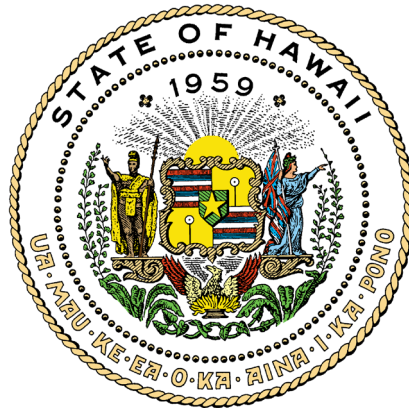


State of Hawaii's Sister-States



**Business Development & Support Division
Department of Business, Economic
Development & Tourism**

December 2018

A Report to the Legislature of the State of Hawaii

Hawaii Sister-State Committee

As of 2018, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee had five active members filling all seats for this committee.

Kay Matsui	Representing: Hawaii State Association of Counties
Kaho'okeleholu Hannahs	Representing: Native Hawaiian Cultural Organization
Debra Nakama	Representing: Speaker of the House of Representatives
Jean E. Rolles	Representing: East-West Center
Eduardo Topenio Jr.	Representing: President of the Senate
Dennis Ling	DBEDT – Committee Administration
Mark Ritchie	DBEDT - Committee Administration

With three committee members constituting a quorum, the Committee has been able to meet and continue its focus on the following goals and objectives:

1. The Committee takes an active role in evaluating prospective and current sister relationships, for both cultural and economic development reasons, with attention to fostering the most productive ties.

There is agreement that the most successful sister relationships occur when:

- a. There is commonality between Hawaii and the sister, primarily from geographical, historical, cultural or economic standpoints.
- b. There are active and interested support groups, such as Chambers of Commerce, cultural and civic associations.

- c. There are economic benefits for both sisters, such as increased numbers of visitors, or enhanced investment or marketing opportunities.
- d. Close ties have been established between educational institutions of the two potential sisters, including both student and faculty exchanges.
- e. There is a clear, strong governmental interest in not only forming, but maintaining the relationship.

2. To assure the productivity and viability of a sister relationship, the Committee has further reviewed and revised the sister-state application form. Last year the Committee also reviewed and revised the Policies and Procedures Manual which governs the process of nominating and evaluating prospective and existing sister-states.

In addition to completing the revised application form, additional requirements include:

- a. A letter from the Governor of the proposed sister.
- b. A designated point-of-contact person.
- c. Recent activity reports between Hawaii and the proposed sister.
- d. Recommendations for future activities.

3. The Committee periodically reviews the activities of each sister relation to determine which ties should be strengthened and which should be severed. The State has 18 sister relationships, dating back to 1981. Some relationships have been very active (e.g. Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Okinawa, Taiwan and Guangdong), while others have shown little or no activity (e.g. Azores Islands).

SISTER-STATES (Chronological order)		
COUNTRY	PROVINCE/PREFECTURE	YEAR ESTABLISHED
Japan	Fukuoka	1981
Portugal	Azores Islands	1982
Greater China	Guangdong	1985
Japan	Okinawa	1985
Philippines	Ilocos Sur	1985
Korea	Jeju	1986
Greater China	Hainan	1992
Greater China	Taiwan	1993
Philippines	Cebu	1996
Japan	Hiroshima	1997
Philippines	Pangasinan	2002
Japan	Ehime	2003
Philippines	Ilocos Norte	2005
Philippines	Isabela	2006
Morocco	Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer	2011
Indonesia	Bali	2014
Japan	Hokkaido	2017
India	Goa	2018

SISTER-STATES (Alphabetical order by country and area)		
COUNTRY	PROVINCE/PREFECTURE	YEAR ESTABLISHED
Greater China	Guangdong	1985
	Hainan	1992
	Taiwan	1993
India	Goa	2018
Indonesia	Bali	2014
Japan	Fukuoka	1981
	Okinawa	1985
	Hiroshima	1997
	Ehime	2003
	Hokkaido	2017
Korea	Jeju	1986
Morocco	Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer	2011
Philippines	Ilocos Sur	1985
	Cebu	1996
	Pangasinan	2002
	Ilocos Norte	2005
	Isabela	2006
Portugal	Azores Islands	1982

GREATER CHINA

Guangdong Province (1985)

In August 2017, 20 students from Young Sen Yit school, sister-school with Hahaione Elementary School, visited Honolulu and Maui island to see where Sun Yat-sen lived and studied. DBEDT recognized the students as Study Hawaii Ambassadors.

In June 2017, the Foreign Affairs Office of People's Government of Guangdong Province invited 14 sister-states representatives to attend the Subnational Exchanges and Cooperation meeting in Guangdong, China from June 11-18, 2017. The delegation visited four different cities in Guangdong Province: Guangzhou, Zhongshan, Dongguan, and Shenzhen. Delegation also met with government offices and the private sector to discuss future cooperation.

Hainan Province (1992)

No activities reported in 2017-2018.

Taiwan (1993)

The 25th Anniversary Sister-State Relationship between the State of Hawaii and Taiwan was celebrated in 2018:

- DBEDT Director Luis P. Salaveria led an education mission to Taiwan from September 30 – October 7, 2018, that was represented by ten educational colleges, universities and schools and the Hawaii Sister-State Committee. The delegation visited three universities; four high schools; participated in three study world education fairs in Hsinchu, Taipei and Taichung; and held meetings with government officials representing the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Council of Indigenous Peoples, and American Institute of Taiwan. Director Salaveria delivered a presentation on Hawaii during U.S. Business Day which was also attended by the Governor of Wyoming and representatives of Arkansas.
- The Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) supported the auspicious 25th Anniversary celebration by organizing a legislative delegation to Taiwan during this period that included five representatives representing the State Senate and State House of Representatives.
- In December 2018, a reciprocal celebratory event was held at Washington Place.

On August 27 – September 2, DBEDT Director Luis P. Salaveria visited Taiwan for the 2017 U.S. Business day which hosted by Economic Division of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO). The purpose of this event was to promote bilateral trade and investment ties between Taiwan and the U.S. by encouraging Taiwanese buyers/importers to purchase high-quality products/services from U.S. sellers/exporters, and

vice versa. Director Salaveria promoted Hawaii investment attraction, international student attraction, and export promotions during the event.

The State of Hawaii Office in Taipei (SHOT) organized and attended different events to promote Hawaii as an international student attraction and investment attraction location.

- Attended the 2017 APAIE Conference & Exhibition in Kaohsiung city, where Global educators and school representatives were meeting in Kaohsiung city, to exchange viewpoint and seeking corporation and networking opportunity, more than 250 university registered, including five school representatives from University of Hawaii system and Leeward Community College.
- Conducted over 30 school visits to Taipei high school and universities, met with principals and International Office Directors, also made presentations to students whenever possible.
- Promoted Hawaii schools at major education fairs and made presentation to different Rotary Clubs.
- Displayed school collateral at DBEDT's Taipei office, met and discussed study abroad opportunities with student and parents interested in Hawaii schools. From 2017 until now, over 30 students and parents visited the Taipei Office for education inquiries.
- Assisted, arranged, and accompanied school representatives from Kapiolani, Honolulu and Leeward Community College, visited more than twenty school in Taiwan for future cooperation.
- SHOT staff attended a major Taiwan Food show in 2017 to promote made in Hawaii products. SHOT continued working closely with three major Hawaii product importers in Taiwan -- Rainboii International, Babe International and Volcano Hawaii to promote product exports from Hawaii.

INDIA

Goa (2018)

On the afternoon of September 28, 2018 a formal Sister-State agreement was signed by Governor Ige and Goa Director of Art & Culture, Hon. Gurudas Pilarnekar. The signing ceremony was followed by a reception on the ground floor of the State Art Museum. The delegation from Goa in addition to the Art & Cultural Director included Mrs. Vidya Pilarnakar and Mr. Pradeep Naik, Liaison of Art and Cultural, State of Goa. Goa and Hawaii hope to deepen their relationship in the areas of trade, tourism, communications, humanitarian, educational, professional, commercial, health and wellness, agriculture, technical, scientific, and peace and diplomatic exchanges.

INDONESIA

Bali, Indonesia (2014)

The watershed village project remains active and the Hawaii Indonesia Chamber of Commerce (HICHAM) has informally partnered with another organization to seek Federal/international funding and this work has been diligently pursued throughout 2016. The Bali village project essentially mirrors an Ala Wai watershed cleanup/mitigation project which is likely to receive funding first as a means of proof of the systems approach concept here on Oahu before it is carried to Bali. HICHAM is looking to transition into the initial assessment work and preliminary feasibility studies for the Bali village watershed project in late 2017.

In addition to the substantial efforts involved in developing the funding sources above, HICHAM coordinated with the Consulate General of Indonesia in Los Angeles to recruit Indonesian firms to participate in the annual Hawaii Lodging, Hospitality and Foodservice Expo. During the expo, HICHAM served as the coordinating organization for a cordial visit and conversation on the status of the Hawaii-Bali Sister-State relationship as well as the potential for developing other relationships and business between Hawaii and Indonesia with Governor Ige.

JAPAN

Fukuoka Prefecture (1981)

The Hawaii Fukuoka Kenjin Kai (HFKK) participated in numerous community events during 2017 and 2018 including the Honolulu Festival among others.

In October 2017, the Kenjin Kai members joined in a cultural exchange between James Campbell High School and the maritime training ship, the Kaiyu Maru of Fukuoka.

In January 2018, Fukuoka Assembly members participated in the Opening Day festivities of the Hawaii State Legislature. These visits have occurred annually as a strong message of support of Hawaii.

In February 2018, the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation sent six college students from Fukuoka to Hawaii as part of the 2017 Global Stage Program. The students visited local businesses and also attended classes at the University of Hawaii West Oahu.

Fukuoka Prefecture invited 11-year-old children from Hawaii to Fukuoka for a gathering of young students from around the world with ties to Fukuoka. The HFKK also send representatives from Hawaii to Fukuoka for this occasion.

In July 2018, former Governor George Ariyoshi, State Representative Bert Kobayashi, HFKK members Nikki Thompson and Keith Sakuda attended the Hawaii Festival in Fukuoka. In August 2018, Hawaii Tourism Japan organized a Hawaii Festival in Fukuoka with the Nikkei Legacy Photo Exhibit on display. The HFKK sent a representative to attend this event, too.

In October 2018, the Kaiyu Maru Maritime Training Vessel will visit Hawaii and again have an exchange program with James Campbell High School.

In 2018, the HKFF donated \$25,000 to Fukuoka Prefecture in support of the flooding disasters that occurred.

In January 2017 the State of Hawaii and Fukuoka Prefecture held a celebration of the 35th Anniversary of their sister-state relationship when a 100+ delegation led by Governor Hiroshi Ogawa and Assembly Speaker Masayuki Nakao. The group was comprised of the governor, assembly members, and top business and community leaders from Fukuoka.

Starting with official visits with Governor Ige, House Speaker Joseph Souki and Senate President Ronald Kouchi and Hawaii State Legislators, the Fukuoka delegates also

attended the Opening Day of the State Legislature. Governor Ogawa and Speaker Nakao were recognized in Senate and House Chambers, with other Fukuoka legislators being introduced from the gallery.

The highlight of the week was a reception at Washington Place hosted by Governor and Mrs. Ige and the Hawaii Fukuoka Kenjin Kai. Fukuoka is the first sister-state of Hawaii, and vice-versa, so to celebrate the effort in creating and maintaining this sister-state relationship, a few key persons from both Fukuoka and Hawaii were recognized by Governors Ige and Ogawa.

Okinawa Prefecture (1985)

In 2017 and 2018, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) officers met with Okinawan Prefectural Government (OPG) officials to renew and strengthen ties to Okinawa.

2017 and 2018 were the 27th/28th year of the Okinawa Prefectural Government (OPG) sponsored student exchange program, the longest continual exchange program between Japan and the United States. A total of 25 High School students and chaperones from Okinawa attended. Students from Hawaii participated in a reciprocal visit to Okinawa. Many student groups from Okinawa also visited Hawaii, including students from Gushikawa Commercial High School; Ginoza, Chatan, Tomigusuku, Nago City, Miyako Island, Yaese, Haeburu, Tomigusuku, Ginoza and Kin Villages/Townships/Cities in Okinawa.

In 2017, construction began on the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza, a commercial building that will support the mission of the HUOA and the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Construction began through the generous donations from Hawaii by individual members and HUOA member clubs as well as over \$1,000,000.00 from the Okinawan Prefectural Government and individual townships throughout Okinawa. The construction of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza was completed in 2018 and a grand opening ceremony was held on September 3, 2018.

In June 2018, the Ireisai Memorial Service was held to remember the 12 Okinawan Prisoner of War detainees who passed away while imprisoned in Hawaii. This powerful remembrance included 55 Ireisai members from Okinawa as well as Vice Governor Isho Urasaki.

The 2017 Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani Park attracted approximately 40,000 attendees from throughout the state and international visitors. Additionally, during the week of the festival, the World Uchinanchu Business (WUB) Association held their annual

conference in Hawaii attracting visitors from Okinawa, Brazil, Peru and other international locations. In 2018, the Okinawan Festival was held at the Hawaii Convention Center. Approximately 55,000 people, over 400 from Okinawa, attended the annual event.

HUOA Legacy Awards recognizes individuals for their service to the Okinawan community and people of Hawaii. 2017 and 2018 recipients included Governor David Ige, Jake Shimabukuro, Hidehito Uki, Dr. Shinye Gima, Herbert Yanamura, Thomas Taro Higa, Dr. Satoru Izutsu, Patsy K. Young, John and Lynne Waihe'e and as a group, Lisa Nakasone Nakandakari, Keith Oshiro and Julia Nakasone Okamura.

Hiroshima Prefecture (1997)

The Hawaii Hiroshima Sister-State Committee planned and participated in numerous events in Hawaii and Hiroshima during 2018:

- "Hawaii for Hiroshima" campaign raised funds for the victims of the widespread damaged experienced by Hiroshima Prefecture. The landslides and flooding caused the deaths of more than 100 residents. Total donations raised was \$43,500.00 and presented by the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Committee to Hiroshima Prefecture in October 2018.
- In December 2018, in celebration of their third consecutive title of the Central League, will again be traveling to Honolulu which will include 150 members staying five to seven days in Hawaii.
- The Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Committee also promoted education and cultural events in 2018 including featuring Hiroshima films shown during the 2018 Hawaii International Film Festival. Education programs occurred in 2018 with exchanges between Hawaii's Roosevelt High School Yasunishi High School. Also, in 2018, Sera Town and Hiroshima City University both sent students to Hawaii to participate in various educational workshops.

The Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC) in collaboration with Hiroshima Prefecture, launched the Emerging Young Business Leader Program during 2017/2018. Seventeen young business professionals from each region were selected to participate in the program. The program was a tremendous success and will be implemented again in 2019.

On Sunday, May 7, 2017, a dinner event was held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii

and Hiroshima Prefecture.

Organized by the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Committee, special guests included Gov. David Ige and First Lady Dawn Amano Ige; Gov. Hidehiko Yuzaki from Hiroshima Prefecture; Consul General Yasushi Misawa and Mrs. Yoko Misawa; Hawaii State legislators and members from the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly; as well as business and community leaders from both Hawaii and Hiroshima.

Event participants recognized and applauded the long list of cultural and educational exchanges, as well as business activities held both in Hawaii and Hiroshima. The Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce took the opportunity to announce the launch of the Hiroshima-Hawaii Emerging Young Business Leaders Program, which aims to “improve leadership competency and commitment” and “build cross-country relationships” for the mutual benefit of both Hawaii and Hiroshima, now and for the future.

The evening was concluded by a lively and at times emotional performance by master ukulele musician, Jake Shimabukuro. Jake’s finale included “special musical guests” Gov. Ige and Consul General Misawa, who played their rendition of “Wipeout!”.

From May 9 through May 11, Gov. Yuzaki and select delegation members also attended the Japan-Hawaii Economic Summit, co-hosted by DBEDT and the U.S.-Japan Council.

From October 4-6, 2017, the Hawaii-Hiroshima Sister-State Committee organized a visit to Hiroshima of approximately 130 residents from Hawaii. The delegation included 65 individuals (administrators and students) from the Department of Education. First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige and State Senator Brian Taniguchi led the visit which included officials visits, school visits, two education-related events, opening of an art exhibit in honor of emigrants from Hiroshima to Hawaii and other parts of the world, and a 20th Anniversary State/Prefectural Reception with 250 attendees.

Ehime Prefecture (2003)

In November 2018, over 100 baseball youth and their families traveled to Ehime for the annual Hawaii-Ehime Goodwill Youth Baseball Exchange. During this visit, in addition to the participating in the baseball games, the Hawaii delegation visited Uwajima Fishery High School; Uwajima Minami Secondary School; participated in homestays and attended numerous networking events.

During 2017 and 2018, the Hawaii Ehime Kenjin Kai received students from Uwajima Minami Junior High School; Super Global High School Students from Ehime;

In February 2017, an anniversary ceremony for the Ehime Maru was held with Governor Tokihiro Nakamura leading a delegation to Hawaii. A solemn ceremony was held at the memorial site at Kakaako Waterfront Park.

In May, Ehime Prefecture sent two representatives to attend the Japan-Hawaii Economic Summit that was held in Kona. They were among other officials representing Hawaii's sister-states at the Summit.

In September, four prefectural officials from Ehime met with DBEDT staff to discuss their plans for a bicycling event that will be held in Ehime. During this visit they also participated in the Honolulu Century Ride bicycling event organized by the Hawaii Bicycling League. They promoted the 2018 Ehime bicycling event by distributing flyers and other promotional items.

From November 9 to 13, 2017, Ehime sent 74 youth and family members to participate in the annual Hawaii-Ehime Goodwill Youth Baseball Exchange. Ehime government officials accompanied the baseball group. Hawaii government officials including State Senator Ken Ito and State Senators Glenn Wakai and Will Espero welcomed the Ehime delegation. This annual exchange continues to be a wonderful example of perpetuating the sister-state relationship that fosters international goodwill between youth from Hawaii and Ehime.

Hokkaido (2017)

Representatives from the Hawaii State Legislature and DBEDT participated in the 150th anniversary of the naming of Hokkaido. The participants accepted the invitation by Governor Harumi Takahashi to attend various commemorative events in Hokkaido. DBEDT did a presentation on the investment climate in Hawaii at a seminar hosted by the prefectural government's International Affairs Office. Hawaii was well represented

by a delegation of five persons to show its strong support of the Hawaii-Hokkaido sister-state relationship.

In June 2018, a nine-member delegation representing the Hokkaido Prefectural Assembly officials, Hokkaido's Vice Governor and staff of international relations traveled to Hawaii. The group participated in the Gannenmono events that were held in Honolulu.

In January 2018, Chitose City sent a delegation of twenty to Hawaii in support of the international educational exchanges. Fifteen members of the delegation represented by high schools and universities.

Consadole Sapporo, a pro soccer team based in Hokkaido traveled to Hawaii to compete in the Pacific Rim Cup. Their fans from Hokkaido also traveled to Hawaii on this occasion. The prefecture and the State hope to increase sports exchange between youth from both regions.

The evening of Monday, May 8, 2017, marked the culmination of several months of long discussions, meetings and planning, when the sister-state relationship between the State of Hawaii and Hokkaido Prefecture was officially realized.

Over 400 guests were greeted by the extremely energetic Hokkaido Intercultural and Technology High School Brass Band, performing first Bruno Mars, then the Star-Spangled Banner and Kimi Ga Yo, the Japanese national anthem.

Agreements in English and Japanese were signed by Hawaii Gov. David Ige and Hokkaido Gov. Harumi Takahashi, and by House Speaker Scott Saiki, Senate President Ron Kouchi and Hokkaido Assembly Speaker Ren Endou.

In addition to a buffet of delicious Hawaiian food, guests were treated to samples of Hokkaido specialties supplied by various restaurants in Honolulu that offer Hokkaido tastes.

The evening was concluded with performances by a number of Hokkaido bands, including a group performing the music and dance of the indigenous Ainu people.

KOREA

Jeju Province (1986)

The State of Hawaii's Office of Environmental Quality Control/DOH and the Commission on Water Resource Management/DLNR are working with counterparts in Jeju Province to develop a Memorandum of Understanding regarding sharing information and best practices on water resource management, conservation and water quality.

The Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) was invited to send one high school team to the 9th Annual Jeju Youth Forum. The Forum is sponsored by the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Provincial Office of Education and was held in November 2018. Kalani High School represented Hawaii during the 2018 event.

MOROCCO

Greater Region of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer (2011)

No activities reported in 2017-2018.

PHILIPPINES

Ilocos Sur Province (1985)

From October 14-22, 2017 Governor David Ige, First Lady Dawn Ige and DBEDT Director, Luis Salaveria participated in a goodwill mission to the Philippines which include visits to Manila, Laoag, Ilocos Norte Province, Vigan, **Ilocos Sur Province** and Cebu Province.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr. stopped by the Honolulu International Airport on February 16, 2017, to offer his best wishes and to personally send off the delegates of the 26th Trade Mission to the Philippines. Led by Kauai Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., and organized by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH), in coordination with the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, the trade mission was held from 16 to 26 February 2017 and will took the 32-member delegation to various cities and provinces in the Philippines, including Manila, Davao, Candon and Vigan in Ilocos Sur, Baguio and Marilao, Bulacan.

In line with the FCCH's motto for the year, "Catch the Wave," the goals of the trade mission were to: (1) increase business activities by promoting Hawaii and the Philippines as investment and tourism destinations; (2) encourage trade and economic activities across the Pacific region; and (3) encourage the development of renewable and green technology.

The delegation paid courtesy calls on Philippine government officials, officers from the private sector, counterparts in the business, tourism and travel industries, and signed agreements that will foster linkages between the Philippines and Hawaii, with the end goal of advancing trade relations and renewing people-to-people ties between the Philippines and Hawaii.

Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Luis Singson visited Hawaii in September 2016 to attend the 39th Anniversary Celebration of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii, the umbrella organization of all Filipino American organizations in Hawaii affiliated with Ilocos Sur. While in Honolulu, Governor Singson paid a courtesy visit to Governor Ige.

Cebu Province, Philippines (1996)

From October 14-22, 2017 Governor David Ige, First Lady Dawn Ige and DBEDT Director, Luis Salaveria participated in a goodwill mission to the Philippines which include visits to Manila, Laoag, Ilocos Norte Province, Vigan, Ilocos Sur Province and **Cebu Province**.

The Cebuano Association of Hawaii, whose membership is made up of Hawaii residents who originally came from Cebu, is planning to launch its "Educational Assistance Program" in 2017 to extend financial and/or material assistance to needy public schools in Cebu and other Visayan provinces in the Philippines. The goal of the program is to help public and private schools in economically depressed areas initiate or complete needed repairs or improvements of their school facilities.

The Cebuano Association of Hawaii will be co-sponsoring a medical mission to Cebu for poor and needy patients in partnership with the Ohana Medical Missions Inc. The delegation will be composed of 15 to 20 doctors and 5 to 10 nurses and the Association is coordinating the medical mission with Governor Davide to select the target areas and to identify medical volunteers from Cebu who will supplement the contingent from Hawaii.

Pangasinan Province (2002)

No activities reported in 2017-2018.

Ilocos Norte Province (2005)

From October 14-22, 2017 Governor David Ige, First Lady Dawn Ige and DBEDT Director, Luis Salaveria participated in a goodwill mission to the Philippines which include visits to Manila, Laoag, **Ilocos Norte Province**, Vigan, Ilocos Sur Province and Cebu Province.

Isabela Province (2006)

Isabela Governor Bojie Dy met with Governor Ige on 19 July 2017. Governor Dy invited Governor Ige to visit Isabela on a future trade mission.

PORTUGAL

Azores Islands (1982)

No reported activities for 2017-2018.