



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
*Office of the Governor*



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**FIRST UNITED STATES GOVERNOR TO VISIT U.S. PAVILION AT  
WORLD EXPO 2005 in Aichi, Japan**

~ Governor Mark R. Warner represents Commonwealth of Virginia as EXPO sponsor~

TOKYO – On April 19, 2005 Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner will visit the U. S. Pavilion at the World EXPO 2005, the first world’s fair of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This marks the first visit of a United States Governor to the U.S. Pavilion at the World EXPO since its opening on March 25. The Commonwealth of Virginia serves as a sponsor to the 185 day EXPO. Governor Warner will visit the U. S. Pavilion as part of a two-week trade mission to Japan and India.

Currently, nearly 100 Japanese companies have operations in Virginia. In 2003, Japan was Virginia’s third top export destination, with exports valued at approximately US \$0.91 billion. Total exports to Japan for full year 2004 were valued at \$939,805,771 (up 3% from 2003 totals). Governor Warner will be meeting privately with a number of investing companies while in Japan.

More than 120 countries will be participating in the World EXPO 2005. The U.S. Pavilion team has developed an exciting theme to celebrate an American leader known for his wisdom, his keen insight into the workings of the natural world, and his capacity for innovation—Benjamin Franklin. By highlighting the vision and accomplishments of this recognized figure in the human experience, the U.S. Pavilion will provide a uniquely American insight on the EXPO’s themes of progress and the importance of man’s relationship to the natural world. Visitors and participants will include business and political leaders from around the world.

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Governor Warner, inaugurated in January 2002, serves as Chairman of the National Governor's Association. He recently concluded terms as Chairman of the Southern Governors' Association, States' co-chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and Chairman of the Education Commission of the States, a national nonpartisan policy organization. Born in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1954, Governor Warner earned his law degree from Harvard University in 1980 and his undergraduate degree from George Washington University in 1977.

**About the U.S. Pavilion World Expo 2005**

The World Expo 2005 will be held in Aichi Prefecture, Japan, from Mar. 25 through Sept. 25, 2005. Business and political leaders from around the world will be among the estimated 15 million visitors to the Expo. Of the 120 country exhibits, the U.S. Pavilion is expected to be a major attraction that celebrates nature, progress and human achievement, with the Pavilion theme dedicated to "The Franklin Spirit." As the country's first diplomat and a founding father, Benjamin Franklin is the ideal personality to bring the story of U.S. innovation and achievement to life for those who visit the Expo.

On July 29, 2004, the U.S. Department of State signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Aichi-USA 2005 World Exposition, Inc. (Aichi USA 2005). Under the terms of the Memorandum, Aichi USA 2005 is raising all the funds necessary to create and manage the official U.S. Pavilion. Pavilion sponsors include leading American-based companies and organizations and several U.S. states. More information on the U.S. Pavilion can be found at [www.uspavilion.com](http://www.uspavilion.com).

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