

## Dear friends of the world

May 18, 2011

Dear friends of the world,

The Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and the following tsunami on March 11 was an unprecedented disaster for Japan and a number of people lost their lives and properties. The whole nation is committed to the restoration of the affected area. During this time of hardship, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the well wishes and support that we have received from friends around the world.

Sakai City has also been doing all it can to support those who have been affected, by providing emergency materials, sending city employees to help and preparing houses for evacuees. At the end of April I travelled to the affected area and witnessed the devastation first-hand, making me even more determined to do everything we can to assist the restoration and recovery of the area.

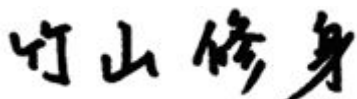
For the recovery of the whole nation from this great tragedy, it is necessary for the Kansai region, which suffered virtually no damage and is Japan's second largest urban area, to lead the way in Japan's revitalization. As one of the four major cities in Kansai with the advantage of great access to Kansai International Airport, Sakai will dedicate itself to leading Japan's recovery in the fields of business, culture and tourism along with cities of Osaka, Kyoto and Kobe.

On April 8, the Governor of Osaka Prefecture, Mayor of Osaka City, Chairman of Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman of Sakai Chamber of Commerce and Industry and I, Mayor of Sakai City, made a joint announcement to continue to carry out events and other activities and to invite tourists to the region. On May 11, Tourism and Convention Bureaus of Osaka and Sakai joined us to project our common slogan "Gambaro Japan! Reenergize Japan from Osaka and Kansai!" and we will work together to continue to invite overseas tourists to the Osaka region.

In Sakai City and other areas of Osaka and Kansai, living conditions and infrastructure are all functioning as normal and daily life has been free from any direct influence of the earthquake and nuclear power plant accidents. We welcome you to visit Sakai, Osaka and the Kansai region with peace of mind and to fully enjoy its historical, cultural and tourism attractions.

Sakai City will continue its commitment to reenergize the economy, culture, tourism and international exchange, to contribute to the restoration of Japan as a whole. With tremendous support from around the world, the Kansai region will unite together to lead Japan in its steady recovery from this tragedy.

Sincerely yours,



Osami Takeyama  
Mayor of Sakai  
Japan