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Governor Lemanu's Fact Finding Mission to South Korea

"I believe Jeju Province to be the global standard in being environmentally conscious while still supporting responsible commercial development."



Pictured above: Governor Oh Young Hoon, Jeju Special-Self Governing Province, and Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga, American Samoa.

Governor Lemanu's Fact Finding Mission to South Korea, specifically to Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, a small island government of South Korea, was an effort to learn more about the critical infrastructural development of Jeju Island with respect to sustainability and adaptation. Jeju is a world leading small island nation in the areas of renewable energy, electrical vehicles,

and information technology. Jeju is well known for its tourism, service, construction and infrastructure industries.

“I believe Jeju Province to be the global standard in being environmentally conscious while still supporting responsible commercial development,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “I hope to apply the successes of Jeju Province to not only the people and environment of American Samoa, but to other neighboring Asia and Pacific Island Countries.”

This fact-finding mission is a follow-up meeting as a result of meetings Governor Lemanu had during the US Department of Commerce SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington DC a few months ago. Other state governors have also returned from South Korea on their fact-finding missions to attract business and investments to their states.

American Samoa is also in a position to delve more into public private partnership opportunities to attract more business opportunities on island with the overall goal to create more jobs and improve the quality of life across the territory.

On Monday, September 26th, the American Samoa Delegation arrived in Incheon, Seoul, South Korea at 5:00 pm (KST).

Tuesday, September 27th, an Orientation was held at the Korea Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) in Seoul, following a series of meetings and presentations on Solar Energy, Electric Car Infrastructure, and Response to Global Warming.

The delegation then visited the Korean War Memorial Museum where Governor Lemanu signed the Korean War Guestbook. “To witness names of the fallen Toa o Samoa as a result of the Korean War-bloodshed and devastation, is unfathomable. We honor the brave soldiers who answered the call to aid South Korea in their time of crisis, and to protect the peace and security in the Pacific,” stated Governor Lemanu. He continued, “Although our debt to them can never be fully repaid, their ultimate sacrifice has ensured our freedom for generations to come.”

Wednesday, September 28th, 2022, began with a visit to the Water and Sewage Treatment Facility at the Korea Engineering Main Office (Seoul) and the Lotte Tower, known as the 5th tallest building in the world. Afterwards, the Delegation attended a meeting and luncheon hosted by the Honorary Chairman of Dongwon Industries (parent company of Starkist Co.) Kim Jae-Chul and executives. Also in attendance was the Starkist Samoa General Manager Injoo Ha.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited another Sewage Treatment Facility/Desalination Facility at the Taeyoung Construction Main Office. Later that evening, they departed from Gimpo International Airport in Seoul to Jeju Special Self-Governing Province.

On Thursday, September 29th, Governor Lemanu met with Honorary Oh Young Hoon, Governor of Jeju at the Jeju Provincial Office, where the two exchanged diplomatic gifts. Afterwards, Deputy Governor Ko Young-kwon hosted a luncheon for the delegation. In the

afternoon, the delegation visited the Environmental Resources Recirculation Center, and the Dodu Sewage Treatment Plant.

On Friday, September 30th, Governor Lemanu and his delegation met with Honorable Chairman Kim Kyung Hak of the Jeju Special Self-Governing Council. Soon after, Governor Lemanu and American Samoa delegation visited the World Cup stadium Convergence Charging Station. In the afternoon the American Samoa delegation visited the Carbon Free Island (CFI) Future Hall of Energy, and the Uhsongaeng Water Purification Plant.

On Saturday, September 31st, Governor Lemanu and his delegation traveled from Jeju to Gimpo to Pyeongtaek, where they had a special luncheon with the sons and daughters of Samoa stationed at Camp Humphrey. "This trip has afforded us the opportunity to meet with fellow soldiers from Samoa. We thank you for your continued service to keep America safe, but most especially your Island home." As a retired soldier, Governor Lemanu reflected on the difficulties and struggles of being away from Samoa and especially family. In the afternoon, the delegation traveled to Incheon and went on the Incheon Songado International City Tour before departure.

Accompanying Governor Lemanu was Chief of Staff Loa T. Laupola, ASPA CEO Wallon Young Fong, Department of Public Works Director Faleosina Voigt, Department of Commerce Director Petti Matila, Territorial Energy Office Director Misipati Salanoa, and Governor's Office-Hawaii Director Tuiafono V. Sua Jr.

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