



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Mitsubishi Corporation Grant Brings Japan into Area Classrooms

SEATTLE, WA (August 11, 2009) – Mitsubishi Corporation, a general trading company based in Japan, has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington (JASSW) for their Japan in the Schools (JIS) program. Since 1994, the Japan in the Schools program has been presented to over 30,000 students in the Puget Sound area.

In announcing the grant, Mikiya Hioka, Senior Vice President of Mitsubishi International Corporation¹ and General Manager of its Seattle operation, who is cooperating on the grant from the US-side, stated how pleased he was that Mitsubishi Corporation and Mitsubishi International Corporation were able to offer this support to JIS. “The Japan-America relationship is very important to both countries and Washington State is a cornerstone of that relationship. The Japan in the Schools (JIS) program is a wonderful program and has played a significant role as a grass roots activity to promote mutual understanding between the two countries. We are very honored to support this program and to contribute to the education of students in Washington.”

This grant will be used to enhance and expand the programmatic scope of JIS. “JIS is the crown jewel of the Society and this grant is significant for several reasons”, says Dennis Yamashita, Chair, Board of Directors of the Society. “First, it is the single largest grant made for the support of JIS, and second, this is the first time where a Japanese corporation has taken major leadership in JIS support, augmenting the long standing support given by Weyerhaeuser Corporation.” Lastly, Yamashita stated, “I am deeply grateful to Mitsibushi

¹ Mitsubishi International Corporation is a US-operated 100% subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corporation.

Corporation and Mitsubishi International Corporation for their support in this grant, for without their dedicated interest, this grant would not have been possible”.

About the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington

Founded in 1923, the Society is a registered 501(c)(3) and one of the oldest nonprofits of its kind in Washington State. Its mission is to “*promote mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and Washington State through providing a forum for the exchange of information and ideas.*” The Society presents business, cultural and social programs throughout the year.

One of its core programs is the Japan in the Schools program which delivers Japanese culture and language programming to area schools using authentic materials from Japan. Begun in 1994, JIS volunteers have presented this program over 1400 times to more than 30,000 students from Everett to Tacoma and Seattle to Bellevue.

About Mitsubishi Corporation

Mitsubishi Corporation (MC) is one of Japan’s largest general trading companies (*sogo shosha*) with over 200 bases of operations in approximately 80 countries around the world. Together with its over 500 group companies, MC employs a multinational workforce of approximately 60,000 people. MC has long been engaged in business with customers around the world in virtually every industry, including energy, metals, machinery, chemicals, food and general merchandise.

MC's corporate culture is based on the desire to grow together with local and international communities in order to contribute to building truly prosperous societies around the world. With this in mind, MC is engaged in a diverse range of ongoing social contribution projects and actively supports the participation of our employees in volunteer activities..