



Special Edition | Japanese Business Development Tour

REDI and Team Idaho members, Jan Rogers and Senator Kelly Anthon hosted a delegation of five Japanese businesses on a very successful whirlwind tour of southern and eastern Idaho from Boise to Rexburg. The delegation toured the Capital and met with the Governor and Lt. Governor as well as seven mayors, six businesses, CAES, two incubator/SBDC centers and a tour of the agricultural school at BYU-I and CSI Advanced Technology & Research Center. This mission has opened the door for potential new business opportunities with Idaho businesses as well as research and development possibilities with Idaho universities.

Three of the companies will again be visiting Idaho in late September to continue discussions with some of the businesses and communities that have shown potential in Idaho and the US.

Here are a few responses from the Japanese delegation:

"We all had really good opportunity for the future business in IDAHO. We will back to IDAHO on September. I hope we will discuss our business then."

Nakahara, TEC

"I would like to express my deep appreciation for your kind cooperation for this visit. Every time I visit to Idaho, I am so grateful for your consideration. Thanks to you, for this visit, I was able to visit many interesting places. In regards to agriculture equipment, in my opinion, it would be great to start with research for equipment. In September, I have a plan to go to USA again. Until then, I hope that we can clarify next step for project." *Ichinose, ATOM*

"Thank you very much for your kind assistance at this visit to America. Although this was my first time visit to United States I was deeply moved by Jan san's hospitality. We will make a business relationship with company of BiologiQ in the future." *Aoki, SEIHO*

"Thank you for your kindness during the time I visited you. Many companies, mayors and many people in various regions of Idaho thank you for warm and valuable time. We will proceed toward the future without wasting this opportunity. The other day I went to Idaho, but I will go to September the next time." *Ookubo, Miyama Giken*

"We would like to sincerely thank you so much for your hospitality during our business trip to Idaho state. Some of us went to Idaho state for the first time and were successfully in developing their business strategy because of your personal connections with relevant business persons there. Again, we want to show our respect to your presence and commitment that were so great and helpful." *Suzuki, Sakae Casting*





Boise and the Capital

Tuesday, July 10

The Japan delegation toured the Capital and met with the Governor and Lt. Governor. The group was very impressed with the Capital tour as well as meeting with top government officials. Idaho really rolled out the welcome wagon! We then traveled to the Small Business Accelerator Center in Nampa to meet with the SBDC and tour the facility. Very impressive!

That evening the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization (SIEDO) hosted a dinner at the Blue Lakes Country Club with Mayor Shawn Barigar and representatives of Twin Falls, Jerome and Rupert. We ended the day with a fun relaxing evening in the Snake River canyon!



Southern Idaho

Wednesday, July 11

The group started our day with a visit to Commercial Creamery in Jerome. This is a third-generation dairy processing company that is currently expanding their facility. Many of the delegation is interested not only in the processing but the equipment as well. We then moved to a tour of Clif Bar in Twin Falls. Needless to say, the group was not only impressed with the facility but also the unique culture of the company.

The delegation was invited to attend the topping ceremony for New Cold in Burley attended by the governor. This gave the group a first hand look at how Idaho supports new FDI in our state! We ended the day with a dinner hosted by the City of Rupert and Mayor Mike Brown at the Drift Inn on the historic Rupert Square.



Eastern Idaho

Thursday, July 12



We started day three with a tour of a modern fresh pack potato facility in Rupert – Mart Produce. The group was very interested in the process and equipment. After our tour, we traveled to Pocatello to lunch with Mayor Brian Blad and Mayor Kevin England who shared the many benefits of the Pocatello/Chubbuck region. After lunch, we visited Inergy Inc. in Pocatello.

What an amazing tour and many thanks to Sean Luangrath, CEO and James Brainard Co-Founder who were very supportive of the ease of doing business in Idaho!

One of the requested companies to visit by our delegation was BiologiQ in Blackfoot. We had a fantastic introduction to the company and its products. Definitely, one of the highlights for SEIHO on this trip!

And of course, you can't visit Blackfoot without visiting the world famous Potato Museum. We were met by Mayor Marc Carroll and took a short tour of the museum and enjoyed some potato ice cream for a special treat as we headed to Idaho Falls for dinner with Idaho Falls Economic Development Director Dana Briggs and Mayor Sean Colletti and City Councilman Craig Tibbetts from Ammon.

Eastern Idaho Friday, July 13

We started the final day of the visit with a tour of the BYU-I state of the art hydroponics facility and other ag related facilities. Also, included was a short tour of the BYU-I campus. Very impressive! We then met with Mayor Jerry Merrill at City Hall and followed by a very entertaining lunch. The group was very impressed with BYU-I and the city of Rexburg



Next stop was CAES and tour. The delegation was very impressed with the facility, especially the Computer Assisted Virtual Environment (CAVE).

And, our final stop of the tour was at the Innovation Center where the group met with Advanced Ceramic Fibers and learned about opportunities at the facility and other sources of help for new start-up businesses.



Statewide Media Coverage

There was a lot of interest by the media as the tour moved through the state. Here are the links:

[Post Register & Times News](#)

[Local 8 News](#)

[Idaho Business Review](#)

[KMVT/CBS Twin Falls](#)

[Capital Press](#)