



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NEW DATES SET FOR 43rd ANNUAL SEUS/JAPAN JOINT MEETING IN TOKYO**

**Miami, Florida – Sep. 15, 2020 --- Florida Delegation, Southeast U.S./Japan Association, Inc. (SEUS/Japan)** is pleased to announce that new dates for the next Annual Joint Meeting of Japan U.S./Southeast and Southeast U.S./Japan Associations have been confirmed by the Japan host committee as October 26-28, 2021 at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. Originally scheduled for next month, the event has been postponed till next year due to the continued COVID-19 global pandemic crisis; under this new schedule, Florida will serve as the host state of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Meeting in the fall of 2022 and to serve as co-host state when hosted by Japan in 2023. According to Florida Delegation Executive Director Dave Woodward, "This annual joint meeting has only been postponed on two previous occasions in its 45-year history: most recently in 2011 when Japan had its earthquake-tsunami national disaster and prior to that in 2001 due to the 911 disaster in the U.S." "We are pleased the Japan host committee was able to reschedule the event till next year out of an abundance of caution in response to the continued global pandemic, and that Florida will now have the opportunity to host in 2022, allowing us more time to prepare as Florida's economy recovers from the impact of the pandemic," added Florida Delegation Board Chairman Keith Norden, who serves as President & CEO of Team Volusia EDC in Daytona Beach and is a long-time participant in the annual joint meeting programs.

As is customary, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis will be invited to officially lead the Florida Delegation to this prestigious event. In addition to the SEUS member state governors/head of delegations, senior officials of Japan and the U.S. are expected to attend, with total attendance projected at 350-400 participants. Mr. Teruo Asada, Executive Advisor of Marubeni Corporation, will serve as the meeting's Japan-U.S. Southeast Delegation Leader and Chairman. Mr. Virgil R. Miller, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Aflac U.S.; President, Aflac Group Insurance, will serve as the meeting's Southeast U.S.-Japan Association private sector conference co-chairman. The new U.S. Ambassador to Japan (nomination pending), is expected to serve as a keynote speaker.

The SEUS/Japan Joint Meeting program offers Florida delegates an opportunity to meet with top government and business leaders from Japan and the other six Southeast U.S. member states. Florida Delegation will hold its annual meeting of members in conjunction with the start of joint meeting on the afternoon of October 26, immediately prior to a welcome reception for all participating Japan and SEUS delegates. SEUS/Japan also plans to work closely with Enterprise Florida's Japan office to co-organize a possible Florida business seminar in conjunction with next year's meeting. At the close of this important annual joint meeting program between Japan, Florida and the six other Southeast U.S. member states, the hosting and co-hosting responsibilities will be formally transferred to Florida for 2022-23 with an announcement of the 2022 venue in Florida. Florida last hosted in 2006 in Orlando.

The mission of SEUS/Japan is to promote ties of trade, investment, education, tourism and friendly relations between Florida and Japan, respectively, and the six other southeastern member states (AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, and TN). SEUS/JAPAN has individual, NPO and corporate membership programs open to all individuals, businesses and organizations interested in supporting its mission and participating in this prestigious annual event. SEUS/Japan works in close partnership with the Governor's office, Enterprise Florida, and other economic development organizations and partners throughout Florida to carry out its mission.

Anyone interested in registering as an official Florida Delegate, should contact the Florida Delegation SEUS/Japan executive director, Dave Woodward, at the number or e-mail address herein for more details. More information will also be posted on the Association's website as it becomes available. Please visit us online at: [www.fl-seusjapan.org](http://www.fl-seusjapan.org) or feel free to contact us via e-mail: [info@fl-seusjapan.org](mailto:info@fl-seusjapan.org) for more info.

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