



STATE OF IDAHO



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor
Celia R. Gould
Director

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TAIWAN FLOUR MILLERS SIGN \$576 MILLION WHEAT DEAL

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Celia Gould met with representatives of the Taiwan Flour Mills Association and Idaho wheat industry officials today to sign an agreement supporting U.S. wheat exports over the next two years – a deal worth \$576 million.

Taiwan Flour Mills Association (TFMA) Chairman Tony I-T Chen, Director General Vincent C.H. Yao of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle, Idaho Wheat Commission Vice-Chairman Bill Flory joined Governor Otter and Director Gould for the ceremony.

"It gives me great pleasure to accompany the Taiwan Agriculture Goodwill Mission to visit the great State of Idaho again. The United States has long been Taiwan's most important supplier of agricultural products, which makes Taiwan the seventh largest overseas market for U.S. agricultural exports. Among the states, Idaho is one of the most important and reliable partners of Taiwan in terms of agricultural trade," Director General Vincent C.H. Yao said. "Taiwan's consumers benefit a lot from the high-quality agriculture products of Idaho. In the meantime, this mission's visit is another testament of the already very cordial ties between Taiwan and the State of Idaho. The heartfelt hospitality and warm welcome that the government and people of Idaho so kindly extended to the mission is deeply appreciated."

"Export markets are critical to Idaho's economy and to Idaho wheat growers," Governor Otter said. "We welcome the Taiwan Flour Mills Association back to Idaho and greatly appreciate their loyalty as a customer. The consumption of wheat foods in Taiwan has now surpassed rice and we appreciate that the Taiwan milling industry recognizes the quality of Idaho wheat. This visit will foster further sales opportunities for our state."

"Taiwan and Idaho also enjoy a close trade relationship. In 2016, Taiwan was Idaho's third-largest export market; Idaho exported US\$ 637 million to Taiwan in that year," said Mr. Tony I-T Chen, chairman of the TFMA. "Taiwan's consumers have appreciated high-quality Idaho-grown wheat and famous potatoes for decades."

The U.S. wheat industry has had an excellent working relationship with Taiwan for more than 40 years. The Taiwan Flour Millers Association imports wheat on behalf of all 20 Taiwanese flour mills. The United States supplies more than 80 percent of Taiwan's total wheat imports each year. The TFMA continues to be one of Idaho's best customers year after year, coming in as one of the top five wheat importing trade partners.

"The partnership between Taiwan's millers and U.S. wheat producers is enduring and very successful. The importance of maintaining this trade relationship with this valued customer cannot be overstated," said Bill Flory, vice chairman, Idaho Wheat Commission. "The Taiwan Flour Millers trade mission to Idaho this year is both a symbol and expression of that conviction. We value their friendship and continue to commit ourselves to fulfilling the trust that both countries have invested in this relationship."