



Visit to U.S. Embassy and

Final Audience with Emperor Emeritus Akihito



(L-R): Robert Oda, Hiroko Saito, Allen Uyeda, Howard Hamamoto, Yoshio Nakamura (Keidanren), Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko.

On August 8, 2019, **Robert Oda** (2018-2020) and **Hiroko Saito** (2019-2021) had the honor of meeting with Ms. Carolyn Glassman, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, at the American Embassy in Tokyo. **Hiroko** writes, "Ms. Glassman explained that there were various efforts and programs to promote the cultural exchange between Japan and the U.S. and she encouraged me and Robert to contribute to them through our research."



After the visit at the Embassy, the scholars headed to the Keidanren escorted by CPASF Chair **Allen Uyeda**. There, they met Mr. **Howard Hamamoto** (CPASF Chair Emeritus and CPASF Trustee) who would also be accompanying them during the main event for the day, the Imperial Audience with Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko.

This was a special day indeed as this would be the final Audience with Their Majesties as Emperor Emeritus Akihito abdicated on

April 30, 2019 after 30 years on the throne. Like so many other CPASF scholars who came before them, **Robert** and **Hiroko** were filled with excitement and nervousness as they listened to the briefing to prepare them for the Audience. A sense of pride and gratitude also set in as the realization that they would be the last CPASF scholars to meet the namesake of their scholarship set in. What an honor and privilege that was; an experience that they would never forget.

Hiroko writes:

While waiting for Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita in the room for the Audience, I was nervous as well as excited about this once-in-a-lifetime experience. I was also worried about how well I would be able to explain my research until Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita came into the room and began the conversation with a warm welcome greeting.

The following is an excerpt written by Robert describing his experience:

It has taken me quite a bit of time to gather my thoughts about the whole experience (I am still in shock and, quite frankly, in some state of denial that it actually occurred); but at the end of the day, I have come to fully appreciate the experience and now recognize how amazing it was.

Their Majesties are extremely gracious people. Before we met them, we were standing in the meeting room and waiting for them to arrive. While waiting, I was sweating so much from sheer nervousness: "How should I stand?"; "How do I greet them?"; "Am I presentable enough?" These were the thoughts that churned through my head.

But once they entered the room and introduced themselves to me, all my fears

Chairman's Message

Emperor Emeritus Akihito is a tremendous role model for those consciously thinking about how best to live one's life. Born into a society steeped in tradition, His Majesty defined his own path even as the arc of his life intersected with global change, and at times, turbulent events.

He was the first Emperor to marry a commoner and the first in 200 years to abdicate his throne. His Majesty's reign, known as 'Heisei' (Achieving Peace'), focused on mending relationships with victims of Japan's wartime aggressions while balancing constraints placed on him by Japanese law and expectations from the outside world.

Together with Empress Emerita Michiko, his Majesty demonstrated courage and determination early on in public life; during a visit to Okinawa in the mid 1970s, Their Majesties narrowly escaped a Molotov cocktail thrown at them at the *Himeyuri* war memorial. Undeterred, they continued the visit with their planned schedule. Their Majesties won the hearts of the Japanese people with their efforts to comfort and encourage people in the aftermath of severe disasters including the 1995 Kobe earthquake where their Majesties broke with tradition to kneel before survivors.

Emperor Emeritus Akihito's reign included extended periods of political turmoil (with more than 15 prime ministers within the first two-and-a-half decades of his reign), a prolonged economic slowdown and severe financial crisis, and a deadly nerve gas attack by a radical group. Not only did His Majesty persevere, he inspired his country by his leadership and compassion.

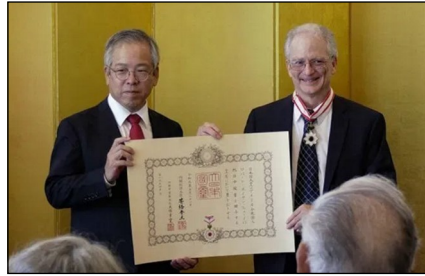
As we face an increasingly chaotic world, Their Majesties provide an example of how we can meet these challenges with courage, grace and humility and a willingness to create new paths forward.

Allen B Uyeda

Crown Prince Akihito
Scholarship Foundation

High Honors for CPASF Trustee

CPASF Trustee **Robert Huey** received an Imperial award, "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon" at a ceremony at the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu on July 10, 2019. The award, which is one of the highest for a non-Japanese citizen, was presented to Dr. **Huey** for his contribution to the development of Japanese studies in the U.S. and for strengthening the friendly relationship and mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S.



Consul General Koichi Ito presents Dr. Huey with his award..

Former CPASF scholar **Gay Satsuma** (1993-1994) and Associate Director of UH Manoa's (UHM) Center for Japanese Studies stated that, "UH has been fortunate to have a phenomenal teacher like Dr. **Huey**. This award recognizes his accomplishments, contributions and commitment to teaching and mentorship, and really building the infrastructure necessary for us to have a world-class Japanese studies program at the University of Hawaii.

Dr. **Huey** has been a professor of Japanese literature at UHM since 1985 and is recognized as an expert in classical and medieval Japanese poetry, Japanese culture in the Ryukyu Kingdom and Okinawan studies. He is also the former Director for UHM's Center for Japanese Studies.

Source: www.hawaii.edu/news/2019/7/10/japan-grants-high-honor-to-uh-professor-huey; University of Hawaii System News.

In Memoriam



Barry Taniguchi, CPASF Trustee, passed away on September 20, 2019. Mr. **Taniguchi**, served as Chairman and CEO of KTA Super Stores and was a staunch and very generous supporter of the CPASF and many other community organizations in Hawaii.

Mr. **Taniguchi** served on the CPASF Board from December 2006 until the time of his death.

Hundreds of mourners braved two to three-hour waits to show their respect to him at services held at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Bishop and CPASF Alumni **Eric Matusmoto** (1984-1985) presided over the memorial services and stated that the huge turnout was "an expression of gratitude and appreciation and in recognition and acknowledgement of his tremendous contributions to society." Source: www.westhawaii.com/category/hawaii-news; "Hundreds attend service honoring Barry Taniguchi as a pillar of the community."

2020-2021 Scholarship Applications Now Available

We're now accepting applications from American graduate-students who are interested in applying for the 2020-2021 scholarship year. The award covers one-year of study in Japan with an option to apply for a additional year. The total value of the award is \$45,000 which includes a \$30,000 scholarship award and a \$15,000 annual allowance. **Deadline to apply: November 5, 2019**

All applicants must either appear before a Screening Committee in person or on Skype if they are not in Honolulu on **November 19, 2019**. Finalists must either appear before the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees in person or on Skype if they are not in Honolulu on **December 19, 2019**.

Applications are available on-line at www.cpasfoundation.org.

Final Audience

Continued from page 1

vanished immediately. I have never been put at ease so quickly. They have this amazing ability to make you feel at home in a matter of seconds and I was comfortable throughout the entirety of our Audience. Both Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko expressed great interest in my research, and I was honored to have the opportunity to share with them my experiences both inside and outside of the laboratory.



Join us as we celebrate the
60th Anniversary of the CPASF!
Friday, April 10, 2020
Royal Hawaiian Hotel

The CPASF *Scholar Update* is published on a quarterly basis. Please email updates and photos to: myokomichi@jashawaii.org for possible inclusion in a future edition.

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