



May 6, 2011

Honorable Walter Maddox
Mayor
City of Tuscaloosa
Alabama, U.S.A.

Dear Mayor Maddox

My name is Taisuke Miyamoto. I assumed the mayorship of Narashino on April 27th as the successor to Mr. Isamu Araki.

I heard the horrible news concerning the outbreak of tornados that occurred from the evening of April 26th to 27th in the Southern US, which caused extensive damage in Tuscaloosa. On behalf of the citizens of Narashino, I would like to extend my deepest regret.

I am deeply distressed to hear not only that the casualties in the South were more than 300, but also that Tuscaloosa was hit the hardest by a mile-wide tornado that killed more than 30 people and injured hundreds. I am told that President Obama has declared a state of emergency in Alabama. Please again accept our deepest and most heartfelt condolences for those lost in the storm.

We were relieved to receive word from Ms. Lisa Keyes, the executive director of Tuscaloosa Sister Cities Commission; however, the devastating scenes shown in footage from the disaster left us shocked and speechless, because they looked so much like the tsunami-hit regions in Japan.

In response to the Great East Japan Earthquake, you and all of Tuscaloosa showed such concern for us and gave us reassurance that we were not alone and that your thoughts were always with us. Moreover you graciously sent us donations to help with the recovery efforts. From the very start of this long road to recovery, your warm hearts, words, and support have been there to encourage us onward.

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We will do whatever we can to help you, so please do not hesitate to call on us in this time of need.

People in Narashino have a great desire to do something for Tuscaloosa. We have already established the Tuscaloosa Disaster Relief Fund to help garner financial assistance. We are more than happy to be of service to our sister city in any way that we can.

We of Narashino hope that the disaster victims and the City of Tuscaloosa make a swift and speedy recovery.

Sincerely yours,

Taisuke Miyamoto
Mayor of Narashino City