



*Ambassador of Japan
Washington, D. C.*

The Japanese American National Museum celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2022. Since its establishment, the Museum has advanced its mission to promote understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience.

I had the distinct pleasure of visiting the museum, located in the vibrant Little Tokyo neighborhood of Los Angeles, in 2021. It was truly a moving experience to see the strong message the museum conveyed through its exhibits. The Museum demonstrates not only the rich cultural heritage of the people of Japanese ancestry but also an unwavering resolve for the pursuit of justice through its activities. Equally touching was the way the staff cared not only for the exhibits but also for the facilities, which have been used from the opening of the museum.

The Museum's achievements in promoting the understanding of diversity through Japanese American history are testament to the foresight of its founders and the tireless efforts of many supporters who have followed their lead. Their efforts continue as the Museum has announced an ambitious renovation plan to meet the expectations of future generations. The building, the Plaza, and the exhibition space will be completely redesigned to create an even more attractive facility for visitors and the community.

Japan and the United States underscore the importance of mutual exchanges and collaboration, to foster the next generation of leaders who will advance a vision of Free and Open Indo-Pacific. The next generation of American leaders needs to be fully engaged in efforts to further US-Japan cooperation as well as to pay tribute to the history, contributions, and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans. Such efforts can only bear fruit through the cooperation of all those involved in the U.S.-Japan relationship. I believe that the renovation plan of the Museum and the course on which it is headed also facilitate such common endeavor.

It is with this understanding I believe that support from a wide range of stakeholders for the



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renovation of the Museum will be of great significance in further solidifying the foundation of the Japan-U.S. relationship.

I sincerely hope that the activities of the Japanese American National Museum will be infused with renewed energy and will take a further leap forward.

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