

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

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NEWS RELEASE

Cruise Ship Asuka II arrives tomorrow at the Port Authority of Guam

Passenger ship will bring nearly 700 tourists to the island

Piti, Guam, December 29, 2009: The Port Authority of Guam is preparing for the arrival tomorrow of the M.S. Asuka II which will bring 675 tourists to the island.

The M.S. Asuka II is based out of Japan and set sail in Yokohama on December 26th. The vessel is sailing from Japan to Guam and the ship will arrive at 5:30 a.m. tomorrow morning. The vessel leaves later in the evening and will sail to Saipan for New Year's Eve and then will begin the journey back to Japan. The ship is carrying 675 passengers and 461 crew members. Most of the passengers are citizens of Japan while some are citizens of the United States, Germany, South Korea and Brazil. This will be the 1st cruise ship to arrive on Guam for Fiscal Year 2010. Last year's Fiscal year of 2009 saw 11 cruise ships and in Fiscal Year 2008 there were 9 cruise ship arrivals. During FY 2007 there were 7 arrivals and in Fiscal Year 2006 there were five cruise ships that came to the island.

The passengers will be greeted by a Guam Visitors Bureau representative and the *Irensian Taotao Tano* dance group upon arrival. After they get cleared by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents and Guam Customs and Quarantine agents they will depart the ship and spend the day on tours of the island and shopping at various locations.

"The arrival of this cruise ship will be a great boost to our economy and continues to show to the world that Guam is a world-class tourist destination," said Port General Manager Glenn A. Leon Guerrero. "The number of cruise ship arrivals continues to grow and we look forward to continuing our work with GVB to assist in this developing market."

The M.S. Asuka II is being handled by shipping agent Norton Lilly International. Norton Lilly's Regional Director is Bill Thayer and he can be reached at 475-4654 or 488-4654.

Meanwhile, the Port Authority of Guam is already preparing for the February arrival of the cruise ship Queen Mary 2. She is expected to have nearly 3,000 passengers and 1,200 crew. The Queen Mary 2 is the flagship of the Cunard Cruise Lines and is as tall as a 21-story building, more than one hundred feet longer than the Eiffel Tower is tall and more than four city blocks in length. The Queen Mary 2 is scheduled to arrive February 22, 2010.