



# Japan-Georgia Ties



## Politics

Official relations between Japan and the state of Georgia were first inaugurated in 1973 with the establishment of a Georgia State Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism office in Tokyo. The opening of the Consulate General of Japan in the capital of Atlanta in April 1974 offered a major boost in bilateral political relations. The visit of the Emperor and Empress to Atlanta in June 1994 was a crowning touch to these developing political ties. Political relations and personal contacts are renewed and reinforced every year by Georgia state government officials at the Annual Joint Meeting of the Japan U.S. Southeast Association. The Japanese Government sponsored a visit of two Georgia state legislators to Japan in the late November-early December 1995, one of whom, Mr. Thurbert Baker, is currently the Attorney General of the State of Georgia.

## Economy

Georgia is regarded as the center of Japanese industry in the U.S. Southeast. In fact, Japanese-affiliated companies have invested \$7.5 billion in Georgia, where 348 Japanese-affiliated companies currently operate. These companies together employ 33,202 workers. Some major Japanese firms in Georgia are YKK (U.S.A.), Inc., Matsushita Battery Corp. of America, TNS Mills, Inc., NACOM, Co., Rheem Manufacturing Co., Inc., TNS Mills, Inc., and Yamaha Motor Mfg. Corp. of America. Georgia's exports to Japan in 2006 amounted to \$1.05 billion, making Japan its fifth largest export market.

## Cultural and Educational Organizations

Georgia Association of Teachers of Japanese  
 Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)  
 Japan-America Society of Georgia (JASG)  
 Japanese American Citizens League  
 Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Georgia in Atlanta  
 Japanese Supplemental Schools in Atlanta and Columbus and Seigakuin International School in Atlanta  
 JET Alumni Association Southeast  
 Konnichiwa Club

## Sister-cities

Georgia-Kagoshima (Since 1966)	Elberton-Takamatsu-shi (Kagawa) (Since Nov. 21, 1983)
Americus-Miyoshi-shi (Hiroshima) (Since May 18, 1995)	Gainesville-Izunokuni-shi (Shizuoka) (Since May 20, 1981)
Atlanta-Fukuoka-shi (Fukuoka) (Since July 20, 1993)	LaGrange-Aso-shi (Kumamoto) (Since June 30, 1979)
Augusta-Takarazuka-shi (Hyogo) (Since April 3, 1989)	Macon-Kurobe-shi (Toyama) (Since May 10, 1977)
Columbus-Kiryu-shi (Gunma) (Since April 25, 1978)	Rome-Ueki-machi (Kumamoto) (Since May 29, 1995)
Dublin-Osaka-shi (Miyagi) (Since May 29, 1998)	

## Japanese Studies

**Agnes Scott College** (Exchange programs with Chukyo University and Kansai Gaidai University)  
**Emory University** (Major and Minor in Asian and Asian-American Studies; major and minor in Japanese; exchange programs with Kwansei Gakuin University, Kansai Gaidai University, Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies)  
**Georgia Institute of Technology** (Joint BS degrees with International Affairs and with Economics; minor or certificate in Japanese; exchange programs with Fukuoka University and Waseda University )  
**Georgia State University** (Interdisciplinary Studies major in Japanese/Asian Studies; Minor in Japanese)  
**Oglethorpe University** (Minor in Japanese; exchange program with Otaru University of Commerce YOUC Program and Seigakuin University)  
**Spelman College** (Japan Studies Minor; exchange program with Tokyo International University)  
**University of Georgia** (Major in Asian Studies, Major and minor in Japanese Language and Literature; minor in Asian Languages and Literatures: exchange programs with Ryukoko University, Daito Bunka University, Kagoshima University, Kobe University, Kwansei Gakuin University, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Kyushu University, Osaka University of Foreign Studies, Sophia University, Waseda University and Yokohama National University)

## Annual Events

Macon Cherry Blossom Festival (March)  
 Georgia Japanese Speech Contest/Japan Challenge (February or March)  
 Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival (March)  
 Asian Cultural Experience in Valdosta (March)  
 Savannah Asian Festival (June)  
 Columbus International Festival (September)  
 JapanFest in Atlanta (September)