

Tucson Citizen

www.tucsoncitizen.com

[JOBS](#) | [AUTOS](#) | [HOMES](#) | [WEATHER](#)

[LOCAL NEWS](#) | [NATIONAL NEWS](#) | [OPINION](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [LIVING](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [IN TUCSON](#) | [PUBLIC RECORDS](#)

SEARCH FOR:

SEE STORIES FROM:

SPONSOR ADVERTISEMENT



Moving up without moving out of your price range.
That's the way it should be.

Tucson Citizen

Newspaper archive powered by



[Archive Search](#) > [Buy](#) > [Print](#)

[» New Search](#) [» Pricing](#) [» Help](#) [» FAQ](#)

[Return to results](#) [Printer Friendly](#)

Account Information

You have purchased 5 articles, and you have 5 remaining before the subscription expires on 12/07/2005 1:39 PM.

FEATURES

- MOVIE TIMES
- MOVIE REVIEWS
- COMICS/SUDOKU
- UA WILDCAT SPORTS
- OUTDOORS
- CALENDAR
- PHOTO GALLERIES
- BORDER NEWS

tucson.com

- CLASSIFIEDS
- AUTOS
- HOMES
- JOBS
- APARTMENTS
- FUNERAL NOTICES

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE



- Subscribe to the Tucson Citizen
- Current Subscribers
- Delivery Issues
- Going on Vacation

Breaking News Alerts
Enter your email address to receive breaking news

August 31, 2005
Section: Business
Page: 1D

New Zealander here to develop optics link

Teya Vitu

By TEYA VITU
tvitu@tucsoncitizen.com

New Zealand, long encumbered with overregulation and an agricultural economy, enters the new millennium with enthusiasm for high-tech innovation and connecting with the world.

This week Tucson got its chance to grab the attention of Rob Taylor, New Zealand's consul general in Los Angeles, who visited here for three days to meet with university, high-tech industry and government leaders.

Taylor is especially attracted to Tucson's optics and biotech industries, as well as the city's casual approach and smaller size than the California metropolises.

"Tucson and New Zealand have similar ways of approaching economic development," Taylor said. "We're not a very large economy. Tucson is a good fit for us."

Taylor toured the University of Arizona and its Science and Technology Park, met U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe and Tucson Councilwoman Kathleen Dunbar and talked with Bob **Breault**, chairman of the Arizona Optics Industry Association, who helped New Zealand's optics companies form an industry cluster. Taylor also addressed business leaders at a Southwest World Trade Association breakfast.

"Our businesses are increasingly aware you can't just sell to the United States," Taylor said. "You have to establish yourself here. I'm encouraging New Zealand businesses to set themselves up in Tucson."

Conversely, Taylor believes New Zealand would be an ideal springboard for Tucson companies looking to expand into the Pacific Rim or Asia.

The UA tech park recently established a Global Advantage program to attract foreign companies to the Rita Road facility.

"The park will provide facilities and use Global Advantage to introduce New Zealand companies to our high-tech community," said John Grabo, the tech park's international programs director.

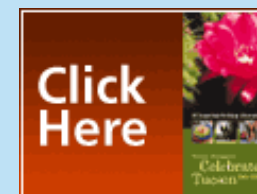
In the past two weeks, Grabo has had similar meetings with diplomats from Canada, Great Britain and New Zealand. Kolbe, who is chairman of the U.S.-New Zealand caucus, met with Taylor in Tucson.

"I'm looking forward to the day when we have a free trade agreement (with New Zealand)," Kolbe said.

Taylor's visit - the first for a New Zealand consul general - was triggered by Tucsonan Robert Young, head of the International School here and also trying to establish business alliances with Australians and New Zealanders living in Tucson.

Tucson is seen as a leading optics industry center, yet **Breault** is eager to partner with New Zealand optics researchers.

OUR SPONSORS



Click here
to learn more.

MEDIA PARTNERS



EVENTS CALENDAR



- **Today's Events**
Check out what's going on in and around Tucson, with the Citizen's new events calendar.

CONTACT US

"They have a lot of technologies we would like to license," **Breault** said.

UA collaborates with Auckland University of Technology and the University of Otago in New Zealand.

New Zealand took interest in Tucson's collaborative Greater Tucson Strategic Partnership for Economic Development process, which was showcased in 2001 during The Competitiveness Institute conference in Tucson. The island nation invited Tucson economic developers Robert Gonzales and Brian Catts there to instill the cluster process - where companies in the same industry, such as optics, compete in a cooperative manner and work together with government to strengthen the industry.

New Zealand wanted to adopt a regional approach to economic development. Catts spent nine months in New Zealand in 2002-03 in a temporary job with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

"We opened their eyes on what the breadth of participation should be and how clusters could be organized," said Catts, who today heads up Cattman Ventures, which develops and markets performance parts for Nissan.

•

GLOBAL LINKS

High-ranking diplomats from three countries visited Tucson in the past two weeks to foster business between Tucson and their countries. The Citizen learns what potential these diplomats see in Tucson.

Monday - Canada

Yesterday - Great Britain

Today - New Zealand

•

TUCSON AND THE WORLD

Tucson has active relationships with several countries:

Canada - a consul general visited in 2004 to launch at Canadian Consulate in Tucson

Britain - a consul general visited this month

Mexico - the foreign secretary visited in June and senators, governors, congressmen and consuls general from Phoenix often visit Tucson.

Kazakhstan - the ambassador visited in 2004 and Tucson has had a sister-city relationship with Almaty since 1987

New Zealand - a consul general visited this week

- [General Questions](#)
- [Citizen Online](#)
- [Advertise with Us](#)
- [Letters to the Editor](#)
- [State and local news](#)
- [Sports Questions](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Citizen Staff](#)

Copyright (c) Tucson Citizen. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.

[Local News](#) | [National News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Living](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Public Records](#)
[Comics](#) | [Movie Times](#) | [Weather](#) | [Restaurant Reviews](#) | [Tucson Citizen Calendar](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#)



www.tucsoncitizen.com | Copyright © 2004 Tucson Citizen, All rights reserved.
[Terms of Service](#)