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PRESS RELEASE

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Japanese Foreign Minister Honors Oregonian

The Japanese Government announced on July 25th, 2011 that Ms. Alice Etsuko Eto Sumida of Portland was awarded with Foreign Minister's Commendation, an honor awarded once a year to individuals and groups worldwide with outstanding contribution to the friendly relationship and mutual understanding between Japan and their countries.

Ms. Alice Sumida, who just turned 97, has served as President, Vice President of Nikkei Fujin kai (an association of Japanese American ladies) and President of Valeda Club (another group of Japanese American ladies) for many years. She still serves as Advisor to Nikkei Fujin kai and as board member of the Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland. Over those years, she contributed greatly to the welfare of Japanese American women and elder citizens. At the age of 97, she is still very active in various community and charity activities here as a member of such organizations as Japan America Society of Oregon and Portland Japanese Garden Society, and garners respect from a broad spectrum of people. Through those activities, she has greatly contributed to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and the United States. The award ceremony for Ms. Sumida will be held later this year at the official residence of the Japanese Consul General Takamichi Okabe.

The Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2011 was awarded to 68 individuals and 30 groups all over the world.