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Governor Bill Richardson meets with Japanese Trade Delegation to Pursue Collaboration on Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technologies

Santa Fe, NM---New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson met today with 14 key industry and trade group representatives from Japan including representatives from Toyota Motor Corporation, Honda R & D Co., Nissan Motor Corporation, and the Director of the Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, (similar to the cabinet secretary of U.S. Dept of Commerce.)

The Japanese representatives are spending today in New Mexico to discuss possible partnerships on the development and commercialization of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technologies.

“New Mexico can and will become the world leader in the development of renewable energy technology,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “I am committed to working with this prestigious group, representing some of most important Japanese companies and organizations, to create new jobs and new opportunities for New Mexicans. This will put our technology resources to work as we diversify the world’s energy sources.”

The delegation met with Governor Bill Richardson after visiting Los Alamos National Lab. This evening they will be meeting with numerous New Mexican companies. Their visit is in follow up to Governor Richardson's visit to Japan earlier summer.

“Hydrogen fuel cell technologies hold the possibility for profoundly changing the economy of the 21st century by providing the next generation of fuels,” said delegation leader, Ando Haruhiko, the Director of the Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. “With Governor Richardson’s strong leadership, New Mexico’s federal labs, universities and private sector provide many opportunities for what we hope will be fruitful collaborations.”

The delegation also includes representatives of Toyota Motor Corporation, Honda R & D Co., Nissan Motor Corporation, Technova, Inc. Kurimoto, Ltd., Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo K.K., Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo, the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization, the Japan Automobile Research Institute.

“This has been a collaborative effort among the Economic Development Department, the Energy, Mineral and Natural Resources Department, the Governor’s Office, the federal labs, the universities, and private businesses,” said Economic Development Secretary Rick Homans. “We are all working together to provide new opportunities for New Mexicans.”

This evening, at a reception hosted by HyTep, the state’s Hydrogen Fuel Cell technology group, the delegation will have an opportunity to meet with representatives from New Mexico businesses, the federal laboratories and the state’s universities to learn more about the many hydrogen and fuel cell assets within the state. Organizations represented include Surfact, Cabot, NextGen, Gas Technologies Institute (GTI), Intelligent Energy, Sacred Power, Fuel Cell Technologies, EECOM, Energy Related Devices, Land of Enchantment Clean Cities Coalition, Environmental Robots, Los Alamos Laboratories, White Sands Test Facility, University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Technology, Regional Development Corporation, Economic Development Department, Energy, Mineral and Natural Resources Department.

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