

Remarks on the occasion of JSS Challenge on June 9, 2024

Thank you allowing us to participate in today's JSS Challenge.

We took part because we fully subscribe to the purpose of this event, namely to walk together to support JSS's activities. The Consulate General of Japan in Toronto owes much to JSS for its various forms of assistance as we work together.

JSS is dedicated to encouraging an accessible community free from poverty, alienation, abuse and discrimination. JSS also focuses on nurturing connections among people in communities.

To highlight the value of JSS's operations, let me briefly mention some salient points from last year's survey conducted by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on people's sense of alienation. It indicated that Japanese living overseas are more likely to feel alienation than those who live in Japan.

The proportion of people feeling alienated was the highest in North America. Women and youths appeared more likely to be vulnerable. There also was

indication that language-related events and cultural differences affect people's sense of alienation.

Those who did not have anyone to talk to were significantly more likely to feel alienated. Deterioration of people's economic and health conditions are salient factors which exacerbate their sense of alienation.

In the light of these results, the significance of JSS's operation cannot be exaggerated. I would like to commend JSS's efforts to encourage people's integration into the wider community. I also would like to remain conscious of these issues as carry out my duties.

Thank you very much.