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Cutline:

Photo 1: Consul General of Japan in Miami Ken Okaniwa (second from left) and officials from the Japanese Tourism Agency perform the Kagami-biraki ceremony

Photo 2: From left, Consul General of Japan in Miami Ken Okaniwa and Chairman of the Tohoku Economic Federation Hiroaki Takahashi with Tom Anderson and Paul Loughrin from Royal Caribbean Cruises

Participants at Seatrade Cruise Global Treated to a Taste of Japan

More than 20 Japanese ports represented at the cruise industry event in Ft. Lauderdale

Fort Lauderdale , Fla. (March 17, 2016) – Participants at Seatrade Cruise Global held on March 14-17 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center enjoyed a taste of the Japanese food and culture which makes Japan a top tourist destination.

At the event for cruise industry buyers and decision makers, Consul General of Japan in Miami Ken Okaniwa and officials representing more than 20 Japanese ports and the Japanese Tourism Agency met with executives from numerous cruise lines.

During the event, a thrilling musical performance on Taiko drums and shamisen (Japanese banjo) enchanted the participants. At the Kagami-biraki ceremony, the lid of a sake barrel was broken open by wooden mallets to celebrate the occasion.

Mr. Hiroaki Takahashi, Chairman of the Tohoku Economic Federation, promoted the ports in the Northeastern region of Japan. Five years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the nuclear reactors are under control and radiation levels pose no harm to daily life apart from a small area under evacuation orders. Tohoku region is welcoming visitors again with its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and excellent food and sake.

According to the Japan National Tourism Organization, 3.7 million tourists have visited Japan in the first two months of this year and its ports offer a variety of exciting itineraries.

For more information about visiting Japan visit <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/>.

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