

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors Sho Dozono with “Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award”

Sho Dozono, president and CEO of Azumano Travel, will be honored with the “Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award” on May 14, 2014, at the *Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner*. The award is presented in recognition of his lifetime of leadership defending human dignity, promoting justice and profoundly enhancing the quality of life in Oregon.

A strong advocate of diversity and equal opportunity, as well as a respected business and civic leader, Dozono devotes much of his time to civil and individual rights. Highlights of his professional career include Oregon League of Minority Voters co-chair, United Way campaign chair, Portland Art Museum trustee, Port of Portland commissioner, Portland Multnomah Progress Board member, Japan America Society of Oregon president, Japanese American Citizens League president, and newly appointed board member of the US-Japan Council. In 2001, he became the first minority to chair the Portland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce in its 110-year history.

Committed to public education, Dozono was a Portland school teacher and coach before becoming a businessman and community leader, and he was a founding member of the Portland School Foundation. He spearheaded the historic 1996 March for Our Schools, bringing out 30,000 Portlanders and raising over 11 million dollars to save local teaching jobs. Less than a month after 9/11, Dozono, organized the “Flight for Freedom,” which launched more than 1,000 Oregonians on a pilgrimage to Manhattan.

The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon annual celebration has become the premier ecumenical event in Oregon, bringing together diverse communities of faith and community partners in celebration of ecumenism and the spirit of hope across Oregon. This year’s event also marks the 40th anniversary of EMO and will include a celebration of the growth of the ecumenical movement in Oregon since EMO’s founding in 1974, following the merger of the Oregon Council of Churches and Portland Council of Churches.

The *EMO Annual Community Awards & 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner* on May 14 will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO’s ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are available at www.emoregon.org for \$75 per person and tables for 10 are available for \$750. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.