

Alert

California Chamber of Commerce

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Chamber mission to Japan focuses on trade, investments, tariffs

Increased trade and investment, lowering of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and the recent modification of California's unitary tax system were among the topics discussed during the California Chamber's recent trade and investment mission to Japan.

Chamber Chairman John V. Diepenbrock and President Kirk West led the 12-member delegation to Tokyo on the occasion of the opening of California's first state overseas office. The delegation met with Japanese and American government and business leaders, including U.S. Ambassador Mike Mansfield.

Reception

The Chamber also hosted a reception to honor Governor George Deukmejian during his visit to Japan and to mark the opening of the new California Asia Trade and Investment Office in Tokyo. The Governor has appointed James Vaughn, director of the Office of Business Development in the California Department of Commerce, as director of the new overseas office.

Nearly 500 people, both Japanese and American business government leaders, attended this successful gathering January 19 at the Hotel Okura in Tokyo.

The reception was sponsored by the California Almond Growers Exchange, Japan; Ca-Shu Kabushiki Kaisha; Japan Business Association of Southern California; Pacific Bell/Pacific Telesis Group; Port of Long Beach; and Security Pacific Corporation. Cooperating were the Bank of America; California Economic Development Corporation; Diepenbrock, Wulff, Plant & Hannegan; George R. Steffes, Inc.; Port of Oakland; Richard King International; and See's Candies Inc.

Ambassador's briefing

In briefing the delegation on the U.S.-
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Introductions. California Chamber President Kirk West introduces Governor and Mrs. George Deukmejian at the January 19 Chamber-hosted reception at the Hotel Okura. The reception, in honor of Japanese business leaders, was held as part of the opening of the California Asian Trade and Investment Office in Tokyo.



Overseas office. California Chamber Board Chairman John V. Diepenbrock (left) and President Kirk West pause before touring the new California Asia Trade and Investment Office in Tokyo.

Chamber mission to Japan, Taiwan



Greetings. Governor and Mrs. Deukmejian and James B. Vaughn (left), director of the Trade and Investment Office, join Chamber Board Chairman John Diepenbrock in greeting Japanese guests at the Chamber-hosted reception.

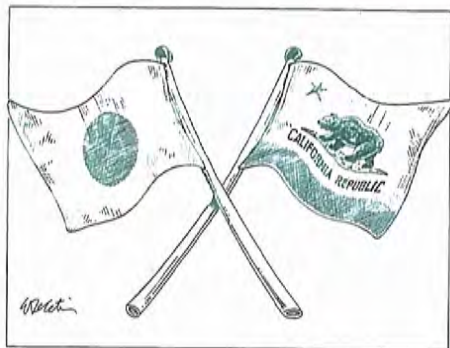


Pleasant company. Relaxing at the California Chamber-hosted reception are Chamber Board Member Ted Saenger (left), vice chairman of the Pacific Telesis Group; Karl Samuelian (center), senior partner, Parker, Milliken, Clark, O'Hara & Samuelian, secretary and treasurer of the California Economic Development Corporation; and Dr. Alan Kolb.

Discussions. Exchanging views on California-Japanese trade relations are (from left) Takio Fukawa, representing the Japan Business Association of Southern California; Robert Monagan, president of the California Economic Development Corporation; California Chamber Board Member James Miscoll, executive vice president of Bank of America; Chamber President Kirk West; and Richard King of Richard King International.



Products. Governor Deukmejian talks with Roger Baccigaluppi (center), president of the California Almond Growers Exchange, and the exchange's Japan manager, M. Koga about the success of almonds in Japan.





Plant tour. With Japanese hosts in the garden at the Nippon Kokan K K Steel Company are Chamber delegation members (from left) Dolores Samuelian; Travis Montgomery, director of trade development, Port of Long Beach; Susanne Stirling, Chamber director of international trade; Robert Monagan, president, California Economic Development Corporation; John V. Diepenbrock, Chamber chairman and partner with Diepenbrock, Wulff, Plant & Hannegan; C. Robert Langslet, president, Board of Harbor Commissioners, Port of Long Beach; George Steffes, president, George R. Steffes, Inc.; Karen Diepenbrock; and Kirk West, Chamber president.



Wine exports. Minoru and Reiko Minegishi of the Ca-Shu Wine Group discuss California wine exports to Japan with Susanne Stirling, director of the California Chamber's International Trade Department.

Taipei visit. Jacob C.H. Chu (center), director of the Exhibition Department of the China External Trade Development Council, leads a tour of the new Taipei World Trade Center for Karen Diepenbrock, Chamber President Kirk West, Chamber Chairman John V. Diepenbrock, and Travis Montgomery, director of trade development, Port of Long Beach.



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Japan trade situation, Mansfield said the most important bilateral trade relationship in the world is between the United States and Japan. The future of world trade rests in the Pacific Basin, according to Mansfield, who predicted that we are entering a century in which the Pacific Rim area dominates world commerce.

The delegation also met with representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan; the Japan External Trade Organization; the California Almond Growers Exchange, Japan; AT&T; Security Pacific Corporation; the Japan Iron and Steel Exporter's Association; and the Nippon Kokan K K Steel Company.

Taipei

Four members of the California Chamber delegation went on to Taipei, Taiwan for a two-day visit arranged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Discussions centered on the large trade imbalance between the Republic of China and the United States, as well as trade barriers for California products and services in Taiwan.

Chamber leaders met with representatives of the China External Trade Development Council, Board of Foreign Trade, the American Institute in Taiwan, the American Chamber of Commerce, the General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China, as well as visiting the new Taipei World Trade Center. □ Staff contact: Susanne Stirling