

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

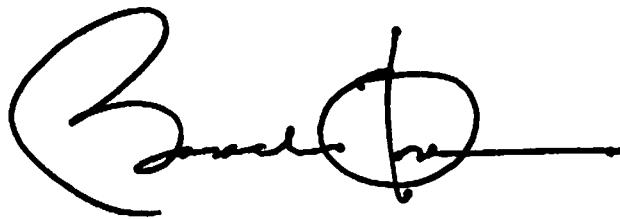
October 30, 2014

I am pleased to send greetings to all those gathered for the 26th biennial plenary meeting of the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON).

During my visit to Japan in April, I saw firsthand the ways close ties and shared values of the peoples of the United States and Japan form the foundation of the partnership between our nations.

Since its founding by President John F. Kennedy and Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda in 1961, CULCON has contributed immeasurably to developing and fortifying people-to-people connections and collaboration. Over the years, thousands of American citizens and Japanese citizens in the arts and academia, and across industries have benefited from CULCON's efforts. Today, CULCON's Education Task Force aims to increase two-way youth exchange. This smart investment in tomorrow's leaders will help keep the bond between our two countries strong in the years to come.

I congratulate CULCON for its outstanding work, and I look forward to CULCON's continued contributions to the remarkable partnership between the United States and Japan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a horizontal line extending to the right.