Address by the DCG Yamaguchi in the 10th Anniversary Celebration of Chado New Mexico Friday October 17, 2014, @Rotunda of the NM State Capital Building

Thank you very much for your kind introduction, (MC Mr. Art Olivas, Anniversary Steering Committee),

First of all, I would like to recognize several special people here in this afternoon, and offer my sincere courtesies to ;

Mr. Genta Sogen Izumimoto, Urasenke Konnichian Junior Deputy Tea Master,

Ms. Christy Soei Bartlett, Director of the San Francisco branch of the Urasenke Foundation,

Mr. Glenn Sorei Pereira, Chief Administrator of the Urasenke Tankoukai Boston Association,

And all the guests, members and people attending today's event.

Thank you all for being with us for this celebration.

Ladies and gentlemen, Good afternoon, (こんにちわ, 皆様。)

It is a great pleasure for me to be invited and be here with you today for this special occasion.

On behalf of the Consulate General of Japan in Denver, I am very pleased to join this occasion to help celebrate this 10th anniversary of Chado New Mexico, formally the Chado Urasenke Tankokai New Mexico Association. Consul General Ono has also sent a letter of congratulations for this occasion, honoring Chado New Mexico for its efforts at building relations between Japan and New Mexico.

Those efforts are certainly reflected in today's event and demonstration of Japanese tea ceremony, with the impressive gathering and very special guests from Japan for an authentic experience of Japanese tradition. Everyone here today is here with the goal of creating goodwill, through mutual respect and understanding within the framework of tea ceremony tradition.

With this goal in mind, it is my pleasure to use this opportunity to congratulate Chado New Mexico for its success over the ten years since its founding, and to offer sincere gratitude to the members and guests who have helped make today's occasion possible.

I am confident that the bonds of goodwill will be strengthened here today. Thank you once again for having me. (ありがとうございました。) (了)