



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE NO. 46-2018

PHILIPPINE CONSUL GENERAL TOURS THE SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS REGION

The Southwest Illinois Trade and Investment Council (SWITIC) in cooperation with the Chicago International Trade Commissioners Association (CITCA) organized a two-day tour on May 15-16, 2018 of the Southwest Illinois region to showcase economic and investment potentials of the region. Consul General Gina Jamoralin together with trade commissioners from other countries, all based in Chicago and members of CITCA toured a university, met mayors of the local counties, visited strategic air and water transportation systems, toured industrial parks and an underground complex.

The group visited the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, named among America's top colleges by Forbes Magazine and ranked among the best regional universities in the Midwest for the 14th consecutive year by the US News & World Report. The group toured Walgreens and World Wide Technology, both located at Gateway Commerce Center in Edwardsville where guests saw advanced robotics systems tied to warehouse/distribution and fulfillment. They also toured America's Central Port and MidAmerica St. Louis Airport whose presence reinforces Southwest Illinois' multi-modal interconnectivity and its proximity to other US states. Participants also toured the Sauget Industrial Park, home to light manufacturing logistics, fabrication and processing firms and the Rock City Business Complex – an underground business park. The itinerary also included a visit to the National Corn to Ethanol Research Center, the only facility in the world at which corn ethanol, cellulosic ethanol, advanced biofuels and specialized chemical research are done simultaneously.

Consul General Jamoralin thanked the local officials and members of SWITIC for organizing the two-day activity which enabled her to learn about the economic potential of the region. She also briefed them of the robust trade relations between the Philippines and the United States. The Philippines is the 11th US largest market for U.S. agricultural exports valued at US\$2.6 billion in 2016 – 2nd largest market for soybean meal (US\$ 589 million); 4th largest market for dairy products (US\$ 345 million); 6th largest market for wheat (US\$ 569 million); and 8th largest market for pork and pork products (US\$116 million).

Consul General Jamoralin also invited Southwest Illinois officials to visit the Philippines to explore business opportunities and enjoy the world famous Filipino hospitality.

To learn more about this tour please visit the following news article link: <http://advantagenews.com/news/business/foreign-trade-representatives-learn-about-region%E2%80%99s-assets/>

END





Consul General Gina Jamoralin (center) with trade representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Italy, Spain and Ukraine and members of the Southwest Illinois Trade and Investment Council (SWITIC) at the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. (Photo credit: SWITIC)



Tour of the National Corn to Ethanol Research Center on the campus of Southern Illinois University.



Consul General Jamoralin with Mr. Joe Koppeis, inside the Rock City business complex. Mr. Koppeis is the developer/owner of the underground industrial complex transformed from an abandoned limestone mine suitable for data storage, refrigerated , cold food, warehousing and distribution and office space.