

Tokyo workshop promotes cooperation between Japan and Florida on aerospace & aviation

MIAMI, Fla. (September 26, 2016) – Consul General of Japan in Miami Ken Okaniwa and Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner were among the participants and speakers in a recent workshop to promote Japan-Florida business collaborations in the aerospace and aviation industries. It was organized by JETRO in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the State of Florida, Enterprise Florida, Space Florida, SEUS Florida delegation, the Japanese Cabinet Office, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Held in Tokyo on September 20, the workshop was attended by representatives of 72 Japanese companies and 19 entities from Florida.

In the short term, industrial cooperation in aerospace between Japan and Florida will involve strengthening business transactions and eventually grow to promote cooperation on R&D and human resource development,” Mr. Okaniwa said. “This workshop is a first step to reinforce cooperation between Japan and Florida in these industries and the Consulate will fully support visits to Florida by the Japanese participants for such purposes.”

Having started with licensed production of defense aircraft, satellites and launch vehicles, Japan has the largest aerospace industrial market in Asia. The Japanese aerospace industry projects rapid growth potential as a qualified partner in the global aerospace industry.

Florida has the second largest aviation and aerospace industry in the United States with more than 2,000 companies in the state. In addition, the state’s 20 commercial airports, numerous aviation-related facilities of the U.S. armed forces and the advancement of commercial rocket launches on the Space Coast provide a healthy environment for industry growth.

The state’s skilled labor force includes the many retired U.S. servicemen who were engaged in aviation as well as students trained at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona and the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

In the past year, Mr. Okaniwa and Norikazu Mori, chief executive director for JETRO Atlanta, have visited five areas in Florida with a concentration of aerospace industries.

“Large firms such as Pratt & Whitney, Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Northrup Grumman have business ties with Japan,” Mr. Okaniwa noted. “In addition, the new Eastern Airlines which is based in Florida plans to buy more than 20 Mitsubishi regional jets from Japan and the maintenance and repair work for those jets on the East Coast have been entrusted to companies also based in the state.”

The Japan International Aerospace Exhibition 2016, featuring the latest initiatives and technologies in aerospace and defense, will be held October 12–15 at the Tokyo Big Sight exhibition center and offers opportunities for participants to meet with industry decision makers as well as government policy makers. For more information, visit <http://www.japanaerospace.jp/eng>.

For more information about the Consulate and its mission, please visit miami.us.emb-japan.go.jp.

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