

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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### **The WASABI - Hot News from Japan Vol. 11 Issue 7**

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**Report Highlights:**

Secretary Vilsack comes to Japan, honors Japanese supporters of U.S. food and agriculture, and connects with Japanese agricultural youths.

# The Wasabi

*HOT News from Japan - Vol 11, Issue 7*  
December 7, 2015

**Secretary Vilsack and Ambassador Kennedy Honor Japanese Supporters of U.S. Food and Agriculture:** In commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the U.S.-Japan Agricultural Trade Hall of Fame (HOF), U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack hosted an award ceremony and luncheon on November 20 to honor companies and organizations that have been stalwart supporters of U.S. agriculture and food.

The event started with a ceremony inducting the fifth class of honorees into the HOF. The six honorees of 2015 represent some of the most influential agriculture-related organizations in Japan. Secretary Vilsack and Ambassador Kennedy thanked the group for their foresight, innovation, and, most importantly, their continuous support of U.S. agriculture. The Secretary presented each honoree with a framed letter from the Ambassador. In addition, all of the previous HOF inductees were invited to the ceremony for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque that will hang prominently in the U.S. Embassy. After the induction ceremony, the Ambassador hosted a celebratory luncheon for the Secretary and all five years' of HOF honorees. All honorees are acknowledged on the following website:

<http://www.usdajapan.org/halloffame/index.html>



Fifth Class of HOF Inductees



After Unveiling the HOF plaque



U.S.-Japan Agricultural Trade Hall of Fame Inductees 2011-2015

**Secretary Vilsack Discusses Trade and the Future Agriculture with Students and Young Farmers in Tokyo:** At a town hall meeting held on November 20, in Tokyo, Secretary Vilsack discussed the future of agriculture and benefits of trade with agricultural students and young farmers in Japan. Agricultural Attaché Evan Mangino opened the meeting with short remarks on the current state of Japan’s agricultural and introduced Secretary Vilsack to 71 participants, came from various parts of Japan.



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The theme of the discussion was “the importance of trade for maintaining healthy and vibrant agricultural communities.” Secretary Vilsack started the afternoon by explaining how trade benefits consumers and rural communities. The Secretary and participants then had a lively discussion on topics ranging from the future of Japanese and Asian markets, to export opportunities for Japanese farm products, to popular U.S. farm and food products in Japan, and to revitalizing rural communities.



The Secretary concluded the event by talking about global food security, climate change issues, and the challenges that the next generation of farmers will have to face. He encouraged the young people at the meeting by saying, “Every single challenge really represents, for the next generation, an opportunity. And you all can be the first generation of human kind that figures out how to feed all of the people on this planet.”



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