

Kansai Seminar

On Tuesday, August 20, at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center in Seattle, Hyogo Prefecture and three Kansai-area city Chambers of Commerce and Industry including Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto co-hosted the “Kansai Seminar” with the support of the Consulate General of Japan. The seminar was held with the goal of expanding business relations between Kansai and Washington and over 100 business representatives from the state attended.



Seminar venue



Greetings by Senior Consul Dodo

Costco Wholesale founder Jim Sinegal provided the keynote address at the seminar where he spoke on his company’s history and its relations with Japan. Costco currently operates three stores in the Kansai region, including two in Hyogo prefecture, and is planning to open a new one there, as well. At the seminar, Hyogo Governor Toshizo Ido presented Mr. Sinegal with the “Hyogo Award – Contribution to International Cooperation” for Costco’s contributions in the Prefecture through its investment.



Keynote speech by Jim Sinegal



Award presented by Governor Ido

After that, Governor Ido, who is also the president of the Union of Kansai Governments, provided a presentation on the appeals of Kansai as a place for business and investment. Mr. Sato, chairman of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Ohashi, chairman of the Kobe Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Okuhara, president of the Kyoto Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Mr. Kano, executive director of the Osaka Tourism Bureau also presented on the business and tourism opportunities of their respective areas.



Governor Ido



Chairman Sato



Chairman Ohashi



President Okuhara