

NEWS RELEASE



Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson

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**JOHNSON ANNOUNCES PARTICIPANTS FOR CHINA BUSINESS TRIP
Lt. Governor to lead 13 companies & organizations on business development trip**

COLUMBUS-Lieutenant Governor Bruce Johnson today announced that 13 representatives from companies and organizations throughout Ohio will participate in the Ohio Business Development Trip to China on December 2-10.

“I am looking forward to the traveling with these organizations as we look to establish and strengthen relationships in China,” commented Johnson, who also serves as Director of the Ohio Department of Development. “I am hopeful that this trip will lay the foundations for new business in the State of Ohio.”

Ohio business representatives will participate in business meetings and networking events designed to maximize their opportunities for success in China. While in China the group will travel to Beijing, Wuhan and Shanghai. In China the group will meet with several government and industry leaders to discuss business ties between Ohio and China. Johnson is also expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding while in Wuhan to commemorate the Ohio-Hubei Sister-State relationship, which was first established by then Governor James A. Rhodes in 1979. This is the oldest relationship between any U.S. state and a Chinese province.

The goals for the Ohio Business Development Trip to China are to:

- Promote exports of Ohio goods and services to Chinese buyers
- Promote Chinese investment in Ohio
- Learn more about the opportunities and challenges of doing business in China
- Help Ohio’s companies and research institutions develop collaborative research partnerships
- Highlight and encourage educational and cultural exchange

Ohio’s exports to China have grown from \$292 million in 2000 to \$963 million in 2004. During that time, China moved from Ohio’s 12th largest export market to Ohio’s sixth largest export market.

The Ohio Business Development Trip to China will be the first trip of its kind for Johnson since becoming Lieutenant Governor. Johnson traveled to Europe, Mexico and Japan with Governor Taft as Development Director.

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Editor’s Note: A list of participants is attached.

Ohio Business Development Trip to China

Led by Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson

Participants

December 2 – 10, 2005

Companies and Organizations

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. Ashland, Inc. | Columbus | Franklin |
| 2. CAMP, Inc. | Cleveland | Cuyahoga |
| 3. City of Akron | Akron | Summit |
| 4. Fredon Corporation | Mentor | Lake |
| 5. Ohio Corn Growers Association | Marion | Marion |
| 6. Ohio Soybean Council | Columbus | Franklin |
| 7. Ohio University | Athens | Athens |
| 8. OMERIS | Columbus | Franklin |
| 9. The Procter & Gamble Company | Cincinnati | Hamilton |
| 10. Rexarc International, Inc. | West Alexandria | Preble |
| 11. Stirling Technology, Inc. | Athens | Athens |
| 12. Summit County | Akron | Summit |
| 13. Summitville Tiles, Inc. | Summitville | Columbiana |