



Japan-South Carolina Ties



Politics

The state of South Carolina established an office in Tokyo in 1989 as part of a concerted effort to attract more Japanese investment to the state. The state government is very active in that regard, and participates fully in the Annual Joint Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Southeast Association. The visit of the Emperor and Empress to Charleston in June 1994 underscored the enhanced status the state enjoys from the Japanese perspective. Exchanges of state legislators with Japanese Diet members and other forms of strengthening political contact are all possibilities that can be fruitfully explored in the current highly favorable political relationship.

Economy

South Carolina has attracted Japanese industry for years. This is indicated by the fact that Japanese-affiliated companies have invested \$4.7 billion in South Carolina, where currently 73 Japanese-affiliated companies operate. These companies in total employ 16,618 workers. Some major Japanese firms in South Carolina are Fuji Photo Film, Inc., AVX Corporation, Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., Mitsubishi Polyester Film, LLC and Honda of South Carolina. South Carolina's exports to Japan in 2006 amounted to \$473.4 million, making Japan its 6th largest export market.

Cultural and Educational Organizations

Japan America Association of South Carolina
Japanese Supplemental Schools in Greenville and Columbia
Japanese Company Information Exchange Organization

Japanese Studies

Clemson University (Minor in Japanese, Minor in East Asian Studies; Summer program in Kyoto)
College of Charleston (Minor in Japanese Studies; Exchange program with Kansai Gaidai University and Soka University)
Furman University (Major in Asian Studies; Exchange program with Kansai Gaidai University)
University of South Carolina (Minor in Japanese, Cognate in Japanese; Exchange program with Kansai Gaidai University)

Annual Events

Japan America Association of Western South Carolina Annual New Year's Celebration (January)
International Week in Greenville (April)
Greenville Bon Dance (August)
Columbia Japan Festival (September)