

JACKSON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



“To develop and maintain an economic climate, which creates and retains jobs and enhances the quality of life for all citizens of Jackson/Madison County and West Tennessee”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN IN NASHVILLE WILL SPEAK AT WEST TENNESSEE BANQUET

Jackson, TN — Consul General of Japan in Nashville, Hiroshi Sato, will be the keynote speaker at the McNairy Regional Alliance Annual Banquet on Jan. 22 in Pickwick Dam, Tenn. Sato arrived in the United States two years ago to head the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville, which serves a five state region – Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Japan is the first and only country to hold a Consulate-General in the state of Tennessee, according to the website for the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville.

Sato has worked for the Japan embassy in Washington, D.C., Malaysia, New Zealand and the Philippines. He was the Deputy Consul General of Japan in New York and Hong Kong, China before beginning his current position in 2008 in Nashville.

“We’re really honored to have Mr. Sato as our speaker this year,” said Ted Moore, executive director of the McNairy Regional Alliance (MRA), the chamber of commerce and economic development commission for McNairy County. “Our goal is to continue building relationships with Japanese companies, especially those in the automotive sector. Mr. Sato will be able to provide insight on how to successfully achieve this.”

The McNairy Regional Alliance, which has about 200 members, will recognize its small business and industry of the year at the banquet. Awards for humanitarian excellence, community enhancement and professional achievement will also be presented at the program.

“This year we also want to celebrate McNairy County’s 30th consecutive year as a three star community,” Moore said. “We’re the only community in Tennessee to accomplish that.”

Immediately following the banquet will be a gala organized by the 2010 MRA Leadership McNairy class.

The banquet and gala are both open to the public. The banquet will begin at 6 p.m. and the gala at 8 p.m. on Jan. 22 at the Pickwick Landing State Park Inn, 120 Playground Loop in Pickwick Dam, Tenn. Tickets cost \$30 per person. To purchase a ticket, call the McNairy Regional Alliance at 731.645.7476.

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About McNairy Regional Alliance:

Formerly known as the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce and the McNairy County Economic Development Commission, we are now the McNairy Regional Alliance. After much discussion it was decided to make this change to unite the two organizations to better serve the community and region. Because of the merging of the two organizations, the MRA believes that it can speed up the process of change and better reach out to surrounding communities in order to regionalize efforts for industry recruitment and retention. The MRA believes that by regionalizing with other communities and counties, McNairy County will become stronger and more attractive to prospective industries.

About Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce:

The Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1905 – seven years prior to the United States Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber consists of a diverse and talented staff, an executive committee, dedicated volunteers, and more than 1,350 business members – all committed to growing the economy and quality of life for everyone in Madison County and the region. Governed by a board of directors, The Chamber is a nonprofit that concentrates its efforts on economic development, which consists of marketing the area to potential employers, developing and enhancing minority and new business partnerships, workforce development, job creation, and the overall promotion of Jackson-Madison County as a great place to work, live, play and do business.

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