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Korean Delegation of Executives Visit American Samoa

"We want to build a relationship and see how American Samoa can follow your footsteps into an advancing future. I thank you for accepting my invitation and taking the step forward in coming to American Samoa"



A fifteen-member delegation of executives visited the Territory from November 28th to December 1st, 2022 to look into investment opportunities here in American Samoa. The delegation was led by Mr. Daniel Myung, Chief Executive Officer of Norwegian Energy Solutions and Services (NESS) Inc., and their team consisted of the following executives:

CEO Peter Kim of Eastern Contractors Corporation (US)
CEO Kay (Amazing) Kang of Eastern Korea (Korea)
Director Brian Hwang of Eastern Power (US)
Senior Executive Accountant of Eastern Power (US)
CEO Sung Kyung Cho of Juvis (Korea)
Executive Assistant Myung Hee Bang of Juvis (Korea)
Executive Vice President Walter Cuculic
CEO Craig Jesen of Linear Pay (US)
CEO Jae Ik Shin of Sustainable Field Inc. (Korea)
Dr. James Kim of Advanced Diagnostic Radiology, LLC (US)
Jean Kim, Developer at the Bristow Manor Golf Club (US)
President Larry An of DAN Solutions (US)
CEO Yo Gung Yoon of ACFM EnC (Korea)
Vice President Sang Hyun Kim of ACFM EnC (Korea)

The delegation's itinerary began with a brief trip to the Manu'a Islands early Tuesday morning, November 29th. "Manu'a has so much potential and it is like a hidden gem in the Pacific. It is a great tourism site," stated Mr. Adam Kim, Eastern Contractors Corporation. The group had lunch at the Fitiuta Lodge and returned to Tutuila for a special meeting with Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga and selected members of the Cabinet..

The meeting took place at the Port Administration conference room in Tafuna. Director Petti Matila of the Department of Commerce introduced potential investment opportunities in four main areas: *Healthcare, Sustainability, Technology, and Tourism*. "American Samoa is the gateway to the US Market in the Pacific Region," stated Director Matila. She also presented on Tourism projects for infrastructure improvements that are currently ongoing such as: Anu'u Wharf, Ofu airport runway and wharf terminal shelter, Pago Pago airport and seaport upgrades, pedestrian boardwalk, sports complex, scenic boardwalks and lookouts, roads, bridges, and more.

CEO Moefaau W. Emmsley of the LBJ Tropical Medical Center illustrated the long term goals of the local hospital to increase different types of medical/clinical services, enhance infrastructure with multi-story building, and to form external partnerships. "There is a dire need for LBJ to be engaged in the advancement of medical technology and infrastructure. The bottom line is, LBJ is under-resourced and we need investments," expressed CEO Emmsley.

Executive Director Wallon Young from the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) exhibited different projects currently underway for the territory: Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Farm, Wind Farm, Water to Energy Gasification Plant, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Electric Grid Upgrades, and Water & Sewer Projects to name a few. "ASPA welcomes the Eastern Corporation as design consultants and prime contractors to help build its projects," remarked Director Young.

Other presenters included CEO Chuck Leota of ASTCA, Director Motusa Nua and Dr. Elizabeth Lauvao of the Department of Public Health, and Assistant Attorney General Lynne Blankenbeker from the Department of Legal Affairs.

On Wednesday morning, November 30th, a traditional ava ceremony was held at the Su'igaula a le Atuvasa Park in Utulei. Soon after, Governor Lemanu led the delegation on a tour to the Auasi wharf, by use of the local aiga buses. The tour continued on to the Aunu Island, where privately owned alias sailed the group around the island prior to docking at the Aunu'u wharf. A few members of the delegation continued inland to see the significant landmarks.

The delegation visited sites such as Lions Park, Department of Health Tafuna Family Health Center, and the ASTCA/Hawaiki landing station at the Ili'ili Golf Course. At the landing station, ASTCA introduced an investment opportunity to deploy a submarine cable between American Samoa and Apia, Samoa, to sell large wholesale capacity to other islands across the Pacific, establishing long-term contracts with other governments and phone companies across Polynesia.

Later in the evening, Governor Lemanu and First Lady Ella hosted a dinner at the Mauga o Alii. The delegates enjoyed a night of live entertainment, good music, and presentation of gifts. Among the VIP were teams from the Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System (VAPIHCS) who were on island for a Community Call event, StarKist Samoa executives, and selected members of the Cabinet. Appreciation gifts were presented to the delegation of investors and the VA medical teams.

"I wish to give special recognition to Mr. Daniel Myung, Mr. Peter Kim, and Mr. Amazing Kay Kang for assisting us in our trip to Korea this past October," he remarked. "Visiting Korea was an eye-opener for our group: their eventful history, the Korean War, where you were versus where you are now in the world. We want to build a relationship and see how American Samoa can follow your footsteps into an advancing future. I thank you for accepting my invitation and taking the step forward in coming to American Samoa," he continued. He also made special commendations to the VA medical teams for their services.

On December 1st, the delegation set off on an excursion to the western villages of Leone, Malaeloa, Aoloau and Aasu, and ended with a site visit to the Vaitogi village development and observation deck. Local villagers sang the ritual song to summon the appearance of the Turtle and Shark as the delegation peered over the waters where a sea turtle emerged numerous times. Shortly after, the group visited the golf course and enjoyed an outdoor luncheon.

Prior to their departure on the Hawaiian Air that evening, the group expressed their gratitude to Governor Lemanu and Chief of Staff Loa, for the hospitality and opportunity to see American Samoa.















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