

# The Florida | Japan Report

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**Florida Delegation  
SEUS/JAPAN  
Association, Inc.**

*"Florida Delegation"*

## New Years 2019 Special Edition

### SEUS/Japan 41st Annual Joint Meeting Held in Tokyo This Past October

The Japan-U.S. Southeast Association and the Southeast U.S./Japan Association held their 41st Annual Joint Meeting program at Hotel New Otani in Tokyo, Japan, October 18 to 20, 2018, with the theme of "Success through Tradition, Innovation and Partnerships". Japan Chairman, Mr. Teruo Asada, Chairman of the Board, Marubeni Corporation, and SEUS/Japan Chairman, Ms. Minor Mickel Shaw, President of Micco, LLC, as co-chair, presided over the meeting.

Total attendance by Japan and SEUS reached over 300 delegates. Florida Delegation planned, organized and carried out Florida's participation and held its annual meeting of members and co-organized a Florida business seminar presented by Enterprise Florida's Japan representative office.

VIPs attending the conference included Ms. Toshiko Abe, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, His Excellency H.E. William F. Hagerty IV, U.S. Ambassador to Japan; the Honorable Takashi Shinozuka, Consul General

of Japan in Atlanta; the Honorable Hiroyuki Kobayashi, Consul General of Japan in Nashville; the Honorable Kenji Hirata, Consul General of Japan in Miami and Mr. Hiroyuki Ishige, Chairman & CEO, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

In the opening remarks, Co-Chairmen Teruo Asada and Minor Mickel Shaw recognized the importance to take on a leadership role in promoting free trade and investment. They shared the importance of these discussions given the timely themes covering new economic trends and trade and investment partnerships between the Japan and U.S. Following the opening remarks, each of the SEUS delegation leaders provided responding remarks and relevant state-specific information.

The meeting was adjourned with an announcement that the 42nd Annual Joint Meeting will be held in Savannah, Georgia from October 20-23, 2019, under the new leadership of Mr. Virgil R. Miller, Executive Vice President, Chief



*Florida Delegation Leader, Keith A. Norden, making responding remarks on behalf of Florida during the opening ceremony of the 41st Annual SEUS/Japan Joint Meeting held this past October 18-20 at the Hotel New Otani Tokyo.*

Operating Officer, Aflac U.S.; President, Aflac Group Insurance, and Mr. Teruo Asada, Chairman of the Board, Marubeni Corporation. More details of the 42nd Annual Joint Meeting to be announced soon. *Please also see related article below.*

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#### Dates Announced for 42nd Annual Joint Meeting



*The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa, Savannah, GA, the selected venue of the 42nd Annual SEUS/Japan Joint Meeting, which will be held Oct. 20-23, 2019.*

The dates and venue for the 42nd Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S./Japan and Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations were announced at the close of the 41st Annual SEUS/Japan joint meeting held last month in Tokyo, Japan (see article above).

The 42nd Annual Joint Meeting will be held in Savannah, Georgia from October 20-23, 2019 at the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa.

Please see the save the dates flyer on the back page of this newsletter, and mark your calendar now. More details will be announced as they become available.

## 2019 Florida-Japan Summit To Be Held at UF on March 15th



*The University of Florida's Farrior Hall*

Miami, Florida –January 22, 2019 – FLORIDA DELEGATION, SOUTHEAST U.S./JAPAN ASSOCIATION ('SEUS/JAPAN') is pleased announce plans for its 2019 Annual Florida-Japan Summit to be held this coming March 15 in Gainesville.

The Hon. Kenji Hirata, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Miami is confirmed as keynote speaker. The event, hosted by and presented in partnership with the University of Florida's College of Arts and Sciences in Gainesville on the morning of Friday, March 15, 2019 from 9:30am–12:30 pm will also feature special remarks by a visiting senior official from Florida's sister state in Japan, Wakayama and business and education panels.

This year's Summit will feature panel presentations on Florida-Japan business, education and cultural linkages. Registration and admission to this year's summit is free, however, advance registration is required due to space limitations and event arrangements. Please contact SEUS/Japan for more details or information by phone: (786) 235-8289; by

e-mail: [info@fl-seusjapan.org](mailto:info@fl-seusjapan.org); or online at: <http://www.fl-seusjapan.org/upcoming-events>.



*Organizers and guest speakers together during 2016 Florida-Japan Summit hosted by the FIU Asian Studies Institute in Miami.*

## As New Era In Japan Approaches With A Shrinking Imperial Line



*Japanese Royal Family*

Emperor Akihito, 85, is set to abdicate on April 30, 2019, to be succeeded by his eldest son Crown Prince Naruhito, 58, the following day. The rare abdication was decided after the Emperor hinted in a rare public broadcast at his desire to step down due to his age and weakening health.

A number of Imperial rituals are scheduled in the year, including a ceremony on May 1 in which the new Emperor will inherit the traditional regalia, the enthronement ceremony on Oct. 22 and the Daijосai, or Great Food Offering Ceremony, from Nov. 14 to 15.

The issue has attracted fresh attention because Ayako Moriya, 28, the youngest daughter of the Emperor's late cousin, gave up her Imperial title after marrying commoner Kei Moriya in October. The size of the Imperial family, which stands at 18, including 13 women, is expected to dwindle further as Princess Mako, the Emperor's eldest granddaughter, is also planning to get engaged — to commoner Kei Komuro.

According to the 1947 Imperial House Law, women cannot ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne and must leave the Imperial family if they marry commoners. The law stipulates that only males born to the male lineage of the Imperial family can ascend the throne.

After the Crown Prince ascends the throne, there will be only three male heirs — his younger brother, Prince Akishino, 53, the Emperor's only grandson, Prince Hisahito, 12, and Prince Hitachi, 83, the Emperor's younger brother.

He and his future wife would face "enormous pressure and burden" to maintain the bloodline

of the world's oldest hereditary monarchy and perform public duties as the symbol of the state, he said.

To address the issue, the Diet adopted a resolution in June last year urging the government to start deliberating succession issues, including an option to allow princesses to retain their royal status and establish their own family branches after they marry commoners.

But Hideya Kawanishi, an associate professor of modern Japanese history at Nagoya University, said there is little momentum for revising the Imperial House Law to let women retain their royal status after marriage due to opposition from conservatives, the core base of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"The resolution only came about as a result of a compromise between the ruling and opposition parties. Realistically speaking, we are unlikely to see major steps to address the issue in the foreseeable future," Kawanishi added.

Although there had recently been government debate about amending the Imperial House Law to allow female succession, it stopped after Prince Hisahito was born in 2006, giving the Imperial family its first new male member in 41 years.

In 2012 the government led by the Democratic Party of Japan also considered ways to let women remain in the family even after marriage and establish their own branches. But the initiative faded after the Liberal Democratic Party, led by Abe, returned to power at the end of the year.

With little prospects for an amendment, the family and the Imperial Household Agency are trying to devise ways within the current legal framework to tackle the mounting burden of having individual royals perform public duties.

Those duties range from visits to disaster-hit areas, trips to mourn the war dead to participation in social, cultural and sports events. In addition, the Emperor is required to carry out state acts such as the promulgation of laws and convocations of the Diet.

Imperial Household Agency officials and experts say some ceremonies could be attended by a single member rather than a couple, and events with similar themes could be consolidated, alt-

hough state acts and some official activities cannot be curtailed due to constitutional requirement and in view of fairness.

Ayako Moriya, who recently left the Imperial family, retains honorary titles at two organizations even after her marriage, in the first such case for female members who have married commoners.

However, scholars say that this is just a temporary measure and that the root causes of the problems remain unaddressed.

Yamashita says one solution would be to share public duties with members of 11 collateral branches that left the Imperial family in 1947.

"If they are delegated to perform duties related to the Imperial household and such practices continue for a long time, the public may start accepting their return to the Imperial family, and ultimately could view male members as potential heirs of the throne," he said.

Similar arguments have been made by Abe and his supporters who believe that hereditary monarchy, which is said to stretch back more than 2,600 years with the throne consistently passed down the male line, should continue the same way.

But Kawanishi believes such an idea is outdated and does not reflect the majority view of the public.

In a Kyodo News opinion poll that randomly surveyed 3,000 men and women aged 18 or older across Japan in March and April, 83 percent said they support women ascending the throne.

"The government should push forward legal revision to allow the establishment of female branches or Imperial succession by women. If the system is not in line with the present value promoting women's social advancement, it will not be able to gain public support," said Kawanishi.

Of all 125 emperors so far, including legendary ones such as the first, Emperor Jimmu, eight women who were all born to the male lineage of the Imperial family ascended the throne.

*Source: Japan Times, 12-30-2018*



## Take My Cash—Please! Global Investors Pay Japan to Hold Their Money



*On the last day of trading in 2018, the yield on the 10-year Japanese government bond went below zero.*

TOKYO—The yield on the 10-year Japanese government bond turned negative for the first time since September 2017 on the final trading day of the year, another sign that investors are concerned about the global economy.

A negative yield is an extreme example of investors fleeing to safe harbors because it means they are willing to park their money with the Japanese government for 10 years and get back less at the end of the decade than they started with.

On Friday evening in Tokyo, the yield on the 10-year government bond was at minus 0.01%. The trading year ended Friday because markets are closed Monday.

Investors took their cues from the Bank of Ja-



**Forbes**

pan. In a summary of its Dec. 19-20 policy board meeting released Friday morning, an unnamed member was quoted as saying "long-term yields should be allowed to temporarily turn negative."

At a news conference on Dec. 20, Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda said "there is no problem if the yield falls into negative territory" so long as it stays with the central bank's target range of zero, plus or minus 0.2 percentage point.

"There's no need to worry if yields reflect the economy, prices and financial conditions at home and abroad," Mr. Kuroda said.

Mr. Kuroda's remarks had already caused yields to fall, and the Friday release of the minutes reaffirmed investor views about BOJ policy, said Daiju Aoki, regional chief investment officer for UBS Japan. "That's the main reason we've seen the yield slide, so it doesn't

come as a surprise," he said.

Government bond prices have been rising world-wide as investors flee stocks and other risky assets. Prices move in the opposite direction to yields. Japan's Nikkei Stock Average ended the year down 12% at 20014.77.

Lower bond yields can help the Japanese economy by reducing corporate borrowing costs and keeping the yen from rising too quickly against the dollar.

U.S. Treasury yields have been falling swiftly in recent weeks. In other circumstances, that could have caused a sharp fall in the dollar against the yen. But the dollar has lost only a little ground. The falling yields on Japanese government bonds has arrested some of the yen's rise.

Japanese exporters prefer a weak yen because it raises the competitiveness of goods that are made in Japan.

The BOJ's latest quarterly survey of confidence among big manufacturers showed that on average, they expected a rate of ¥109.41 to the dollar.

"It's very important to keep the pair above that level. Otherwise manufacturers may revise down their business plans," said Mr. Aoki.

As of late Friday in Tokyo, a dollar bought about ¥110.44

*Source: WSJ, 12-28-2018*

## Japan Sushi Tycoon Pays Record Tuna Price



*Kiyoshi Kimura, President of Japanese sushi chain Sushi-Zanmai, shows off his 275kg bluefin tuna at the first auction of the new year at Toyosu Market in Tokyo.*

A Japanese sushi boss has paid a record \$3.1m (£2.5m) for a giant tuna at the first new year's auction in Tokyo's new fish market.

Self-styled "Tuna King" Kiyoshi Kimura bought the 278kg (612lbs) blue fin tuna, which is an endangered species.

He spent more than twice the previous record of \$1.4m, which he paid in 2013.

Wholesalers and sushi company owners often pay high prices for the best fish at the first pre-dawn auction of the new year.

"I bought a good tuna," Mr Kimura told AFP after the auction.

Warming seas linked to UK bluefin tuna surge

"I battled giant tuna for four hours and let it go" "The price was higher than originally thought, but I hope our customers will eat this excellent tuna."

Mr Kimura has been the highest bidder at the new year auction for seven of the past eight years.

A record fuelled by scarcity

By Rupert Wingfield-Hayes in Tokyo

On a normal day a similar sized fish would sell for around \$60,000. Today's record is in part about status - and it creates a lot of publicity for Mr Kimura and his sushi empire.

But it is also a reflection of the scarcity of large Pacific bluefin tuna. They are officially listed by the WWF (World Wildlife Fund) as an endangered species.

In 2018 catches off the coast of Japan were significantly down, and since the middle of last year prices in Tokyo have climbed by more than 40%.

The 2019 auction is the first new year sale to take place at the new fish market on the site of a former gas plant in Toyosu, which opened in October.

The previous site at Tsukiji opened in 1935 and became the world's biggest fish market and a popular tourist attraction.

However issues including concerns about outdated fire regulations and hygiene controls prompted the market to be moved to a larger and more modern site.



*Prospective buyers inspect the quality of tuna before the first auction of the year at the newly-opened Toyosu Market in Tokyo.*

The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species says Atlantic Bluefin are endangered while the Pacific Bluefin are vulnerable.

Last month Japan announced it would restart commercial whaling.

The country said it would withdraw from the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which banned commercial whaling in 1986 after some species were driven almost to extinction.

Conservation groups have warned that the move will have serious consequences.

*Source: BBC News, 1-5-2019*

## How Aging Japan Defied Demographics and Revived Its Economy



Shigeru Ohara, head of the Ohara food-processing company, says a quarter of his workers are elderly

KANAZAWA, Japan—Because demographics are supposed to be destiny, Japan was long ago consigned to stagnation with its aging population and rock-bottom birthrate.

But in recent years Japan has defied destiny. Since 2012, its working-age population has shrunk by 4.7 million, yet the number of people working has surged by 4.4 million, the critical ingredient in what is now Japan's second-longest economic expansion since World War II. The proportion of the population in the labor force has risen sharply since 2012, by more than in any other major advanced economy.

Japan is refreshing its labor force from three often-neglected pools: the elderly, women and foreigners. This offers important lessons for the many other countries that now, or will soon, face similar demographic pressures. A population's size can still impose limits on long-term growth, but they may be further away than long assumed by economists and policy makers.

Unemployment near a 25-year low of 2.5% has forced employers to be less picky about whom they hire. Policies enacted by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, meanwhile, are reshaping cultural norms about when to retire, whether women with children should work and whether Japan should admit overseas workers.

The Japanese government has long sought to lengthen working lives; in 2004 it began raising the social security retirement age from 60 to 65 and required companies to either raise or abolish the retirement age or introduce a system for re-employing workers who do retire. This has kept Japanese men on the job well into their 60s and 70s

Ishikawa Prefecture on Japan's west coast is going a step further to cope with its unusually severe demographic pinch. Completion of a bullet train line from Tokyo to the prefecture capital, Kanazawa, four years ago fueled an influx of tourists, while manufacturing, especially of food products, is booming. But its population has been declining since 2005, a product of both declining birthrates and out-migration, in particular to Tokyo and Osaka. It boasts one of the tightest labor markets in the country with two vacancies for every unemployed person.

Wataru Seki, an official in the local career and life-support department, says the worker short-

age can handicap business growth and degrade the quality of life.

"If population declines, service industries like supermarkets will withdraw and then people will have trouble with shopping. We have more households of just one person, and they may be isolated. The scale of the economy shrinks so tax revenue is going to be smaller and that's going to affect regional finances."

The prefectural government has tackled the problem with programs to draw retirees and mothers into the workforce and reverse the out-migration of young people.

Female labor participation has long been one of Japan's handicaps. No longer. In 2012, female participation was 63%, marginally above the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development average of 62%. By 2017, it had shot up to 69%, five points above the OECD average.

Part of this is due to more older women working. Since 2012, the participation rate of women aged 55 to 65 has shot from 54% to 63%. Corporations, desperate for employees, are hiring employees they never have before, including women who only want to work 10 hours a week.

This is part of Japan's efforts to address the "M-curve," a peculiar feature of its labor market. Japanese women's participation peaks in their 20s, then drops sharply into their 30s when they have children, then rises again in their 50s. By contrast, participation by women in the U.S. shows no such dip.

As far back as the 1990s, Japanese governments have sought to flatten the M-curve through extended parental leave, increased child care, and rewards for firms that promote work-life balance. They had virtually no impact until around 2009 when employers were required to offer six-hour days if the worker asked for it, a huge boon for new mothers, according to Nobuko Nagase, an economist at Ochanomizu University.

The efforts went into overdrive under Prime Minister Abe's "womenomics" policies, which included significantly expanding the supply of child care. By 2015, Tokyo had 38 spots for every 100 two-year-olds, up from 28 in 2008.

Ms. Nagase's research found these efforts raised participation by women with small children from 40% in 2009 to 50% in 2015. The proportion with permanent, regular jobs rather than temporary contracts, also rose sharply while it fell for most other demographic groups.

Advocates for women have urged employers to rethink what constitutes useful work. The traditional Japanese company equated output with hours, and thus employees worked long overtime even if those extra hours weren't especially productive, says Yoko Ishikura, Professor Emerita at Hitotsubashi University. Experience was equated with seniority and thus employees were promoted based on tenure rather than performance. Since promotion often meant moving, that made it impossible for wives to establish careers.

There is "a very strong notion that 9-to-5, or 9-to-7 at an established company is the ideal," says Ms. Ishikura. "That's why rush hour trains are so crowded. As long as you stick to that, it limits potential opportunity for those who may not be able to work part-time to join the labor market."

Companies, with encouragement from the Abe government, are slowly reworking those assumptions. The government has begun pressuring companies to reduce overtime, and add women to the board of directors. Mr. Abe boosted the parental leave allowance, and lengthened allowable leave for fathers. The share of new fathers taking advantage rose, albeit only to 5.2% in 2017. This meant fathers were sharing a bit more of the burden of caring for newborns, Ms. Nagase found.

The final source of labor Japan has tapped is foreigners. Immigration has long been Japan's third rail and it is still difficult for a foreigner to acquire Japanese citizenship. But the Abe government has considerably loosened the rules for working in Japan. In 2015 it began admitting foreign construction workers to alleviate shortages as the country rebuilt from its 2011 earthquake and prepared for the Tokyo Olympics in 2020, and for housekeepers in special zones. In 2017 it did the same for nursing-care workers.

It now allows foreign "technical interns" to stay for three to five years, and issues "green cards"—permanent residence—to highly skilled professionals after a one-year stay.

Last month, the Abe government created two new visa categories that it expects to draw 340,000 additional mostly blue-collar workers from abroad, over the next five years.

Can it last? None of the new sources of labor force growth is a substitute for increased population. Temporary foreign workers can be fired and sent home as soon as the economy weakens. Participation by the native-born can't rise forever. Robert Feldman, economist and adviser at Morgan Stanley in Japan, says the rise in participation of women with small children has peaked, noting: "There's not much of an M curve left."

He also doubts labor-force participation for the elderly can rise much more since it is now back to where it was in the 1970s when many Japanese farmers worked into their 70s.

Finally, many of these newly employed elderly, female and foreign workers work in low-productivity, low-wage jobs, limiting the boost to Japanese GDP. The elderly workers at Mr. Ohara's factory earn only marginally more than the local minimum wage of 806 yen, roughly \$7.40 per hour.

Asked if Ishikawa's efforts can overcome a shrinking population, the government's Mr. Seki pauses, then says: "I know it is tough. But we have to put in the effort."

Source: WSJ, 1-11-19



## Brightline-Virgin Proposal for Tampa-to-Orlando Rail Service Clears Key State Hurdle

Brightline, soon to be known as Virgin Trains USA, won a key state approval on Wednesday in its quest to create a \$1.7 billion privately financed passenger rail line between Tampa and Orlando.

A selection committee of officials from the Florida Department of Transportation and Central Florida Expressway Authority awarded the Brightline-Virgin team the right to negotiate for the right-of-way leases the company needs to create the service. The decision does not require further approval from the governor, Legislature or other state agencies, but Brightline still has a lot of work to do before it can build and launch the service, it hopes, in 2021.

Brightline, which already runs passenger trains between Miami and West Palm Beach, with plans to expand to Orlando, will negotiate with both agencies over the next 90 days to use parts of the right of way along Interstate 4, the Florida Turnpike, State Road 528 and State Road 417 for its trains. The state has said the company would have to pay fair market value to lease those rights of way, and there would be "no subsidy of any kind" from either the state or expressway authority.

State officials also have said no leases would be approved without a determination that "adequate safeguards" ensure that the public isn't stuck with additional costs or travel disruptions if Brightline defaults on its agreements or quits the project. Brightline also will have to get approval to run the service from the Federal Railway Administration and would need to secure all necessary federal, state and local approvals to obtain the needed rights of way. Wednesday's decision came after a 15-

minute meeting in Tallahassee during which no one from the public made any comments on the proposal.

The idea of running passenger trains along the I-4 corridor has a long and controversial history. In 2011, Gov. Rick Scott rejected \$2.4 billion in federal funds for high-speed rail between the two cities, saying potential cost overruns and overly optimistic ridership numbers could put Florida taxpayers on the hook to repay the federal funds if the project failed.

This June, Brightline proposed the Tampa-to-Orlando link as a privately funded project, and Scott said the state would solicit bids from any company that wanted to make a proposal.

On Nov. 7, Brightline submitted the sole response to the state's request for proposals. The following week, the company announced that Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group had made a minority investment in Brightline, and that the company was changing its name to Virgin Trains USA. Documents filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a result of Virgin's investment disclosed that the Tampa-to-Orlando project would have an estimated average fare of \$35 per passenger between Tampa and Orlando.

Virgin has projected 2.9 million passengers a year for the Tampa-to-Orlando line. With Virgin's trains moving at up to 125 mph, the company expects to offer a one-hour trip between the two cities, compared with 90 minutes by car and 2 hours and 5 minutes for Amtrak's Silver Star. Virgin's trains also will have leather seats, food and beverage service and free high-speed



WiFi. Virgin projects it can hit these goals by capturing about 2 percent of the travel market between Miami and Tampa, or considerably less than the 10 to 30 percent market share held by established rail service like Acela in the northeastern U.S. or Italo in Italy.

Virgin is looking to put a Tampa terminal somewhere in or near downtown Tampa with "adjacent real estate for commercial development." Brightline's business model combines using rail to connect cities with traffic and congestion, and developing real estate around its terminals to cater to businesses and residents who like the alternative that rail provides in a dense urban environment. In the Overtown area near downtown Miami, its terminal is at the heart of a 1.6 million-square-foot privately financed development that includes two office towers, two apartment towers, 130,000 square feet of stores and restaurants.

Virgin also has said it expects to contract with "municipal and private parties to purchase, lease or otherwise obtain the right to use land for the construction and operation of the Tampa expansion."

*Published November 28 by Tampa Bay Times*

## Mamoru Hosoda and the Magical World of 'Mirai'

Sharing doesn't come easily for many kids, and for formerly only child Kun, the sudden intrusion of a baby sister named Mirai throws his world into complete turmoil. Arguably director Mamoru Hosoda's most patient and uncomplicated story, his latest animated feature, *Mirai*, is nonetheless an enchanted and emotionally sophisticated look at how a four-year-old boy, through the magic of his vivid imagination, learns to accept and embrace his family's newest member.

A former animator at Japan's Toei Animation, Hosoda has worked on numerous films and TV shows since his career began in 1989. After six years at Madhouse, he left in 2011 to start Studio Chizu in Tokyo with producer Yuichiro Saito.

For Hosoda, the story of *Mirai* began with the birth of his daughter and the difficult time his son had contending with his new sister. "Three years ago, when my son was three years old, his baby sister was born," the director explains. "He threw a tantrum on the floor, claiming that

she took his parents' love away from him. When I saw that, I thought I saw the true nature and naked soul of what a human is. Humans cannot live without love. Life is about seeking love, wandering, and by accepting others, gaining love. That is what seeing my son made me think again. That is how I got the idea for this film."

The veteran animation director has so far resisted the call of live-action filmmaking that draws many away from the medium. For him, animation remains a storytelling medium with ample room for exploration. "Animation is art," he reflects. "When I was young, there was a time when I wanted to become an oil painter. I was influenced heavily by the art of Europe in depicting the beauty of anatomy. I don't think animated films are an extension of live-action films, or that they are an afterthought. I believe animated films can be considered to be a part of art history. Why? Because animated films is an art. And the worlds and true natures of being a human that haven't been animated yet present tremen-



*Director Mamoru Hosoda, creator of 'Mirai', 'Wolf Children', and 'Boy and the Beast'*

dous possibilities. I want to explore and challenge those possibilities."

*(Editor's note: 'Mirai' has been critically acclaimed and shown in area theaters recently.)*

*Source: Animation World Network 10-16-18*

## Calendar/Upcoming Events

### 29th Asian Cultural Festival

Date: March 2-3, 2019  
 Time: 10:00am– 5:00pm  
 Where: Fruit & Spice Park  
 24801 SW 187th Ave, Homestead, FL 33031

### The Spirit of Japanese Craftsmanship (Kogei) & Tea Ceremony

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019  
 Time: 10:00am– 11:15am  
 Where: Florida International University, Modesto A. Campus, Room CBC 233

### 2019 FLORIDA-JAPAN SUMMIT

Date: March 15, 2019  
 Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm  
 Where: University of Florida Location TBD



*Save the Dates!!*  
**2019 FLORIDA-JAPAN  
 SUMMIT**

**March 15, 2019**  
**9:30AM– 12:30PM**  
**At University of Florida**





*Further Information:*  
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謹賀新年



**2019** 

**Happy 2019 Japanese New Year of the Golden Boar!**



*Save the Dates!!!*

**October 20-23, 2019**

**42nd Annual Joint Meeting**  
 of the

Southeast U.S./Japan &  
 Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations

Savannah, Georgia  
 Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa



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Acknowledgements & disclaimer:

*We welcome contributions and input from our members and readers, and while every effort is made to report all information accurately, we apologize for any errors or omissions on our part. Please contact us with any suggested revisions.*