



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL LAUDS SUCCESSFUL IOWA TRADE MISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES



The Iowa trade delegation led by Mr. Mark Fischer (left) and Mr. Joseph Rude (right, second row).

Chicago, 25 March 2019 – The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago lauded the US business delegation from the State of Iowa that successfully conducted a trade mission to the Philippines on 20-23 March 2019.

The mission was organized by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IED) and led by Mr. Joseph A. Rude, International Marketing Manager for Asia/Pacific Trade Promotion Programs and Mr. Mark Fischer, International Marketing Manager for Agricultural Trade Promotion Programs. The group was composed of officials representing agriculture trade groups and business leaders.

The Philippines was chosen for the mission as a growing market for American goods and services, with a population of 105 million and an economic growth rate of more than 6 percent per year. It is seen as an attractive source and market for quality products, innovative technologies and new business opportunities.

Upon the delegation's return to Iowa, Mr. Rudd noted that participating Iowa businesses "were successful in developing new trade relations during the visit." He expressed appreciation for the Consulate General's assistance, including port courtesies arranged in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs – Office of Protocol and the Manila International Airport Authority. He added that the visit was "productive and fun". "The Filipino people are so friendly and we met some amazing companies during the trip," Mr. Rudd observed.

The Philippines and Iowa have dynamic commercial deals and cooperation in agriculture-related products and technology. On 17-19 October 2018, Consul General Jamoralin travelled to Des Moines, Iowa, where she met with U.S. Undersecretary for Agriculture Mr. Ted McKinney and Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Michael Naig to discuss how to further enhance economic cooperation in the field of agriculture, including promotion of two-way trade and how the Philippines could benefit from investments in food and agricultural processing technologies. On 14 March 2018, Mr. Rude called on the Consul General to discuss specific areas of commercial interests and interaction between the Philippines and Iowa. In 2012, an Agriculture Production and Trading Team from the Philippines visited Iowa to learn about U.S. agriculture.

According to data culled from the U.S. Census Bureau, total trade between the Philippines and Iowa significantly increased by 32 percent in 2018 compared to 2017.

Philippines exports a variety of products to Iowa, led by machinery components, integrated circuits, lamps and lighting, liquid-dispersing equipment, and aluminum structures. Other Philippine exports include: tableware, bathroom and other plastics; overcoats, suits, sweaters and vests; iron and steel tubes, pipe fittings, and screws, bolts and nuts; ball or roller bearings and parts; air conditioning, refrigeration compressors and pumps; machines for making hot drinks, cooking and heating; machinery plant and lab equipment; automotive transmission parts; automatic data processing machines; TV and radio parts; optic fibers; clocks; production counters; electronic and transmission apparatus for telephones and radios.

The Philippines is Iowa's 33rd largest export destination for its agricultural products led by pork, animal feed ingredients, animal vaccines, beef, and distillers dried grains with solubles. Other Iowa exports include dairy products, oil seeds, sugars, vegetables and fruits, mineral fuels and oils, pharmaceutical products, starch, chemical products, books and newsprint, metal tools and cutlery, electric machinery, optic, photo, medical and surgical instruments. **END**

