

Taiwan trade office opened to promote Alaskan products

Gov. Steve Cowper announced last week that Alaska later this year will open its first trade office in Taipei, Taiwan to promote the sales of Alaska products to the Far East trading partner.

The office, which will be located at the Taipei World Trade Center where 15 other states and cities have facilities, will be staffed by Li Chen, a Chinese-born trade specialist currently in the Governor's Office of International Trade in Anchorage. The office also will oversee the promotion of Alaska products and services in Hong Kong.

"Taiwan needs energy, timber and seafood all of which we have in abundance. Our new Taiwan office will help Alaskans cut through the red tape and cultural barriers," Cowper said.

Scheduled to open in October, the new office will require no budget increase because office space and utilities are provided by Taiwan.

Taiwan has the second largest trade surplus with the United States and as a result, America is pressuring the country to buy more U.S. goods.

Last year during his Far East trade mission, Cowper signed a sister-state agreement with Taiwan.