

November 1, 2010

Alberta strengthens economic and cultural ties in Asia

Minister Evans to further Korea and Japan relations

Edmonton... International and Intergovernmental Relations Minister Iris Evans will promote Alberta's economic, intergovernmental and cultural relationships in key Asian markets November 4-15.

"Korea and Japan are strong trading partners with Alberta, and Asian investment has helped drive Alberta's oil sands development," said Minister Evans. "This mission is an important opportunity to provide government and industry with an update on Alberta's clean energy story."

While in Korea, Minister Evans will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, a move that will further encourage economic cooperation in the energy sector.

Other highlights of the mission include meetings with top ranking government officials in both Korea and Japan's foreign affairs and trade ministries. Minister Evans will also participate in the Hokkaido Regional Leaders Forum in Japan, and meet with the Canadian Ambassadors to both Korea and Japan. Speaking engagements include a guest lecture at Meiji University in Tokyo and a presentation to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Korea.

This mission builds on the work of earlier New West Partnership (NWP) missions by Premier Ed Stelmach, as well as agriculture ministers, who promoted trade and commerce opportunities between Western Canada and Asia. Minister Evans will continue to emphasize the importance of the NWP and hold follow-up meetings with Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Minister Evans will also take part in two special anniversaries while in Japan. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Alberta-Hokkaido twinning relationship and the 40th anniversary of the Alberta-Japan office.

The total estimated cost of Minister Evans' mission is \$21,500.

The Government of Alberta has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery. *The Way Forward* will bring Alberta back into a surplus position in three years by trimming government spending; using cash reserves to protect key programs; continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that our province's industries are competitive and continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity.

Backgrounder: Minister Evans' itinerary

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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Minister Evans' general itinerary *

November 4 and 5	Travel to Seoul, South Korea
November 6 and 7	Private program
November 8	Meetings with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Canadian Ambassador to Korea Ted Lipman ● Alberta Korea Office ● Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade ● Ministry of Knowledge Economy Speaking engagement with Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Korea
November 9	Meeting with Gangwon Governor Lee Kwang-jae Travel to Chuncheon Luncheon hosted by Province of Gangwon Tour of Chuncheon National Museum Travel back to Seoul
November 10	Travel to Sapporo, Japan Meeting with Hokkaido Governor Harumi Takahashi
November 11	Meeting with Hokkaido Beekeepers' Association Bilateral meeting between Alberta and Heilongjiang Trilateral meeting between Alberta, Hokkaido and Heilongjiang 30th Anniversary Luncheon hosted by Hokkaido Governor Takahashi Regional Leaders Forum Travel to Tokyo
November 12	Meetings with private industry Speaking engagement at Beekeepers Honey Seminar Alberta Japan Office event to celebrate 40th Anniversary of the office Speaking engagement at Meiji University Meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs
November 13 and 14	Private program
November 15	Tour of Alberta Japan Office Meeting with Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Meeting with energy industry representatives Travel back to Edmonton

* Note: Itinerary subject to change.

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