

# 2012 Grassroots Summit Flash Report!

## The 22<sup>nd</sup> Japan America Grassroots Summit in North Texas 2012



The 22nd Grassroots Summit was held in North Texas from August 28 – September 3, 2012.

180 people traveled from Japan to participate in the exchange, including 53 young students and their chaperones from Miyagi and Iwate prefectures which were badly hit by the earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

Number of people: 180 from Japan (including 158 participants who home-stayed)

Approx. 3200 in total ※ Tentative number as of Sep.30

(Including the Japanese participants, events attendees, sponsors, volunteers, etc.)

Attending Special Events: 1) Rangers Game – 736 2) Opening Ceremony – 500  
3) Host families and family members – 282 4) Closing Ceremony – 400  
5) Volunteers, sponsors, local events attendees, etc. - 1384

### Summit Schedule

8/28 (Tue)	Participants travel from Japan to Fort Worth. Grapevine Tour and Rangers Game.	< Hilton Fort Worth >
8/29 (Wed)	Local Tours. Opening Celebration at Billy Bob's Texas in Stockyards	< Hilton Fort Worth >
8/30 (Thu)	Fort Worth Walking Tour. Departure for the local session areas	< Homestay >
8/31 (Fri) ~9/1 (Sat)	Local Sessions (Homestay Program)	< Homestay >
9/2 (Sun)	Participants depart homestay locations. Closing Ceremony in Dallas	< Dallas Marriott City Center >
9/3 (Mon)	Return to Japan / Post Summit Optional Program	
9/4 (Tue)	Arrive back in Japan	

### Grapevine Tour (Aug. 28)

The participants who arrived on the early flight on 8/28 enjoyed sightseeing in Grapevine, a city located near the airport, in the morning and early afternoon. They enjoyed visiting Vetro Glassblowing, Grapevine Heritage Museum, downtown walking, etc. They were invited to lunch by the City and were greeted by a city council member and staff of the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Volunteers and staff of Grapevine CBV



Lunch served by the city



Downtown walking



# Rangers vs Rays Ballgame (Aug. 28)

The Rangers organized a special "Japan America Friendship Night" game on Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, celebrating the 2012 Grassroots Summit. In the pre-game event, Minamisanriku Mitobe Shishi-odori group from Miyagi performed their dance on the field, and Kaito Suganomata, a 15 year old boy from Ishinomaki, threw the first pitch. The members of the Ishinomaki Little Senior team enjoyed exchange with the Rangers players before the game.



The Summit participants in the Ballpark



Shishi-odori on the field



Pre-game event on the field



First pitch



FOX News interview



Rangers won!

# Local Tours (Aug. 29)

Five Local Tour options were offered to the participants, who chose areas they would like to visit. 155 participants out of 180 travelers from Japan joined one of the tours and discovered the history and culture of North Texas.



At Cabela's



Fort Worth museum tour



Pioneer Plaza in Dallas

# Opening Celebration (Aug. 29)

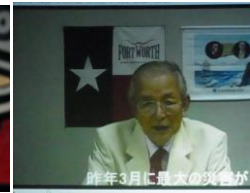
The Opening Celebration was held at Billy Bob's Texas, the world's largest Honky Tonk in the Fort Worth Stockyards. The Celebration was full of Texas atmosphere with a bit of Japanese taste, such as yukata. The 500 people attending, including the Japanese participants, were greeted by several welcoming remarks. The Kesennuma student delegation made a marvelous presentation called "We Are Tomodachi" about the Tohoku disaster of 2011 and Kesennuma's recovery with support from people in America. After the Ceremony, delicious Texas BBQ dinner was served, and all the participants enjoyed the dinner and mingling with each other. Texas line dancing with an instructor followed the dinner, and both Japanese and American participants had a fun time dancing together.



MC Sylvia Komatsu  
Interpreter: Kazuko Scott



JASDFW President, Don Casey



CIE Chairman, Taizo Watanabe



Consul-General in Houston,  
Jota Yamamoto



Summit Chairman, J. Thomas Schieffer



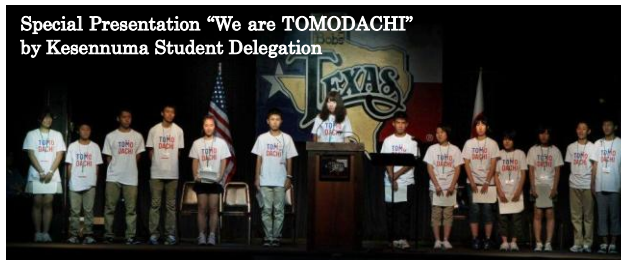
Mayor of Fort Worth  
Betsy Price



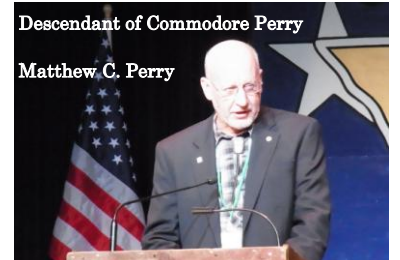
Deputy Chief of Mission, Kurt Tong



U.S.-Japan Council  
Senior Vice President  
Kaz Maniwa



Special Presentation "We are TOMODACHI"  
by Kesennuma Student Delegation



Descendant of Commodore Perry  
Matthew C. Perry



Ambassador Schieffer and students from Tohoku



Texas BBQ dinner



Texas line dancing



# Local Sessions - Homestay Program (Aug. 30—Sep. 2)

The Local Session program lasted 4 days and 3 nights in 14 different locations in North Texas.  
 (The numbers of Japanese participants are listed next to the city names in brackets)



1. Muenster/Lindsay (7)



2. Gainesville (15)



3. Denton (17)



4. McKinney (5)



5. Parker (11)



6. Plano (17)



7. Richardson (16)



8. Southlake (10)



9. Irving (5)



10. Dallas (14)



11. Fort Worth (16)



12. Arlington (17)



13. Waxahachie (3)



14. Glen Rose (6)

**★Comments from Participants★**  
 • It was my first overseas trip, and became the one full of surprise, touched, and appreciation. The most enjoyable part was home-stay. I thank my host-father and host-mother who carefully listened to my poor English and tried to communicate. Their son and daughter became my good friends and enjoyed Origami together. I've made up my mind to learn English more!  
 S.K.



## Closing Ceremony (Sep. 2)

After the local sessions, the Closing Ceremony was held at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. Including host families, around 400 people participated. It started with songs by the Belle Tones, a female a cappella chorus from Southern Methodist University, and greetings and salutations were expressed by guests and organizers. The Mitobe Shishi-odori Preservation Group performed its gorgeous dance in the middle of the ceremony. The "Globe" was passed from Robert Whitfield to Asuka Nakahama to show the next Summit will be held in Japan. The Zenidaiko dance and a Shimane informational DVD were presented on the stage by the participants from Shimane, the venue of the 2013 Grassroots Summit. After the ceremony, the Japanese participants and host families enjoyed walking in the Arts District of Dallas, visiting museums and performance halls.



SMU Belle Tones



Mayor of Dallas  
Mike Rawlings



Summit Chairman,  
J. Thomas Schieffer



Summit Vice-Chairman  
John Stich

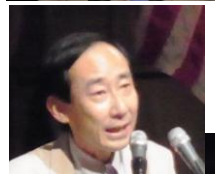


Mitobe Shishi-Odori Preservation Group

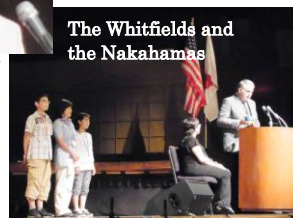


CIE-US President

Richard  
Wood



Consul-General of  
Japan in Houston  
Jota Yamamoto



The Whitfields and  
the Nakahamas



Globe Exchange



Presentation by 2013 hosts from Shimane



Crow Collection  
Director

Amy Hofland

## Post Summit Optional Program (Aug. 30-)

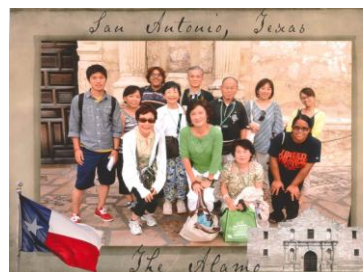
After the Summit, while some participants flew back to Japan directly from Dallas, dozens of the Japanese participants departed for the Post Summit Optional Programs to explore the different cultures of other regions of America and make more friends.



At the house of  
Captain Whitfield  
in Fairhaven



Mall of America in  
Minneapolis



The Alamo in San Antonio



In the tree shade in Austin



Dinner in Boston

### Sponsors for the Summit



### Supporters for the Tohoku youth participants

Gloops, Inc., Ichiro Ozawa Office, Japan Foundation, Tokyo Club, TOMODACHI Initiative, Texas Rangers Baseball Club, Yu Darvish



### Special Assistance

Brounoff Communications, Consulate-General of Japan in Houston, Crow Collection of Asian Art, Dallas GiveCamp, Suzuki Graphic Design Studio



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