

## Japan Update Symposium Recap *(From the JASGC website homepage)*

Our 2017 Japan Update Symposium was a big success! Our audience learned a great deal about the current economic situation in Japan from our keynote speaker, Mr. Sumio Ohtsuji, in his speech titled, "**The Strategic Importance of the US-Japan Economic Relationship.**"

During the second part of the event, "**The Japan-Cincinnati Business Connection: Case Studies from Corporate Leaders,**" we heard fascinating stories of how partnerships with Japanese companies have significantly influenced two of Cincinnati's iconic companies: The Procter & Gamble Company, as told by Dennis Hirotsu, VP Research & Development (Retired), and The Kroger Company, presented by Brett Bonner, VP Research & Development.

In the final part of the event, "**The US-Japan Relationship in a Post-TPP World,**" led by moderator Joe Dehner of Frost Brown Todd, we were briefed by an all-star group of panelists from Washington, DC, including Noah Zaring, US State Department, Keida Ackerman, US Department of Commerce, Andrew Winternitz, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Hiromi Murakami, Japan Institute for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (JSIE).

Feedback on the symposium was very positive, including this remark from **Todd Schwartz**, Executive Director of the European American Chamber of Commerce:

"This symposium raised the bar for this type of event. I learned a lot."





On display at the Chamber during the event were 8 vintage Japanese motorcycles, including some museum-quality models, courtesy of the **Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club of North America**. We so appreciate the coordination of Sean Carrigan of the VJMC and his members, who made the effort to transport their rare and precious bikes to the Chamber to share them with us. In his remarks from the podium, Mr. Carrigan highlighted the importance of the Japanese motorcycle industry in the development of the US motorcycle industry. His brief presentation perfectly complemented the overall theme of our event --the importance of the US-Japan relationship and its impact on our economy. (And who knew that you could attend a serious symposium and also see such awesome and fun machines! Time to dust off that motorcycle helmet sitting in your closet!)

At the Symposium we also announced the results of our recently-completed research project in which we identified a total of **144 Japanese-owned companies** in the Greater Cincinnati area that employ over 15,000 people. We have summarized the results in a multi-page brochure that shows the locations of the companies and provides an alphabetical listing by state. The full brochure is available to Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati members, and you can access a PDF of the map [here](#).

We would once again like to sincerely thank the following corporate sponsors of the Japanese Investment Map & Brochure:

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**Additional Note of Thanks:** We would like to acknowledge the tremendous generosity of Mr. Sumio Ohtsuji for offering to donate his honorarium back to the JASGC. Since we are non-profit organization and rely heavily on membership fees and donations, we gratefully accepted this kind and generous donation. *Thank you very much, Ohtsuji-san!*

*The 2017 Japan Update Symposium was sponsored by:*



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