



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE  
No. 100-2019

### CONSULATE PITCHES THE PHILIPPINES IN ECONOMIC AND TRADE VISIT TO SOUTH DAKOTA



*Consul Ryan Gener (standing) talks about the Philippines' economic growth and attractiveness as trade partner and investment destination before government officials, business executives and academic officers at the Leadership Meeting in South Dakota on 24 September 2019. (Photo courtesy of CITCA)*

1 October 2019 – The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago, through Consul Ryan Gener, participated in the Consulates General and Trade Commissioners' Visit to South Dakota on 23-25 September 2019.

Organized by the Chicago International Trade Commissioners' Association (CITCA) Organized by the Chicago International Trade Commissioners' Association (CITCA, where Post is a Board Member) in cooperation with the South Dakota International Trade Center, the delegation was composed of Chicago-based delegates from Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Spain, Belgium (Wallonia), Hong Kong China, and Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

On 23 September, Executive Director Joni Johnson of South Dakota Biotech hosted a welcome briefing for delegates, local officials and business executives. On 24 September, delegates participated in a Leadership Meeting with top local officials, business executives and heads of academic institutions in South Dakota. Among the participants were Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken, Brookings Mayor Keith Corbett, and South Dakota State University President Barry H. Dunn. Also on 24 September, Mr. Jerry Schmitz of the South Dakota Soybean Association hosted a social briefing for delegates and other guests. A networking mixer was also held on 24 September that was attended by State Representative Michael P. Saba (District 9) and various firms.

On 23-24 September, the delegation also toured the facilities of Poet, Sanford Health, SAB Biotherapeutics, Avera E-Care, Prairie AquaTech, South Dakota State University, Daktronics, and Raven Industries.

Consul Gener shared the good news about the Philippine economy. He noted that the Philippines has had 20 consecutive years of growth and according to the International Monetary Fund will be the fastest growing economy in Southeast Asia in the next five years. He also shared that the Philippines is undertaking a massive \$170-billion "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure program. **END**





*Consul Gener (second from right) poses with Mr. Matt Lefers, Daktronics Senior Project Manager for the Asia Pacific Region (left), Mr. Eric Siemers, Business Development Representative of the Governor's Office of Economic Development (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), and other members of the trade delegation to South Dakota. Daktronics is putting up electronic scoreboards for the 2019 Southeast Asian Games in Clark, Philippines (picture courtesy of CITCA).*