

# Oregon, Fujian leaders sign friendship link

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FUZHOU, China — Oregon made a pact Tuesday with a Chinese province thousands of miles across the Pacific Ocean to be good friends and help each other's economies.

In a 20-minute ceremony in Fujian's provincial government building, Gov. Vic Atiyeh and Fujian Gov. Hu Ping signed a memorandum to foster commercial relations between the state and province on a preferential basis. The document also called for cultural and educational exchanges in training scientific and technological information.

Atiyeh and Hu smiled, shook hands, then toasted each other with champagne after signing the papers.

"May the flower of friendship be as beautiful as your Douglas fir and as everlasting as our banyan tree," Hu said.

"I hope you will feel we have left some of Oregon in your hearts," Atiyeh told the Chinese governor.

As part of the agreement, members of the Oregon delegation and their Chinese counterparts signed some specific proposals. They covered five areas: forestry, agriculture, trade, electronics and light industry, and education.

Hu said he would accept an invitation from Atiyeh to visit Oregon "with pleasure." He said he had never been to the United States and was looking forward to learning first-hand about Oregon. The date and the size of Hu's mission to Oregon were not decided. Hu also cleared the air on Oregon's intention to sign a similar sister state agreement with Taiwan.

"Mutual understanding has been reached between Governor Atiyeh and me," Hu said. "I don't think the issue will present any obstacle to the development of friendly relations between Oregon and the province of Fujian."

The agreement was made in accordance with the Sino-American communiqués, which led to establishment of formal diplomatic relations with China in 1979. The United States recognizes Peking as the legitimate government of China.

The memorandum was signed in the green-carpeted conference room of the Fujian government building. Afterwards, Atiyeh met with Xiang Nan, first secretary of the Communist Party of Fujian.

Xiang also mentioned Taiwan, but said he thought the island would be reunited with China possibly before control of Hong Kong was fully returned to China in 1997. He also said that he foresaw no difficulty in Oregon's continued trade relationship with the island.

Among specific topics, the Chinese agreed to send a delegation of four officials to Oregon next spring to look at the state's grass seed and cattle industries.

Oregon also will receive 10 educators from Fujian in the spring, and return the visit sometime after that.

Fujian will look at Oregon first for the introduction of new technology at three of its lumber mills, and try to team up with Oregon companies for joint ventures in the production of particle board furniture and a thick kraft paper manufac-