



CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN

PHIPPS TOWER
3438 PEACHTREE ROAD, SUITE 850
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30326

March 18, 2016

Dear Governor Haley,

Let me first sincerely thank you for inviting me to the wonderful luncheon at your mansion on Wednesday, March 16th and also for the thoughtful gift that will also remind me of your beautiful palmetto trees.

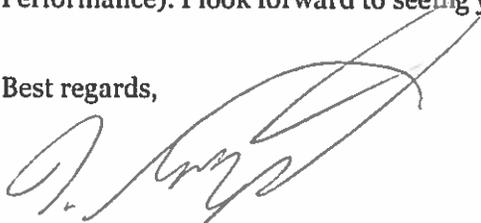
This was the second time we have met and I was very happy to have an extended opportunity to exchange views on the relationship between South Carolina and Japan. Since the opening of our Consulate in the Southeast more than forty years ago, South Carolina and Japan have enjoyed an excellent relationship. During the difficult time for our people after the Great East Japan Earthquake five years ago, we were comforted by the outpouring of support from your state.

Thanks to the assistance from yourself and your administration, today we have a Japanese community of more than 2,000 people living and working happily in your wonderful state. Keidanren's visit last year and the establishment of large-size facilities like Toray and Kobelco show how strong our economic ties have become. I believe that with the ratification of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement and the expansion of the Panama Canal, the economic relationship between South Carolina and Japan will only continue to grow. 2017 will mark a new step in the history of South Carolina-Japan partnership due to the SEUS-Japan Conference being held in Greenville. I look forward to working with yourself, Secretary Hitt and his team, as well as the South Carolinian Co-Chair of the conference to make the event a great success.

I would like to say a small word about the gift I left you. This is a lacquer-ware box called Hidehira-Nuri, named after Fujiwara-no-Hidehira, a great warlord of the 12th century. It was produced in Iwate Prefecture, a region affected by the East Japan Earthquake. I chose it in order to show you that an area affected by disaster is recovering step by step and to express our gratitude for the support given to us by the United States.

I am looking forward to travelling to South Carolina as often as possible during my tenure (in fact this Tuesday, I am going already going back so that I may visit Furman University and attend a mini Japanese Cultural Festival and a Japanese Puppet Performance). I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Takashi Shinozuka', written in a cursive style.

Takashi Shinozuka (Thomas)
Consul General of Japan