



Governor Richardson Hosts Japanese Ambassador Kato

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SANTA FE- Governor Richardson today hosted the Japanese Ambassador to the United States, Ryozo Kato, at the governor's mansion for a luncheon. "This is another example of the strengthening relationship between Japan and New Mexico. I look forward to implementing the agreements signed last week which will lead to hundreds of new jobs here in New Mexico," Governor Richardson said.

Governor Richardson and Ambassador Kato met to explore trade and investment opportunities between the two countries and to continue discussion from Governor Richardson's trip to Japan last week.

During Governor Richardson's visit to Japan, the following initiatives were discussed.

- Signed agreements with Itochu and Sharp.
 - Itochu is interested in nano-technology and bio-technology. They have already developed agreements with two New Mexico companies--Clean Air Systems in Santa Fe and Lumidigm in Albuquerque. The meeting was held with Mr. Eizo Kobayashi and Mr. Yoshio Matsumi.
 - Sharp wants to work closely with Sandia, Los Alamos Labs and NMSU to develop solar and fuel cell technologies and products. Sharp is a worldwide leader in solar technology.

- Governor Richardson also met with Toyota to explore partnerships. New Mexico views Japan as a strong potential economic partner. New Mexico has plans to hire a trade representative to continue to explore and develop business relationships.

- New Mexico agreed to participate in, and sponsored the World EXPO 2005 to be held from March through September in Aichi, Japan.
- This trip was very important to Governor Richardson because he was able to meet with political leaders and Diet members from both parties and to discuss US Japan relations. Governor Richardson told these leaders that Japan is the United States' most important and most loyal ally and that Japan needed to exercise its power on the UN Security Council at the World Bank and IMS.
- Governor Richardson also met with the Foreign Minister (Kawaguchi), the Minister of Economy and Trade (Nakagawa) and the Minister of Policy Management (Aso).

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