Governor Jesse Ventura
Minnesota International Center’s “Year of Japan”
Reception Honoring Japanese Dignitaries
June 8, 2001

- Ko-neechy-wah (hello).

- My connection to Japan goes way back . . . .

- Minnesota’s connection to Japan also goes way back: 100 years ago railroad baron James J. Hill established a shipping company with a destination in Japan.

- Now Japan is Minnesota’s #2 Trading Partner – with nearly $900 Million in exports last year.

- That’s why I went to Japan as my first trade mission as Governor in 1999. It was an unforgettable experience . . . .

- Japanese are the number one tourists to Minnesota – with about 60-thousand every year. Why not? Thanks to Northwest Airlines, Mall of America, golf courses, etc . . .

- Airy-gotto (Thank you).

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