UNMC's Mamdani attends opening of Nebraska Center in Japan
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*UNMC Today*-UNMC's Nizar Mamdani was part of a 28-member delegation that joined Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy on a trip to Japan last week to celebrate the opening of the Nebraska Center, the state's first trade office in a foreign country.

Mamdani, the executive director of the UNMC Office of International Healthcare Services, served as a representative for the medical center, which is one of the key sponsoring partners of the Nebraska Center.

He joined delegates from the state's agriculture, business and educational communities as they discussed with Japanese officials ways in which Nebraska's services and resources could benefit the island nation.

"This trip has been a valuable experience and this office will offer the university a multitude of opportunities," Mamdani said.

UNMC has pledged to give up to $20,000 to the Nebraska Center -- about a quarter of the funding needed to support the new operation.

Mamdani, Sheehy and the other delegates joined more than 200 Japanese business and government leaders at a Friday reception to commemorate the center's opening.

The reception capped a five-day trade trip to Japan, which is home to the world's second-largest economy and is the state's top overseas trading partner.

"This office is an important step in our global strategy to market Nebraska to the next generation of entrepreneurs," Gov. Dave Heineman said from Lincoln.