



Trump taps Tennessee businessman Hagerty as next ambassador to Japan

(tap 人の肩等を軽くたたく、～を選ぶ)

1. WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump will nominate Tennessee businessman William Hagerty, a key member of his transition team, as next U.S. ambassador to Japan, the White House said Thursday.
2. Hagerty, 57, who as director of presidential appointments helped select Cabinet members and other administration personnel, is expected to assume the diplomatic post following Senate approval. He will succeed Caroline Kennedy, who left Tokyo in January. (assume 任務等を引き受ける)
3. Hagerty will handle a host of bilateral issues ranging from the Trump administration’s calls to further open Japan’s automobile and agriculture markets to the stalled relocation of a U.S. military base in Okinawa Prefecture. (a host of: 多くの、stalled: 行き詰まった)
4. Trump has pledged to strengthen the security alliance with Japan, saying it is “the cornerstone of peace and stability in the Pacific region.” (cornerstone: 土台、礎石)
5. “It is important that both Japan and the United States continue to invest very heavily in the alliance to build up our defense,” Trump said at a joint news conference with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe after their White House meeting last month.
6. Trump added the bilateral alliance will be “impenetrable.” (impenetrable: 突き通せない、頑強な)
7. Hagerty is the co-founder of Hagerty Peterson and Co., a private equity firm based in suburban Chicago. He began his career with the Boston Consulting Group in 1984 and spent three years in Japan managing the firm’s business with Western clients throughout Japan and Asia. (private equity firm: 《金融》未公開株式投資会社)
8. In its announcement of Trump’s selection, the White House said Hagerty had served as chief executive and on the board of directors of companies with “extensive operations in Asia and Europe.”
9. He has also built ties with Japan through his work as commissioner of economic development for Tennessee from 2011 to 2015. (commissioner: 理事、委員)
10. “During his tenure, Tennessee was the top state for jobs and economic growth from 2013 to 2015 and led the nation in foreign direct investment, 60 percent of which came from Japan,” according to the White House. (tenure: 任期)
11. In his capacity, Hagerty assisted operations in his home state by Japanese companies such as Nissan Motor Co. and Bridgestone Corp.
12. Hagerty is said to have close ties with the Republican establishment, partly because he worked for the 2012 presidential campaign of Republican nominee Mitt Romney.
13. He also served under the administration of President George H.W. Bush.
14. In Tokyo, the Japanese government welcomed the choice of Hagerty, citing his close ties with Trump and experience living in Japan.
15. “We look forward to Mr. Hagerty arriving in Japan after his confirmation and working on further strengthening the Japan-U.S. alliance,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, the government’s top spokesman, told a news conference. 【Kyodo, AP | 2017-05-24】

★Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What is the role of an ambassador to the country he or she is assigned to?
2. What qualities are important to be a good ambassador?
3. What can you say about the relationship between Japan and the US today?
4. Do you think the fact that Mr. Hagerty came from the business industry be beneficial to Japan?
5. Make sentences using the following words: tap, a host of, stalled, assume, impenetrable and tenure