Dear Friends,

2015 was a pivotal year in U.S.-Japan relations, marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. This anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on our shared values and the deep and enduring relationship that has formed between the U.S. and Japan over the past 70 years. Our close partnership was clearly evident in the aftermath of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, when the U.S. military and Japan Self-Defense Forces worked together on Operation Tomodachi to provide humanitarian relief to the Tohoku region.

The TOMODACHI Initiative embodies this spirit of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Japan. Now in its fourth year, TOMODACHI has impacted the lives of more than 4,500 young people in the United States and Japan through cultural exchange programs and leadership training. In 2015 alone, approximately 1,200 young people participated in one of 49 programs that were offered.

In 2016, TOMODACHI programs will focus on alumni programming, promoting women’s empowerment and leadership, providing scholarship opportunities for students in need, furthering internship opportunities in the United States and Japan, and encouraging the study of science and technology. These programs are designed to support participants in their journey to becoming cross-cultural leaders engaged in solving global challenges and strengthening relations between our two countries.

TOMODACHI’s strong corporate and institutional partners have brought new energy to the U.S.-Japan relationship. We are extremely grateful for their support of President Obama and Prime Minister Abe’s joint goal of doubling two-way student exchanges by 2020.

We thank all those who share our commitment to young people and to the bright future of the “TOMODACHI Generation.”

Sincerely,

Caroline B. Kennedy
U.S. Ambassador to Japan

Irene Hirano Inouye
President, U.S.-Japan Council

Our Mission
The TOMODACHI Initiative is a public-private partnership between the U.S.-Japan Council and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Born out of support for Japan’s recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, TOMODACHI invests in the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational and cultural exchanges as well as leadership programs.

Our History
In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, the United States military and Japan Self-Defense Forces worked together successfully in Operation Tomodachi to provide immediate humanitarian relief to the Tohoku region. Building upon this cooperation and spirit of friendship, the United States and Japan launched the TOMODACHI Initiative. TOMODACHI is led by the United States Embassy in Tokyo and the U.S.-Japan Council, a tax-exempt non-profit organization, and is supported by the Government of Japan, corporations, organizations and individuals from the United States and Japan.

Our Vision
We seek to foster a “TOMODACHI Generation” of young American and Japanese leaders who are committed to and engaged in strengthening U.S.-Japan relations, appreciate each other’s countries and cultures, and possess the global skills and mindsets needed to contribute to and thrive in a more cooperative, prosperous, and secure world.

Our Future
Going forward, the TOMODACHI Initiative will continue to be a model for public-private partnerships. We will develop and design programs that support U.S.-Japan cross-cultural youth leadership development, including alumni programs, while enriching and increasing collaboration with U.S.-Japan-related organizations.

Our Programs
Educational Programs provide educational opportunities for students to study abroad and gain exposure to each other’s countries.

Cultural Programs in sports, music, and the arts provide gateways for Japanese and Americans to learn about and develop enduring interest in each other’s cultures.

Leadership Programs help the next generation of entrepreneurs and young leaders develop skills and expertise that will guide them towards success.

Alumni Programs build upon the initial TOMODACHI experience, and provide TOMODACHI alumni with skills, opportunities, and confidence to achieve their dreams while becoming the next generation of cross-cultural leaders.

TOMODACHI supports cross-cultural youth leadership development throughout a life cycle of experiences, with a focus on developing leaders.
1,198 program participants in 2015

67% female
41% high school

83% from Japan
51% from Tohoku
66% leadership

49 programs and 43 locations in Japan and the United States in 2015

730 participants went on exchanges in 2015.

Over 33,000 event and program participants from inception through December 2015

Number of Participants
Number of Programs
Strategic Partners that support the TOMODACHI Initiative impact the lives of participants through customized programs that provide unique opportunities, from short-term exchange programs to scholarships and fellowships. These programs also provide practical skills for leadership development and networking opportunities that can be utilized after program completion. In 2015, over 550 participants, ranging from high school students to young professionals, took part in 16 Strategic Partner programs. After completing their programs, these diverse members of the “TOMODACHI Generation” remain engaged and inspired through their participation in TOMODACHI alumni events and programming.

“\nI learned that we face similar issues, and have a similar passion and love toward our hometowns. I have become more determined through this program to bring back what I’ve learned and to apply it in Japan.”
— Minori Kato, TOMODACHI-Mitsui & Co. Leadership Program

2015 Strategic Partner Programs

TOMODACHI Aflac Program
This program provides up-and-coming Japanese cancer specialists with the foundation for a broader understanding of research and treatment protocols for childhood cancer in the United States. In 2015, Dr. Hirozumi Sano from Sapporo Hokuyu Hospital studied at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Georgia for 6 months to observe and share best practices.

TOMODACHI Daiwa House Student Leadership Conference
The first of a series of conferences, thirty university students from California including Japanese university exchange students currently studying in the United States, met in Silicon Valley, California in April. This conference focused on entrepreneurship and innovation for students with academic, career and/or personal interests in U.S.-Japan relations.

TOMODACHI Goldman Sachs Roadshow
In 2015, 15 Young American cast members and talented performing arts students conducted singing, dancing, and pantomiming workshops for approximately 3,300 students in 50 locations including elementary and junior high schools throughout the disaster-affected areas of Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima prefectures. These workshops opened the students’ hearts, helped them gain confidence, and motivated them to learn about different cultures.

TOMODACHI High School Women Career Mentoring Program in Fukushima
Approximately one hundred female high school students in Fukushima in their junior year participated in this four-phased career development program. They met with students who studied abroad and professional career women, and explored the many options that they have in the future; hopefully leading to the emergence of female leaders in Fukushima prefecture. This program was funded through the TOMODACHI Combini Fund, which is supported by Lawson and FamilyMart Co., Ltd.

TOMODACHI HLAB Tohoku
In August, one hundred high school and university students from the Tohoku region participated in this nine-day liberal arts educational program in which university students from the United States and Japan work together to create a summer school seminar for Japanese high school students. This year was the first year the program was held in Tohoku, thanks to the generous support from the TOMODACHI Combini Fund made possible by Lawson and FamilyMart Co., Ltd.

TOMODACHI Honda Cultural Exchange Program
Twenty high school students from the disaster-affected prefecture of Iwate visited the Los Angeles area in California, and experienced a two-week cultural exchange program during which they learned about American traditions and culture through music. Highlights of the program included participating in the Rose Bowl Parade on New Year’s Day and visiting the Japanese-American National Museum and American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
2015 Strategic Partner Programs (cont’d)

TOMODACHI J&J Disaster Nursing Training Program
Launched in 2015, eight nursing students and one mentor from Miyagi prefecture participated in a three-part program that supports capacity building of nurses in the Tohoku region by focusing on the field of disaster medicine. In August, the group traveled to New York and Washington, DC to learn about the various types of disasters, and how the United States handles disasters within and outside its borders.

TOMODACHI NGO Leadership Program supported by J.P. Morgan
Since 2013, this program has connected Japanese NGO leaders with key resources in the United States in order to enhance their capacity to respond to future disasters in Japan and abroad. In 2015, the program had three main components: Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop (January), NGO Leadership Delegation to Washington, DC (June), and Humanitarian Response Workshop (November); with various workshops held within Japan.

TOMODACHI Major League Baseball (MLB) Partnership
In August, 250 little leaguers – of which 50 were from Tohoku – had a rare opportunity to learn the fundamentals of baseball from Major League Baseball (MLB) Hall of Famers Randy Johnson and Tony LaRussa, as well as 2001 World Series Hero Luis Gonzalez and a former Japanese professional baseball pitcher Kenjiro Kawasaki. The event was held at the TOMODACHI Ishinomaki City Baseball Stadium, once destroyed by the events of the Great East Japan Earthquake and reconstructed through the TOMODACHI Initiative with funding provided by Major League Baseball.

TOMODACHI MetLife Women’s Leadership Program
In its third year, this mentorship program expanded to four cities in Japan — Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka and Naha — with a total of 98 participants. The female mentors and mentees attended five workshops throughout the year which focused on personal development, leadership training, networking skills, and financial literacy.

TOMODACHI-Mitsui & Co. Leadership Program
This program inspires and motivates the next generation of young American and Japanese leaders from business and government sectors to be active in U.S.-Japan relations. Guided by the theme, “Transformation, Future Vision,” ten Americans and ten Japanese professionals traveled to each other’s countries for one week to focus on innovation, new technology, industrial development, and their role in U.S.-Japan cooperation.

TOMODACHI MUFJ International Exchange Program
In the fourth year of this reciprocal exchange program, 20 high school students from Southern California visited Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Sendai in Japan for a two-week cultural exchange. The students were exposed to Japanese culture and values through academic programs, homestays, and sightseeing activities.

As I, and countless other alumni have demonstrated, we, the TOMODACHI Generation, can achieve anything. I encourage you, my fellow tomadachi, to continue to be engaged and continue to keep in touch. We can empower each other to greater heights.”

— Sachiko Tani, TOMODACHI MetLife Women’s Leadership Program
Inspiring Tohoku Youth

As one of the founding donors for the TOMODACHI Initiative, the TOMODACHI Fund for Exchanges was established in April 2012 with generous support from Mitsubishi Corporation, Toyota Motor Corporation, and Hitachi, Ltd., to provide young Japanese students from Tohoku with opportunities to participate in ground-up, innovative educational and cultural exchange programs in the United States. By the end of 2015, 43 innovative, grassroots programs were implemented under this Fund, creating lasting impact and inspiring many young people in Tohoku. These programs have also empowered a variety of partner organizations such as the Japan-America Societies across the United States, nurtured sister city relationships, and generated new institutional partnerships. The programs have touched the lives of over 650 young people who had been looking for a way to give themselves and their communities hope.

From the start of the TOMODACHI program, I felt a strong sense of community among the students participating. The way the American and Japanese students worked together was nothing short of inspirational, and gave me the confidence to work with anyone. I am so honored to be considered an alumnus of this prestigious program and will continue to support it for the rest of my career.

— Ryan Candela, Building the TOMODACHI Generation

2015 PROGRAMS

Contributions from donors at the Sponsor and Supporter levels support a diverse range of TOMODACHI programs, from educational exchanges, cultural programs centered around sports, music and the arts, and leadership development programs. In 2015, TOMODACHI collaborated with implementing organizations in the United States and Japan to run 18 general fund programs for over 350 emerging leaders from middle school to young professionals. Participants included youth in Japan, from Tohoku to Okinawa, as well as from various cities across the United States.

No matter what I do in this world, the TOMODACHI experience served as the most transformative experience of my life, instilling a deep fascination of Japanese culture within me and providing me with an experience that has taught me the importance of Japanese and American relations.” — Priscilla Torres, TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Program
Continuing Engagement

The TOMODACHI Initiative seeks to create a growing cadre of young Americans and Japanese from diverse backgrounds who will become leaders of the next generation to give back to their communities and promote stronger ties within the U.S.-Japan relationship. The TOMODACHI Alumni Leadership Program, sponsored by The Prudential Foundation, builds upon the initial TOMODACHI experience to inspire and empower the young people of Japan and America, giving them the experiences, skills, and confidence to achieve their dreams and contribute to a better world. TOMODACHI offers the alumni community a range of opportunities to engage and inspire one another to become cross-cultural leaders while building strong, enduring relationships through those people-to-people connections.

As of December 2015, over 4,600 TOMODACHI alumni have participated in 159 TOMODACHI programs.

The TOMODACHI Summit provided the chance to connect with over 100 like-minded and passionate alumni, all of whom are committed to contributing to society in one way or another. The Summit served as a platform to share experiences, ideas and stories from all over Japan and the USA, which helped to enrich my understanding of the US-Japan relationship and other contemporary global issues.”

Robin Lewis, TOMODACHI NGO Leadership Program supported by J.P. Morgan

2015 TOMODACHI Generation Summit

Funded by The Prudential Foundation, the first TOMODACHI Generation Summit was launched at Sophia University in Tokyo on November 8, 2015. This inaugural summit brought together approximately 140 university students and young professionals from the United States and Japan who are alumni of various TOMODACHI programs, including cultural exchange, homestay, and leadership programs.

The Summit commenced with a keynote plenary session by former U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos, who discussed the origin of the TOMODACHI Initiative and his vision of investing in the next generation of leaders in Japan and the United States. Ambassador Roos’ session was followed by presentations from TOMODACHI alumni.

After a working lunch, the alumni participated in various hands-on skills building workshops ranging from techniques on giving a lasting first impression, to a song and dance session on gaining confidence and developing more effective leadership strategies in Japan.

The Summit concluded with a reception that brought together over 250 guests including TOMODACHI alumni, corporate donors and partners, and Japanese-American leaders from the U.S.-Japan Council. The alumni had an opportunity to network with various guests and colleagues, both in English and Japanese, while strengthening their identity as the TOMODACHI Generation.

The TOMODACHI Initiative seeks to create a growing cadre of young Americans and Japanese from diverse backgrounds who will become leaders of the next generation to give back to their communities and promote stronger ties within the U.S.-Japan relationship. The TOMODACHI Alumni Leadership Program, sponsored by The Prudential Foundation, builds upon the initial TOMODACHI experience to inspire and empower the young people of Japan and America, giving them the experiences, skills, and confidence to achieve their dreams and contribute to a better world. TOMODACHI offers the alumni community a range of opportunities to engage and inspire one another to become cross-cultural leaders while building strong, enduring relationships through those people-to-people connections.

2015 TOMODACHI Generation Summit in Pictures

Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos kicks off the TOMODACHI Generation Summit

Irene Hirano Inouye, President of the U.S.-Japan Council welcomes the TOMODACHI alumni

Alumni speak about the impact of TOMODACHI programs on their lives

Alumni split into nine groups for hands-on skills building workshops

U.S. Department of State Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs Evan Ryan met with five alumni for an intimate roundtable discussion

The Summit concluded with a reception for TOMODACHI alumni, business executives from America and Japan, and U.S. Embassy officials.
TOMODACHI works with many partners in order to make these life-changing experiences possible for young people. In 2015, the following partners implemented programs based on TOMODACHI grants:

- AidTAKATA
- American Councils for International Education (ACIE)
- BeGood Café
- Berklee College of Music
- Children’s National Medical Center
- Cultural Vistas
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Global Fund for Education Assistance
- Hawaii Senior Life Enrichment Association
- iLEAP
- Impact Foundation
- International Foster Care Alliance
- International Student Conferences
- Iwate University
- Japan/HLAB
- Japan-America Society of Hawaii
- The Japan Foundation
- The Japanese Association of the Experiment in International Living
- Japan Society of New York
- Jibun Mirai Club
- Japan Council for Independent Living
- John Manjiro Whitfield Commemorative Center for International Exchange (CIE)
- The Juilliard School
- Keio University Shonan Fujisawa Campus
- Kizuna Across Cultures
- The Laurasian Institution
- Lumina Learning
- Mercy Corps
- Miyagi Obstetrics and Gynecology Medical Information Network Association
- Montgomery Dickson Center for Japanese Language and Culture National Association for Japan-America Societies
- National Science Teachers Association
- New Business Conference
- Parsons The New School for Design
- Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York
- Ryukyufrongs
- Stanford Graduate School of Business
- Study Abroad Foundation
- Taylor Anderson Fund
- Temple University United States-Japan Bridging Foundation
- The Washington Center

1. TOMODACHI alumni attend a discussion centered on the themes of Music, Disaster Relief, and Personal Growth.

2. TOMODACHI alumni attended the American Chamber of Commerce Japan’s Women in Business Summit, which featured high-profile speakers from numerous sectors.

3. Over thirty TOMODACHI alumni convene in Tokyo for TOMODACHI Alumni Day to provide leadership, skill-building, and networking opportunities for alumni across all TOMODACHI initiative programs.

4. TOMODACHI alumni attend reception for Pacific Vision 21 and discuss the future of U.S.-Japan relations with dignitaries including former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, former Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. Ichiro Fujisaki, Hideo Nomo, who was the second Japanese to pitch in the American Major Leagues; and Yasui Akashi—who served as United Nations Under-Secretary-General.

5. TOMODACHI alumni encourage a Boston, Massachusetts audience at March 11th Anniversary Event.

6. TOMODACHI alumni present community development projects at the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai.

7. Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida meets with TOMODACHI Alumni, U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and USJC President Irene Hirano Inouye.

8. TOMODACHI alumni meet the First Ladies of Japan and the United States and share messages from Tohoku.

9. TOMODACHI alumni from five different TOMODACHI programs from Fukushima and Iwate prefectures and Tokyo gather to participate in a professional development session with The Graduate School.

10. Seventy-two TOMODACHI alumni from the Tohoku region gather to reflect on their experiences and to discuss the overall theme of “Millennium Development Goals: Post 2015” at the TOMODACHI Beyond Tomorrow Global Leadership Academy supported by Bank of America Merrill Lynch.
Looking To The Future

Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited

The TOMODACHI Initiative would like to give special thanks to Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited for contributions devoted specifically to strengthening TOMODACHI’s operational and administrative capabilities. To be effective, an organization must have dedicated staff and the resources to accomplish its mission. The generous donation from Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited provides the ability to develop life-changing programs that nurture the TOMODACHI Generation and build a strong, enduring U.S.-Japan relationship.

EVOLUTION FINANCIAL GROUP

From Spring 2015, Evolution Financial Group provided the U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) and the TOMODACHI Initiative with a large office space in the New Otani Garden Court in Tokyo. This unique and generous contribution has allowed staff of the U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) including the TOMODACHI Initiative to work together in one environment promoting teamwork and mutual support.

TOPPAN

Thank you to Toppan Printing for generously printing the TOMODACHI Initiative 2015 Annual Report!

We thank many corporate partners for helping to raise the profile of TOMODACHI and to spread the word about the importance of U.S.-Japan youth exchange.

1. ANA airplanes display the TOMODACHI logo
2. TOMODACHI signage throughout Haneda Airport
3. TOMODACHI Donation Boxes at Lawson and FamilyMart convenience stores across Japan
4-5. 5th Annual World Gardening Fair at Hotel Okura Tokyo with donations to TOMODACHI
6-7. Chef Nobu Matsuhisa holds charity dinners with celebrity chefs for TOMODACHI
The U.S.-Japan Council (U.S.) and the U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) work in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy Tokyo to implement the TOMODACHI Initiative as a public-private partnership. Implementation includes program development and oversight, communications and outreach, marketing, fundraising, donor relations and management, and operations.

The two organizations are separate entities, each governed by an independent Board of Directors, which work closely together in the administration of the TOMODACHI Initiative. Donors in both the United States and Japan can receive tax deductions for their contributions to TOMODACHI to the extent allowable by non-profit laws in each country.

The U.S.-Japan Council (U.S.) and the U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) Board of Directors and Board of Councilors are listed in the U.S.-Japan Council 2015 Annual Report and the U.S.-Japan Council website at: www.usjapancouncil.org.

The U.S.-Japan Council (US) and the U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) are Public Interest Corporations, Koeki Zaidan Hojin.

The Tokyo-based U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. with offices in Los Angeles, California and Japan. The Council is dedicated to strengthening people-to-people connections among Japanese and Americans of all generations. The Tokyo-based U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) is a Public Interest Corporation, Koeki Zaidan Hojin.
Join us and invest in our next generation – the TOMODACHI Generation!

**Founding Strategic Partners**

- Coca-Cola
- GE
- Major League Baseball
- Mitsubishi Corporation
- SoftBank
- Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited
- Toyota
- Uniqlo

**Strategic Partners**

- Affac
- Daiwa House Family Mart
- Goldman Sachs
- Honda
- Johnson & Johnson
- J.P. Morgan
- Lawson
- McKinsey & Company
- MetLife
- Prudential Foundation
- Sumitomo Corporation
- SunTory
- Toshiba

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- ANA
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- Boeing
- Delta
- Dow
- Evolution Financial Group
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- KPMG
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- Panasonic
- Pasona
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- Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
- Tricor K.K.
- Wally Yonamine Foundation
- YKK Corporation

Thank you

“I am grateful to the many corporate and institutional partners who support the TOMODACHI Initiative. Through innovative exchange programs, TOMODACHI is creating the leaders of tomorrow who will ensure the U.S.-Japan relationship remains strong.”

— U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline B. Kennedy