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148 Midwesterners Depart to Teach English and Work in Japan

[Chicago, July 28, 2015] On July 25, 148 participants from Chicago and around the Midwest departed to Japan as part of the Japanese Government’s Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. All participants will work for one to five years as English Teachers in Japanese public schools or Coordinators for International Relations in local Japanese government offices.

“As a JET, your experience in Japan will differ greatly from that of a tourist or an exchange student. You will have the unique opportunity to play an active role in your community,” Consul Koji Kaneko told the new JET participants during Pre-Departure Orientation on July 24.

During the Send-Off Reception, new JET participants also shared their worries—such as relating to students and adapting to Japanese office culture—and their hopes for connecting with their new communities. Consul-General of Japan Toshiyuki Iwado told the new JETs, “You can bring your states and hometowns to your students, colleagues, and friends. And they will introduce you to a Japan that few Americans see.”

Chicago is the largest point of recruitment for JET participants in the United States, and one of the largest in the world. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.jetprogramme.org/>.



Consul Koji Kaneko speaks to new JETs at Pre-Departure Orientation



JETs raise a toast to their upcoming journey at the Send-Off Reception.

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