

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



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AG STRANGE THANKS JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR DONATION TO ALABAMA'S TORNADO VICTIMS

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange thanked representatives from the government of Japan for remembering Alabama's tornado victims even as they are still in the midst of recovery from the massive earthquake and tsunami that recently devastated their own country. Attorney General Strange was on hand with other federal and state officials to formally accept a donation of commodities delivered to a warehouse in Montgomery this afternoon.

"On behalf of the State of Alabama, I want to express to the citizens of Japan our deep gratitude for this gracious donation to our own disaster victims even as they are still suffering from the aftermath of the tragic earthquake and tsunami that struck their own country," said Attorney General Strange. "As I have traveled throughout Alabama this last week visiting with people who are struggling from the tornado damage, I can assure that these supplies are greatly needed and will be much appreciated by our people. This gesture is a sign of the goodwill between our countries, for which we are thankful."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will distribute the gift of 8,000 blankets and 150 huge pieces of plastic sheeting as part of response operations. This donation was presented as a symbol of the appreciation of the Japanese government for the assistance from the United States after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Japanese officials made the presentation to pay respect to the people of Alabama who suffered from the severe storms and tornadoes last week.

On behalf of Japan, the officials present for the ceremony were Mr. Takuji Hanatani, Consul General of Japan, at the Japanese Consulate in Atlanta; and Mr. Keiichiro Nakazawa, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, U.S.A. Office, in Washington DC. The State of Alabama was represented by Attorney General Luther Strange and Alabama Development Office Director Seth Hammett. The U.S. government was represented by Mr. Michael Byrne, Federal Coordinating Officer in Alabama from FEMA.

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