

**Asahi: U.S. consul general in Osaka-Kobe reveals same-sex marriage**  
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Patrick Linehan (58), the U.S. Consul General in Osaka-Kobe, has revealed his same-sex marriage on the consulate's homepage.

He calls Emerson Kanegusuke, 39, a third-generation Japanese Brazilian, his husband. When he took up his post last September, the Japanese government issued a visa to Kanegusuke as a "diplomat's spouse."

This "husband" has taken up the honorary positions traditionally given to the consul general's wife, and most invitations for the consul general requiring the company of his spouse also bear Kanegusuke's name.

Linehan notes the ease of living in Japanese society. He says: "People who were perplexed at first soon accepted us." On the other hand, homosexuals in Japan, whose rights are less protected than in the U.S., express their support: "Your presence serves as an encouragement to us."

When Linehan became a public servant in 1984, openly admitting one was gay would have resulted in dismissal. He was not able to reveal his homosexuality when he came to Japan four years later. The U.S. government began to recognize the rights of gay people around 1995 under the Clinton administration.

He met Kanegusuke in Roppongi in 2002 while working at the Tokyo Embassy. It was "love at first sight." They married in 2007 during his tour in Canada, where same-sex marriage is recognized.

The promotion of homosexual rights has further advanced under the Obama administration. The government paid the moving expenses of his husband from Seoul, where he was previously assigned, to Japan. However, discrimination remains with regard to medical insurance, pension, taxes, and so forth.

Linehan had longed to do a tour in the Kansai area, which has a rich historical and cultural heritage. He is happy to be living here with his "perfect partner." He believes that "being yourself and living without hiding anything in itself will contribute to the overall enhancement of human rights."

\*\*\* U.S. Embassy translation \*\*\*