PRESS RELEASE  February 23, 2012

10th Japanese American Leadership Symposium

“Empowering Civil Society for the Future of Japan”

Nearly a year has passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011. The recovery process in the Tohoku region has now shifted from the emergency relief stage to the mid to long term rebuilding phase. To ensure a sustainable and effective recovery, it will be necessary to develop its strengths and resilience of individual citizens in order to create a solid foundation for the civil society sector and forge new cross-sectoral collaborations with government and/or business.

In this symposium, in part of The Japanese American Leadership Delegation Program (JALD) organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JALD members and three Japanese panelists who contribute greatly in their respective fields, along with moderator, Hideyuki Inoue, and coordinator, Irene Hirano Inouye, will explore the role of civil society in the rebuilding process and possible collaborations between the US and Japan.

Date: Monday, March 5th, 2012 15:00- 17:30 (Door Opens at 14:30)
Venue: Hagi Hall, Sendai International Center (Aobayama, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi Pref.)
Program
(1) Session I “Community Ties: Message from the Japanese American Society”
  *Presentation by three Japanese American panelists
(2) Session II “Moving Forward: Energize Japan from Tohoku”
  *Panel discussion with Japanese panelists, moderator and coordinator
Moderator: Hideyuki Inoue Founder of Social Venture Partners Tokyo / Associate Professor of Keio University
Coordinator: Irene Hirano Inouye President, U.S.-Japan Council
Panelists: Barbara Hibino, CEO and Founder, OpenWebU, Inc.
  Mark Mitsui, President, North Seattle Community College
  Susan Onuma, Partner, Kelley Drye and Warren LLP
  Paul Watanabe Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Boston
  Akiko Benimura Sendai-Miyagi NPO Center
  Masako Inaba President, Yui net Co., Ltd.
  Kazuma Watanabe Representative Director, Wakatsuku Association

*Simultaneous Interpretation Provided / Free Admission
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Co-Organized by: U.S.-Japan Council, Sendai Miyagi NPO Center
Supported by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Tokyo, Sendai International Relations Associations

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