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West Virginia Reinforces Ties with Celebration at Expo

Nagakute June 1 --West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin III and United States Senator John D. Rockefeller IV will visit Japan together, on a one-week tour of Tokyo, Nagoya, and the World Expo in Aichi. They will be accompanied by 20 members of the West Virginia business community and state government representatives. West Virginia's goal is to continue the strong relationship that the state has with Japan, its government, its business, and its people.

"This trip is about building relationships. I want to personally thank the Japanese executives who have already placed their confidence, and their investments, in our state. I also look forward to promoting West Virginia to the many other international business prospects attending the Expo," said Governor Joe Manchin II.

"West Virginia and Japan enjoy a very successful business relationship. Together, we are not only competing in the global market, we are winning," said Senator Rockefeller. "I welcome the opportunity to strengthen our established alliances and build the next generation of new partnerships in growing industries like automotive, aviation and biotechnology. This is a very exciting time for West Virginia and Japan."

This visit represents the culmination of many years of West Virginia supporting Aichi's successful bid for the 2005 World Expo. Senator Rockefeller pledged publicly in 1997 his support for Aichi's bid to win this six-month global event. Senator Rockefeller and the state of West Virginia successfully worked with other states to ensure that the Expo would be a success. The visit is sponsored in part by the Discover the REAL West Virginia Foundation.

A highlight of the Expo will be a "West Virginia Day" celebration on Thursday, June 2nd featuring samples of traditional Appalachian music and culture. More details about West Virginia Day below.

West Virginia is also exhibiting and selling handmade crafts and gifts at Mitsukoshi's new store "Lachic", from May 25th to May 31st. This is part of West Virginia's cultural presentation to the Nagoya and Chubu community. Please visit!

West Virginia's schedule in Japan is as follows:

May 28	Governor arrives in Osaka
May 29	Governor and Delegation tour Kyoto

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- May 30 Governor visits Osaka businesses, and then moves to Nagoya to visit West Virginia's pilot shop in Mitsukoshi "Lachic". Move to Tokyo that evening, and meet with Senator Rockefeller, who will have just arrived in Japan.
- May 31 Governor and Senator visit Tokyo/Kanto businesses, and hold evening reception for the Tokyo/Kanto community.
- June 1 Governor and Senator visit Toyota Motor in Aichi, and hold evening reception at Tokyu Hotel in Nagoya
- June 2 Governor and Senator host "West Virginia Day" at World EXPO Aichi, US Pavilion
- June 3 Governor and Senator visit Nagoya businesses
- June 4 Depart Japan

West Virginia's day at EXPO is Thursday, June 2nd, and is as follows:

- 11:30 - 11:50 Opening Ceremony, Franklin Room
- 12:00 - 13:30 Reception for Japanese Businesses
- 13:30 - 14:45 Authentic West Virginia Bluegrass Band, Global Common 2 Stage
- 14:00 - 15:00 WV Delegation Tours Toyota Pavilion
- 15:30 - 16:30 Open for Press (Please make appointments by contacting the West Virginia Japan Office)

Please direct any questions to:

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