

Meeting with Mr. Harris Rosen
Honorary Consul General of Japan in Orlando

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Shinji Nagashima
Consul General of Japan

I had the great opportunity to meet with Mr. Harris Rosen, the Honorary Consul General of Japan in Orlando on March 20. It was my first meeting with him since the beginning of my mission. Honorary Consuls (General) are appointed by Japan's Foreign Minister to undertake certain consular roles such as protecting the interest of Japan and Japanese nationals as well as promoting cultural exchange with host countries.



Orlando is located about 250 miles north of Miami, making it difficult for the Consulate General in Miami to deal with consular issues in Central Florida as scrupulously as in Miami.

Mr. Rosen on many occasions has offered assistance to Japanese travelers or students during times of distress including those in need of shelters as a result of crime, cancellation of flights or approaching hurricanes. I personally thanked him for his generosity in extending aid to Japanese in trouble for the past five years. In addition, Mr. Rosen also allowed the consulate to make use of his hotels as a venue for our outreach and consular service to Orlando. He also donated significant amount of funds to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011. In response to my appreciation for his kind gesture of generosity, the honorary consul general replied that his assistance was very small. I left his office pleasantly surprised by his humility and look forward to our continued collaboration.

I learned that Mr. Rosen had briefly visited Japan during his service in the military and had enjoyed his time in Kyoto and Nara. He is an athlete, swimming

more than one mile daily. His trademark is a polo shirt, which he proudly wore when I met him (as shown above).

Mr. Rosen is a successful, self-made business man starting from humble beginnings an employee of a hotel to become President and COO of Rosen Hotels & Resorts in Orlando. Stressing the greatness of the United States where anyone in the world may be able to build his or her dream, he expressed his faith in the virtue of work and dedication to achieve them. I was deeply impressed by his resolute attachment to his home country. Mr. Rosen is also known as a great philanthropist carrying out a number of activities that foster education, cultural diversity, wellness, and animal welfare from his local community to Haiti.
