



Press Release

Attention Editors

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Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce Establishes Special Committee for Asian Affairs

San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA – Recognizing the unlimited potential that exists to increase business between Asia and Puerto Rico, the president of the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce, Marcos Vidal, has announced today the appointment of Mr. José E. Ledesma, president of Far East – Puerto Rico Trade & Investment Group, as president of the Special Committee for Asian Affairs.

This committee will be in charge of all issues related to international trade (import & export), investment (financial and capital), tourism, academic exchange, joint scientific research and cultural exchange, between Puerto Rico and Asia. The countries and areas that will be initially handled by the Committee are China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, India and Singapore. The Committee will also participate in the process of evaluation for the opening of foreign commercial offices in Asia, and will provide support to reciprocal economic missions between Puerto Rico and Asian countries.

In recent years, trade with Asian countries has represented a significant portion of our foreign trade. Ledesma has recently returned from a 5 month mission to China, where he visited 18 cities, including the principal centers of economic development, tourism, education and research. The visit was undertaken on behalf of Puerto Rico Trade and the Chamber of Commerce, which also provided financial support. During his trip, he held meetings with officials of the central government, municipal officials, administrators of some of the largest ports, educators, and businessmen. He also

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developed direct relationships with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, an organization analogous to the Chamber of Commerce, with the purpose of promoting economic missions between Puerto Rico and China.

“From the beginning the Chamber has supported this mission, and we consider it to be a significant opening in the relations between Puerto Rico and China, exceeding all expectations. Looking ahead, we consider that the Chamber must have a leadership role on behalf of the private sector with respect to future initiatives with Asian countries”, Vidal stated.

At the same time Vidal emphasized that “the Chamber will be looking forward to collaborating with other private and public entities to develop a working strategy that will encourage economic and cultural exchange between Asia and Puerto Rico.”

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