

Mie Prefecture Promotion Speech

by Consul General Masahiro Omura, August 23, 2013

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this special exhibition of Mie products and tourism, and a particular honor to share the evening with Governor Eikei Suzuki of Mie Prefecture, who has come to the Evergreen State to co-host this event and introduce us to the abundant delights and opportunities his prefecture has to offer.

The link between east and west Japan, Mie has much in common with Washington. Similar to Puget Sound, Mie's Ago Bay shimmers with activity and is surrounded by verdant mountains. Mie has a long history in forestry and seafood and, in more recent years, has expanded into high tech manufacturing and aerospace – industries that have also shaped the Pacific Northwest. Washington and Mie already share a sister city relationship, but with so many parallels it's only natural now to take the next step and broaden trade and tourism relations.

This is an exciting time for growth and laying a foundation for new partnerships between these two regions. Just today, South Seattle Community College and Mie University signed a formal agreement to expand academic exchange. Such missions of cooperation will forge bonds between Washington and Mie that will last for years to come.

On a delicious note, tonight you will be able to savor Mie's famous abalone, exquisite Ise lobster, and delectable sea bream, paired with aromatic green tea and the prefecture's best sake. I encourage you to relax and enjoy the flavors and sights of Mie, and I ask everyone to explore opportunities for business or pleasure, now and into the future.

Thank you.