



STATE OF WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNOR CHRISTINE GREGOIRE TO LEAD STATE OF WASHINGTON DELEGATION TO AICHI WORLD EXPO 2005

Nagukute, September 16, 2005. Governor Christine Gregoire of Washington State will lead a delegation of business and agriculture leaders, educators and state government officials to the Aichi World Expo 2005 on September 20. Governor Gregoire will host a seminar on investment opportunities for Japanese executives and have interviews with major Japanese business leaders and with the Japanese media in the U.S. Pavilion's Franklin Room.

"We are delighted to welcome Governor Gregoire and her delegation to Chubu, this fastest growing region of Japan," said Ambassador Lisa Gable, U.S. Commissioner General. "We look forward to assisting the Delegation as they work with their many customers and partners here, and as they offer investment opportunities in the diverse Washington economy."

"We have many old friends in Nagoya in the aviation industry," said Governor Gregoire. "In addition to seeing them, it will be good to thank some of our good customers and make new friends in this region that we know is a model of well-balanced growth and intelligent infrastructure development."

Japan is:

- Washington State's largest trading partner, comprising about 18.6 percent (\$6.27 billion) of Washington-originated exports in 2004.
- The leading country for U.S. technology exports, including computers and peripherals, software, semiconductors, pollution control equipment and services, medical equipment and devices and telecommunications equipment and services.



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- The Port of Tacoma's largest two-way trading partner (China is second), and the Port of Seattle's second largest trading partner, behind China.
- A loyal customer for Boeing products, and a major participant in design and manufacture of the new 787.
- The top destination for Washington State food and agricultural exports.
- The largest overseas market for many Washington State software and other high-tech firms.
- An extremely welcoming market for sellers of consumer goods, from Eddie Bauer to Starbucks.
- The largest source of tourists to Washington State from overseas.
- The largest source of students to Washington State from overseas.

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