
U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2007

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DIRECTOR THELMA J. ASKEY TO RETIRE FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Askey Appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Thelma J. Askey announced that she is stepping down as the Director of USTDA as of April 27, 2007. Director Askey has accepted a position as the Deputy Secretary-General at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France. As Deputy Secretary-General, she will be charged with managing the global relations portfolio for the OECD.

Director Askey's career in the federal government spanned 33 years, which culminated with her leadership of USTDA. Since her appointment by President George W. Bush in 2001, Director Askey reshaped USTDA to support the Administration's policy initiatives around the world. These efforts included a concentration on capacity-building activities that impact economic development in the near term and expanding commercial opportunities for U.S. firms in developing and middle-income countries. In addition, Ms. Askey raised performance standards at the agency by instituting changes with respect to personnel, performance evaluations, program and administrative accountability, auditing, contracting and financial management.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Askey served from 1998 to 2001 as a Commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission. While there, she played a broad role in international trade matters, including administering U.S. trade remedy laws and providing independent analysis, information, and support on tariff, international trade, and U.S. competitiveness matters.

Previously, Ms. Askey served as the Staff Director of the Trade Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means in the U.S. House of Representatives. In that role, and previously as the Subcommittee's Minority Trade Counsel, she was the principal trade advisor to the Committee Chairman and other Members of Congress. She was responsible for the development and processing of the subcommittee's trade agenda, which included trade promotion authority, China's normal trade relations status and World Trade Organization (WTO) membership, trade relations with non-market economies, and oversight of key bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, particularly the North American Free Trade Agreement and the WTO.

(More)

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

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