

Remarks by E. Kawahara CG in Miami  
At the new JET send-off luncheon  
On August 3, 2012, at CG's residence

Congratulations new JET members! Welcome all to my house.

The JET Program has been conducted globally for the last 25 years. This year, thousands of young university graduates from across the world, including 18 Floridians, will go to Japan to work as English teachers for local governments at public schools.



I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Mary Watt, Chair of the Department of Languages, Literature & Culture, at the University of Florida, who came all the way from Gainesville to convey UFL's support to its alumni. Also, I would like to acknowledge the presence of lecturers and instructors of Japanese at other Florida universities. I think it would mean a lot to the new JET participants to see their Alma Mater professors and/or instructors before they are about to embark for Japan experience. I am very pleased to see you all!

Japan has so far received more than 27 thousand young American graduates through the JET Program. They usually stay two to three years in Japan and have the opportunity to touch, in a most positive way, the lives of so many children while enjoying, at the same time, the Japanese hospitality, the food, and the natural beauty Japan is known for.

I am sure you will appreciate the Japanese way of life, the culture and tradition. Visiting Japan as an English teacher gives you a good opportunity to find many warm hearted Japanese, and to further deepen mutual understanding with your students and people in the community.

You have incredible years ahead of you. I wish you all the best!