



SASAKAWA USA
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Media Advisory

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Japan-Kentucky Collaboration: Developing the Bluegrass Workforce and Economy

Educators, policymakers, and business leaders discuss role government and private sector can work together to recruit and train the best workers

Lexington, KY -- On March 7, Sasakawa USA will co-host a panel discussion of Japan's future overseas investment interests and the kinds of workforce needed in Kentucky to support these investments. The conversation will seek to identify the challenges that Kentucky faces to recruit and train the necessary workforce, and explore how Japanese and U.S. companies, state, and local authorities, and educational institutions, can work together to address these challenges.

Speakers will include: **Cassidy Cocanougher**, Manager, Regional Engineering & Skill Training Center, Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas, Inc.; **Beth Davisson**, Executive Director, Workforce Center, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; **The Honorable Hiroyuki Kobayashi**, Consul-General of Japan in Nashville; **Isamu Wakamatsu**, Executive Director, Research and Information Services, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) New York; and **Ambassador James P. Zumwalt**, CEO, Sasakawa USA. **Ian Mooers**, Director of Training, World Trade Center of Kentucky, will moderate.

This event is co-sponsored by Sasakawa USA, the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville, the World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana, and World Affairs Councils of America, in partnership with World Trade Center Kentucky and Japan-America Society of Kentucky.

The on-the-record discussion is open to the public and free of charge. Members of the local government, businesses, educational institutions, and the media are invited to attend. Lunch will be served.

Time: Noon–2 p.m. March 7, 2019

Location: Hyatt Regency Lexington, Hyatt Suites, 401 West High St., Lexington, KY 40507

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This discussion is 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 Georgia, Oregon and Texas.

About Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

[Sasakawa USA](#) 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. #TAWAKentucky

