

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
TOKYO

Message by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama
on the Occasion of Eightieth Anniversary of the Establishment
of the Japan America Society of Chicago

June 2, 2010

I wish to congratulate the Japan America Society of Chicago on the eightieth anniversary of its establishment.

It was one hundred and fifty years ago when the first Japanese diplomatic mission, headed by Ambassador Masaoki Shinmi, arrived in the United States to exchange instruments of ratification for the Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1860. I am pleased to see that today our bilateral relationship is flourishing on various levels and in various fields, supported by the mutual friendship and goodwill of our peoples.

These developments were made possible by the continuous support and dedication of each member of the Society. The Society contributed to the promotion of exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States through its wide-ranging activities. Thanks to the Society's efforts, friendship with Japan has been ever more deeply rooted in the lives of the people of the American Midwest. I would like to express my sincere appreciation and respect to the Society for its dedication and devotion throughout the past eighty years.

Japan and the United States, with unceasing efforts, have built a firm friendship and have stood together as allies sharing common values and

strategic interests. Our security arrangements have greatly contributed not only to the security of Japan but also to the peace and stability of the Far East, as well as to the prosperity and development of the Asia-Pacific region. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the current Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. On such a historic moment, both Japan and the United States are now working together to deepen the alliance so as to adapt to the twenty-first century.

I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Japan America Society of Chicago for their hard work in strengthening our Japan-U.S. friendship and wish the Society great success and continued prosperity in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yukio Hatoyama', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Yukio Hatoyama
Prime Minister of Japan