

The World Affairs Council of St. Louis, The Japan–America Society of St. Louis, and International Studies and Programs at University of Missouri–St. Louis present:

## Japan: Road To Recovery– Challenges and Opportunities

Featuring Tatsuhiro Shindo, Chief Executive Director,  
Japan External Trade Organization–Chicago



**\$35 per person, \$300 for a sponsored table of 8**

**Includes generous hors d'oeuvres, complimentary  
soda, juice and bottled water; cash bar for beer, wine  
and other alcoholic drinks.**

**Thursday, October 13, 2011**

6:00-7:00PM: Reception

7:00-8:30PM: Program and Q&A

**Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel  
7730 Bonhomme Ave  
Clayton, MO 63105**

Mr. Tatsuhiro Shindo will speak on "Japan: Road to Recovery - Challenges and Opportunities" a presentation on the impact that The Great East Japan Earthquake has had on the Japanese economy and on the Japanese mindset. The strength of Japan depends on the health and safety of its infrastructure, industry and people, and to some degree all were affected by the events that happened on March 11th. His presentation will provide an updated and detailed overview of the effects that the earthquake had on Japan's economy, capital stock of industry and business sectors with clear analyses on the progress that has been made as well as the challenges to sustain recovery. Mr. Shindo will also discuss the challenges Japan faces, including future concerns for energy, as the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant stabilizes. Through all that has transpired, Japan remained open for business, therefore Mr. Shindo will also explain Japanese market trends and the new opportunities that have developed.

JETRO, the Japan External Trade Organization, is a government-related organization that works to promote mutual trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world. JETRO as established in 1958 as Japan's official overseas trade and investment agency. Currently, JETRO has 36 offices in Japan and 72 offices in 55 countries world wide, including 6 in the U.S. The JETRO Chicago office serves 12 states in the Midwest region: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.



### Registration form for Japan: Road To Recovery–Challenges and Opportunities

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Names of guests

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Payment Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method: cash check CC

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THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

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# Therapeutic Robots: PARO

PARO is an advanced interactive robot which provides psychological, physiological, and social effects to humans through physical interaction.

PARO is the 8<sup>th</sup> generation of a therapeutic robot that has been in use in Japan and throughout Europe since 2003. Closer to home, Passages Hospice in Cahokia, IL began using PARO about a year ago and will have 3 pets circulating Illinois by next month. PARO is designed to look like a baby harp seal. Using a non-familiar animal helps patients accept PARO without any preconceptions. Covered in artificial antibiotic fur, it features a hard inner skeleton under which are dual processors that control software for behavior generation and voice recognition systems. Their built-in intelligence provides psychological, physiological, and social effects through physical interaction with humans.



Photo by Joshua Nichol-Caddy of the Post-Dispatch



PARO has 5 kinds of sensors: tactile, light, audio, temperature, and posture. With the light sensor, it can recognize light and dark. The tactile sensor tells it if it is being stroked or beaten, and the posture sensor recognizes if it's being held. PARO can also recognize the direction of a voice and words such as its name, greetings, and praise with its audio sensor. It can learn to behave in a way that the user prefers and to respond to its name. By interacting with PARO, patients evoke memories of pets or stuffed animals and feel amused, relaxed and motivated, resulting in an improved psychological, physiological and social state.



The Japan-America Society  
of St. Louis



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