

Director of Texas Japan Office Hiroyuki Watanabe



Hiroyuki Watanabe has served as Director of Texas Japan Office since November 2013.

Before inauguration of his current position, he had been Executive Assistant to the late Ms. Naoko Shirane, Senior Advisor to the State of Texas and Director of State of Texas Japan Office from January 2001 to June 2013 when she passed away. Then he had been Acting Director of State of Texas Japan Office until his inauguration as Director.

Mr. Watanabe has spent 13 years in State of Texas Japan Office and worked for the promotion of the investment in Texas by Japanese companies to seek for sustainable, mutually beneficial relationships between local communities in Texas and Japanese companies. His effort to maximize the public interest of Texas by the increase of employment and tax income has been embodied as the establishment of the production sites in Texas by Japanese companies including Toyota Motor Manufacturing Texas, Inc. which started its production in 2006 in San Antonio.

Mr. Watanabe has also worked for the promotion of people to people exchanges between Texas and Japan. Sister city exchange such as Houston and Chiba, San Antonio and Kumamoto, Dallas and Sendai, Austin and Oita is part of the foundation of mutual understanding. He has been involved in those activities and his experience to work for non-profit international educational organization "Up with People" from 1996 to 2000 enables him to engage in such work.

Mr. Watanabe holds a B.A. degree in Law from Keio University and studies at Graduate School of Law, Keio University. He is President and CEO of non-profit educational organization Children, Life and Culture Association (CLCA). He is also appointed as Advisor of investment promotion by Mayor of City of Kumamoto.