

JOHN A. GALE

Nebraska Secretary of State

Phone: (402) 471-2554

www.sos.ne.gov

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Contact: Shelley Harrold
(402) 471-1833, shelley.harrold@sos.ne.gov

Secretary Gale to host diplomatic conference

Nebraska will be showcased to diplomatic officials from around the world at the Secretary of State's Diplomatic Conference on Sept. 23-24 in Omaha.

The conference, sponsored by Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale and the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, will highlight innovative aspects of Nebraska and its economy.

Thirty-four diplomatic officials from 27 countries are expected to join Nebraska representatives at the conference at the Embassy Suites, 555 S. 10th St.

"Nebraska is a progressive and dynamic state, doing business with 176 countries. The conference is a wonderful opportunity for diplomatic officials to visit our state, network with key Nebraska representatives and hear about the exciting opportunities occurring in the state," Gale said.

"A priority of the conference is to promote Nebraska exports and encourage foreign investment in our state," he said, noting that foreign commerce pumps billions of dollars annually into the state's economy.

The conference opens with an evening reception on Sept. 23. Events on Sept. 24 include a breakfast and luncheon, morning and afternoon information sessions, and an evening reception at the Henry Doorly Zoo.

Gov. Dave Heineman will speak at the breakfast. Doug Bereuter, president of the Asia Foundation and a former Nebraska congressman, will be the luncheon speaker.

Representatives from the following countries are expected to attend: Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, El Salvador, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, and Uruguay.

The invitation-only conference, which is being financed by private donations, is limited to special guests and members of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

Gale is holding the conference in his role as Nebraska's chief protocol officer for international relations. "This conference is part of my continuing efforts to build

strong ties and friendships between Nebraska and the international community," he said.

This is the third time that Gale has sponsored such a conference in Omaha.

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