

The Florida | Japan Report

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**Florida Delegation
SEUS/JAPAN
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"Florida Delegation"

Spring 2017 Edition

Governor Rick Scott Invited To Lead Florida Delegation To Upcoming 40th Annual Joint Meeting in Greenville, SC

Florida Delegation, Southeast U.S./Japan Association, Inc. (SEUS/Japan) is pleased to announce that this year's Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S./Japan and Japan U.S./Southeast Associations will be held in Greenville, South Carolina on October 22-24, 2017. This year marks the 40th Annual Joint Meeting of the Associations, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville. The theme of this year's joint meeting is "Success through Tradition, Innovation and Partnerships".

Governor Rick Scott has been invited to officially lead the Florida Delegation to the 40th Annual Joint Meeting. In addition to the SEUS member state governors/head of delegations, senior officials of the U.S. and Japan are expected to attend, with total attendance projected at approximately 500 participants. Ms. Minor Mickel Shaw, President, Micco LLC will serve as the meeting's Southeast U.S.-Japan Associations Delegation Chairman. Mr. Teruo Asada, Chairman, Marubeni Corporation, will serve as the meeting's Japan-U.S. Southeast Delegation Leader and co-Chairman, and will lead the Japan delegation. The Japanese Ambassador to the U.S., Kenichiro Sasae, is expected to once again serve as a keynote speaker this year.

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. The Florida Delegation will hold its annual meeting of members in conjunction with the joint meeting on the afternoon of October 22, immediately prior to a welcome reception for all participating SEUS and Japan delegates. This important annual joint meeting between Japan, Florida and the six other Southeast U.S. member states is a unique opportunity for delegates to renew, expand as develop business and friendship ties with Japan's top business and economic development leaders, and for SEUS/JAPAN to further its mission, as stated below.

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,



From left to right: Mr. Dave Woodward, Executive Director, Florida Delegation, SEUS/Japan Association; Ms. Naoko Yamasaki, Japanese Astronaut and Mr. Keith Norden, Chairman, Florida Delegation, Southeast U.S. Japan Association during the 39th Annual SEUS/Japan Joint Meeting in Tokyo this past September.

Enterprise Florida, and other economic development organizations and partners throughout Florida to carry out its mission.

Anyone interested in registering as a Florida delegate, should contact SEUS/JAPAN's executive director, Dave Woodward, at the number or e-mail address

herein to pre-register. Registration forms will be sent to those who have pre-registered once "early bird" registration opens next month. Space is limited, so anyone interested is encouraged to pre-register now. More info: www.fl-seusjapan.org

The National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C.

Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio

Ozaki of Tokyo to the city of Washington, DC. The gift and annual celebration honor the lasting friendship between the United States and Japan and the continued close relationship between the two countries.

It took the coordination of many to ensure the arrival of the cherry trees. A first batch of 2,000 trees arrived diseased in 1910, but did not deter the parties. Between the governments of the two countries, coordination by Dr. Jokichi Takamine, a world-famous chemist and the founder of Sankyo Co., Ltd. (today known as Daiichi Sankyo), Dr. David Fairchild of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Eliza Scidmore, first female



Cherry Blossoms at the Washington Monument

board member of the National Geographic Society, and First Lady Helen Herron Taft, *(continued on page 2)*

Source: www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org

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Vice President Mike Pence to visit Japan in mid-April

With U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's trip to Asia all wrapped up, the next major Trump administration personage to tour the region will be none other than Vice President Mike Pence. Pence will head east in April with an itinerary spanning South Korea, Japan, Australia, and, in the first high-level visit to Southeast Asia under this administration, Indonesia.

Pence's trip to the region highlights a trend: After both Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Tillerson chose to make Asia their first destination abroad, Pence continues along this line. Despite declamations that the Obama administration's "pivot" and "rebalance" are definitely over, U.S. interests in Asia haven't evaporated. There's continuity, in particular, with sustained attention by this administration toward the threat posed by North Korea.

The major break with continuity, however, comes in the realm of trade and international economic policy. The Trump administration squarely rejected the Trans-Pacific Partnership in its first week in office. Instead, the administration has chosen to pursue a

bilateral track on trade, with Japan potentially one of the first negotiating partners to see the Trump administration's deal-making acumen in this area.

When Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met Trump back in February, one of the more significant and interesting developments was the avenue by which the two leaders decided the trade issue would be best addressed. Namely, instead of carrying forward at the leaders' level or bumping matters down to a lower level, Abe and Trump announced that Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Tarō Aso and Pence would be the ones to convene the first "framework for dialogue."

To that end, while Tillerson left for Asia last week, Hiroshige Seko, Japan's minister of economy, trade, and industry (METI), was in Washington for a series of meetings to lay the groundwork for trade talks. Segō's time in Washington also focused on exchanging views with U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross on Japan's Toshiba Corp's U.S. nuclear



Vice President Mike Pence

energy affiliate.

Pence's trip may emerge as the most interesting high-level visit by a Trump administration official to Asia yet. Mattis was largely there on a reassurance tour and Tillerson's visit was far from a friendly meet-and-greet, given the urgency of the North Korean crisis on his agenda. Pence's diversified destinations, combined with substantive talks in Japan on economic matters, leave his trip the next one to watch in the Trump administration's Asia approach.

Source: The Diplomat 03-22-17

History of the Cherry Blossom Festival in D.C.

(continued from page 2) more than 3,000 trees arrived in Washington in 1912.

In a simple ceremony on March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Herron Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first two trees from Japan on the north bank of the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park.

Over the years, gifts have been exchanged between the two countries. In 1915, the United States Government reciprocated with a gift of flowering dogwood trees to the people of Japan. In 1981, the cycle of giving came full circle. Japanese horticulturists were given cuttings from the trees to replace some cherry trees in Japan which had been destroyed in a flood.

Since First Lady Taft's involvement, the nation's first ladies have been proponents of the Festival. Historically, many were involved in events through the National Conference of State Societies' Princess Program. First Lady Mamie Eisenhower crowned Queen Janet Bailey in 1953, and in 1976 Betty Ford invited the princesses to the White House. In 1965, First Lady Lady Bird Johnson accepted 3,800 Yoshino trees from the government of Japan and held a tree planting reenactment. All first ladies in recent years have served as Honorary Chair, many participating as well. In 1999, First Lady Hillary Clinton took part in a tree planting ceremony. In 2001, First Lady Laura Bush greeted guests with remarks at the Opening Ceremony. Honorary Chair First Lady Michelle Obama was involved in 2012, planting a cherry tree in West Potomac Park

among dignitaries and guests.

Today's National Cherry Blossom Festival has grown from modest beginnings to the nation's greatest spring-time celebration. School children reenacted the initial planting and other activities, holding the first "festival" in 1927. Civic groups helped expand the festivities in 1935. The Festival expanded to two weeks in 1994 to accommodate a diverse schedule during the blooming period. Growing again in 2012, the 100-year anniversary of the gift was marked with a five-week celebration. Today, the Festival spans four weekends and welcomes more than 1.5 million people to enjoy diverse programming and the trees. Over the years, millions have participated in the annual event that heralds spring in the nation's capital.

Source: www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org

Sec. of State Tillerson's First Visit to Japan

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday for talks with Japanese leaders, with Tokyo-Washington coordination against the growing North Korean missile and nuclear threat expected to be high on the agenda.

During a planned meeting on Thursday afternoon, Tillerson and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida reaffirmed the strength of the Japan-U.S. alliance following missile launches by North Korea earlier this month, Japanese officials said. The visit is Tillerson's first to Japan since assuming his post on Feb. 1,

"It is extremely important that Japan and the United States closely and frequently communicate given the changing security environment in the region," Kishida told reporters on Tuesday prior to Secretary Tillerson's arrival.

"I hope to have a frank exchange of views on various issues, including on North Korea," said Kishida,

who will be talking with Tillerson for the fifth time, including two phone calls.

Tillerson's visit to Japan, followed by trips to South Korea and China, comes as the U.S. administration of President Donald Trump is undertaking a review of its policy on North Korea, including putting the country back on a list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Kishida and Tillerson also discussed concrete ways to deepen Japan-U.S. security and defense cooperation, eyeing an early convening of "two-plus-two" security talks involving the countries' foreign and defense ministers.

After meeting and holding a joint news conference with Kishida in Tokyo, Tillerson met Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the afternoon.

On the economic front, they discussed how to enhance economic cooperation following the United States' withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which re-



U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (left) meets with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on March 15, 2017.

versed the preceding administration's promotion of the regional trade pact as a central part of its Asia policy.

Kishida and Tillerson also touched on relations with Russia, given that the secretary of state is known to have close ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin, having served as chief executive of Exxon Mobil Corp. and been involved in a natural gas and oil development project off Sakhalin.

Source: The Japan Times 03-16-17

SoftBank Group to Acquire Fortress Investment Group for \$3.3 Billion

SoftBank Group Corp. ("SoftBank" or "SBG") and Fortress Investment Group LLC (NYSE: FIG) ("Fortress") today announced that they have entered into a definitive merger agreement under which SoftBank will acquire Fortress for approximately \$3.3 billion in cash. Under the terms of the merger agreement, which was unanimously approved by a Special Committee of Independent Directors of Fortress's Board of Directors and Fortress's full Board of Directors, each Fortress Class A shareholder will receive \$8.08 per share, which represents a premium of 38.6% to the closing price of Fortress Class A common stock on February 13, 2017, and a premium of 51.2% to Fortress's 3-month volume-weighted average price, excluding dividends. In addition, each Fortress Class A shareholder may receive up to two regular quarterly dividends prior to the closing, each in an amount not to exceed \$0.09 per Class A Share. Fortress plans to maintain its current base dividend of \$0.09 per share for the fourth quarter of 2016 and, if closing does not occur prior to the applicable payment date, for the first quarter of 2017.

Pete Briger, Wes Edens and Randy Nardone (the "Fortress Principals") have agreed to continue to lead Fortress, and have committed to invest 50% of their after-tax proceeds from the transaction in Fortress-managed funds and vehi-

cles, underscoring a deep alignment with the interests of Fortress's limited partner investors, and in equity securities of SoftBank and SoftBank-managed funds and vehicles. In addition, the Fortress Principals have agreed to vote shares representing an aggregate of 34.99% of the outstanding Fortress voting shares held by them in favor of the transaction.

Fortress's senior investment professionals will remain in place and will retain their significant participation interests in fund performance. Fortress will operate within SoftBank as an independent business headquartered in New York, and SoftBank is committed to maintaining the leadership, business model, brand, personnel, processes and culture that have supported Fortress's success to date.

"Fortress's excellent track record speaks for itself, and we look forward to benefitting from its leadership, broad-based expertise and world-class investment platform," said Masayoshi Son, Chairman and CEO of SoftBank Group Corp. "For SoftBank, this opportunity will immediately help expand our group capabilities, and, alongside our soon-to-be-established SoftBank Vision Fund platform, will accelerate our SoftBank 2.0 transformation strategy of bold, disciplined investment and world class execution to drive

sustainable long-term growth."

"SoftBank is an extraordinary company that has thrived under the visionary leadership of Masayoshi Son," said Fortress Co-Chairmen Pete Briger and Wes Edens. "We are very pleased to announce an agreement setting our business on a great path forward as part of SoftBank, while creating significant value for our shareholders. We join a company with tremendous scale and resources, and a culture completely aligned with our focus on performance, service and innovation. We anticipate substantial benefits for our investors and business as a whole, and we have never been more optimistic about our prospects going forward."

Under the terms of the agreement, SoftBank can bring in partners for a portion of the investment. Nizar Al-Bassam and Dalinc Ariburnu of F.A.B. Partners, who arranged the transaction, will continue to advise SoftBank with respect to Fortress.

The transaction is subject to approval by Fortress shareholders, certain regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions, and is expected to close in the second half of 2017.

Source: The Softbank Group 02-14-17

At 43, Ichiro Suzuki is still lashing out hits for the Miami Marlins



Miami Marlins Outfielder Ichiro Suzuki

Ichiro Suzuki doesn't believe in vacations.

The last time he took one, in 2004 or '05, he doesn't recall which, was a week-long trip to Milan, Italy. He worked out pretty much the entire time and said the excursion threw him out of sync for two or three weeks.

Never again, he vowed. "That's the last time I took a vacation," he said. Ichiro doesn't much care for down time, either. Every now and then, he'll take a day trip to Cooperstown, New York, to check out the Hall of Fame. A frequent visitor, he wallows in the history of the sport, knows it inside and out. But that's about it.

His typical offseason — if it can be called that — hardly exists. "Three or four days, tops," said his translator, Allen Turner. Most players head home or travel the world to unwind the moment the season ends. But Ichiro is back in the cages, practicing his swing, within days after the last game has been played. "I'm telling you," Turner said, "there's nobody in the world that takes more swings over the course of a year

than this guy. Guaranteed."

As the iconic outfielder for the Marlins prepares to embark on his 25th season in professional baseball — the past 16 of them in the U.S. majors — Ichiro is an enigma. At 43, he is the oldest position player in the majors. Only Braves pitcher Bartolo Colon — 51 days his senior — is older among active players. And yet there is no sign of quit in him. He said he wants to continue playing until he's 50. "I'm not joking when I say it," Ichiro said. Few would second-guess his intentions.

Despite his age, Ichiro is in supreme physical condition. His workout regimen is legend. Like all teams, the Marlins have a weight room that players use to stay in shape. Ichiro has his own, a metal cargo container set up behind the clubhouse at the team's spring training facility in Jupiter. It contains an assortment of machines he uses to keep fit.

It's its own tourist attraction. St. Louis Cardinals infielder Matt Carpenter wandered over a few days ago just so he could take a gander at it. "Physically, unless you have some kind of injury, you don't really need a break," Ichiro said of his relentless work ethic. "I think mentally you sometimes need a break. But for me, my body is built so that if I don't work out, that's when I put more stress on my body and get more tired. "For me, if I stay on the couch all day — or even one day — I'll be more tired doing that than going out and giving my body a workout."

While the Marlins have an off day

scheduled Thursday, one last respite before the start of the 162-game regular season grind on Monday, Ichiro has no intention of using it to rest. "[Thursday] we have a day off," Ichiro said. "I'll be here working out and doing what I usually do, working on the machines. I just love doing that." Said Keizo Konishi, a veteran sportswriter who has steadfastly chronicled Ichiro's entire big-league career for Kyodo News, a Japanese wire agency: "He's from a different planet."

Ichiro has accomplished about all there is to accomplish in baseball. He recorded his 3,000th hit last season and is a virtual lock for enshrinement into the Hall of Fame once his playing days are over. He ranks 25th all-time in hits and should climb a few rungs this season, passing Rod Carew, Rickey Henderson, Craig Biggio and Dave Winfield — Hall of Famers all — on his march up the ladder.

Ichiro has no intention of stopping anytime soon, anytime before he turns 50. "Nobody knows what the future holds," he said. "But the way I feel, how I'm thinking, I feel like nothing can stop me from doing it." Why rest now?

"When you retire from baseball, you have until the day you die to rest," he said.

And when the day finally comes to retire?

"I think I'll just die," he said.

Source: *The Miami Herald* 3-29-17

Marlins Japanese Heritage Day Celebration with Ichiro Suzuki

On April 30, The Miami Marlins will host their 2017 Japanese Heritage Day that will include a tribute to Ichiro Suzuki for his 3,000th hit.

Celebrate Japanese Heritage Day and honor the one-and-only Ichiro Suzuki. Fans in attendance will receive a free poster commemorating Ichiro's historic 3,000th hit. Purchase a special event ticket and you'll receive an exclusive Japanese heritage day jersey.

The Japanese Heritage Day is being

supported by the Consulate General of Japan in Miami and the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens.

The Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens is inviting its members and fans to Marlins Stadium for Japanese Heritage Day as they take on the Pittsburgh Pirates

Cheers will be led by an *ōendan*.

A portion of the proceeds from tickets purchased through this offer will benefit the Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens.



Please see announcement on page 5 or email groups@marlins.com for more information.

Source: *The Sun Sentinel* 3-31-17 & www.morikami.org

Calendar/Upcoming Events

SuperCon Retro

Date: Friday-Sunday, April 14-16, 2017
 When: See event website for daily schedule
 Where: Miami Airport Convention Center
 711 NW 72nd Ave
 Miami, FL 33126
 For more information, please click [here](#).

Cat Café Coaster Origami

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2017, 12:00 PM-3:00 PM
 Where: Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami
 Park Rd, Delray Beach, Florida 33446
 For more information, please click [here](#).

Marlin's Japan Heritage Day

Date: Friday, April 30, 2017
 When: 1:10 PM
 Where: Marlin's Park, Miami, FL
 For more information, please click [here](#).



Please save the dates for the

40TH ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF
 THE SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES-JAPAN ASSOCIATION &
 THE JAPAN-UNITED STATES SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION

October 22-24, 2017
Hyatt Regency Greenville
Greenville, South Carolina U.S.A.

Further information:

info@fl-seusjapan.org or 786-235-8289
 or visit us online at www.fl-seusjapan.org

Cherry Blossoms Abound!



LET'S PRACTICE JAPANESE!

Cherry Blossom Is Beautiful: 桜がきれいですね

Sakura Ga Kirei Desune

Spring Is Here: 春が来ましたね

Haru Ga Kimashitane

Have A Nice Day: 良い一日を

Yoi Ichinichi wo

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