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A New Official Toastmasters Club in Okinawa – U.S. Consul General, Naha, to Attend Charter Ceremony on June 2nd

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A newly-chartered Toastmasters Club in Okinawa, Shuri Trilingual Toastmasters Club is to hold a charter ceremony on June 2nd at Bankoku Shinryokan in Nago-City. Representing the members of District 76, all Japan Toastmasters, Kazuko Kawauchi, the governor of District 76 will attend the ceremony. In addition, Alfred R. Magleby, United States Consul General, Naha, will participate as a special guest to make a congratulatory address. Kawauchi comments, "I am most honored to have the pleasure of U.S. Consul General's company at the ceremony. Through the activities of Toastmasters, the U.S.-born organization with about ninety-year history and where people with various racial and cultural backgrounds can acquire communication and leadership skills, I believe people of the U.S. and Japan can understand each other further and consequently the relationship between the two countries will be reinforced further.

Shuri Trilingual Toastmasters Club is the second Toastmasters Club that has been built in Okinawa Prefecture. The club was formed on March 18, 2012, and increased its membership to 20 that are required for a new club to be recognized as an official club by Toastmasters International, and the club was officially chartered on March 5, 2013.

This club holds regular meetings on the first and the third Sundays from 15:00 to 17:00 at Okinawa International Center in Urasoe-City. In every meeting, the club's members try to improve communication and leadership skills by making prepared speeches in one's chosen language out of three: Uchina-guchi (the traditional dialect in Okinawa), Japanese, and English. According to the co-founder and the President incumbent Mr. Shintaro Kuga, this gives the club culturally diversified members invaluable opportunities to share their ideas and thoughts more effectively even in each other's foreign languages, namely, out of the three languages most frequently used on the Island, while helping to preserve traditional Okinawan culture like Okinawan dialect. As the result, the club has been frequented by local Okinawans, JICA students from all over the world, and the U.S. service personnel. The place name "Shuri" where the Shuri castle is, came from Indo-European root word "suri", which means "high above", "beyond" and "noble", thus being most suitable to the name of the new Toastmasters club, he added.

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About Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Founded in October 1924, the organization currently has more than 280,000 members in 13,500 clubs in 116 countries. Each week, Toastmasters helps more than a quarter million people of every ethnicity, education and profession build their competence in communication so they can gain the confidence to lead others. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit www.toastmasters.org. Follow Toastmasters International on Twitter @Toastmasters.

About Toastmasters District 76

Toastmasters District 76 is Toastmasters International's Japan Branch. The first club was founded in 1954 in Tokyo; the organization currently has about 4,000 members in 140 clubs. The governor is Kazuko Kawauchi. For further information about Toastmasters District 76, please visit www.district76.org/en.

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