

May11, 2011

Dear Friends of the World,

Two month has passed since the Tohoku and Kanto Regions were hit by the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and tsunami. The number of dead and missing is more than 24,000, making this the worst disaster for Japan since World War II.

People around the world have shown sympathy and concern and provided aid and support to Japan during this time of hardship, and I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude as an individual citizen of this country.

While continuing aid efforts for the affected areas, we are also remembering the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake in 1995 and stepping forward to help realize Japan's full recovery. As the core of the second largest metropolitan area in Japan, Osaka, Kansai, must now take a leading role to reenergize the whole Japanese economy.

Given its distance from the areas affected, Osaka has suffered virtually no damage. Here in Osaka, and the rest of Western Japan, the living environment and business infrastructure, including water, electricity and transportation are safe, sound and fully functioning as usual.

We are moving forward to promote business, culture, entertainment, and tourism as ever before, and I urge you to also help Japan's recover by visiting Osaka, Kansai, and other unaffected regions. We hope that, with your help, we can act as a light for the affected regions, and reinvigorate Japan as a whole.

Sincerely yours,

Toru Hashimoto, Governor, Osaka Prefecture
Kunio Hiramatsu, Mayor, City of Osaka
Osami Takeyama, Mayor, Sakai City,
Shigetaka Sato, Chairman, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Kanji Maeda, Chairman, Sakai Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Kazuaki Tsuda, Chairman, Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau
Sadao Wada, Chairman, Sakai Tourism & Convention Bureau