



## CONSUL-GENERAL OF JAPAN

77 KING STREET WEST, SUITE 3300, P.O. BOX 10  
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5K 1A1

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter to introduce myself and to share with you the latest situation of Japan after the tragic earthquake on March 11.

It is my great honor and pleasure to have been posted at Toronto as the Consul-General of Japan. My wife and I arrived here in late September, and since then we have been warmly welcomed by many Canadians, including Japanese Canadians. Thanks to their hospitality and kindness, I have been able to make a good start in both official and private life, feeling comfortable and at home.

Regarding my background, I have served the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more than 30 years. One area of rich experiences in my career is Asian Affairs including the Korean peninsula, and another is multilateral diplomacy, in particular, at the United Nations. Although this is my first assignment in Canada, I served in North America for a total of 7 years, in Boston and New York. Immediately before my current post, I was working at our headquarters in Tokyo, with one of my responsibilities being helping to manage the crisis in the aftermath of the great earthquake.

On this topic, we cannot be more grateful to you for your kind sympathy and generous support for those affected by the unprecedented calamity. Thanks to the support from Canada as well as assistance from all over the world, many parts of Japan are now back to normal.

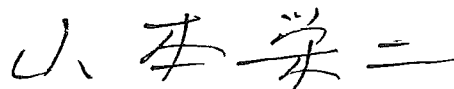
In fact, the bullet train system connecting Tokyo and Aomori, which is located at the northeastern tip of Honshu (the main island of Japan), had been disrupted by the earthquake, but was fully restored just in 50 days! Now the rapid train travels 700 km in a little bit more than 3 hours, at a maximum speed of 300 km/h. Before my wife and I came to Toronto, we traveled to the northeastern part of Japan, areas of which were badly devastated by the tsunami, and enjoyed hot springs, delicious food and sake, and beautiful nature and cultural sites. Just recently, Hiraizumi, an area of historical temples located in the Northeast, was designated as a world heritage site by UNESCO, together with the Ogasawara Islands which preserve rare species of plants and animals in a tropical setting.

For the directly affected areas and those nearby the nuclear incident site, the reconstruction process is steadily underway. The damaged Fukushima nuclear reactors are now stable and radiation decontamination activities are being accelerated. Currently, another huge supplementary budget package for reconstruction, totalling approximately \$150 billion CDN, is being deliberated among the political parties in the Japanese Parliament.

Under these new circumstances, I would like to welcome and foster further business interactions between Japan and Canada, and in particular, Japan and Ontario. I also want to encourage more tourists from Canada to visit Japan.

One of my important missions here is to strengthen our relations in various fields, in such a way as to create a win-win situation between us. For this purpose, I am looking forward to working closely with you. I will continue to update you on the situation in Japan and our bilateral relations from time to time.

Yours Sincerely,



Eiji YAMAMOTO  
Consul- General of Japan  
Toronto

His Worship Bob Bratina  
Mayor of Hamilton  
Hamilton City Hall  
2nd floor - 71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON  
L8P 4Y5

