Embassy of Japan

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Mr. Ian Scher
Chief Executive Officer
Rescue South Africa

10 June 2011

Dear Mr. Scher,

On behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I would like to reiterate my sincere gratitude to you for despatching South Africa's rescue and relief mission team to the North East of Japan from 16 to 28 March 2011.

The Embassy of Japan recognises that Mr. Price-Hughes and Mr. Pankil Patel, as co-leaders of the Rescue SA team, conducted the rescue and relief efforts professionally in very challenging circumstances. I would also like to express my gratitude to Ms. Eleanor Mitrovich, Ms. Samantha Botsis and Ms. Marion Scher for their support to the operation of the team. Their efforts contributed to the success of Rescue South Africa's operation in MIYAGI, the worst affected prefecture of Japan.

The Miyagi Prefecture Police have informed us that they have been impressed with the dedication and the professionalism of the South African team. The South African team has given strength to the victims of the disaster and has also sent a message to the Japanese people about the compassion that is being felt in South Africa for Japan. I understand, also, that a number of personal friendships were established. I can proudly say with full conviction that the success of Rescue South Africa's mission has become a symbol of friendship and solidarity between the people of South Africa and Japan

As the Japanese Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, domo arigatou, and best wishes for your future operations, hopefully outside Japan.

Yours Sincerely,

小沢俊朗

Toshiro OZAWA
Ambassador of Japan