2019 Year in Review

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce works to advance global trade in the region and helps local businesses build international relationships to expand global reach.

Dear Global Community and Colleagues,

The Los Angeles region serves as a bridge to the world. Its booming ports and diversity of business sectors, types and sizes cannot be matched. As the 14th largest world economy, our region is uniquely positioned as a magnet for innovation and investment which is evident through the sheer volume of annual global trade and jobs created by the sector in this county.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your contributions and participation throughout the year.

The Chamber is dedicated to building A Thriving Region for All, which is made possible through our partnerships with the business community from the counties we serve, and the world. Our many seminars, conferences, matchmaking meetings and overseas industry trade shows has contributed to the creation of regional employment through unparalleled global trade and investment.

As we look forward to 2020 and beyond, we want to continue our commitment to provide programs and services that align with our values to be bold, transformative, inclusive and responsible.

We are excited for the arrival of our new Senior Vice President of the Center for Global Trade & Foreign Investment, Patrick Schaefer. Prior to joining the Chamber, Schaefer was the founding Executive Director of the Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness at the University of Texas in El Paso. He is a member of the Aspen Institute and the German Marshall Fund of the United States. We are fortunate to have such an incredible talent as this global chamber launches into the next chapter, advancing Los Angeles’ role as a dynamic region integral to the global economy.

We are grateful to our partners, sponsors, diplomats and Chamber members for their continued support in assisting us to fund and develop our initiatives.

Maria S. Salinas
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

2019 Highlights

- More than 800 attended the 93rd Annual WTW Kickoff
- Presented 13 students with a total of $12,000 in scholarships
- Welcomed and met with leaders from across the globe
- Hosted more than 30 events and programs for 2,400+ attendees

Seen and Heard at the Center for Global Trade & Foreign Investment Programs:

- Bud Colligan, Senior Advisor for International Affairs and Trade, Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development
- Hon. João Doria Júnior, Governor of the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Josh Eddy, Executive Director, California State Board of Food and Agriculture
- Hon. Jimmy Gomez, Representative, California’s 34th District
- Dr. Amrith Gunasekara, Science Advisor to Secretary Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Dr. Udo Lange, President, FedEx Logistics
- Dr. Paul McLachlan, Head of Data Science & Principal Data Scientist, Ericsson Global Artificial, Intelligence Accelerator
- John G. Murphy, Senior Vice President for International Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Ryan Patel, Senior Fellow, Drucker School of Management, Claremont Graduate University, CNN Contributor
- Amb. Francisco Santos, Ambassador of Colombia to the United States, Embassy of Colombia, Washington D.C.
- Hon. Jesús Seade, Undersecretary for North America, Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Thani Thongphakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to the U.S.
Chamber first in nation to launch digital platform, leveraging blockchain, for issuance of Certificates of Free Sale (CFS) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)

Launched and developed in partnership with Fast Track Global Services, this new platform uses incorruptible blockchain technology to help exporters obtain and process export documents with accuracy, enhanced security with instant traceability and legalization options.

WTW education program hosts high school students with a focus on cultural awareness and global trade careers

The World Trade Week (WTW) Education Committee, in partnership with the Port of Los Angeles, hosted nearly 80 high school students from Southern California to learn about the important role cultural awareness plays when conducting international business. Several universities and colleges providing international career programs participated as exhibitors and briefed students on careers in trade.

Trade policy forecast received from U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber’s Global Initiatives Council convened for the first session of the year to hear from John Murphy, Senior Vice President for international policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Topics included the U.S.-China tariff war, implications of a new “deal” with Beijing, chances of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement with Congress and the effect of tariffs on steel and aluminum industries in the U.S.

Chamber supports CA aerospace at industry expo in Australia

In partnership with the U.S. Commercial Service, the State of California and the Small Business Administration (SBA) STEP grant, the Chamber organized the California Pavilion at the Australian International Aerospace & Defense Exposition in Geelong, Australia, proudly presenting eight small to medium-sized companies from California.

Diplomats meet with California State Board of Food and Agriculture

Members of the Chamber’s Diplomatic & Commercial Officers Group met with senior representatives from the California State Board of Food and Agriculture to learn about the state’s agriculture sector, international strategies department and best practices for agricultural exports and imports.

Dubai trade delegation showcases business opportunities for Los Angeles companies

In partnership with the U.S.E. Business Council and World Trade Center Los Angeles, the Chamber hosted a briefing to highlight business opportunities in Dubai for L.A. companies. Dubai representatives provided an overview of investment and bilateral trade opportunities in various industry sectors.

Chamber selected as key California partner for Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)

The Chamber was selected by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to serve as a key partner for its public diplomacy initiative to assist in showcasing the organization’s efforts to help U.S. businesses compete in a global marketplace through private sector investment in emerging market countries.
JULY

Ryan Patel addresses the Global Initiatives Council
Ryan Patel, fellow with the Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University and frequent CNN, BBC and Nasdaq contributor, addressed members of the Chamber’s Global Initiatives Council as he shared insights into how companies can prepare for the next wave of global trade disruption while reaping the numerous benefits of trade in a fluctuating political and economic climate.

Chamber joins Alibaba.com for Build Up Los Angeles
The Chamber was proud to partner with Alibaba.com for their inaugural Build Up Los Angeles workshop. The event brought together business owners from across the region to learn about Alibaba’s new platform, which aims to transform and reshape B2B global trade for U.S. SMEs.

AUGUST

Chamber hears from economist Chris Thornberg and Congressman Gomez on global issues affecting the L.A. region
Dr. Chris Thornberg, Founder of Beacon Economics LLC, provided members of the Chamber’s Global Initiatives Council with a candid and optimistic outlook on global trade and the region’s economic health. Congressman Jimmy Gomez, representing California’s 34th Congressional District, joined the discussion to provide an update on the efforts of the House Democrats’ working group to review USMCA.

Chamber hosts Vietnamese Provincial Business Briefing
The Chamber, in partnership with the Consulate General of Vietnam in San Francisco, hosted an intimate business briefing with a visiting delegation of executives and government officials in charge of investment, planning, trade and industry development from the Quang Nam Province, home to eight industrial parks, 51 industrial clusters and the Chu Lai open economic zone.

SEPTEMBER

Hon. Jesús Seade leads briefing on U.S.-Mexico trade relationship and USMCA
The Chamber hosted Hon. Jesús Seade, Undersecretary for North America for the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As representative of the President of Mexico at the negotiation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), signed by the three countries in 2018, Seade provided an exclusive briefing on aspects of the USMCA and the current relationship between the Mexico-California and Mexico-Los Angeles regions. The event was co-hosted by Consul General of Mexico, Hon. Marcela Celorio, and was joined by Chamber Board Chair Jerry Neuman, who encouraged members to get involved in the Chamber’s work supporting USMCA.

OCTOBER

Chamber meets with Colombian Ambassador to the U.S.
Board Chair Jerry Neuman led a private roundtable with Colombian Ambassador to the U.S., Francisco Santos, who discussed bilateral trade and investment opportunities with members of the board and representatives of the trade community to strengthen commercial ties between Colombia and the L.A. region. Amb. Santos noted his plans to highlight California as a strong partner for Colombian companies with a strong focus on the tech startup sector and agriculture.

Chamber receives STEP grant funding for eighth consecutive year
The Chamber once again received funding through the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) program to help small businesses enter and succeed in the international marketplace. Since 2011, the Chamber has recruited small and medium-sized firms to participate in major overseas trade shows and assist them in increasing their export activities in global markets. The Chamber is the only recipient of the STEP grant in the City of L.A.

Chamber signs MOU with Armenian Minister of High-Tech Industry
The Chamber welcomed Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan from the Republic of Armenia on his inaugural visit to Los Angeles. The Chamber co-organized the event, the California-Armenia Business Symposium, and signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Minister of High-Tech Industry, Hakob Arshakyan, solidifying the relationship between the two organizations. The MOU paves the way for an unprecedented partnership between the Chamber and the Armenian government.

November

Chamber discusses business opportunities with Ambassador of Thailand to the U.S.
His Excellency Thani Thongphakdi, Ambassador of Thailand to the U.S., visited the Chamber to discuss Thailand’s economic policies and trade and investment opportunities in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC), ACMEs and ASEAN countries.

Chamber hosts Governor of São Paulo, Brazil
The Chamber, in partnership with the Brazil California Chamber and Brazilian National Confederation of Industries (CNI), hosted the Governor of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, João Doria Júnior, for a discussion focused on trade, investment and the state’s economic outlook and privatization objectives, specifically targeting assets and special projects in infrastructure, transportation, education, sustainability, ag-tech, entertainment and tourism.

Global Initiatives Council briefed by Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development
Bud Colligan, Senior Advisor for International Affairs and Trade at the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, addressed members of the Chamber’s Global Initiatives Council to provide an update on California’s strategy to expand international trade and investment opportunities. The session also included a special introduction of Patrick Schaefer, incoming Senior Vice President for the Chamber’s Center for Global Trade & Foreign Investment.

December

We welcome Patrick Schaefer as our new Senior Vice President of the Center for Global Trade & Foreign Investment.
Diplomatic members hold annual strategic roundtable
Nearly 30 members of the Diplomatic & Commercial Officers Group participated in a private roundtable to establish program priorities for 2020 and discuss potential areas of collaboration. The session was led by Chair, Amb. Marcia Loureiro, Consul General of Brazil. Over the past nine years, the membership of the group has grown from four initial countries to more than 45 members, positioning the Chamber as a commercial bridge between regional companies and many countries.
2020 Events

SAVE THE DATE:

94th Annual World Trade Week Kickoff Breakfast: May 5

Global Initiatives Council meetings

Feb. 19      Aug. 19
March 18     Oct. 21
June 17      Nov. 18

For more information about upcoming events, visit: lachamber.com/events.

Contact the Center for Global Trade & Foreign Investment:

- Senior Vice President, Patrick Schaefer at 213.580.7585 or pschaefer@lachamber.com
- Director, Jasmin Sakai-Gonzalez at 213.580.7569 or igonzalez@lachamber.com
- Coordinator, Janice Atmadja at 213.580.7583 or jatmadja@lachamber.com

Learn more about the Chamber’s Center for Global Trade & Foreign Investment at lachamber.com/globalinitiatives.

Thank you to our sponsors

350 S. Bixel St., Los Angeles, CA 90017
Tel: 213.580.7500 | Fax: 213.580.7511 | lachamber.com