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Title: Geri Handa Interview
Narrator: Geri Handa
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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NW: But I guess, one of my last few questions is about how you see the change in leadership or really the change over time in general. So you've been involved in this for a long time by now, and I know that there was a leadership change, in the CABS, so Kuramoto, Mr. Kuramoto to Endo, right? And then now, Mariko is going to be taking over. Do you think with or without relationship due to change in the leadership, do you think their approach changed over time?

GH: I think so, well, you know, Kanji, he was more of a, kind of a face of CABS so he was always much more visible, and Mr. Endo is not as visible, he kind of works behind the scenes.

NW: Really?

GH: And, isn't quite as visible, he, I mean, Kanji was more visible in terms of media and, and, and accessible that way, whereas Mr. Endo is a little bit more private, you know. And then Mariko is kind of in between; she's also the youngest.

NW: Hmm, that's true.

GH: There's a different perspective, because she's in-utero, so she's not really like, like experienced in terms of the atomic blast or something like that. So that's kind of a difference between that and, you know, and Mr. Endo's more, on the private side.

NW: Oh. What . . .

GH: Of course, once you get to talk to him, one to one, he just opens up.

NW: Yeah, yeah. He's very, he's very, yeah, open.

GH: But, you know, in kind of like, in media and all that kind of thing, he prefers not to have it public.

NW: Why do you think that's the case? Is it just his personality, or?

GH: I think it's personality, yeah. It's his personality.

NW: But you mentioned how, because Mariko Lindsey is a different generation, that might explain the difference in style. Do you think that matters?

GH: Yeah, and, also, you know, just the personality and also I think, um, Mr. Endo has a difference in personality in how they do things. Because then, on a one-to-one Mr. Endo's fine, I mean, but sometimes though, he gets easily upset sometimes and that's kind of visible. So that may not always be the best thing. Yeah. And, but, I was, I always have to take into consideration the intent of the person, they always mean well but it may not come across that way. Because of the way they are, and they get easily either irritated or upset or, you know, maybe because of age that might be happening more, so I was kind of, "Hmm," and then, and then, and then Mariko, of course, being younger, you know, they'll always, and plus, you know, she's been doing a lot of different things. She has much, you know, she helps teach Japanese, she's been involved in the kind of sister city, kind of thing, so you know, with her community and their sister cities. So, you know, it's a little different, yeah, it's a little different. But she enjoys, you know, doing different things and traveling and symphony and all those things, so it's something different. And plus, I think . . .

NW: Do you mean, do you mean, more precisely that she has lots of other things going on so she might not be that centered . . . ? Okay, I understand.

GH: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And maybe that, and not that rigid sometimes, you know. But it depends too on what it is that she involved in. I know this time she was under, felt like she was under a lot of pressure because she's never done it before, that's why she felt more comfortable making sure that, you know, Kay and I were going to be there, you know, and I told her, "You'll be okay." "No, you two have to be there." "Okay, okay, if it makes you feel better, yes, okay, of course." She says "Now that I've done it, I kind of know what to do next and now I know what to expect and I met all these people, I know who they are."

NW: [laugh] That's good. Right, right.

GH: She says "Next time, I'll feel more confident." I said "Good!"

NW: So, you had sort of a debriefing time with, decompressing time with her? That's good, I think . . .

GH: We'll probably meet again, for lunch or something.

NW: Yeah, yeah. I'd definitely like to keep in touch with her because she really looks like an interesting person, but I think that you're right to say that she was under a lot of pressure, especially because it was her first time.

GH: Oh, definitely. But, so was the medical team members too, because this is their first time also.

NW: Right, right. So are you happy with the result, the way the exam went today?

GH: I think so, I think so. You always have, kind a, little glitches like "Oh no we need more this or that" or "We need something, changes," but you just kind of, if you've been doing it long enough, you just kind of, okay, go with the flow of things. You know, and you just digest. And I

think having Barry there was kind of different because Barry has never been involved in coming to the medical exam and this time he had a, he had exposure to what we do.

NW: Barry?

GH: Barry Loller. He's the medical director, medical services.

NW: Right, right, okay.

GH: So he was there, which made it a little different, and of course, Dr. Umekubo, he's the supervising physician, so he's always around, so that really helped a lot too.

NW: Why do you think Barry decided to come at this time?

GH: I, well, because last time he was on vacation, so he wasn't around.

NW: So he couldn't make it. Okay.

GH: And this time, I guess he had the time to do it.

NW: Okay. That's a good thing. Well, I hope Saint Mary will be able to support this effort for a long time.

GH: I hope so, too. You know, I, I know medical services and hospitals are having a tough go right now.

NW: I think it's true to many, many places. Yeah.

GH: Hopefully, I mean their commitment is there, but you know . . .

NW: But it doesn't necessarily mean that it's capable of doing this. Whatever they want to do, so, I really do hope that it continues on, and, uh, in different locations as well.

GH: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

NW: Anything that you remain, um, that remains to be said? I mean when we talk in this way, there will probably be things that you thought I would ask you but I then I didn't and you thought I was going to say that but then I didn't have a chance to say it. [laugh]

GH: [laugh] Well, probably, I'll think about it, and then, and then I'll let you know.

NW: Okay, sure. I'll keep in touch. So, yeah, whatever comes to your mind, I'll love to know.

GH: Yeah, yeah. Okay.

NW: So, thank you very much for your time, it was very useful.

GH: No, thank you.

NW: I really appreciate that you made this so opportunity.

GH: Yeah, great, thank you for lunch, too, my goodness.

NW: Yeah, sure, my pleasure, of course.

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