

Contact: Ryoji Noda, Deputy Consul General  
Phone: (313) 567-0120  
E-mail: [ryoji.noda@mofa.go.jp](mailto:ryoji.noda@mofa.go.jp)

December 16, 2013

### **Appointment of Honorary Consul of Japan for the State of Ohio**

In order to further promote the strong and mutually beneficial relationship between Japan and the State of Ohio, the government of Japan has appointed Dr. Santa Ono, President of the University of Cincinnati, as Honorary Consul of Japan in Cincinnati with statewide jurisdiction. Dr. Ono, whose appointment has been approved by the U.S. government, will formally begin his term on December 16, 2013.

The State of Ohio and Japan boast a very strong and mutually beneficial relationship. Japan is the single largest foreign investor in Ohio with 423 Japanese companies employing more than 65,000 people in the region. It is also home to five Japanese-affiliated business associations. Furthermore, Ohio has fourteen active sister city relationships with Japan as well as a solid sister state relationship with Saitama Prefecture dating back to 1990. Finally, there are 26 higher education institutions in Ohio that offer Japanese language to more than 2,500 students and 16 K-12 schools with more than 1,000 students enrolled.

Dr. Santa Ono, a U.S. citizen of Japanese descent, is a highly respected academic, researcher and administrator as well as the first Asian American to hold the post of president at a university in the State of Ohio. He stands out as one of only a few university executives of Asian American descent in the United States. Dr. Ono is an immunologist and eye researcher. He holds appointments as a professor of biological sciences and professor of pediatrics; he has served as an educator in his field, and is a distinguished academic leader. Dr. Ono is a member of the Japan America Society and promotes the strengthening of U.S.-Japan relations through economic development, academic research and exchange. In April, 2013, Dr. Ono was appointed as a member of the Third Frontier Advisory Board by Governor Kasich and is a member of the Cincinnati Business Committee and Ohio Business Roundtable.

Dr. Ono's appointment as honorary consul will help to continue and further promote the strong relationship enjoyed by the State of Ohio and Japan. As a Japanese American, he will have the unique ability to relate to both local Japanese and American residents, having a significant impact on U.S.-Japan relations and mutual understanding.