

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN

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Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY 2023: Summary of Contributions

Dale Minami has been brought civil rights lawsuits on behalf of Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities, including Japanese Americans, since becoming an attorney in 1972. In 1983, he led a pro bono legal team to overturn the conviction of Fred Korematsu who violated the curfew and exclusion orders aimed at Japanese Americans during World War II. Korematsu's conviction was affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in 1944 in a famous decision which was obtained by fraud and illegal conduct by the federal government which Minami and his team were able to prove in 1983, thereby overturning the Supreme Court's approval of his conviction. He has also helped empower the Asian American community by cofounding the nation's first Asian American community law firm (Asian Law Caucus) and the first Asian American Bar Association (the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area). For these and other contributions he was the first Asian American to receive the American Bar Association's highest award, the ABA Medal.

Paul Isao Osaki has devoted many years to the preservation and dissemination of Japanese culture in the United States as the Executive Director of the Northern California Japanese Cultural Community Center since 1990. He has organized lectures and discussions between the U.S. and Japan with business and government leaders, and has served as a bridge between the U.S. and Japan, including in the areas of trade and economics. In 1997, he initiated the Shinzen Program, which sends delegations to Japan to deepen youth exchange between Nikkei and Japanese, and has sent over 2,000 Americans to Japan, helping to strengthen US-Japan relations at the grassroots level. The program has contributed greatly to the promotion of friendship and mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan.

Richard B. Dasher has served as Director of the US-Asia Technology Management Center at Stanford University since 1994, where he has made significant contributions to the analysis and research of Japanese and U.S. companies and businesses. He has also helped receive visiting researchers from Japanese companies and provided support for their new business strategies. Dr. Dasher was the first non-Japanese person ever asked to join the governance of a Japanese national university, serving as a Board Director at Tohoku University. In addition, he served on several councils for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). He has also contributed to raising the profile of Japanese startups in Silicon Valley as the chair of the steering committee for the "Japan-U.S. Innovation Awards" (co-sponsored by the US-Asia Technology Management Center at Stanford University and the Japan Society of Northern California).

The Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC) was established in 1963 as a joint initiative of major universities in North America. Since then, the Center has been active for 60 years as an educational institution specializing in advanced Japanese language education. IUC has produced a large number of Japanese Studies scholars, Japan-U.S. relations personnel, and State Department officials among its nearly 3,000 graduates, 21 of whom have received the Order of the Rising Sun from the Japanese government for their outstanding achievements in Japan, and have made incredible contributions to promoting mutual understanding and friendship with other countries. The Japanese language is an important key to understanding the culture, history, and values of Japan, and through advanced Japanese language education, the Center has made a significant contribution to public relations and cultural communication in Japan.