



(For immediate release)

GOVERNOR, AGENCIES REASSURE KOREAN MEDIA GUAM IS CLEAN, SAFE

(Thursday, March 31, 2011; Tumon, Guam) Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) and eight representatives from major Korean media met with Gov. Eddie B. Calvo and several emergency response agencies today to reassure Guam's No. 2 tourism market the island remains "clean and safe."

Korea, which saw the introduction of Jin Air in April 2010 that has contributed to more than a 60% increase in arrivals over FY2010, has been the cause of most cancellations since the earthquake and tsunami in Japan on March 11, 2011.

Consumer concern for radiation exposure to Guam has resulted in about 25% cancellations of group travel from Korea. Japan has experienced 8.7% cancellations, a rate much lower than initial GVB projections.

"Cancellations from Korea have been the result of misconceptions and misleading information being distributed in the marketplace. Today was about dispelling those rumors so these visiting media can return to Korea and convey the message that Guam is clean, safe, and ready for visitors," said GVB Acting General Manager Pilar Lagaña. "The information that we continue to receive from the Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense and the Guam National Guard, which are together monitoring air quality and all incoming cargo and mail from Japan, is that Guam continues to be free of harmful radiation."

Since March 19, 2011, radiation sensors installed by the Environmental Protection Agency have issued daily reports on Guam's air quality. Levels have remained constant at 0.01, well below the normal limit for radiation of 0.02 (www.epa.gov/japan2011/).

Representatives present at the meeting Thursday included Gov. Eddie B. Calvo; Charles H. Ada, administrator for the Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense; Major General Benny M. Paulino, Adjutant General for Guam National Guard; Lieutenant Colonel Mike Tougher of the Guam National Guard; Ivan Quinata, administrator for Guam Environmental Protection Agency; and Lagaña.

Media representing a total circulation in Korea of about 25 million were represented by publications including Hankook Ilbo, The Seoul Economic Daily, Segye Times, Sports Chosun, Sports Hankuk, City, Nocut News, and Metro.





Visiting media from Korea visited with Gov. Eddie B. Calvo and representatives from the Guam Homeland Security Office of Civil Defense, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Guam National Guard, and Guam Visitors Bureau on Thursday.

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