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## Washington Governor to address business community at International Trade Reception in Renton

Governor Christine Gregoire will share Washington's plans for economic vitality and how the state is rising to the challenge of global competition with business leaders from the greater Puget Sound region at an informal reception on Thursday, March 23, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

"Washington is the most trade dependent state in the nation. Our businesses succeed because we have a reputation for quality - the best software, the best in aerospace and the best produce, just to name a few," said Governor Gregoire. "It is vital to our economy for all Washington business leaders to understand how to be active players in international trade."

Washington's overseas representatives from China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, and Germany will be on hand to help interested businesses become players in the world of international trade. The reception takes place at the Spirit of Washington Event Center, 233 Burnett Avenue South, Renton, and is \$25 per person. The event is part of the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development's (CTED) Trade Week.

Renton Chamber of Commerce President, Bill Taylor, noted, "Renton's involvement in Washington State's Trade Week places us at the forefront of how business will operate in the future and showcases Renton's placement, quite literally, ahead of the curve."

CTED's nine foreign office representatives from China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, and Germany, along with Seattle-based trade specialists, will provide one-on-one consultations with companies seeking new international markets during the day (8:00 am – 4:30 pm) on March 23. Additionally, representatives from the Vancouver 2010 Olympics Task Force and the Export Finance Assistance Center of Washington will also be on hand for one-on-one consultations. Businesses interested in meeting with a representative should contact Chamber President, Bill Taylor, at (425) 226-4560.

Thank you to Event Partners: **Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development** and the **City of Renton**; Corporate Sponsor: **The Boeing Company**; Supporting Sponsors: **Puget Sound Regional Council** and **Foster Pepper, PLLC**.

Free parking is available at the City Centre Parking Garage, adjacent to the Event Center. Register online at [www.GoRenton.com](http://www.GoRenton.com), or call (425) 226-4560.