

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Japan-America Society
of Indiana, Inc.



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INDIANAPOLIS – May 9, 2014 - On Thursday, May 22nd the Japan-America Society of Indiana will host its Annual Gala at the Indiana Roof Ballroom, 140 West Washington Street, Indianapolis. The event will feature keynote remarks from **His Excellency Kenichiro Sasae, Ambassador of Japan to the United States of America**, and **Indiana Governor Mike Pence**. The Gala begins with a reception for patrons at 5:00 p.m., continues with a general reception at 6:00 p.m., and finishes with a dinner and program beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The program will include the introduction of **Toshikazu Suzuki**, the new Director of the State of Indiana's Japan Office in Japan.

The Honorable **Masaharu Yoshida, Consul General of Japan at Chicago**, and **Ichiro Sone, Chief Executive Director** of the **Japan External Trade Organization's** Chicago Office will also attend.

Popular local performer **Cathy Morris**, electric violinist and vocalist, will provide the entertainment.

Tom Easterday, Executive Vice President, Secretary, and Chief Legal Officer of Subaru of Indiana Automotive, commented on Ambassador Sasae's and Governor Pence's participation in the Gala. "We are truly honored that Ambassador Sasae and Governor Pence will be speaking at the JASI Gala this year. We look forward to learning from the insights they will share with us, particularly regarding the importance of the relationship between Japan and Indiana."

Ambassador Sasae's first visit to Indiana follows the recent meeting in Tokyo of United States President Barack Obama and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe. Their **U.S.-Japan Joint Statement: The United States and Japan: Shaping the Future of the Asia-Pacific and Beyond**, is available on the White House website. The statement notes that the people-to-people programs of the **Japan America Societies** are indispensable to the relationship between the

two countries.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/25/us-japan-joint-statement-united-states-and-japan-shaping-future-asia-pac>

The Japan-America Society of Indiana's Annual Gala brings together corporate and community leaders and individuals from throughout the Midwest. Proceeds from the evening benefit the Japan-America Society of Indiana and its efforts to promote friendship, exchange and cooperation between Indiana and Japan.

Barnes & Thornburg LLP is the 2014 Gala Title Sponsor. The visit of Ambassador Sasae is made possible through the special support of the Embassy of Japan, Washington D.C., and the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago.

Registration is available online and through the office of the Japan-America Society of Indiana at www.japanindiana.org or 317-635-0123.

Corporate sponsors: Barnes & Thornburg; AISIN; Duke Energy; Honda Manufacturing of Indiana; Subaru of Indiana Automotive; Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana; Elwood Staffing; The EMS Group; Hoosier Energy; Indiana Economic Development Corporation; McGladrey; TOA (USA); Toyota Industrial Equipment Manufacturing; BKD, LLP; Carroll White REMC; Columbus Economic Development Board; Cornerstone Environmental, Health & Safety; Eli Lilly and Company; Enkei America; Fifth Third Bank; Gaylor Electric; GECOM Corporation; Greater Lafayette Commerce; Indiana Packers Corporation; JA Benefits; JPMorgan Chase Bank; Keihin North America; Knox County Development Corporation; KYB Americas Corporation; Nachi America; NTN Driveshaft; Ogletree Deakins Law Firm; Old National; SMC Corporation of America; TASUS; The Phoenix Group; Vectren Corporation

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About Japan-America Society of Indiana (JASI)

Founded in 1988 by community, business and academic leaders, the [Japan-America Society of Indiana](http://www.japanindiana.org) (JASI) is a not-for-profit cultural, educational, and business-support organization which serves as a bridge of friendship and cooperation between the people of Indiana and Japan. The Society is supported by a diverse membership of businesses, communities, academic institutions, families and individuals. Annually, the Japan-America Society of Indiana reaches more than 10,000 individuals through its programs, outreach activities, and services. The Japan-America Society of Indiana is a member of the National Association of Japan-America Societies, headquartered in Washington D.C., which includes over forty Societies nationwide.