

Updates on Japanese Business and Economy

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1. Keidanren Hosts Annual General Meetings

On May 30, Keidanren hosted its annual General Meetings at Keidanren Kaikan in Tokyo. Representatives from about 420 member companies/organizations attended the meeting. At the meeting, policy strategies for fiscal year 2019 were approved. Keidanren advocates to strongly promote the following policies.

- (1) Promoting a national growth strategy through Society5.0 for SDGs
- (2) Encouraging structural economic reform
- (3) Realizing sustainable energy and environmental policy
- (4) Development of private sector diplomacy

Besides these issues, through engagement in national events such as the G20 Leaders' Summit, the Rugby World Cup 2019, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the 2025 Osaka Expo, Keidanren will work to strengthen the presence of Japan and demonstrate its leadership to the world. At the meeting, guest remarks were delivered by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Mr. Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivers his speech

2. Keidanren Mission Visits California

Since 2015, Keidanren has dispatched high-level missions to various parts of the United States to further strengthen the economic partnership between the U.S. and Japan.

May 27-30, a delegation led by Chair of Keidanren Committee on U.S. Affairs, Mr. Yoshiharu Ueki (Chairman of Japan Airlines), and Chair of that Committee’s Sub-Committee on U.S. Relations, Mr. Eiichi Yoshikawa (Deputy President of MUFG Bank) visited Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Francisco, and met with the California State / City elected officials, and business leaders, including Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, LA Mayor Garcetti, Congresswoman Chu and State Senate President Pro Tempore Atkins.

At the meetings, the delegation sought better understanding on the contributions made by Japanese companies to the U.S. economy, especially to the state of California through various investments. In addition, the delegation detailed how the concept of “Society5.0 for SDGs,” which Keidanren is strongly promoting, is useful for solving social challenges such as environmental and energy issues faced by the Californians.



Keidanren delegation members with Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti



Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis and Sub-Committee Chair Yoshikawa



Chair Ueki at Cosponsored Symposium in LA

In the meetings, the California officials expressed appreciation for Japan’s investments in California and agreed to strengthen the relationship between Japan and California for realizing SDGs.

In addition, Keidanren held symposiums in Los Angeles (co-sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum) and in San Francisco (co-sponsored by the Bay Area Council), to detail Japanese companies’ economic and social contribution efforts in the region. During the symposiums, representatives of companies participating in the delegation presented their business development efforts and contributions in California.

Following the question and answer session, participants had a lively exchange of views and deepened friendship at the networking receptions.

Through this delegation visit, Keidanren was able to confirm that there are many areas where Japan and California can work together to solve issues such as environmental energy policy and human resource development.

Keidanren will continue to interact with key officials in each state's government, legislature and businesses, and will work to strengthen Japan-US relations.

3. Keidanren Delegation Attends the 10th Japan-Colombia Joint Economic Committee Meeting

On June 4, the 10th Japan-Colombia Joint Economic Committee Meeting took place in Bogotá, Colombia. The Japanese delegation, led by Ken Kobayashi, Chair of the Japan-Colombia Economic Committee of Keidanren, consisted of about 40 business leaders.

The Colombian delegation, led by Roberto Velez Vallejo, CEO of the Colombian Coffee Growers Federation (FNC, Federación Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia) and Chairman of the Colombia-Japan Economic Committee in Colombia, consisted of about 160 business leaders.



Chair Kobayashi at the 10th Japan-Colombia Joint Economic Committee Meeting



President Duque and Chair Kobayashi

The parties discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation including a Japan-Colombia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), new investment opportunities and new economic initiatives such as the Orange Economy and creative industries.

At the conclusion, the parties adopted the Joint Statement, and Mr. Ken Kobayashi and Mr. Roberto Velez Vallejo presented the statement to President Iván Duque Márquez.

President Duque said Colombia would like to conclude a Japan-Colombia Economic Partnership soon, and would also consider participating in the CPTPP after joining APEC.

< The 10th Japan-Colombia Joint Economic Committee Meeting Joint Statement >

<https://www.keidanren.or.jp/en/policy/2019/046.html>

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For more information on Keidanren's recent activities, please visit [here](#) and our weekly journal [Keidanren Times](#).

Editor: Keidanren USA

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