



STATE OF INDIANA
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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

News release
For immediate release

Day 1: Governor begins third trade mission to Japan

Tokyo, Japan (September 9, 2007) -- Governor Mitch Daniels began his third trade mission to Japan today by renewing acquaintances with local government officials and representatives from other Midwestern states that are participating in the 39th Annual Joint Meeting of the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association.

The governor and Kiyoshi Ueda, governor of Japan's Saitama Prefecture, found they have much in common. Both have undertaken efforts to reduce government spending, jump start economies and invest in infrastructure to promote their states as centers for economic development.

State Representatives Jim Buck-Kokomo and Clyde Kersey-Terre Haute joined Daniels during his first meeting of the trip. Ueda was recently re-elected as his prefecture's governor and said he was interested in furthering business relationships between Indiana and Saitama.

Ueda and Daniels spoke at length about highway infrastructure, including discussion about the construction of an expressway in Saitama that will be a second outer loop around the prefecture's largest city, Omiya. Ueda said strong infrastructure has helped lure new business to the region.

Daniels and two other Midwestern governors, Dave Heineman of Nebraska and Jim Doyle of Wisconsin, as well as lieutenant governors from Kansas, Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois exchanged greetings with governors and representatives from several Japanese prefectures just before an opening reception attended by delegates from all represented states.

On Monday, Daniels will have breakfast with Tomikazu Fukuda, governor of Tochigi Prefecture, Indiana's sister state, before making opening remarks at the conference. Following a keynote address by the Honorable Akira Amari, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Honorable J. Thomas Schieffer, U.S. Ambassador, Daniels will call on Masuda Manufacturing.

Masuda is the parent company of Tomasco, which broke ground in April on a \$29 million program that will nearly double the company's 130-member Indiana work force and add a parts manufacturing line that will supply the new Honda plant near Greensburg.

Daniels is leading a delegation of nearly 70 state, business and community leaders on the job-hunting mission this week. The group will be in Japan through Friday.

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Photos from the governor's trip will be available later today and throughout the week here:
<http://www.in.gov/gov/3031.htm>.

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