

From: Kirk Monroe
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 2:50 PM
Subject: In case you missed it...

The Japan-U.S. Business Conference recently released a statement promoting the beneficial longstanding relationship between the two nations.

“The Councils also urge the new U.S. administration to foster a positive business environment at home, and underscored the need to continue attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). FDI from Japan already directly generates more than 900,000 jobs across the nation. The importance of this investment is magnified when considering both the direct and indirect jobs supported by Japanese FDI in the United States, surpassing 1.5 million combined direct and indirect U.S. jobs in the automotive sector alone.”

Read the full statement [here](#).

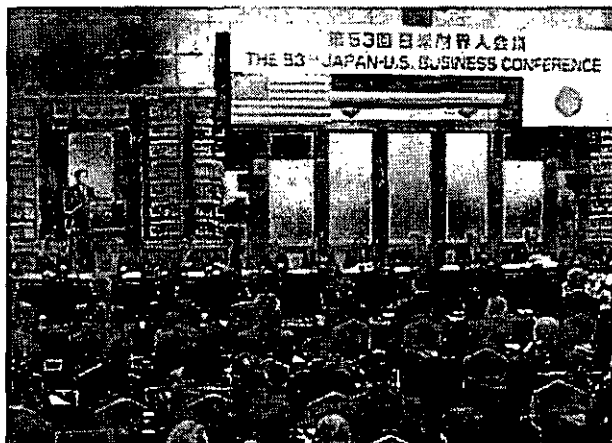


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**Japan-U.S. Business Conference Moves Economic
Relations Forward in a Changing Era
with Joint Statement**



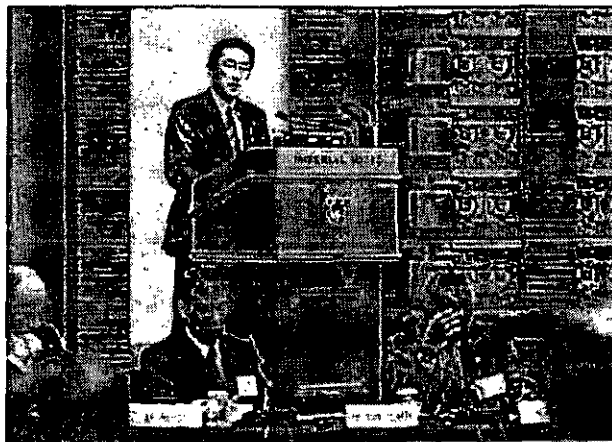
Japanese and American business executives listen to opening remarks on Nov. 3 at the 53rd Japan-U.S. Business Conference. (Photo from MOFA website)

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all celebrated a festive and relaxing holiday season, and are coming into 2017 with plenty of rest to engage in the exciting year ahead of us.

Today, I would like to introduce you all to a recently uploaded joint statement from the 53rd Japan-U.S. Business Conference. The Japan-U.S. Business Conference, most recently held in Tokyo on November 3rd & 4th, is comprised of members from the Japan-based Japan-U.S. Business Council (JUBC) and the U.S.-Japan Business Council (USJBC), Inc. located in Washington DC. The aims of the conference are to exchange ideas between private sector business executives from Japan and the U.S., and to propose policy plans on pertinent Japan-U.S. economic issues from a business standpoint.

Members of the Japan-U.S. Business Conference first convened in 1961, and boast a long history with this year being their 53rd assembly. The attending councils are comprised of a large group of influential corporations and organizations that have contributed immensely to U.S.-Japan economic relations, and the joint statement chosen by the Japan-U.S. Business Council expresses their highly valued opinions on a variety of economic issues.



Foreign Minister Kishida attends opening ceremony of 53rd Japan-U.S. Business Conference. (Photo from MOFA website)

What was especially interesting to me within the statement were passages describing the specific contributions that Japanese businesses have provided to support the American economy through direct investment and domestic employment. It also highlights further areas of economic cooperation between Japan and the U.S. with the creation of subcommittees in areas such as financial services, energy, healthcare innovation and travel & tourism, as well as common themes such as the digital economy. In particular, the joint statement makes references to the Integrated Resorts Bill, which the Japanese government has only recently passed through legislation to promote the establishment of "integrated resorts" in Japan. To learn more, you can view this year's full statement on the Japan-U.S. Business Council webpage here: <http://www.jubc.gr.jp/active/pdf/53/53%20JS%20E.pdf>.

The Japan-U.S. Business Conference for 2017 is expected to be held by the end of this year. While I found the active discourse by Japanese executives from the most recent conference very encouraging, I am looking forward to having this year's conference to be held right here in DC! For more information surrounding the Japan-U.S. Business Council, please visit their homepage at <http://www.jubc.gr.jp/eng/>.

Sincerely,

Kazuhiro Suzuki

Minister of Economic Affairs

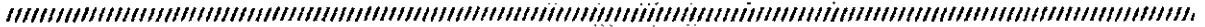


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