***Translation of Document from NH*K**

**44th Broadcast Cultural Funds Award**

**Program Category: TV Drama Program**

**INCENTIVE AWARWD**

**FEATURE DRAMA: “DOKO NI MO NAI KUNI” (A Country that is Nowhere)**

**NHK**

**Part 1: March 24, 2018 (Sat.), Part 2: March 31, 2018 (Sat)**

It was 1945. Kunio Maruyama greeted the end of the World War II in Manchuria. Under the occupation of the Soviet Army, all Japanese who were left (in Manchuria) were threatened with pillaging and violence, and countless lives were lost due to starvation and cold. Seeking to bring about an early as possible repatriation, Maruyama, along with Hachiro Shinpo and Masamichi Musashi, resolved to escape back to their native Japan, but that was a life threating action. After finally returning to Japan, the three realized that the Japanese government had neither the authority nor the ability to bring about repatriation, and the three mounted a nation wide campaign to appeal for repatriation. Additionally, the three made direct appeals to Shigeru Yoshida and to General MacArthur. Maruyama’s wife, Mary Mariko, who was left behind in Manchuria, found out for the first time that her husband was alive upon listening to his voice when he made a radio address, and she shed tears of happiness. Finally at long last, the eagerly waited repatriation of Japanese left behind in Manchuria commenced in April of 1946.

**Comments upon receipt of the Award by Takashi Nakamura,**

**NHK’s Overall Chief of Production**

The fact that there once existed a country named “Manchuria” has been forgotten by most Japanese. It was a puppet empire of Japan that existed for only 14 years, but there were over 1.5 million civilian Japanese who made a living there, and as a result of the Japanese government’s policy for all Japanese to “Make plans to stay in place”, it meant that, in reality, all Japanese in Manchuria were abandoned upon the end of the War. Many Japanese lost their lives one after the other there, as they were placed in a desperate situation; among them mostly the weak such as helpless children and women. This drama reveals the true story of (three) unknown non-combatant civilian men with no official authority at all, who took on a struggle and put their own lives on the line to bring about the rescue of countless unknown fellow countrymen – this drama reveals the true untold story that had been buried from history. Following the drama’s broadcast, we have received countless words of encouragement and empathy, and I wish to dedicate the award to all the unknown individuals who lived in those terrible times.

Takashi Nakamura of NHK