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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chiba to host Kiwanis International convention July 17-19

CHIBA, Japan (July 14, 2014)—Chiba, Japan, will host the 99th Annual Kiwanis International Convention, bringing more than 2,000 people from around the world to the city.

Highlights include a visit by Their Imperial Highness Prince and Princess Akishino and remarks from Prince Akishino; a walk to benefit The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus; the presentation of the Robert P. Connelly Medal for Heroism; and the presentation of the Kiwanis International World Service Medal to Table For Two Founder Masa Kogure.

Kiwanis members and their guests will also enjoy a presentation by Yasuhiro Yamashita, 8th dan, Olympic champion and four-time world champion in judo; a judo demonstration by Makuhari Sohgoh High School students; and special music from the Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble.

“Our members are excited to be in Japan, and I know our Japan District is proud to host this special event,” said Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser. “Kiwanis members are looking forward to enjoying this beautiful country and experiencing the fellowship of thousands of their fellow members from around the world. We’re also excited to have raised US$55 million for The Eliminate Project, reaching the halfway point of our campaign to rid the world of this devastating disease.”
Each year, members from more than 25 countries attend the Kiwanis International convention for education, idea-sharing, speakers, entertainment, workshops and governance.

**Their Imperial Highness Prince and Princess Akishino**
Their Imperial Highness Prince and Princess Akishino will visit the convention for the Thursday, July 17 opening session. At 10 a.m., Prince Akishino will welcome more than 2,000 Kiwanis convention attendees at the 99th Annual Kiwanis International Convention at the Makuhari Messe Convention Center.

**Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism presentation**
At 2 p.m. on Friday, July 18, Kiwanis International will honor Shun Gen with the 2014 Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism for saving a boy from drowning.

**Walk for The Eliminate Project**
Kiwanis members will walk to benefit The Eliminate Project at 7 a.m. on Friday, July 18. The walk begins at the Makuhari Messe Convention Center lobby. Partnering with UNICEF, Kiwanis International is raising US$110 million by 2015 to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, a disease that kills one baby every nine minutes in nearly 25 countries around the world. To date, The Eliminate Project has raised nearly US$55 million. The Japan District of Kiwanis International is a fundraising leader for this global project, leading the way in per member average for dollars raised and already surpassing their fundraising goal of $US1 million.

**World Service Medal presentation**
At 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 19, Kiwanis International will honor Masa Kogure, founder of Table For Two, with the service organization’s highest award—the 2014 World Service Medal—for his dedication to ending hunger in Africa while curbing obesity in developed nations.

**About Kiwanis International**
Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students age 14-18, Builders Club for students age 11-14, Kiwanis Kids for students age 6-12 and Aktion Club for adults living
with disabilities, dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children and raise more than $100 million. The Kiwanis International family is composed of nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. For more information about Kiwanis International, please visit www.kiwanis.org.