



News Release

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Japan and Georgia, Growing in Importance...Together

Georgia and Japan get high marks on exports, community outreach, and education

Atlanta, GA— Today, former military and government officials, policymakers, and business leaders held a lunch discussion at Atlanta’s Commerce Club on the economic investments Japanese companies make in the state of Georgia. The discussion, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Atlanta, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, and the East-West Center, focused on aspects of how Japanese businesses in technology, manufacturing, agriculture and other business sectors are growing throughout the state.

Dennis Blair, Chairman of Sasakawa USA, commented, “the U.S.-Japan alliance—well over 70 years strong—serves a critical partner for our nation’s security in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as a valued economic partner throughout the U.S. When the world’s first and third largest economies stick together, we can handle anything, including China.”

Over decades of working together, Georgia and Japan have a strong track record:

- More than 500 Japanese-affiliated companies operate in Georgia, employing over 30,000 Georgians.
- Georgia’s exports to Japan totaled \$1.36 billion in 2017.
- Georgia’s total trade with Japan is \$6.3 billion.
- Japan is Georgia’s 6th largest export market.
- Over the past ten years, Georgia’s two-way trade with Japan has grown by more than 24%.
- Georgia has 10 Sister City agreements with Japan.
- Eleven colleges and universities in Georgia carry Japan studies programs.

Dr. Satu Limaye, Director of the East-West Center in Washington, reported on his most recent study of Japanese investment in the United States and commented that “Georgia’s basic strengths—trade, investment, and cultural engagement—are second to none” among all other states. Jim Reed, president of YKK Corporation, a Macon, GA-based manufacturer, stated that, “the people-to-people relationships are so important. YKK is long-term investor and we grow the company to benefit the customers, our people, and the communities we live and work in.”

The discussion was one in a series of events organized by Sasakawa USA for its The Alliance Working in America (TAWA) series. TAWA focuses on how the U.S.-Japan alliance and partnerships can better work together to secure U.S. security interests, including economic security, at both regional and national levels. Previous TAWA installments took place in Oregon and Texas.

About Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

[Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA](http://www.sasakawa-usa.org) is an independent American non-profit, non-partisan institution devoted to research, analysis, and better understanding of the U.S.-Japan relationship. Through research and education programs, Sasakawa USA facilitates people-to-people exchange and dialogue between American and Japanese policymakers, influential citizens, and the broader public.