



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC

A Special Message on Japan Relief Efforts
From Ambassador John R. Malott
President and CEO

All of our members have a very personal connection to Japan, and last Friday's tragedy has affected all of us deeply. Our thoughts and prayers go out to our many friends and family members in Japan.

We have been considering how we, as JASW, can help at this time. Japan is a highly developed nation, and its capability to engage in rescue and relief efforts is very advanced. Over 100,000 Japanese self-defense force personnel and civilian relief workers are now on the ground in the Tohoku region. The US military is providing assistance as well. But the needs are great.

We believe that the most important thing all of us can do is to contribute and provide financial support to the Japanese NGOs on the ground, to help them do their job. On Friday, we suggested that our members make an on-line donation to the American Red Cross, which will transfer those funds to the Japanese Red Cross, one of the most respected and effective relief organizations in Japan. http://american.redcross.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntld_main.

In addition, JASW now has decided to take the following steps:

- (1) The Board of Trustees has agreed that after all of this year's expenses have been met, part of any income from this year's ticket sales for the Sakura Matsuri will be donated to the relief effort. The Board will decide the amount and the receiving organizations after the festival is over.
- (2) In addition, we will engage in direct, face-to-face fund-raising among the visitors at this year's Sakura Matsuri.
- (3) JASW is seeking recognition from the American Red Cross to engage in authorized fund-raising for its Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund. The Potomac Mills shopping center has invited us to conduct fund-raising at their mall this coming weekend. We will be looking for other opportunities.
- (4) On Tuesday, JASW is hosting a meeting of 20 NGOs in the Washington DC area that have a Japan connection, so we can learn what everyone is doing and better coordinate our efforts.
- (5) JASW will establish a volunteer bank and database for fund-raising efforts, conducted not just by JASW but by other Japan-related organizations as well.