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Discurs de multumire delegatia japoneza

Gratitude for warm-hearted donations
and messages of encouragement (Japan)

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On March 11th, 2011, the huge earthquake of magnitude 9, struck a wide area across the East of Japan. Today, I come here to show my sincere gratitude directly to E.U.R. members. We have received many offers of donation and heartfelt messages from President Kappl and other colleagues from the E.U.R.

The huge earthquake, with a magnitude previously unexperienced, struck a wide area of East Japan. The tsunami caused by the earthquake swept 500 kilometers along the coastal area of the Pacific Ocean from the north-eastern region to the Kanto region. The tsunami was almost 20 meters in height and caused devastating damage to the Pacific coastal area. Many buildings, houses, ships, trains and cars were destroyed by this earthquake and washed away. In particular, the damage caused by the tsunami was very serious. Many cities were completely destroyed across a wide area. The number of casualties and missing people reached more than 20,000. Several tens of thousands of people had to evacuate from their homes. However, we have received rescue teams, materials and donations from 161 countries and 43 international organizations. With this support, people who suffered from the disaster have taken a step forward toward

recovery in various parts of Japan.

Many courts were also damaged by this earthquake and tsunami. For example, the criminal court building at Koriyama branch of the Fukushima district court, was completely destroyed. A two storey building on the first floor of the Ofunato Summary Court, was flooded. Fortunately all court officials survived and none were injured, even though some court officials lost their family or relatives. This fact relieved us. In a summary court in Iwate prefecture, four court officials, including one judge, kindly accepted 120 evacuees in a small court building and gave them kind support. 4 court officials were much appreciated by evacuees for this support.

I went to Sendai High Court to support recovery effort and stayed there for two weeks. I took charge of confirming the damaged situation and the court staff's safety, collecting information in order to resume court operations. At the end of March, the central offices of the district court, which were relatively undamaged, resumed their work. In April, the court officials went to the disaster areas hit by the tsunami. They consulted civil and domestic matters and made an effort to fulfill the judicial duties.

Meanwhile, we have received many donations and heartfelt messages of encouragement from President Kappl and other colleagues from the E.U.R. We will always remember this support. I would like to express sincere gratitude for the support from E.U.R. members and people all over the world on behalf of Japanese courts and the Japan Court Clerk Association.