

## **Obama to begin Asia trip with stop at Washington**

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**By dpa**

US President Barack Obama is slated to depart Tuesday on an Asia trip, with a stopover on the US West Coast to visit a community hit hard by a deadly mud slide.

Air Force One will land in Everett, Washington, for Obama to visit the buried village of Oso, hit by a March 22 mudslide with a death toll now at 39.

From there, Obama will continue flying west to Japan, where he is to arrive Wednesday for the first stop on his seven-day journey to four countries, including South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Obama will meet with the leaders of each country, with formal state dinners in Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines.

In Malaysia, he is to hold a town hall meeting with young leaders from across South-East Asia.

The US has been trying to mediate between Japan and South Korea amid a territorial spat and tensions relating to Japan's stance over its actions during World War II.

In March in The Hague, Obama brought South Korean President Park Geun Hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe together for their first face-to-face meeting, after more than a year in office for each leader.

Obama's trip reprises cancelled plans from October, when he was to have visited both Malaysia and the Philippines. A government shutdown over Congress' failure to pass a budget forced Obama to cancel the trip.

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