

Building Japan-America Relationships Since 1909

A Message from the New Chairman of the Board, Frank (Fumio) Eguchi

Dear Members and Friends,

I am deeply honored and humbled to be serving you as the new Chairman of the Japan America Society of Southern California (JASSC). The Society's remarkable 114-year history and rich legacy is a testament to the dedication and passion of our members, past and present, who have tirelessly worked to build stronger ties between the people of Japan and the United States.

First, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your incredible support, especially during the pandemic and other challenges of the past three years. Your resilience and commitment to our mission have been truly inspiring, and it reaffirms our shared dedication to building bridges through education, culture, business, sports, entertainment, and other areas of interest that bring together Japanese and Americans.

As I begin serving as the new chairman, I am eager to share my immediate priorities:

1. To increase the number of programs and events:

Due to the pandemic and other challenges during the past three years, JASSC has been hampered in the number of programs and events we were able to hold. Thanks to the adept leadership as chair of my predecessor, Mari Miyoshi, we are in a position to remedy this issue. During my term as your chairman, it is my number one priority to increase the number of programs and events.

2. To provide more unique opportunities and experiences:

We are committed to enhancing the value of being a member of JASSC, and we want each of our members to take immense pride in being a part of our Society. To achieve this, we will create programs and events that provide special and memorable experiences and opportunities. This will enable JASSC to serve a unique niche in our community and enable its activities to align with members' expectations.

3. <u>To encourage increased involvement and input from our membership:</u>

At the heart of our organization are our valued members. The dedication and commitment of our members are the keys to our shared success. We encourage our members to not only voice their input and opinions, but to participate more actively to contribute to our society's growth and improvement. Members can participate and help by serving on a committee, volunteering at programs and events, and sharing their expertise. Together we will fulfill our Society's mission and strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship.

I look forward to the privilege of working alongside you to achieve these objectives and the continued growth and vibrancy of the Japan America Society of Southern California. Your contribution and active engagement are what makes JASSC a remarkable organization. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and the potential for even greater achievements as we embark on this endeavor together.

Thank you for your trust and support, and I am genuinely looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely yours,

Junio Equal

Chairman Japan America Society of Southern California