



Hajimemashite!

Greetings from Consul General Ken Okaniwa

It is a great honor to be posted in Miami as the Consul General of Japan.

My first experience in the States was when I spent several years of my childhood in the suburbs of New York. During my career as a diplomat, I was posted at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations in New York from 1994 to 1998. Having arrived in Miami on November 5, I was most impressed by the vibrant and multi-cultural atmosphere.

In recent years, Florida's standing in America has steadily risen and it is now the focus of attention for the upcoming Presidential elections. As regards links with Japan, close to 200 Japanese companies operating in Florida contribute to more than 20,000 local jobs. About 9,000 Japanese expatriates are registered with the Consulate, and about 280,000 Japanese tourists visit the state every year. I am thrilled to be assigned to such an important State.

As Consul General, I would like to further strengthen the bond of friendship between Japan and Florida. I look forward to meeting and cooperating with all those who have an interest in exchanges with Japan.