

Japanese Investment in America: The Automotive Story

By Heidi Kohler

Days prior to the Washington Auto Show, trade policy experts and executives came together at the Japan Information and Culture Center to discuss Japanese investment in the United States and the country's larger contribution to the U.S. economy.

President Trump's "America First" policy has cast a harsh light on the merits of international trade, with the administration pulling out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and renegotiating NAFTA, and the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement. America's trade relations with nations such as China and Mexico have been a particular irritant to Trump. Another sticking point is the gap in automotive sales with Asian countries such as South Korea and Japan, which report far more of their cars to American consumers than they import from the U.S.

But the Feb. 27 event sought to highlight one of the more beneficial aspects in the U.S.-Japan trade relationship: Japanese automobile companies that invest in America.



Rich Yefevichyke installs an instrument panel into a Honda Accord shortly after the 10 millionth product was manufactured at Honda's auto plant in Marysville, Ohio. More than 8.5 million Accords have been produced over a period of 28 years at the Marysville plant, where nearly all Accords sold in America are produced. www.honda.com