ambassadors," are tasked to provide recommendations



for potential new supporters of JAS from the targeted fields, and to create opportunities for JAS' cultivation of

new members and sponsors. Because the Ambassadors Circle focuses on the fields of entertainment, the arts, fashion, and popular media and culture, Koyamada is an ideal selection.

When he is not acting, training or working with his foundation, Koyamada will be attending

several of our upcoming JAS events. Please make sure to give him a warm welcome. ■

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Doing Business in Latin America: Opportunities for Japanese and American Companies

Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012

3:00 p.m. Program
7:00 p.m. Networking Reception

Miyako Hybrid Hotel Torrance

Challenges in Asia and the World: Democracy, Nationalism and Secularism

AMBASSADOR KAZUO KODAMA, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the U.N.

12:00 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30, 2012

InterContinental Hotel Los Angeles Century City

Save the Date!

JAS Annual Members Meeting

5:00 p.m., Feb. 21, 2013

For more information and reservations, please visit www.jas-socal.org or call 213-627-6217.