

## **Ohio-Kyongsangbuk-Do Sister-State Relationship**

### **Overview**

The State of Ohio and the Province of Kyongsangbuk-Do (commonly referred to as “KSBD”) have enjoyed a long and mutually-beneficial relationship. A sister-state agreement was signed in 1984. In November 2000, Ohio Governor Taft and KSBD Governor Lee signed a joint resolution to reaffirm this relationship in an official ceremony during Governor Lee’s visit to Ohio.

KSBD is located in the southeastern part of Korea. Its capital is the city of Taegu. KSBD’s economy shares many similarities with Ohio’s, including major automotive and steel industries, emphasis on the development of high-tech, and significant agricultural presence. KSBD is Korea’s largest province in area, and has a major seaport at Pohang. There are 35 colleges and universities in KSBD.

### **Recent Events in the Ohio-KSBD Relationship**

November 2000

Governor Lee, Eui-Geun, led a high-level delegation to Ohio for a two-day visit. In addition to Governor Lee, the delegation consisted of Chairman Ryu (equivalent to the Speaker of the House in Ohio), Director General for Economic Development Kim (equivalent to the Ohio Dept. of Development Director), and Councilor Son (member of the KSBD legislature). The delegation met with Governor Taft for a signing ceremony to officially reaffirm the sister-state relationship, attended a dinner attended by Governor Taft and Ohio business and government officials, visited The Ohio State University, and conducted media interviews.

September 2000

Representatives of the Ohio Arts Council and the Ohio Arts Presenters Network visited KSBD to attend and observe the Kyongju World Culture Expo. The Expo is held in even-numbered years to celebrate culture and the arts in KSBD. This visit was designed to explore possible future exchanges in the arts between Ohio and KSBD. Barry Rosenstock, Managing Director of the Ohio Asian Office in Tokyo, also attended the Expo in 1998.

March 2000

A delegation from KSBD visited Ohio March 23-28, led by Director General for Economic Development Ahn. Lieutenant Governor Maureen O’Connor met with the delegation. A performing arts troupe was part of the delegation, and performed on the steps of the Ohio Statehouse and at the Asian Culture Fair in Columbus.

April 1997

An agricultural delegation from KSBD visited Ohio to explore possible business and technical exchanges.

March 1997

Governor Voinovich visited KSBD on March 5, during the Ohio Business Mission to the Pacific Rim. A joint declaration of cooperation between Ohio and KSBD was signed by Governor Voinovich and Governor Lee.