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Assembly Select Committee on Asia/California Trade and Investment Chair Jessica Caloza Leads Trade Mission to Japan

(Tokyo, Japan) — From March 29th to April 3rd, Assemblymember Jessica Caloza (D-Los Angeles), Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Asia/California Trade and Investment, led a trade mission to Japan, underscoring the State’s continued commitment to strengthening economic, cultural, and business partnerships across the Asia-Pacific region.

The delegation, composed of state legislators, local elected officials, and public and private executives, met with key members of the National Diet of Japan, participating in discussions with the House of Councillors and the House of Representatives Japan-California Friendship Parliamentary Leagues. Chair Caloza was joined by four legislators: Assemblymembers David Alvarez, Tasha Boerner, Mike Fong, and John Harabedian.

The delegation advanced strategic partnerships across priority sectors: agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure, technology, and entertainment and lifestyle. The delegation engaged with Japanese legislators, government officials, business executives, and prominent stakeholders to explore new avenues for collaboration, reinforce California’s position as a global economic leader, and identify pathways for foreign direct investment to California’s key industries.

The delegation extends its sincere appreciation to the Consulates-General of Japan in Los Angeles and San Francisco for their partnership and support in helping facilitate meetings, strengthen diplomatic ties, and ensure the success of this mission.

- **U.S. Embassy Tokyo and U.S. Department of Agriculture** officials highlighted bilateral ties and advanced shared priorities in trade, food security, and agricultural innovation.
- **Takeda Pharmaceutical** CEO highlighted opportunities for collaboration in biopharmaceutical innovation, research and development, and healthcare investment between California and Japan, underscoring the shared commitment to advancing global health solutions.
- **Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Research & Development (NTT)** President and CEO highlighted cutting-edge technologies aimed at strengthening climate and energy resilience, from next-generation data infrastructure to advanced monitoring systems.
- **Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS)** executives shared their strategy for expanding into the U.S. market, highlighting recent acquisitions that position the company to grow its global content footprint. TBS has been operating for over seven decades, establishing itself as a leading force in Japan's media and entertainment industry.
- **BEAMS Co. Ltd.** President and CEO shared the brand's continued growth across Japan and its vision to expand internationally, including plans to open its U.S. flagship store in Los Angeles.
- **Gap Inc.** Chief Business and Strategy Officer shared their growth strategy across both Japan and the United States. The conversation highlighted opportunities to strengthen the brand's global identity while expanding its reach and relevance in key international markets.
- **Kura Sushi, Inc.** Executive Vice President highlighted opportunities for California and Japan to collaborate in global retail and strategies for improved consumer experience.
- **Tokyo Dome Corporation** executives showcased one of the world's most iconic and technologically advanced stadiums. The visit highlighted how innovation in design, operations, and fan experience continues to set a global standard for modern sports and entertainment venues.
- **Toyota Corporation** executives highlighted their leadership in hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), and battery electric vehicles (BEVs), as well as their significant footprint in California and markets around the world.

- **Japan Railways Group** executives provided an overview of Transit Oriented Development (TOD), the delegation explored advanced rail systems and transit-oriented development models to better inform California’s infrastructure planning.
- **Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG)** executives discussed their extensive banking work across the Americas, including corporate and investment banking, trade finance, and transaction services that support businesses operating globally.
- **Shibuya Startup Support** explored how Japan’s vibrant startup community is accelerating innovation and global collaboration. The delegation also met with Japan-based entrepreneurs to discuss pathways for bringing new ideas, talent, and investment opportunities back to the United States.
- **ASOBISYSTEM** executives discussed their work as a leading creative agency shaping Japan’s pop culture exports, talent development, and global brand collaborations. We also engaged with leadership around the iconic KAWAII MONSTER CAFE concept, exploring its role as an immersive dining experience that blends art, fashion, and entertainment into a globally recognized cultural destination.

“California’s economic future depends on building strong, strategic partnerships across the Asia-Pacific, and Japan remains one of our most valued partners,” said **Assemblymember Jessica Caloza**, Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Asia/California Trade and Investment. “This trade mission was about more than strengthening relationships—it was about creating real opportunities for investment, innovation, and growth that benefit communities across our state. From supporting small businesses looking to access global markets to attracting foreign direct investment into key industries, we are laying the groundwork for a more inclusive, competitive, and globally connected economy. I’m proud to partner with leaders across sectors to ensure California continues to lead on the world stage.”

The trade mission was organized in partnership with the Asian Business Association Foundation, World Trade Center Los Angeles (WTCLA), the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), and the California Chamber of Commerce.

“Participating in this trade mission to Japan is deeply personal to me as a Japanese American—it’s an opportunity to connect with my heritage while building meaningful bridges between our communities,” said Santa Clara County Supervisor **Margaret Abe-Koga**.

“Representing Silicon Valley, I know how important it is to work closely with industry leaders to

drive innovation, strengthen our economy, and create opportunity. I'm grateful to Chair Caloza for her leadership in bringing this delegation together and recognizing the value of partnerships rooted in trust, shared values, and cultural understanding. I look forward to deepening connections that will benefit communities on both sides of the Pacific."

"Participating in this trade mission to Japan underscored the importance of international partnerships to California's small and diverse business community," said **Jason Paguio**, President and CEO of the Asian Business Association Foundation. "Through the Asian Business Association Foundation's work, we support Asian American and Pacific Islander entrepreneurs in accessing capital, navigating global markets, and scaling their businesses. Strengthening ties with partners like Japan creates new pathways for small businesses to expand internationally, compete globally, and contribute to a more inclusive and resilient economy."

"Japan remains one of California's most important sources of foreign direct investment, supporting high-quality jobs and long-term economic growth across the region," said **Stephen Cheung**, President and CEO of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). "This trade mission created valuable opportunities to engage directly with Japanese companies and investors who are looking to expand in the U.S. market. By strengthening these connections, we are helping channel new investment into key industries and reinforcing Los Angeles County's role as a premier destination for global business. We thank Chair Caloza and our partners for their leadership in making this engagement possible and for their continued commitment to advancing international economic collaboration."

"Participating in this trade mission to Japan is meaningful for me as a fourth-generation Japanese American," said **Josh Morey**, Chair of the Advisory Committee. "My great-grandfather immigrated to Los Angeles in the late 1800s and built an import-export business in Little Tokyo—laying the groundwork for a legacy of entrepreneurship and cross-Pacific connection. I'm grateful to Chair Caloza for her leadership in bringing this delegation together and creating opportunities to work alongside industry leaders, strengthen economic ties, and continue building on the foundation established by generations before us."

The Assembly Select Committee on Asia/California Trade and Investment looks forward to building on the trade mission's success by advancing policy discussions and partnerships that will drive California's long-term economic growth and global competitiveness.



California Delegation meets with Japan's National Diet and Japan-California Parliamentary Leagues to strengthen bilateral cooperation and share economic priorities.

Access the photos from the trade mission [here](#). (Photo credit: Phil Sakanashi)

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Assemblymember Jessica Caloza proudly represents the 52nd Assembly District, which includes the Los Angeles County communities of Angelino Heights, Atwater Village, City Terrace, Cypress Park, Eagle Rock, East Hollywood, East Los Angeles, Echo Park, El Sereno, Elysian Heights, Elysian Valley, Glassell Park, Garvanza, Highland Park, Hillside Village, Lincoln Heights, Montecito Heights, Monterey Hills, Mount Washington, Silver Lake, South Glendale, University Hills, and Vista Hermosa.