Good morning, everyone. My name is Yuichi Oba. I am Consul-General of Japan in Chicago.

I just assumed my post on September 1st, less than two months ago, but this is already my second time visiting Milwaukee, and my third time in Wisconsin. In fact, outside of Chicago, this is the city I have visited the most! As Consul General and as a person who loves Milwaukee, I would like to celebrate with all of you the Milwaukee Brewers making it to the World Series. The Brewers have already won the first two matches. They are now just two wins away from becoming World Series champions. I really hope to see the Brewers win their first ever championship.

Today I am very happy to be able to participate in this Japan Fest with all of you. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to think of Japan, to share our love for Japanese culture—whether it's the food, the music, or the traditions—and it's also a great opportunity to build strong, friendly connections with our American friends in this local community.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the President of the Milwaukee Japanese Association, Ms. Hiroko KAWAI, and all the dedicated organizers and volunteers who made this fantastic event possible.

I also express my sincere respect and gratitude for your consistent donations to the disaster-stricken areas of Japan. I believe your honorable actions have strengthened the solidarity of the people in this region and have encouraged the disaster victims in Japan including Kumamoto as well. I myself was born and brought up in Fukushima that was hit by the big earthquake in 2011. I take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation for all the support.
Now, while we are here to have fun at the festival, our Consulate staff are also here to support you. Providing consular services to Japanese nationals is one of our most important missions. That is why our team is conducting on-site consular service right here at the venue today. If you have any questions or concerns, today or at any other time, please feel free to consult with our Consulate.

Finally, I would like to wish for a successful festival and for the continued growth of the Milwaukee Japanese Association and communities here as well as friendship between Milwaukee and Japan. Let's enjoy the festival together. Thank you.

皆様おはようございます。在シカゴ総領事の大場雄一です。

私は９月１日に着任して、まだ２ヶ月もたっておりませんが、ミルウォーキーを訪問するのは今回が２回目、ウィスコンシンは３回目となります。ミルウォーキーは、シカゴを除けば最も訪問した町となります。総領事として、またミルウォーキーを愛する者として、ミルウォーキーのブルワーズがワールドシリーズ進出を決めたことを、皆さまとともにお祝いしたいと思います。昨日までに既に２勝、優勝まであと２勝です。ぜひブルワーズ初優勝を期待したいと思います。

今日は皆さまと共に、この Japan Fest に参加することができ、とても嬉しく思います。このお祭りは、我々が日本を想い、食や音楽など日本文化や伝統を共有し、また地域の方々との関係を深めることのできる素晴らしい機会です。

ミルウォーキー日本人会の河合会長をはじめ、このイベントの開催にご尽力された全ての皆さまに心から感謝を申し上げます。
また、皆さまがこれまで多くの機会に日本の被災地への義援金を募り、寄付を続けてこられたことに心から敬意を表します。その活動はこの地域の人々の連帯を深めると共に、熊本を含め日本の被災者の皆さまにとっても大きな励みになったものと思います。私自身、2011 年の東日本大震災で被災した福島県の出身です。この場を借りて、温かいご支援にお礼申し上げます。

総領事館にとりまして、在留邦人の皆さまに領事サービスを提供することは最も重要な任務の一つです。今日はこの会場でも総領事館のメンバーが領事出張サービスを実施しております。何かご質問や心配ごとなどがありましたら、今日でも、いつでも結構ですので、総領事館まで遠慮なくご相談ください。

最後に、Japan Fest の成功と、ミルウォーキー日本人会及びお集まりの皆様のご健勝、そしてミルウォーキーと日本の友好関係の発展をお祈りし、私のご挨拶といたします。

今日は一緒にお祭りを楽しみましょう。ありがとうございました。