

Updates on Japanese Business and Economy

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1. Keidanren leadership hosted a luncheon meeting for US State Governors in Tokyo

- Confirmed the need to strengthen the relationship with the State Governments -

On August 28th, Keidanren Chairman Hiroaki Nakanishi (Chairman, Hitachi) hosted a luncheon meeting for Governors participating in the National Governors Association (NGA) U.S.-Japan Governors Forum in Tokyo. Participants from the United States included Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin, Nebraska Lt. Governor Mike Foley, and Administrator of Guam Economic Development, Jay Rojas. From Keidanren, Chairman Nakanishi, Vice Chair Hayakawa (Vice Chairman, Toyota) and Chairs of Committee on U.S. Affairs, Messrs. Ueki (Chairman, Japan Airlines) and Nagano (President & Group CEO, Tokio Marine Holdings) participated.



Keidanren participants highlighted the Federation's efforts to enhance U.S.-Japan bilateral ties through missions to the United States, including 9 visits to 16 states since 2015. Mr. Hayakawa

and Mr. Nagano underscored Japanese companies’ interests and concerns about trade issues including the NAFTA re-negotiation and Section 232 national security investigation on U.S. imports of automobiles and auto parts.

Keidanren asked for the governors’ understanding with respect to the importance of a stable business environment for attracting more investment. Mr. Ueki shared his positive experience meeting and speaking with many governors when participating in the NGA summer meeting in Santa Fe in July.

Mr. Nakanishi explained Keidanren's priority of “Society 5.0 for SDGs,” in which the governors showed great interest.

The governors expressed their gratitude for Japanese companies’ substantial investments and efforts at job creation in the United States. They expressed their commitment to strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship through continued dialogue and cooperation.

2. Keidanren participated in the 2018 NGA Summer Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico

- Held individual meetings with State Governors and hosted a VIP reception -

Keidanren delegation led by Mr. Ueki, Chair of Committee on U.S. Affairs (Chairman, Japan Airlines), participated in the 2018 NGA (National Governors Association) Summer Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico on July 19th-21st. In total, 20 governors participated in the Summer Meeting and Keidanren had individual meetings with Kentucky Governor Bevin, Montana Governor Bullock and Maryland Governor Hogan during three days.



Keidanren delegation members with Kentucky Governor Bevin

In addition, Keidanren hosted a VIP reception on July 19th and 6 governors including Colorado Governor Hickenlooper, Nevada Governor Sandoval, North Dakota Governor Burgum, Michigan Governor Snyder, Utah Governor Herbert, and Washington Governor Inslee attended.

Keidanren had a productive discussion with the governors through those events. Keidanren feels encouraged to know they share the understanding of the importance of free trade and



Maryland Governor Hogan

concerns over federal trade policy and they recognize the value of Japanese investment in the United States.

Keidanren continues to strengthen its partnership with NGA through participation in the new Governors Seminar in November and the NGA Winter Meeting next year in February.



Montana Governor Bullock

3. Japanese Businesses' effort to advance SDGs

A Keidanren delegation led by Mr. Masaya Futamiya, Chair of Committee on Corporate Behavior & Social Responsibility (Director-Chairman, Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance), participated in the SDG Business Forum, which was held to coincide with the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) at the UN Headquarters in New York from July 16 to July 18 this year. The delegation also held separate talks with UN agencies and other organizations promoting the SDGs.

At the SDG Business Forum, Keidanren was given the opportunity to make a presentation concerning Society 5.0 for SDGs, by distributing materials such as the booklet, “Dash to the Goals” and a collection of case studies, “Innovation for SDGs,” and by announcing the official opening of a special Keidanren website.

(<https://www.keidanrensdgs.com/>)



Mr. Futamiya at the Forum

Although the participating countries and corporations are pursuing various initiatives toward the realization of the SDGs, an international consensus has arisen that progress must be further accelerated since there is still a long way to go before the realization of all 17 goals. As part of those efforts, corporations are required to take concrete actions utilizing their core competence and to measure and evaluate these results and report on them. Keidanren’s innovation case studies and special website were rated highly because they are aligned with these activities.



Chris Fabian, Senior Advisor on Innovation, UNICEF



Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator



Mahmoud Mohieldin, World Bank Group Senior Vice President

Keidanren is promoting the SDGs in earnest. For its part, Keidanren will take full advantage of this opportunity to promote Society 5.0 for SDGs through cooperation in every sector and at every level toward the next year’s Business 20 Summit (B20), Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) VII, and the UN HLPF Summit.

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For more information on Keidanren's recent activities, please visit [here](#).

Editor: Keidanren USA

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