



On the 15th anniversary of Omotesenke Domonkai Eastern Region USA.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on this occasion of the 15th anniversary of the inauguration of Omotesenke Domonkai Eastern Region USA, and express my respect for branch manager Ueno Ryuji and all those who have supported the branch in its development.

Being able to congratulate in one place all those from the Hawaii Branch, which this year celebrated its 70th anniversary, and the Northern and Southern California Branches which last year celebrated their 50th anniversary is an occasion for great rejoicing.

The Eastern Region Branch of the USA was inaugurated in June, 2010. I attended the function and spent some time at the celebration with you all. There are 57 Domonkai branches, but the Eastern Region Branch is the newest. It is also the only one whose inauguration ceremony I have attended. I am deeply moved to recall this and I also feel how quickly 15 years have passed.

One of the memories of the inauguration ceremony that has remained with me is branch manager Ueno's use of the phrase 'towards a bridge between Japan and the USA'. The desire to build a rich relationship by working for a deep mutual understanding of each other's culture through the spirit and beauty of chanoyu is being deeply and widely achieved through the devotion of all of the branch members.

It happens to be the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. I would like us all to realise the significance of this commemorative event in remembering the noble intentions of our predecessors in both countries.

I offer my congratulations and I pray for the further development of the Eastern Region USA branch and for the prosperity of all those who have gathered here today.

Iemoto of Omotesenke  
**Sen Sosa**