



### CG's Greeting

Thank you for visiting the Denver Consulate's website. It is now seven months since I arrived in Colorado as the new Consul-General.

As you know, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the World War II. The U.S. and Japan have a true friendship in that it is stronger than ever but still continues to be further strengthened.

Colorado, as well as Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming have steadily developed their relations with Japan by conducting a wide range of economic, academic and cultural exchanges.

This past summer, Special Advisor to the Minister of the Cabinet Office in charge local area revitalization, Mr. Ito visited Colorado and met with Governor Hickenlooper, state and city economic development officials and start-up company representatives. A delegation from Yamagata (Colorado's sister prefecture), a mayoral delegation from Takayama (Denver's sister city), and municipal and student delegations from Fujiyoshida, Ueda and Chino also visited here Colorado. In addition, there have been a several cultural events held regionally to introduce Japanese culture to the local community. Some examples include Japanese kite flying and workshop by a visiting Japanese kite expert, a modern Noh performance and workshop, Japanese language education seminar, and Japanese festival

In October, Ambassador and Mrs. Sasae paid a visit to Colorado and gave a commemorative lecture on U.S.-Japan relations at the Japanese America Society of Colorado (JASC) Annual Banquet in celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war. He also met with local economic, political, and cultural leaders, representatives from Japanese companies, and prominent Colorado Japanese-Americans.

From the Rocky Mountain region, Governor Hickenlooper visited Japan with an economic delegation bringing Japan and Colorado closer together. Wyoming Governor Matt Mead led an economic mission around the same time, and Mayor Michael Hancock of Denver is also scheduled to visit Japan in November.

In the wake of the 70th anniversary of the end of the war, I am confident efforts to tighten the bond between Japan and the U.S. will only increase in the future, and so I kindly ask for your continued support and cooperation toward the Denver Consulate and its mission to better relations between Japan and the Rocky Mountain region.

Makoto Ito  
Consul General of Japan in Denver  
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