

## TOHOKU UPDATE: First-Hand Insights & Dialogue from Our Tohoku Friends and Sake Samurai

### TASTE OF TOHOKU: Sample Exquisite Sake Paired with Delectable Food



**Free Admission**  
Limited Seating Available  
(Must be 21 yrs. old or over  
for Sake tasting)

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018**

5:30-8:00 PM

5:30 PM Registration

6:00 PM Presentations

7:15 PM Reception Featuring Tohoku Sake

**Venue:**

**Red Brick Occasions**

118 E Main St.

Columbus, OH 46215

**Reservations:** <https://tohokuupdatecolumbus2018.eventbrite.com> or call JASCO at (614) 300-3054

#### About the Program: Welcoming Our Miyagi Prefecture Delegation

Since March 15, 2012, we at the Chicago office of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO Chicago) have faithfully co-organized an annual program on the pace of recovery and the challenges that the Tohoku region faced since The Great East Japan Earthquake. In 2018, we are honored to be working with the Japan America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) to organize together, TOHOKU UPDATE which will feature authentic voices from Tohoku, the northeast region of Japan.

These voices are from people who are contributing to the recovery; who can explain to us what their experiences have been and what their future expectations are for their region. For us in the Midwest, it's one way to keep in touch, to keep pace and importantly to keep strong our bond of friendship with Japan. This will be our first TOHOKU UPDATE with JASCO and it will faithfully benchmark programs by presenting first-hand insights to the work that is being done to build a positive future in the region. Please welcome and interact with our distinguished speakers.

#### Speakers:



##### **Yoshiyuki Takasago**

Yoshiyuki Takasago is the Director-General for International Affairs, Business and Tourism Commerce, Industry and Tourism Department for the Miyagi Prefecture government. He will share with us his insights on the recovery and speak on the many business opportunities available in Miyagi Prefecture.



##### **Yasushi Kotouno**

Yasushi Kotouno is the Executive Officer of Suenaga Kaisan Company Ltd., a family owned seafood company in Miyagi, Japan. Since The Great East Japan Earthquake, he has devoted his time and effort to rebuilding Suenaga Kaisan and the seafood industry in Miyagi. Mr. Kotouno founded a group alliance of six seafood companies to jointly export their seafood products globally.



##### **John Gauntner**

John Gauntner is recognized as the world's leading non-Japanese sake expert, known as the "Sake Samurai". A resident of Japan since 1988, he both speaks and reads Japanese fluently, and is well known in the sake industry as the window to making sake understandable and popular outside of Japan. He will share with us his experience with Fukushima sake breweries and the people of Fukushima.

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