**Press Release**

Drive dental and orthodontic business and product breakthroughs

**GC America kicks off major headquarters expansion with traditional Japanese Groundbreaking Ceremony**

Leuven, August 2017 – Bright skies and warm breezes provided the perfect setting on July 4th for a traditional Japanese Groundbreaking Ceremony (Ji Chin Sai) to dedicate the property adjacent to GC America Inc.’s corporate headquarters in Alsip, Illinois. The property is up for a major building expansion project (to be completed mid-2019) that will enable the future growth of the GC America’s business.

The expansion project will enlarge GC America’s headquarters, for transplant manufacturing projects and the unification of GC America Associates at one consolidated location improving communication and innovation among Associates. This will help drive dental and orthodontic business and product breakthroughs, which improve and extend the lives of patients across the Americas.

The special Shinto ceremony was officiated by the Rev. Lawrence Koichi Barrish of the Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America and attended by GC Corporation Chairman Mr. Makoto Nakao and Mrs. Makiko Nakao, GC International AG Executive Vice President Mr. Henri Lenn, GC America President Steve Fletcher, Consul-General Naoki Ito of Japan in Chicago along with Illinois State Representative Al Riley, Dr. Gary Roberts, President of the American Dental Association, Alsip Mayor John Ryan and Hideyoshi Kajiyama, Senior Vice President of design-build firm KBD Group, which will serve as project partner with GC America and local municipal authorities. In this ceremony, the local “kami” (guardians of the area) were asked for their blessings and for the protection of those involved in the construction of the new facilities, as well as all those who will work in them.

Chairman Nakao expressed his sincere gratitude to the nearly 100 distinguished guests, including GC America Associates. He stated that the new GC America headquarters will establish a communication loop and provide creative space for the company’s Associates to collaborate and innovate. It’s a strong commitment to the company’s SEMUI philosophy, meaning to produce products that will serve dentists, dental professionals and orthodontists and their patients as their highest and best use, not merely for the sake of corporate profit.

By the time the expansion is completed, the company will be closer to achieving its Vision 2021 strategic objective to become the world’s #1 dental company in terms of its contributions to better oral health through innovative products, dental education programs and improving health around the world.

GC International AG Executive Vice President Mr. Henri Lenn joined Mr. and Mrs. Nakao and other dignitaries in the ritual ceremony to purify the grounds and prepare them for construction site work, expected to begin in just a few weeks’ time. Mr. Lenn said the groundbreaking represented an exciting next step for the company as the global GC Group companies prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of GC Corporation in 2021.

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