

# Press Release

From and Authorized By: Commissioner's Office

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Release Date: 07/19/2010

## Commissioners and International Trade Director Attend Natural Resource Meetings

(Anchorage, AK) - In an effort to further strengthen Alaska's significant trade and investment links to Asia, Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Irwin, Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Larry Hartig, Director of International Trade Cindy Sims, and Director of the Office of Project Management and Permitting Ed Fogels, are hosting an Alaska minerals seminar in Tokyo this week.

The seminar is being held in cooperation with the Japan Oil, Gas & Minerals National Corporation. JOGMEC has encouraged the state to update the minerals business community in Tokyo about the state's resources. The seminar will address land ownership and mine permitting, and provide a review of current successful operating mines and a look ahead to operations likely to come on line in the near future.

"We're pleased to have this opportunity to continue our positive relationship with one of Alaska's most important markets and investors," Commissioner Irwin said. "The long-term nature of natural resource development requires a continued effort to keep world markets aware of Alaska opportunities."

An example of Japan's investment and development in Alaska's mineral industry is Pogo Gold Mine, which represents a 12-year and more than \$350 million commitment by Sumitomo Metal Mining Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation. Gold from the Pogo Gold Mine supplies smelters in the United States.

The commissioners will also attend the Japan International Seafood and Technology Expo, one of the world's largest seafood shows, and meet with Japanese seafood buyers. Japan is Alaska's single largest international seafood market. Alaska's seafood exports to Japan in 2009 - totaling \$538 million -- accounted for one third of the state's seafood exports. The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute has promoted Alaska seafood at the Expo for many years.

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