



From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

www.sos.ne.gov

For Release

June 17, 2014

Contact: Laura Strimple

402-471-8408

laura.strimple@nebraska.gov

The names and titles of all the government representatives from Guizhou are included at the end of this release. Please feel free to use the attached photo in your coverage. Pictured left to right: Sec. Gale; Ms. Goude Chen, Vice President of the Guizhou Provincial People's Association for Friendship; Ms. Rui Wang, Interpreter of Guizhou Provincial People's Association for Friendship.

State Officials Honor 10th Anniversary of Nebraska-Guizhou Relationship

LINCOLN – Honoring the 10th anniversary of Nebraska's relationship with Guizhou Province in China, Lt. Governor Lavon Hiedemann and Secretary of State John Gale welcomed the delegation to Nebraska on Tuesday with a variety of events.

Secretary Gale exchanged flags during a ceremony in the morning in which he also addressed government and business leaders from the province. Since June 17, 2004 Nebraska has maintained a sister state-province relationship with Guizhou Province.

Sec. Gale presented a Nebraska flag to the leader of the delegation, Ms. Goude Chen, Vice President of the Guizhou Provincial People's Association for Friendship. She in turn gave a Chinese flag to Sec. Gale. In addition, he made Ms. Chen an honorary citizen of Nebraska, and did the same for the other government representatives from Guizhou.

After the ceremony the delegation viewed pictures of Guizhou Province ethnic and folk culture placed on exhibit in the Capitol.

Lt. Governor Heidemann presided over a luncheon attended by the delegation and Nebraska business leaders, and arranged for business-to-business meetings for the delegation in the afternoon.

The sister state-province relationship is intended to promote cultural and commercial relations. Guizhou Province is a subtropical province in southwest China covering 67,000 square miles and a population of nearly 40 million people. A state-owned hog confinement operation has been a purchaser of hogs from Nebraska.

In the summer of 1997 Governor Nelson visited Guizhou Province and signed a memorandum of friendship. In 2004, Governor Mike Johanns signed the formal sister state-province agreement with the Governor of Guizhou Province. In 2012, Governor Dave Heineman signed a memorandum of friendship with Governor Zhao Zhenyong to work toward a formal sister state-province relationship with Shaanxi Province, China.

The delegation from Guizhou arrived in Nebraska on Monday, June 16 and will leave on Wednesday, June 18.

###

Guizhou Government Representatives

Ms. Chen Guode, Vice President of the Guizhou Provincial People's Association for Friendship

Mr. Rongjun Xiao, Vice Director of Guizhou Agriculture Department

Ms. Xiaohong Luo, Deputy Mayor of Anshun City, Guizhou

Mr. Kai Ma, Secretary of Vice Governor of Guizhou Province

Ms. Rui Wang, Interpreter of Guizhou Provincial People's Association for Friendship