**SALUTATION IN LETTER**

To whom it may concern.

I am the president of Japanese Association of Greater Boston (JAGB). I am writing to you to tell you about our plan to form “Red Sox Japanese Player Supporters Club” and to ask you whether you could recognize our club as an official organization for Japanese fans and players. We would also appreciate it very much if you could help our effort to reach out to Japanese players, such as Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki Kojima, so that we can provide any support as they settle into life in Boston.

We are the only official non-profit organization for Japanese people living in the greater Boston area. This organization was founded in the 1960’s by a group of researchers at Harvard University and MIT, and it has been fully recognized and strongly supported by the Consulate General of Japan at Boston. We currently have over 2000 members, including Consulate General himself as the Honorary President. Our activities include the establishment and operation of Japanese Language School for Japanese children, annual parties, concerts, seminars and trips, a softball tournament, and publication of membership directory and newsletters.

Last fall, we were extremely excited to hear the news that Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki Kojima would join the Boston Red Sox for the 20XX season. We talked about the news everyday among Japanese friends, and other Red Sox fans (and even those who do not follow the Red Sox closely) asked us questions about these players and baseball in Japan. The Japanese Association of Greater Boston received several phone calls from Japanese and US media, making us realize the size of impact of this news.

All these events led us to a plan to form a supporter’s club for Matsuzaka and Kojima. The main purpose of Red Sox Japanese Players Supporters Club is to support and cheer for them and the Red Sox at Fenway Park and/or at other locations with fellow Japanese baseball fans. As you probably know, many Japanese are huge baseball fans, and it will be a tremendous experience to get together as a group and watch Japanese players play for the Red Sox. Of course, our support will extend to any Japanese players who will play for the Red Sox in the future and to those who play for Minor League teams affiliated with the Red Sox.

Also, Japanese Association of Greater Boston considers Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki Kojima, and their family, to be part of Japanese community in Boston and would like to formally welcome them to Boston. We would like to help them in any way possible to make their transition to Boston life comfortable and to make them feel at home once they start their lives here. So far, we have not had any opportunity to greet them and to offer support, and we would appreciate it if you could help us do so.

Another reason for this organization is the need to establish a system to deal with a flood of inquiries from media. So far, we have been taking care of these requests made to us or to the Consulate General by assigning steering committee members of the Japanese Association, but we think we need to have a solid structure to meet these requests more efficiently. Once our club is formed, the executive committee members of the supporter’s club will play such a role, which should help increasing the Red Sox organization popularity in Japan and in the US.

We have been communicating with the Japanese Red Sox Fan Club, particularly with Dago Fujiwara who is one of the founders of the fan club and the administrator of “go-redsox.com,” a Japanese website that has a partnership with Boston.com. We plan to establish our supporters club as a joint effort with the Fan Club. We are also sending to you a signature book enclosed with this letter, which contains signatures of Japanese and non-Japanese people who have shown support for our club.We present this as evidence for the importance and interests of our planed organization.

Thank you very much for your time reading this letter. I am looking forward to hearing from you about how the Red Sox organization feels about Red Sox Japanese Players Supporters Club.

Sincerely,

Yasuo Kubota, Ph.D.

President, Japanese

Association of Greater Boston