

News Release

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Environment Director Invited to Speak at International Conference in South Korea

WAYNE COUNTY, MI – Wayne County Environment Director Kurt L. Heise will be speaking in South Korea next week at an international conference on advanced water quality technology. The trip will also build upon Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano's promotion of Michigan businesses in Asia.

In 2007, South Korean officials signed a wide-ranging environmental agreement with Wayne County. "We are leaders in environmental protection," said CEO Ficano. "From Southgate to Seoul, the world is recognizing our success, and is eager to do business with Michigan-based environmental firms who are leading the way."

One company already in Korea is Michigan-based Atwell-Hicks Development Consultants, which recently opened an office in Seoul. "Atwell-Hicks is making great inroads in Asia, and Mr. Ficano's trade missions to China have already earned work for the firm," Heise said. "We hope to build on that success in Korea, generating more jobs for Michigan businesses."

Heise's visit is sponsored by the South Korean government and private funds. He will be the highest-ranking Wayne County official to visit the Asian nation.

"South Korea is very interested in Wayne County's efforts to preserve and protect water quality and control flooding," said Heise. "Korea and Michigan are very similar in terms of water and sewer infrastructure, climate, and other environmental conditions, with many of the same problems and challenges. We can learn a lot from each other."

Mr. Heise can be reached at (313) 224-3631 or (313) 213-5151.

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