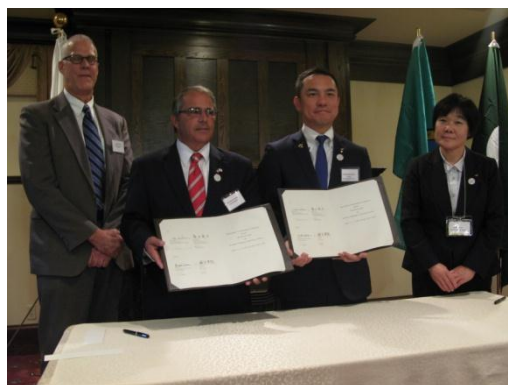


Mie Prefecture PR Reception “Mie-Washington Business & Cultural Exchange Evening, featuring Iga Beef and Other Mie Delicacies”

On Monday, August 25, Mie Prefecture Governor Eikei Suzuki and Consul General Masahiro Omura co-hosted a PR Reception for Mie Prefecture at the Official Residence of the Consul General in Seattle, Washington.

Starting off the event, Washington State and Mie Prefecture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the establishment of a partnership to promote two-way economic development, with a focus on the aerospace and life-science industries. With Lieutenant Governor of Washington Brad Owen and Mie Governor Suzuki witnessing, Mark Calhoun, Senior Managing Director of Washington Department of Commerce, and Keiko Hirota, Director General of Mie Prefecture Department of Employment and Economic Affairs, served as the signatories.



MOU signing

At the reception, guests enjoyed Mie delicacies including Iga beef, abalone, and sea bream (tai), that were shipped directly from Japan especially for the event. Iga beef was introduced in the U.S. for the first time by representatives of Mie’s cattle industry who had the opportunity to meet face-to-face with potential customers from local food-related businesses at the event. The 50-member Mie delegation, which also included representatives of the prefecture’s manufacturing and medical sectors, along with Mie University, were able to deepen their network with the local guests.



Grilled Iga beef



Grilled Mie abalone



Business meeting



Networking among participants

This is the second delegation from Mie to Washington in the past two years, and the two regions are working hard to develop close partnerships. With the new MOU in place, we expect that business exchange will grow and that Iga beef and other Mie products will spread throughout the Pacific Northwest.