

## PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

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### Meet Paro, Japan's Seal Robot: *Paro ni aimashou!*

SAN FRANCISCO (February 26, 2009) – The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) and the Japan Society are honored to welcome Dr. Takanori and his Seal Robot, Paro to the JCCCNC on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the JCCCNC, 1840 Sutter Street in San Francisco.



Meet the world's Most Therapeutic Robot, Paro the seal! Dr. Takanori Shibata designed Paro to improve the quality of life for the elderly and hospital patients. Modeled after a baby Harp seal, Paro evokes relaxing emotions to soothe those needing comfort. Join us as Dr. Shibata demonstrates Paro's functions in this lively presentation.

**Dr. Takanori Shibata** is the inventor of a seal robot named Paro, named the World's Most Therapeutic Robot by Guinness World Records. His research interests include human-robot interaction, human interactive robot, emotional robot, and robot therapy. Dr. Shibata received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Electro-Mechanical Engineering from Nagoya University, and was a postdoctoral associate at the Artificial Intelligence Lab at MIT. He received the Robot of the Year award from Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in 2006 and the Japanese Prime Minister's Award in 2003.

This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited, so please call the JCCCNC at (415) 567-5505 to reserve your seat.

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### **About the JCCCNC**

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, the JCCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and administrative support and facilities for other local service organizations. The JCCCNC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community center based in San Francisco.