

October 4, 2017

Dear Grassroots Summit participants,

It is with great pleasure that next year's Grassroots Summit will take place in Washington State. I look forward to welcoming approximately 150 people from Japan participating in this wonderful people-to-people exchange program that began in 1991, and takes place each year, alternating venues between Japan and the US. In 2018, they will have the unique opportunity to experience the natural splendor and technological innovation that characterizes this corner of the United States.

The US and Japan have maintained strong ties, in large part due to the warm exchanges between its people based on common values, and are indispensable partners in the Asia-Pacific. Adding to the active sister-city relationships of which the state can proudly boast, and the economic ties that pull our two nations closer together, I am confident that next year's event in Washington State will solidify this relationship.

I extend my deep appreciation to Japan-America Society of the State of Washington, and its Japan-based partner, the Center for International Exchange, for their collaborative work in making this event a success. I sincerely wish for each participant to experience a memorable stay by engaging with the sights, sounds and the warmhearted people that exemplify this wonderful region.

Consul General of Japan in Seattle

Yoichiro Yamada