**W.Va. Secretary reports success from Japanese investment mission**

The state’s investment mission to Japan was a success, reports Commerce Secretary Keith Burdette.

Key objectives of the mission included maintaining relationships with companies already investing in the state and establishing connections with prospective new investors. Japanese companies have invested more than $2.1 billion in the state’s economy and currently employ nearly 2,500 West Virginians.

West Virginia officials met with executives of companies with operations in the state, including KS of West Virginia; Diamond Electric; Toyota; Sanko Electronics; NGK; Kureha; and Nippon Thermostat.

Several of the companies joined the state in exhibiting at the 2014 Automotive Engineering Exposition, May 21 -22, in Yokohama. Participants included Diamond Electric, Nippon Thermostat and Toyota. KS of West Virginia exhibited in its own booth neighboring West Virginia’s.

On May 15, more than 80 members of the West Virginia group attended the Chukeiren (Chubu Economic Federation) event supported by Toyota. Millie Marshall, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia in Buffalo, was the headline speaker. West Virginia participants include representatives from automotive industry businesses.