Today, November 7th, 2016, we are gathered here as representatives of current and former participants of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme.

In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the JET Programme, we would like to take the opportunity to show our gratitude to the Japanese government for their continued support of the Programme, and, at the same time, to acknowledge our ongoing friendship and commitment to our local communities in Japan, who have welcomed us with warmth and kindness. The bonds of friendship we form here are at the heart of the JET Programme and it has brought international exchange to so many people.

The JET Programme’s grassroots internationalisation has been achieved by exposing Japanese students and adults to a variety of cultures and ideas, and, through its alumni network, raising awareness abroad of Japan’s local attractions and products. AJET’s role as a supportive network for current JET participants has allowed them to achieve their highest potential and make the most meaningful impact on their local communities. The various JETAA chapters and their members around the world carry the mission of the JET Programme forward as they continue acting as bridges between communities in Japan and overseas.

As more and more Japanese companies look to expand their reach globally and adopt an international approach, it is more important than ever that JETs do their best to prepare their students and colleagues for a more multicultural Japan. We hope to continue working with the Japanese government to further improve the ability of current and former JETs to support Japan’s efforts, thus strengthening the country’s capacity to engage effectively with the rest of the world.

Furthermore, as part of this effort, in view of the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the 2019 Rugby World Cup, we pledge to support the Japanese government in its pursuit to host and promote successful international events.
Looking forward, we call upon current and future JETs to continue to be ambassadors for your home countries during your time in Japan; foster a greater awareness of the ties that bind us all together regardless of where we live; to learn about and engage in the local Japanese city, town, or village you are placed in; and to take advantage of all the opportunities to experience Japanese cuisine, culture, traditions, and the ways of life that surround you.

Finally, once you finish JET, we urge you to become an active member of the global alumni community, now well over 64,000 strong, without which the JET Programme itself could not continue to exist.

7 November, 2016

Presenters: Ryan Hata, Representative of current JET Participants

Joohyun Kwon, Representative of JET Alumni