

SEPTEMBER 2, 2014



Eat Well, Live Well.
AJINOMOTO



Ajinomoto Group Sponsors 46th Annual Midwest U.S - Japan Association Conference

Eddyville, IA (September 2, 2014) - Since 1967, business leaders from the Midwest United States and Japan have met on an annual basis to discuss the growth and progress of economic relations between the two regions. Throughout the years, the two organizations – The Midwest U.S.-Japan Association and the Japan-Midwest U.S. Association – have worked together to grow bilateral trade and investment between the United States and Japan. Ajinomoto Group is proud to help continue that tradition as a gold sponsor for the 46th Annual Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference in Des Moines, IA. The 46th Annual Midwest U.S.-Japan Association conference will be held September 7-9 at the Des Moines Marriott in downtown Des Moines.

The 46th Annual Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference, “Building a Robust and Sustainable Future,” will include a cultural sightseeing program, business exhibits and discussions on such business topics as innovation, renewable technology and contributing to a healthy economic future. In addition, the conference provides opportunities for networking and dialogue among the hundreds of business and government attendees from the United States and Japan.

Ajinomoto Group has had a presence in the Midwest United States since 1986. The Group’s two companies in Iowa - **Ajinomoto North America, Inc.** and **Ajinomoto Heartland, Inc.** - have undertaken multiple expansions to their manufacturing facilities, allowing them to grow and keep up with the demand of U.S. and global customers. From its first 62 employees in 1986, Ajinomoto Group has expanded in the Midwest and now provides jobs for more than 250 residents and purchases 20 million bushels of local corn each year. In addition to its Iowa manufacturing plants, Ajinomoto Group companies maintain sales and R&D facilities in Chicago and Itasca, Illinois. In other regions of the United States, Ajinomoto Group companies operate manufacturing and office locations in California, New Jersey, North Carolina and Oregon and employ more than 1,000 personnel.

About the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association:

The Midwest U.S.-Japan Association is comprised of nine member States including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin. Membership in the Association is supported by State governments, usually represented by their Departments of Commerce or Economic Development. The governments of these States cooperate within the Association to increase understanding throughout the Midwest business community of Japan's markets and resources, to showcase the Midwest as America's most dynamic business environment, and to develop knowledge in Japan of direct foreign investment opportunities in Midwest communities and the export potential of Midwest companies.

About Ajinomoto Co:

Ajinomoto Co. is a global manufacturer of high-quality seasonings, processed foods, beverages, amino acids, pharmaceuticals and specialty chemicals. For many decades Ajinomoto Co. has contributed to food culture and human health through wide-ranging application of amino acid technologies. Today, the company is becoming increasingly involved with solutions for improved food resources, human health and global sustainability. Founded in 1909 and now operating in 26 countries and regions, Ajinomoto Co. had net sales of JPY 991.3 billion (USD 11.0 billion) in fiscal 2013. For more about Ajinomoto Co. (TYO: 2802), visit www.ajinomoto.com.

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