



The 47th Annual Joint Meeting

Japan-U.S. Southeast & Southeast U.S./Japan Associations

“Shaping the Future with Partnership, Innovation, and Growth”

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 - Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Hotel New Otani Tokyo
4-1 Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Phone : +81-3-3265-1111
<https://www.newotani.co.jp/en/tokyo/>

October 28 (Tuesday)

8:30am – 3:00pm

Offsite Session

A. Industrial Tour (For Japanese and U.S. participants)

<Company names in alphabetical order>

- ① **Bridgestone Corporation :** 8:45 am – 2:15 pm
“[Bridgestone Innovation Park](#)” (Kodaira-shi, Tokyo)
- ② **Japan Airlines Co., Ltd. :** 10:00 am – 1:20 pm
“[JAL Sky Museum & Hangar Tour](#)” (Haneda Airport, Tokyo)
- ③ **Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. :** 9:15 am – 2:30 pm
“[Mitsubishi Minatomirai Industrial Museum](#)” (Minatomirai, Yokohama)
“[Yokohama Hardtech Hub](#)” (Honmoku, Yokohama)
- ④ **Shimizu Corporation :** 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
“[Smart Innovation Ecosystem NOVARE](#)” (Koto-ku, Tokyo)

B. Cultural Tour (For U.S. participants only) : 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

- ⑤ [Naritasan Shinshoji Temple](#) - Ogoma prayer experience & Temple walk

※" Please note that due to a maximum capacity of 40 people per Industrial Tour location and 80 people for Cultural Tour, we may not be able to accommodate your preferred choice among options. Thank you for your understanding.

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Individual State Reception

[Location: Hotel New Otani Tokyo]

Alabama - [Room: Lapis 2]
Florida - [Room: Orizuru Yu]
Georgia - [Room: Lapis 1]
Mississippi & South Carolina - [Room: Azalea]
North Carolina - [Room: TBA]
Tennessee - [Room: Orizuru Mai]

5:30pm – 8:30pm

Welcome Reception & Dinner

[Location: Garden Tower Banquet Hall, HÔ]

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Chairman's Dinner (Invitation only)

[Location: Myojin Kaikan, [Kanda Myoujin](#)]

October 29 (Wednesday)

7:00am – 8:40am Joint Networking Buffet Breakfast

[Location: Garden Tower Banquet Hall, HŌ]

7:45am – 8:30am Governors/Head of Delegation Leaders Breakfast

[Location: The Main Bldg. Banquet Floor, AZALEA]

**Limited to specific members (HODs, Consul-Generals, Co-Chairs)*

8:45am – 10:15am Opening Ceremony

[Location: The Main Bldg. Banquet Floor, Tsuru (West)]

Opening Remarks :

Mr. Masaaki Tsuya, Chairman, Japan – U.S. Southeast Association,
External Advisor / Immediate Past Chairman & Global CEO, Bridgestone
Corporation

Mr. Don Stewart, Chairman, Southeast U.S./Japan Association
Group Vice President, Region 7, Toyota Motor North America
President, Toyota Battery Manufacturing, North Carolina

Guest Remarks : Guest from Ministry of Foreign Affairs (TBA)

Guest from Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (TBA)

Delegation Leader Remarks :

**Final speaking order determined by office rank, then alphabetical by state
(i.e. Governors attending speak first):*

State of North Carolina - **The Honorable Governor Josh Stein**

State of Georgia - **The Honorable Governor Brian Kemp**

State of Tennessee - **The Honorable Governor Bill Lee**

State of Alabama - **Ellen McNair**, Secretary of Commerce

State of Florida - **Alex Kelly**, Secretary of Commerce

State of Mississippi - **Bill Cork**, Executive Director, Mississippi Development
Authority

State of South Carolina - **Harry Lightsey**, Secretary of Commerce

Welcome Remarks :

TBA, Consul General of Japan in Atlanta

10:30am – 11:45pm Panel Session I

[Location: The Main Bldg. Banquet Floor, Tsuru (West)]

Theme (Tentative): "**Strengthening Ties: The Enduring Value of Bilateral Partnerships in Business**"

Moderator **Mr. Norihiko Ishiguro**, Chairman of Japan External Trade
Organization "JETRO"

Panelists (J) **Mr. Satoshi Komiya**, Managing Director & Senior Partner,
Boston Consulting Group
(J) **Ms. Reiko Kusunose**, Independent Outside Director: Teijin Limited,
Bunka Shutter Corporation, NIPPO Corporation, Nippo Corporation,
(A) **Ms. Masami Tyson**,
Chief of Staff, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and
Davidson County / Board Chair, Japan-America Society of
Tennessee
(A) **TBA** Executive from Aflac

11:55am – 12:15pm **Keynote Address & Interview Session:**
 [Location: The Main Bldg. Banquet Floor, Tsuru (West)]

The Honorable George Glass, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan

12:30pm – 1:45pm **Lunch & Interview Session:**
 [Location: Garden Tower Banquet Hall, HÔ]

Mr. Takeshi Hakamada, Founder & CEO, ispace Inc.

2:00pm – 3:15pm **Panel Session II**
 [Location: The Main Bldg. Banquet Floor, Tsuru (West)]

Theme (Tentative): **“Next Horizons Together: SEUS–Japan Innovation and Opportunities across Endless Frontiers in the New Space Economy”**

Moderator: **Mr. Joe Casas**, Science, Technology & Exploration Small Missions and DoD Formulation Manager, Partnerships & Formulation Office, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Panelists: (J) **Dr. Mengu Cho**, Professor, Department of Space and Semiconductor Engineering, Chiba Institute of Technology / Professor, Department of Space Systems Engineering, Kyushu Institute of Technology / Director, Laboratory of Lean Satellite Enterprises and In-Orbit Experiments
 (J) **Mr. Masatoshi Nagasaki**, Co-Founder & CEO, Space BD Inc.
 (J) **Mr. Chris Blackerby**, Group Chief Operating Officer (COO), Astroscale Holdings
 (A) **Ms. Barbie Peek**, Chief Business Development Officer, Port of Huntsville
 (A) **Mr. Louis Ross**, CEO, MEI Micro, Inc.

3:30pm – 4:15pm **Closing Ceremony**
 [Location: The Main Bldg. Banquet Floor, Tsuru (West)]

Guest Remarks
Consul General Shinji Watanabe, Consulate General of Japan in Nashville
Consul General Junya Nakano, Consulate General of Japan in Miami

Adoption of Joint Statement

Closing Remarks
Mr. Don Stewart, Chairman, Southeast U.S./Japan Association
Mr. Masaaki Tsuya, Chairman, Japan – U.S. Southeast Association

Exchange of Gifts by Chairmen
 Host State Transition Ceremony
 Announcement of the 48th Joint Meeting

4:30pm – 6:00pm

Higher Education Session

[Location: The Main Bldg. Banquet Floor, Tsuru (East)]

*Participants expected from universities in the Southeast U.S. and partner universities in Japan

Theme (Tentative): **"How Higher Education Institutions Help Accelerate Industry Technology and Business Development"**

Featured Speakers:

Keynote: **Mr. Randy Boyd**, President of The University of Tennessee System
TBA

Session Co-Chair:

Dr. Akihiro Sasoh, Nagoya University Vice President
(Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration and Start-ups)
Mr. Stephen Sumner, Director, North Carolina Japan Center

Panelist: **Dr. Robert Feldman**, Senior Advisor, Morgan Stanley MUFG Securities Co., Ltd. / Senior Specially Appointed Professor, Tokyo University of Science / TV commentator on World Business Satellite, the nightly Japanese business program of TV Tokyo (TBC)
TBA
TBA

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Reception & Gala Dinner

[Location: The Main Bldg. Banquet Floor, Fuyo]

(End of Annual Joint Meeting Schedule)