

900 19<sup>th</sup> Street. NW. Suite 260 Washington DC 20006

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*Press Release*

**“Arigato!-Thank you!”**

**Global WA-DC Project helps Japanese thank Americans for outpouring of support after disaster**

May 6, 2011--In response to the triple disaster that recently struck the northeastern coast of Japan, a great outpouring of support came from all parts of American society. Politicians, military members, non-profit organizations and independent citizens all contributed time and energy to assist Japan in its time of need. In addition, many flags were flown at half-mast to show how keenly Americans felt their ally’s devastation, tight-knit local communities here gave Japanese friends and neighbors words of encouragement to keep their spirits up and many more have kept Japan in their thoughts and prayers.

The original purpose of the WA Project was to share the great outpouring of support for Japan’s people from all corners of the globe. “We want to say ‘Thank You, America’ for all the help they have given us and support they have shown us through this difficult time,” said Global WA-DC Project member Yukio Tada. However, as Japan recovers, the Global WA Project has almost come full circle and instead of attempting to show the world’s support for Japan it is attempting to show Japan’s thankfulness and good will for the world. On May 10th, 2011 Global WA-DC Project will run “Arigato! – Thank You” ad in The Washington Times. “This is just a start. We hope to run this ad in other newspapers in DC area as well,” said Yukio Tada. In Japanese, “WA” has two meanings: “harmony” and “circle”. By saying “Thank you” the worldwide circle of harmony and peace is closer to completion.

“Thank you” or “arigato!” seem like small words to describe the gratitude felt toward those who stood with Japan in its time of need, but there are no words that can come closer. The WA Project’s goal is to thank everyone who stood with Japan during this difficult time. This ad comes from current and former Japanese residents of the U.S. in addition to friends of America across the globe.

In order to make this project happen and emphasize the sincere feelings at its core, Global WA-DC Project team members have asked its community members to participate individually instead of as members of a company or organization. This effort includes individuals as prestigious as former Japanese Prime Ministers Shinzo Abe, Yasuo Fukuda, Taro Aso and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Seiji Maehara.

“I hope this ad will show how appreciative we were of American people’s generosity,” said Global WA-DC Project member Mari Ogata. “We truly felt that we are loved and cared for, that we are not alone. We want everybody to know that if something happens to America and its generous people, we will be first ones there to help out.”

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**Contact:** GlobalWA-DC Project

<http://www.facebook.com/WA.project>

Noritaka Takezawa

202-465-6167

[noritaka@take-z.net](mailto:noritaka@take-z.net)

**CEPEX Contact Information:**

Justin Manger (202) 429-8680, [justin.manger@cepex.org](mailto:justin.manger@cepex.org))