

Welcoming Remarks
J-MELO Fan Meeting
Consul General George Hisaeda
March 7, 2011

Good evening. Thank you all for coming to this J-MELO Fan Meeting here at the Japan Information Center, which is part of the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago. I hope you easily found your way here.

I'm thrilled to hold this event. As you know, J-MELO is the only Japanese music show, presented entirely in English, for a global audience. Aired on the NHK WORLD Channel, it's packed with Japanese hit songs, the latest news about the Japanese music scene, and interviews with Japanese artists. It's your connection to everything about Japanese music.

We are able to hold this event thanks to Dave Spector. He is a famous Japanese TV personality. And he is one of a few celebrities in Japan from Chicago.

I first met him in Tokyo three years ago, and we have stayed in touch ever since. Last August, when we had lunch together here, we talked a lot about Japanese pop culture. And he visited my office.

Dave is a special commentator for J-MELO. And late last year, he asked me, “Why don’t you host a J-MELO Fan Meeting at your Consulate or your Official Residence?” I said “Absolutely.” Then I asked, “Can May J. come?” And here she is.

Thank you, May J., for traveling all the way from Tokyo to join us. Anyone who chose to come here at this time of year is a true friend of Chicago. Snow welcomed you when you arrived last Saturday.

I also wish to applaud Scott Murphy. My son, who is here tonight, has listened to your CDs since high school. But I hadn’t realized that you are a Chicagoan.

Let me say one more thing. I’m glad that so many young people are here. Without this type of event, some of you may not even think about coming to the Consulate. We will hold more events for you. So I hope you will check our website often, and come here again and again.

We will also start a Facebook profile for the Consulate very soon. Please look at it and be sure to click "Like" many times!

Thank you all once again for coming. Let’s enjoy the evening!