



It is an honor and joy to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Omotesenke Domonkai US Eastern Region as we celebrate the 15th anniversary of its founding.

Under the leadership of Director Ryuji Ueno, your organization has enthusiastically worked to develop programming in the East Coast, offering opportunities to experience and appreciate chanoyu, a core pillar of traditional Japanese culture. It is through your contributions and engagements that a strong community presence and a deeper appreciation for this beautiful art has emerged here in the East Coast region.

Since 2010, the Eastern Region Branch and the Embassy of Japan have collaborated in hosting several events such as the Great East Japan Earthquake Charity Tea Ceremony in 2011 and a commemorative event celebrating the 100th anniversary of the gifting of the Cherry trees to the United States from Tokyo in 1912. In 2023 the Embassy-affiliated Japan Culture and Information Center and Omotesenke Domonkai US Eastern Region co-organized a featured exhibition “Chanoyu Culture: Invitation to Tea,” which included a tea ceremony demonstration and lecture that was well received and attended by the DC local community.

I look forward to many more future partnerships as the Embassy continues to support your mission in promoting chanoyu. I sincerely hope that chanoyu will continue to serve as a bridge between Japan and the United States. Cultural exchange through the arts is a crucial element in sustaining and strengthening bilateral relationship and mutual understanding. Once again, thank you for your efforts and congratulations on 15 years of excellence.

Ambassador of Japan
Shigeo Yamada