

## **Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY 2018: Summary of Contributions**

### **Steven K. Vogel**

Former Chair, Center for Japanese Studies, University of California, Berkeley

For more than two decades, Professor Steven K. Vogel has played an important role in enhancing understanding of Japan and promoting exchange between Japan and the US through Japan research. He is currently the Il Han New Professor of Asian Studies and a Professor of Political Science, and had served for 5 years as the chair of the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Additionally, Professor Vogel has contributed greatly to promote Japan-US relations and study of Japan at institutions including Harvard University and Princeton University and through his publications and lectures which have reached a wide range of professionals and industries.

### **Sandy O. Mori**

President, San Francisco Japantown Task Force Board of Directors

Ms. Sandy Mori co-founded Kimochi, Inc. in 1971 to offer support for the Issei (first-generation Japanese Americans) in San Francisco's Japantown. Kimochi, Inc. has been providing culturally-sensitive care for seniors in San Francisco for 47 years now. Since then, Ms. Mori has demonstrated strong and effective leadership in the community. Ms. Mori currently serves as President of the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Japantown Task Force, which aims to preserve and revitalize San Francisco's Japantown, one of three remaining historic Japantowns in the United States.

### **Tadao Terajima**

President, Pacific Music Enterprises, Inc.

Mr. Tadao Terajima has played a leading role in fostering cultural exchange between Japan and foreign countries for many years. Since 1973, he has promoted both Japanese artists' performances in the U.S. and American artists' performances in Japan. In 1987, he became the exclusive representative for Plácido Domingo's concerts in Asia and led a number of projects to success, including the Three Tenors concerts in Japan in 1996. After the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011, while many artists canceled performances, Mr. Terajima produced Domingo's concert in Tokyo which provided inspirational support to the people of Japan in a time of need. Mr. Terajima also served as the executive producer and guide for Her Majesty the Empress Michiko during the Plácido Domingo and Renée Fleming Premium Concert in Japan in 2017.

### **Seiji Horibuchi**

President and CEO at NEW PEOPLE, Inc.

Mr. Seiji Horibuchi has made significant contributions toward deepening the understanding of Japan and nurturing cultural exchange between Japan and the United States. Since 1986, Mr. Horibuchi has played a leading role in the U.S. market expansion for the Japanese manga and comics industry. He is the founder of New People, Inc. and its building in San Francisco Japantown, which serves as a center for the dissemination of Japanese pop culture. In addition, his company has organized the J-POP Summit event for the past decade and the affiliated Japan Film Festival of San Francisco since 2013, which collectively have grown to become the largest Japanese Pop culture event in the area.