

## New Year's Intentions

January 3, 2014

At the beginning of each new year, like so many of us, I typically spend some time reflecting on lessons learned from the previous year and setting my intentions for the upcoming year. With the pervasive global challenges often resulting from cultural misunderstanding, I realize that I still have my work cut out for me as I attempt to break barriers and create bridges across cultures in the workplace as well as in personal lives.

Nelson Mandela said, *"There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."* As I cultivate what the Japanese refer to as *kaizen*, or continual improvement, I dedicate my intentions this year to keep on fostering cultural awareness and acceptance, authentic connections and inclusiveness in my work and in my personal life.

As you set your intentions, goals or resolutions for 2014, I encourage you to consider what you are truly passionate about in your life and your work. Are you living as authentically as you would like to? Are you doing work that is purposeful and energizes you and others? Are you approaching each cross-cultural interaction as an opportunity for growth? As you ponder these questions and others, I wish you all the best for a rich and rewarding year.

Happy New Year for a healthy and prosperous 2014.