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"New Zone Gallery is sending letters of people with slides of their work," she said. "Also, there'll be an exhibit of children's art sent from Magnet Arts."

Many of the proposed exchanges are in response to a list Shukuropat gave to Eugene officials last fall, Gessert said. The list consisted of Irkutsk groups interested in exchanges.

Rust said the delegation is "going to lobby hard for a trans-Pacific airline route" between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

"Right now, to get to Irkutsk

we've got to travel three-quarters of the way across the globe," Rust said. "Hopefully we'll be able to arrange it where we can transfer in Beijing to Irkutsk, rather than from New York to Tokyo to Irkutsk."

Rust said he's also going to try to learn as much as possible about the Soviet forest industry.

"My portfolio's mostly from Eugene homebuilders and architects, seeking trade and exchanges," he said. "I'll be bringing seeds from six different conifers from the Elkton nursery, to give them a sense of

our forest land. They have a slower-growing forest than ours, but it's one of the world's largest."

Bascom said Owens will share information with Soviet officials on how a chamber of commerce is run, and Groza will study the Soviet educational system and work on an exchange of high school students.

"Hopefully, by next year, we'll be able to send 10 students to Irkutsk and have ten students come here," Groza said.

Three other sister city groups making travel arrangements

By Greg Hough
Emerald Reporter

In the past year, much attention has been focused on the new and growing sister city attachment between Eugene and Irkutsk, somewhat overshadowing gains made by Eugene's three other sister city groups.

What follows is a brief status report on the sister city agreements between Eugene and Kakegawa, Japan; Kathmandu, Nepal; and Chinju, South Korea.

Kakegawa committee Chairwoman Gretchen Gross said she was hopeful a deal could be finalized by June that will allow a group of Kakegawa investors to purchase farm acreage outside of Eugene. The land, she said, will likely be used for educational and exchange purposes.

Gross, who is negotiating the deal for Jean Tate Real Estate, said she did not want to reveal the "delicate" details of the negotiations, which have been going on for more than a year.

"It's not unusual for real estate investment deals, with or without foreign investors, to take this long," Gross said.

She added the committee

was looking to recruit people for an October trip to Kakegawa during the city's yearly festival.

Chinju committee Vice Chairman Tony Metcalf said a major delegation from Eugene's first sister city (formed in 1961) will arrive here next Monday for a three-day visit.

The eight-man delegation will include Chinju Mayor Beak Moon, as well as prominent businessmen from the city. Mayor Jeff Miller will greet the delegation upon their arrival at Mahlon Sweet Airport.

"The mayor is staying home from the Irkutsk trip because he's had this commitment to greet the Koreans for about a year," Metcalf said.

The visit will also bring the delegation to the University on May 30, he added.

Kathmandu Committee Vice Chairwoman Linda Williamson said she just returned from a visit to Nepal, where she was greeted by Kathmandu city officials.

Williamson said her committee has played a role in exchange agreements bringing students from Nepal to the University. Currently, four students from Kathmandu attend school at the University.

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