



Medical City announces Community Advisory Board

By Cameron Miculka
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Representatives of the Guam Regional Medical City yesterday announced the membership of a Community Advisory Board to assist in the development of the upcoming private Philippines-based hospital.

The board was announced at a "topping off" ceremony at the construction site in Dededo.

Several high-profile guests attended the ceremony, including representatives of various consulates and government officials.

The board is made up of members of the island's education, administrative and medical communities and will help develop the hospital's relations with the rest of Guam.

"One of the first things we talked about was building a relationship with the people of Guam," said Kevin W. Haws, chief operating officer of the Guam Regional Medical City.

Several members of the board reflected on what they had seen come of the project and their hopes for its future.

John Taitano, president of the Guam Medical Society, applauded the construction of the hospital and the contributions it will bring to Guam's medical community.

For example, rather than relying so much on off-island treatment, he said, "we're going to be able to take care of our own people on Guam."

Similarly, Ray Somera, vice president for academic affairs at Guam Community College, told the audience that the college hopes to work with the Medical City in order to "develop a long relationship" with the hospital.

For example, he said, the school is working to develop a paramedic program as well as encouraging the Medical City to take on students through its workforce training programs.

During the ceremony Gov. Eddie Calvo also offered his remarks to the crowd.

"What a time to be happy and joyful," he said. "What better way to give a gift to the people of Guam than the institution of Guam Regional Medical City?"

The governor applauded the efforts of bringing high-quality care to the island and its people.

"You are becoming a part of this community and family," he said.

Following the speeches, members of the audience were provided with a tour of the site, where Calvo and others were invited to spread cement along the top of the construction site.