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**JAWK Celebrates 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**US Consul-General Attends Event Held in Chuo-ku**

By Hiromi Konishi

(Photo Caption: Mr. Kanegusuke, Honorary President (left), with Mr. Linehan. At Kobe Portopia Hotel)

Japan America Women of Kansai, a service association consisting of Japanese and American women living in Kansai, held an event to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its inception at Kobe Portopia Hotel in Chuo-ku on Friday, March 30. Mr. Patrick Linehan, U.S. Consul-General Osaka Kobe, attended the event to honor its past activities.

The association was established in 1977 by the wife of the then U.S. Consul-General, who wanted to have international exchanges and voluntary service take root in the Kansai area. It has continued to provide donations to welfare facilities and affected areas of large-scale disasters, and scholarships to female students. It has collected and sent about Y110 million in contributions and donations to people and areas affected by the 9.11 simultaneous terrorist attacks and by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

On the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration day, a performance of Japanese drums was given and a new honorary president was introduced. While the wife of the incumbent consul-general traditionally serves as president of the association, Mr. Linehan is publicly married to a person of the same sex. So, his husband, Mr. Emerson Kanegusuke, became the first man to assume the association's honorary presidency.

Mr. Kanegusuke said of his hopes as honorary president: "The association's activities over the past 35 years have helped Japan and the U.S. forge a strong and ideal relationship. I would like to facilitate and expand the association's activities in the future."