"Overcoming the Disaster: Gratitude from Japan to the World"
Concert Commemorating 1 Year since the Great East Japan Earthquake to be Held at the United Nations Headquarters
Traditional Folk Performing Arts from the Tohoku Region and Energetic Wadaiko Drumming
Global Solidarity for People Affected by Disasters and Conflicts

Tokyo, Japan, Feb.23, 2012- The Japan Foundation and the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations will present a concert to be held at the United Nations Headquarters, to express Japan’s gratitude for the tremendous support received from people across the globe in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11 last year, and also to demonstrate the Tohoku region's determination to recover.

Details of the concert are as follows:

Tohoku Folklore Group and Wadaiko Drumming Performances (Performers: Wakumizu Kagura / Ondekoza Taiko & Musicians)
With a focus on artists from the Tohoku region, 28 musicians from 9 groups, active both within Japan and on the international stage, have been assembled. Through the power of music, these artists will convey the messages and feelings of victims, not only within Japan, but also across the globe. 

Wakumizu Kagura from Tono City, which is located inland and served as a hub for providing support to the devastated coastal areas, will perform at the United Nations on behalf of the local community. Known for its energetic wadaiko drumming performances, jazz musicians, Okinawa sanshin musicians and female gidayu (music theater) performers will also take part.

Date: March 5, 2012 (Mon) 19:00-20:00
Venue: The General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters

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About Wakumizu Kagura (Tohoku Folk Performance Group)
Kagura is a form of musical dance from ancient Japan, thought to be pleasing to the gods, and this form is named after the water that flows from the mountain Hayachinensan, where a goddess resides. The dance originated in the Wakumizu district of Miyamoricho in Tono city in the prefecture of Iwate, and involves a masked dancer dancing to the accompaniment of taiko drum, gong, and flute.

About Ondeko-za & Musicians
One of Japan’s most prominent taiko groups, Ondeko-za, joins forces with internationally acclaimed musicians to form this unique ever-evolving musical experience in which they create instruments and lead performance workshops with local children and residents, culminating in an all-participant concert. This group has performed in collaboration with people all over the Japan and the world, working with each region’s people, landscapes, culture and history through musical exchange.

About the Japan Foundation:
The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 by special legislation in the Japanese Diet and became an Independent Administrative Institution in October 2003. The mission of the Japan Foundation is to promote international cultural exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and other countries. The Japan Foundation activities, aiming comprehensive and effective development of its international cultural exchange programs, consist of following three major categories: Arts & Cultural Exchange, Japanese-Language Education Overseas, and Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange. The Foundation maintains its headquarters in Tokyo and operates through a network of 21 overseas offices in 20 countries worldwide.

*Digital photos are available upon request

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