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HOTELBLOX MANAGING PARTNER WELCOMES JAPAN REGIONAL BANKING ASSOCIATION TO CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Chicago, IL: HotelBlox, LLC Managing Partner, Lephate Cunningham, Jr. and his wife Karen C. Cunningham recently hosted members of the Regional Banks Association of Japan at their Chicago suburban home. The delegation of fifteen executives representing the association's sixty-four, member regional banking institutions, was visiting Chicago as part of a four-city, business development mission to the United States. Other cities included in the itinerary were Washington D.C., New York and San Francisco.

Each year the Regional Banks Association of Japan sends a delegation overseas on a study mission to gain exposure to community banks and insights on how Japanese corporations with operations in the U.S. succeed at doing business here. This year for the first time, the association requested to spend time in a local community and home. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham accepted an invitation from the Oak Park Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau and Japan headquartered, Nippon Express Travel to welcome the delegation to Chicago.

The group, escorted by Nippon Express staff and a local Japanese interpreter, dined on Italian cuisine from Oak Park's LaBella's restaurant, interacted with other invited guests and were each given Frank Lloyd Wright design, stainless steel, business card holders. Individuals attending

the reception included P.N. Mohan, Chairman Grand Nirvana Holiday Resorts Pvt. Ltd., Chennai India, Michele Dirks, Oak Park Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau, and executives from various organizations including Morgan Stanley, Bank of America, Accenture, Irwin Union Bank, Concourse Communications, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and HotelBlox.

About HotelBlox LLC: Chicago based HotelBlox is changing the way buyers of bulk hotel rooms purchase and facilitate inventory. Organizations in various industries actively seek to acquire volume lodging levels to support their core objectives. HotelBlox offers these organizations proprietary cost-and-time saving, bulk procurement services allowing them to focus on what they do best. HotelBlox is not a procurement only company, but supports its clients and supplier partners with turn-key, online fulfillment tools and expert program management in the United States and Internationally. For more information on HotelBlox visit www.hotelblox.com.

About Regional Banks Association of Japan: The Regional Banks Association of Japan engages in activities that address various management issues common to all the regional banks, with the aim of fostering their sound development and thus contributing to the prosperity of regional economies. As the regional banks are expected to play a greater role to activate regional economies, the association intends to perform and improve the following functions: (1) providing information and assisting to establish their business strategies; (2) acting as the representative and the window of the industry; (3) promoting cooperative operations and development; (4) acting as a forum for the exchange of information among regional banks; (5) carrying out surveys and conducting research; and (6) providing educational services. For more information on the Regional Banks Association of Japan visit www.chiginkyo.or.jp.

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