



46th ANNUAL JOINT MEETING
Southeast U.S./Japan & Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations
**“Shaping the Future with Partnership,
Innovation, and Growth”**

October 27-29, 2024

The Charlotte Convention Center (CCC)
501 South College Street
Charlotte NC 28202

Conference Information and Registration: seusjapan.org

- Notes: 1. All participants must be registered delegates or guests** of a delegate.
2. All meetings to be held at The Charlotte Convention Center, unless otherwise specified.
3. **Times AND Room Locations are subject to change.**

Sunday, October 27, 2024

- 12:00 Noon – 5:30 p.m. Registration Open (Main Desks)
Separate desks for SEUS delegates and for Japan-USSE delegates
Richardson Ballroom B, Charlotte Convention Center
- 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Golf Event
Buses Depart: Martin Luther King Blvd. Street-Level Exit, Convention Center
Location: Mooresville Golf Club, 205 Golf Course Drive, Mooresville, NC 28115
- 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Higher Education’s Role in Bridging Industry
and Government in Economic Development
Location: Room E-217, Charlotte Convention Center

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

- Stephen Sumner, Director, N.C. Japan Center – Session Moderator
- Noriko Tsuya, Distinguished Professor at Keio University
- Heather Ward, Associate Provost for Global Affairs, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- Dr. Keiko Ikeda, Professor, Kansai University & Vice-Director for the Institute for Innovative Global Education (IIGE)
- Yuki Kihara, Associate Director at the Pam Hendrix Center for Education Abroad, Clemson University
- Nicolas (Nick) Yale- Director of Aviation Programs, Guilford Technical Community College
- Dr. Anthony Clare- President, Guilford Technical Community College
- Suzy Adkins- Division Director, Services, Honda Aircraft
- Enoch Bowles- Leader, Talent Acquisition, Honda Aircraft

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- 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Individual State Delegation Receptions
Check with your [state's SEUS coordinator](#); each state's start time may differ
Location: Charlotte Convention Center
State of Alabama – Room E-213
State of Florida – Room E-214
State of Georgia – Room E-221A
States of Mississippi & South Carolina – Room E218
State of Tennessee – Room E-221B
- 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Registration Open (Satellite Desk, Mint Museum Location)
Exclusively for Japan & North Carolina Delegates ONLY
(name badge only available + ticket to claim conference bag later at CCC Main Registration Desk)
Location: Mint Museum, 500 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte NC 28202
- 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Host State Welcome Event | *Exclusively for Japan & North Carolina Delegates*
Location: Mint Museum, 500 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte NC 28202
- 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Dinner On Your Own (Conference delegates)**
We strongly encourage delegates make restaurant reservations well in advance
- 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Chairman's Dinner | *Delegation Leaders Only; By Invitation Only*
Location: Mint Museum Terrace 5th Fl, 500 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte NC 28202
- Monday, October 28, 2024**

- 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration Open
Richardson Ballroom B, Charlotte Convention Center
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m. Joint Networking Buffet Breakfast | *All Delegates*
Location: Room E-220 A-B-C-D-E-F, Charlotte Convention Center
- 7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Governors/Head of Delegation Leaders Breakfast (attendance restricted)
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Opening Ceremony**
Location: Richardson Ballroom C & D, Charlotte Convention Center

Explanation of Simultaneous Interpretation Equipment
Presentation of the Official Party/Playing of National Anthems

Welcome Remarks: [Mr. Sean M. Suggs](#)
Chairman, Southeast U.S./Japan Association
President, Toyota Battery Manufacturing, North Carolina (TBMNC)

Opening Remarks: Mr. Masaaki Tsuya
Chairman, Japan – U.S. Southeast Association
External Advisor/Immediate Past Chairman & CEO, Bridgestone Corp.

Opening Remarks by Delegation Leaders. Final Speaking Order Determined by Office Rank, Then Alphabetical by state (i.e. Governors attending speak first):

State of North Carolina • Governor Roy Cooper
State of Alabama • Ellen G. McNair, Secretary of Commerce
State of Florida • Cord Byrd, Secretary of State
State of Georgia • Pat Wilson, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Economic Development
State of Mississippi • Bill Cork, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority

State of South Carolina • Harry Lightsey, Secretary of Commerce
State of Tennessee • Stuart McWhorter, Commissioner, Tennessee
Department of Economic and Community Development
Japan • Consul General Mio Maeda, Japanese Consulate in Atlanta

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Coffee Break and Free Period to Prepare for Departures to Offsite Sessions**

Location: Richardson Ballroom B, Pre-Function Area, Convention Center

10:00 a.m.

Begin Boarding Buses to Offsite Sessions

Confirm Time for Your Specific Offsite Session – 10:00 a.m. is the earliest bus loading time possible, but each session's departure time is different

Locations for Bus Departures:

- Martin Luther King Blvd. Street-Level Exit, Charlotte Convention Center
- College Street Ground-Level Exit, Charlotte Convention Center

Sessions/tour busses will be color-coded – Conference hosts will guide you to the proper exit and to your bus

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **OFFSITE SESSION: Future Innovation in Aviation**

Honda Aircraft Company – Greensboro/Piedmont Triad International Airport

See the HondaJet manufacturing facility and meet company leaders bringing the aviation future to life. The tour will include the Production Facility, Flight Simulator area, Delivery Center, and Visitor Center which includes a mockup of the HondaJet Echelon fuselage (HondaJet's newest model), and other Honda products on display – including the GE Honda Aero jet engine manufactured nearby in Burlington, N.C.

Staggered Bus Departures: College Street Ground-Level Exit, Charlotte Convention Center

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

- [Mr. Hideto Yamasaki](#), Chief Executive Officer, Honda Aircraft Company
- [Mr. Steve Grady](#), Assistant Vice President & General Counsel, Honda Aircraft Company
- [Mr. Craig Orlan](#), Director of State and Local Government Affairs, American Honda Motor Company
- [Mr. Brent Christensen](#), President and CEO, Greensboro Chamber of Commerce

NOTE: Travel time to this offsite location is approximately 90 minutes each way

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **OFFSITE SESSION: Experience Vehicle Performance Up Close**

Charlotte Motor Speedway

This exclusive, behind the scenes visit to the Charlotte Motor Speedway will demonstrate how companies like Toyota use lessons from the track to enhance their products. Includes a lunch high above the Speedway, an exclusive tour of the garage area featuring special displays, and the option to experience a ride around the track yourself!

Buses Depart: Martin Luther King Blvd. Street-Level Exit, Convention Center

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- Greg Walter, President and General Manager, Charlotte Motor Speedway

NOTE: Travel time to this offsite location is approximately 30 minutes each way

10:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. OFFSITE SESSION: New Approaches for Human Health in the Life Sciences
North Carolina Research Campus - Kannapolis

Visit the labs and workforce training spaces at this unique center for life science research, home to eight North Carolina university research teams researching and developing safer, more nutritious crops, healthier foods, precision nutrition, and other research topics. Participants will be greeted by the mayor of Kannapolis and get a chance to see Appalachian State University's Human Performance Lab, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College's additive manufacturing facility, UNC-Chapel Hill's Nutrition Research Institute, and North Carolina's one-of-a-kind Food Innovation lab.

Bonus: Learn how this innovative research campus rose on the site of a closed textile mill, helping the region recover from the largest company layoff in state history

Buses Depart: Martin Luther King Blvd. Street-Level Exit, Convention Center

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- [Dr. Cory Brouwer](#), Executive Director of Research, North Carolina Research Campus; Professor, Bioinformatics and Genomics and Director of Bioinformatics Services, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- [Mr. Doug Edgeton](#), CEO & President, North Carolina Biotechnology Center
- [Mr. Darrell Hinnant](#), Mayor, City of Kannapolis
- [Mr. Ryan Dayvault](#), Associate Director of Planning and Operations, UNC Nutrition Research Institute, N.C. Research Campus

NOTE: Travel time to this offsite location is approximately 30 minutes each way

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Artificial Intelligence – Onsite Demonstration Session
A session focused on demonstrating the impact and some of the capabilities of Artificial Intelligence, or AI, on international business and corporate productivity. A lunch is included with this session.

Location: Richardson Ballroom C & D, Charlotte Convention Center

FEATURED SPEAKERS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

- [Mr. Mark McNeilly](#), Professor of the Practice, Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- [Mr. Chen Lin](#), Chief Data Analytics Officer | VP, Supply Chain Digitization, Manufacturing Excellence, and Sustainability, Honeywell
- [Mr. Hunter S. Gray](#), Vice President, The Special Event Company
- [Dr. Bojan Cukic](#), Dean and Professor, College of Computing and Informatics, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- [Mr. Chandhu Nair](#), Senior Vice President, Data, Analytics and Computational Intelligence and Marketing Technology, Lowe's Companies
- [Mr. David Shoop](#), Senior Vice President, Technology, Stores, Supply Chain and Corporate Services, Lowe's Companies

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11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Optional Guests' Tour
Buses Depart: College Street Ground-level Exit, Convention Center

Paddywax Candle Bar, Charlotte, NC
Join us in this workshop space for a true Do It Yourself experience! Customize your candle by choosing from a selection of Paddywax vessels and pre-blended fragrances that speak to you. Expert Paddywax Chandlers will work with you through the process and answer any questions you may have. Lunch will be provided for this tour as well as your new candle! After lunch, you'll return to the Convention Center for a 60–90-minute walking tour of Uptown Charlotte, returning to the CCC at the end of the tour.

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. All-Conference Welcome Event: All delegates
Location: NASCAR Hall of Fame, 400 East MLK Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28202

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

7:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Registration Open
Richardson Ballroom B, Charlotte Convention Center

8:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Formal Breakfast**

Keynote Addresses

Mr. Shigeo Yamada, Ambassador of Japan to the United States

Also, featuring welcoming remarks from:

- N.C. Senator Phil Berger, President Pro Tem, North Carolina Senate
- N.C. Speaker of the House Tim Moore, N.C. House of Representatives

Location: Richardson Ballroom C & D, Charlotte Convention Center

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Plenary Session – Current Security Considerations in the Asia-Pacific Region**

- [Barbara J. Stephenson](#), Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Chief Global Officer, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- [Mr. Robert T. Koepcke](#), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Japan, Korea, and Mongolia, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, United States Department of State

Location: Richardson Ballroom C & D, Charlotte Convention Center

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Coffee Break
Location: Richardson Ballroom B/Pre-function Areas and Hallways near E219 A and D

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11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Concurrent Panel Sessions** (Moderator & Speakers)
Panelists are recruited by both Associations (Japan-USSE and SEUS/Japan)

Session 1

Future Innovation in Aviation
Location: Room 219A, The Charlotte Convention Center

- Moderator: [Dan Barkin](#), Journalist and Contributing Writer, Business North Carolina magazine
- [Mr. Anders Solem](#), Vice-President, Sales & Marketing Division, Honda Aircraft Company | Japan-USSE
- [Mr. Shinichiro Shimizu](#), Vice Chairperson, Japan Airlines | Japan-USSE
- Mr. David Tyler, Operations Director, [Skydweller Aero, Inc.](#) | SEUS
- [Mr. Chris Taylor](#), Vice President, Manufacturing, Boom Supersonic | SEUS

Session 2

Electric Vehicles and Other Green Energy Solutions for the Automotive Industry
Location: Room 219D, The Charlotte Convention Center

- Moderator: [Erin Keating](#), Executive Analyst and Senior Director of Economics and Industry Insights, Cox Automotive
- [Mr. Matt Kaleba](#), General Manager, BEV and Mobility Business, Product Planning & Strategy, Toyota Motor North America | *Japan-USSE*
- [Mr. Chad Edwin Schuchmann](#), CEO, Polypore International, LLC (an Asahi Kasei Group Company) | *Japan-USSE*
- [Mr. Jed Routh](#), Vice President of Markets and Products, Kempower | SEUS
- [Mr. Michael Oatridge](#), Executive Director, Alabama Mobility and Power Center SEUS

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Luncheon**

Keynote Address
Mr. Norihiko Ishiguro, Chairman, [Japan External Trade Organization \(JETRO\)](#)

Location: Room E-220 A-B-C-D-E-F, Charlotte Convention Center

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2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **Concurrent Panel Sessions**

Session 3

New Approaches for Human Health in the Life Sciences
Location: Room 219A, The Charlotte Convention Center

- Moderator: [William O. Bullock](#), MBA, Senior Vice President, Economic Development and Statewide Operations, North Carolina Biotechnology Center
- [Mr. Toshihisa Iida](#), Director, Corporate VP; General Manager, Life Science Headquarters Office and General Manager, Bio CDMO Division, Fujifilm Corporation; Chairman, Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies Group | Japan-USSE
- [Mr. Naoki Aoyama](#), Senior VP, Divisional Operating Officer of Wellness Business Division, MITSUI & CO. (U.S.A.), INC. | Japan-USSE
- [Dr. Oliver Hampton](#), Chief Data Officer, Southern Research | SEUS
- [Mr. Brad Mickey](#), Executive Director, Manufacturing and Operations Site Head, Astellas Gene Therapies | SEUS

Session 4

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Implications for the Future of Business
Location: Room 219D, The Charlotte Convention Center

- Moderator: [Dr. Bojan Cukic](#), Dean and Professor, College of Computing and Informatics, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- [Mr. Frank Antonysamy](#), Chief Growth Officer, Hitachi Digital Services | Japan-USSE
 - [Mr. Kenji Motohashi](#), Head of Global Generative AI Office, Global Innovation Headquarters, NTT Data Group Corp. | Japan-USSE
 - [Ms. Jennifer Robinson](#), Global Government Strategic Advisor, SAS | SEUS
 - [Ms. Dimple Shah](#), Senior Director, Global Technology and Data Policy, Honeywell | SEUS

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Coffee Break
Location: Richardson Ballroom B/Pre-function Areas and Hallways near E219 A and D, The Charlotte Convention Center

3:45 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Adoption of Joint Statement & Closing Ceremony
Location: Richardson Ballroom C & D, The Charlotte Convention Center

Includes remarks by:

Consul General Shinji Watanabe, Japanese Consulate in Nashville
Consul General Kazuhiro Nakai, Japanese Consulate in Miami

Closing Remarks by:

Mr. Masaaki Tsuya, Chairman, Japan – U.S. Southeast Association
Mr. Sean M. Suggs, Chairman, Southeast U.S./Japan Association

Location: Richardson Ballroom C & D, The Charlotte Convention Center

Exchange of Gifts by Chairmen

Announcement of dates/venue 2025 Joint Meeting (Chairman Tsuya)

***** Business Meeting Adjourns *****

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

All Conference Closing Reception, Dinner, & Entertainment
Location: Richardson Ballroom Pre-Function Area and Richardson Ballroom C & D
The Charlotte Convention Center

****Note:** For 2024, the term “Guest” replaces the use of the term “Spouse”
Guests of a Delegate are welcome and as in past years, must register at the required fee