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DAYTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

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Delegation exploring investment, export deals in Japan

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Lieutenant Gov. Lee Fisher leaves for Japan Friday to stir up interest in Ohio investment, exports and research, but he isn't flying solo.

Traveling with him are more than 50 officials from across the state representing universities, development departments, research institutions and major business players.

The delegation of nearly 60 Ohioans will be in the country from Saturday, Sept. 8 until Sept. 15 rubbing elbows at the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference in Tokyo and setting up private business meetings with potential investors and buyers of state exports. Fisher will be delivering an address at two major events.

"We look forward to teaming with Ohio delegates in promoting Ohio's strengths, particularly in the automotive, advanced energy, high-tech manufacturing, and biotechnology industries," Fisher said in a release.

The relationship with the tech-heavy Pacific Rim country isn't new. Japan is Ohio's largest single-country source of investment, the state counting more than 300 facilities employing 60,000 Ohioans. The country also ranks as the state's third-largest export market, a consistently growing line of business for Ohio for almost a decade.

Some Ohio delegates on the business trip include: Marty Hohenberger, Dayton Development Coalition; Frank Svet and Kathy Marshalek, Edison Materials Technology Center; Jack Beeler, Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP; Doug Pettitt, Vectren Ohio; Holly Koeppel, executive vice president and CFO, American Electric Power Company Inc.; Mark Corna, president, Corna/Kokosing Construction Co.; Lynn Dennison, assistant vice president and general counsel, Honda of America Manufacturing Inc.; Mari Noda, associate professor, Ohio State University; and David Cook and Allen Kinzer, partners at Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease LLP.

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