

Contact: Hannah Greene
Office: 510-272-6768
Cell: 510-220-3866
Email: hannah.greene@acgov.org

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: 510-272-6695
Fax: 510-271-5151

Alameda County
Supervisor Keith Carson, Fifth District

For Immediate Release
Press Release

October 29, 2012

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson Welcomes Consuls General of Japan and Republic of Korea



Photo (left to right): Kish Rajan, Director of GO BIZ, Office of Governor Jerry Brown; Mrs. Midori Inomata; Consul General Hiroshi Inomata; Mayor Jean Quan; Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson; Consul General Jeong Gwan Lee; Mrs. Jongran Park; Alameda County Administrator Susan Muranishi.

Oakland, CA—A group of East Bay officials, business leaders and community organizations welcomed the Consuls General of Japan and Korea at a unique event at the Sequoyah Country Club on Wednesday, October 24, 2012. The first event of its kind in the East Bay, the reception was hosted by Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson's office in conjunction with a host and planning committee that included County Administrator Susan Muranishi, the City of Oakland, the Port of Oakland and representatives from government, business and nonprofit organizations.

The reception, attended by more than 200 people, was designed to formally welcome to the East Bay Consul General Hiroshi Inomata of Japan, Consul General Jeong Gwan Lee of the Republic of Korea, their families and staff. The event highlighted the many economic and cultural connections between Alameda County and Japan and Korea.

“I remember first travelling in Asia back in 1984 when I owned an import-export company,” Supervisor Carson noted in his opening remarks. “Now as Chair of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, for a number of years I have been engaged in international business exchanges with Japan, Korea and other Asian countries. These exchanges are healthy—we are now an international family, which is reflected in the diversity of the residents living and doing business here in the East Bay.”

More than 400 businesses are located in Alameda County and employ more than 10,000 Alameda County residents. There are a number of businesses that are headquartered in Korea and Japan but employ Alameda County residents.

After guests enjoyed tastings from local wineries, Sherry Hu, former KPIX-CBS 5 Reporter, moderated an insightful conversation with the Consuls General. They discussed trade relations between the United States and the two countries; opportunities for partnership around “green” technology; cultural and economic ties between the Bay Area and Korea and Japan; and Asian language study by youth in the Bay Area.

The event was sponsored by more than 20 East Bay corporations, businesses and community based organizations.

###

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson represents the Fifth District, which includes Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, and parts of Oakland (North Oakland, Rockridge, Grand Lake, Fruitvale, and Dimond District neighborhoods). For more information about District 5 and Supervisor Keith Carson, please call (510) 272-6695 or visit <http://www.keithcarson.org/>