

2014.07.18 | The U.S. Wants to Support Development in Greenland

- *We have a lot of ideas, but we also need you to tell us what you need, the U.S. Ambassador to Denmark Rufus Gifford says to the Greenlandic society.*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. By Poul Krarup, krarup@sermitsiaq.gl

Come with ideas on how we can cooperate, and where and how American businesses can invest in Greenland. This is the encouragement from the U.S. Ambassador Rufus Gifford, who, since he took office ten months ago, is on his third trip to Greenland and is planning to come again in September.

- The Embassy staff do several trips to Greenland and the activities are growing. This shows, that the U.S. interest in Greenland and the Arctic is growing overall, Rufus Gifford says, and stresses during his visit to Nuuk this week, that the U.S. wants to expand the occupational and economic cooperation, for the benefit of both countries.

- Of course it is in the interest of the U.S. for Greenland to create a sustainable, self-supporting and independent economy. I'm trying to figure out, what we can do to help this development along. Together with Greenland, I'd like to find out how the American private sector can invest more in Greenland. But we can't do it all on our own, we need help for this, he says.

- There are no one in the U.S. who knows what is needed in Greenland, or who knows the circumstances in Greenland. There is no information on the business-sectors opportunities and challenges in Greenland. Therefore, we have to do something to promote this knowledge.

It all starts with education, but it is also important to create a forum, where businesses can meet and exchange experiences and knowledge.

- We welcome the new Greenlandic Representation in Washington D.C., and look forward to cooperating on expanding the economic ties between our two countries, Rufus Gifford says and informs, that the Joint Committee will be meeting in Washington D.C. in October.

- It is the perfect time and place to promote new economic partnerships, he adds.

The Embassy has for the first time created a business-guide, or investment guide on Greenland, for private businesses in the U.S., the Ambassador informs.

Something that is completely normal for the U.S. Embassies around the world to do, but it is the first time that one is produced about Greenland.

The guides figure in a document about Denmark, and is called "Investment Climate Statement" and "Country Commercial Guide" and can be found here:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/229006.pdf>.

What Does the Nalaakkersuisut Say

- But it is important for us to know, if the Greenlandic Government is interested, in the private sector in the U.S. to invest in the country. The Embassy wants to show the private sector, what opportunities there are in Greenland and we want to do that in cooperation with the Greenlandic government. We hereby want to take part in making business delegations on different areas, and create contacts between the private sector in the U.S., the Greenlandic government and the Greenlandic business sector, Rufus Gifford, who had an informal meeting with representants of the Greenlandic business sector this week, says. Amongst other, the fishing industry was present, as well as tourism.

He informs, that this is an offer he has already given to both the Premier of Naalakkersuisut and the Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Jens-Erik Kirkegaard.

- But it's a long process and I can't promise anything on what the Americans will present. But we want to do a good piece of work to promote investments and business relations.

If there are ideas in this country that could help encourage and promote U.S. businesses' interest in Greenland, we are very attentive to this. We need help to create a positive investment climate, he says.

The Ambassador is in Greenland to meet young students who've either gone or are going to study in the U.S., and furthermore young people who in one way or another have ties to the U.S. The meeting happened on Monday in Venskabssalen in Katuaq, and there was a lively dialogue between Rufus Gifford and the youth, on how to create more student-exchange in Greenland and the U.S. Furthermore, he met with the Arctic Commando on Tuesday, to talk about an increased cooperation on the Search and Rescue instrument, and Wednesday he went to Summit Camp on the inland icecap, to talk to scientists.

Picture texts:

1: *Rufus Gifford: Together with Greenland, I'm working on developing the economic and business-related cooperation between our two countries.*

2: *On Monday, the U.S. Ambassador met with Greenlandic students and other youth with ties to the U.S., in Venskabssalen in Katuaq, Nuuk. – It is important for me to know, what they think about the U.S. and the relations to Greenland, Rufus Gifford says. Here he is seen with Nils Skovgaard, Aviaja Lyberth Hauptmann and Daniel Lyberth Hauptmann.*