# 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 27 (Monday)

2:00pm – 6:00pm Registration Open (Main Desks)

[Location: The Main Bldg. Arcade Floor, Sho]

# October 28 (Tuesday)

7:00am – 6:00pm Registration Open (Main Desks)

[Location: The Main Bldg. Arcade Floor, Sho]

#### 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)

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.: 9:15 am – 2:30 pm "Mitsubishi Minatomirai Industrial Museum" (Minatomirai, Yokohama) "Yokohama Hardtech Hub" (Honmoku, Yokohama)

Shimizu Corporation: 9:00 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
  - S Naritasan Shinshoji Temple Ogoma prayer experience & Temple walk
- X" 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: Acero]

Mississippi & South Carolina - [Room: Lapis L]

North Carolina - [Room: Azalea] Tennessee - [Room: Orizuru Mai] 5:30pm – 8:30pm Welcome Reception & Dinner

[Location: Garden Tower Banquet Hall, HO]

7:00pm – 9:00pm Chairman's Dinner (Invitation only)

[Location: Myojin Kaikan, Kanda Myoujin]

## October 29 (Wednesday)

7:00am – 6:00pm Registration Open (Main Desks)

[Location: The Main Bldg. Arcade Floor, Sho]

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

[Location: Garden Tower Banquet Hall, HO]

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 – 10:25am 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:

**TBA** State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Matsuo Takehiko, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, METI

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 - Cord Byrd, Secretary of State

State of Mississippi - Bill Cork, Executive Director,

Mississippi Development Authority

State of South Carolina - David Royer, Managing Director,

State of South Carolina Japan Office

Welcome Remarks :

Mr. Kenichi Matsuda, Consul General of Japan in Atlanta

10:40am - 12:00pm Panel Session I

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

Theme: "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

(A) Ms. Masami Tyson,

Chief of Staff, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson Country / Board Chair, Japan-America Society of

Tennessee

(A) Mr. Virgil Miller, President of Aflac Incorporated and Aflac U.S.

### 12:15pm – 1:25pm Lunch & Interview Session:

[Location: Garden Tower Banquet Hall, HO]

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

#### 1:40pm - 3:00pm Panel Session II

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

Theme: "Next Horizons Together: SEUS-Japan Innovation and Opportunities across Endless Frontiers in the New Space Economy"

Moderator & Panelist:

**Mr. Chris Blackerby**, Group Chief Operating Officer (COO), Astroscale Holdings

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.
- (A) Ms. Barbie Peek, Chief Business Development Officer, Port of Huntsville
- (A) Mr. Louis Ross, CEO, MEI Micro, Inc.
- (A) Mr. Robert Long, President & CEO, Space Florida

# 3:15pm – 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 Annual 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: "How Higher Education Institutions Help Accelerate Industry Technology and Business Development"

#### Session Co-Chairs:

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

#### Keynote Speakers:

- (A) Mr. Randy Boyd, President of The University of Tennessee System
- (J) **Mr. Minoru Tomoda**, Professional Associate, Strategy Office, Technology and Innovation Center, Daikin Industries, Ltd.

#### Panel Discussion:

#### Moderator:

**Dr. Akihiro Sasoh**, Nagoya University Vice President (Industry-Academia-Government Collaboration and Start-ups) Panelists:

- (J/A) **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
- (J) **Prof. Hiroyuki Takahashi**, Graduate School of Engineering / Deputy Director General, Division of University Corporate Relations, The University of Tokyo
- (A) **Mr. Don Hobar**t, Attorney & Counselor at Law / Retired Associate Vice Chancellor, Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

#### 6:00pm – 9:00pm Reception & Gala Dinner

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

### Guest Remarks:

The Honorable Shigeo Yamada, Ambassador of Japan to the United States

(End of Annual Joint Meeting Schedule)