

SBA's REGION II HOSTS SPECIAL CONFERENCE CALL ON EXPORTING AND THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH COLOMBIA

What: SBA Administrator Steve Preston has been actively involved in promoting the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia. Last month he returned from his second trip to Colombia with several Members of Congress on a fact-finding visit to improve understanding about the potential benefits for U.S. businesses. Preston has been working diligently trying to demystify the process of going global and demonstrate that exporting can help small businesses grow in ways they never even imagined.

On April 7th, Preston made the following statement after the President signed a letter to Congress that will transmit legislation implementing the U.S. Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA): "The Colombia FTA will create opportunities for American small businesses to grow, generate jobs and boost our economy. Nearly 8,000 of the more than 9,000 companies that export to Colombia are small and medium-sized, making this an important market for entrepreneurs. However, the current tariff arrangement creates a barrier for further growth. Well over 90 percent of Colombian exports enter the U.S. duty-free, while U.S. exports to Colombia have tariffs as high as 35 percent. The Colombia FTA will open two-way free trade by lifting tariffs and removing non-tariff burdens such as inconsistent enforcement of customs policies or valuation of imports, which can make exporting very difficult for small businesses. Congress should work together in a bi-partisan manner to expeditiously approve the Colombia FTA. It is in the best interest of America's small businesses and our economy."

Who: SBA Regional Administrator Michael Pappas

Regional Manager/Senior International Credit Officer-U.S. Small Business
Administration/U.S. Export Assistance Center Bob Elsas

Department of Commerce Senior Commercial Officer Margaret Hanson-Muse

Department of Commerce District Export Council Member (New Jersey) Michel
Wouters

When: Monday, April 28

10 AM EST- 11 AM EST

Where: Teleconference Call

Call in Number: 866-740-1260

Access Code: 3020001#

You must RSVP to Natale.Goriel@sba.gov by April 24th as the number of lines are limited.

Questions: Contact Natale.Goriel@sba.gov or call 212.264.7750

Dear colleagues!

Greetings from Switzerland!

I have a Swiss client, who is looking for U.S. suppliers (manufactures preferred) of toys and kitchen/household accessories/utensils. They can include the following:

- 1) Baby accessories (any kind of good quality accessories to include safety products, developing toys, feeding utensils, etc)
- 2) Toys in general
- 3) Kitchen accessories/utensils

If you have clients that would fit the above profile, I would appreciate your providing the company details!

Your kind assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated!

Thanks a lot and best wishes,

Sandor

+++++

Sandor Galambos

Commercial Specialist

Zurich America Center (U.S. Embassy)

U.S. Commercial Service

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<http://www.buyusa.ch>



SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL VENTURES
BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS



Dear Friends,

I am proud to bring to you the latest edition of ATID, E.D.I.'s "FORTNIGHTLY", a review of Israeli & regional business, developments and news, for the period ending 16 April 2008.

For your convenience, The FORTNIGHTLY is also available in html format at Atid's Web site:

[Fortnightly - April 16, 2008](#)

Some highlights of this issue include the following:

[IMF Sees Israel's Growth Rate Above US and Europe](#)

[UAE to Keep Dollar Peg](#)

[Turkey & IMF Reached a Consensus in Letter Of Intent](#)

[Protalix BioTherapeutics Receives Grant from Chief Scientist's Office](#)

[ISRAEL: IVC Says Capital Raised by Israeli VCs \\$1.1 Billion in 2007](#)

[LIBYA: Al Qaddafi Reforms Show Sign of a Boost to the Private Sector](#)

Please note that this newsletter is a service of Atid, EDI. We are a team of economic and trade development consultants, headquartered in Jerusalem, with satellite operations in Istanbul and Amman. EDI works with an international clientele interested in identifying and researching business opportunities in the region. These include investors and entrepreneurs and others who need information, analysis and intelligence from our region. We also serve as the regional representative offices for the investment and trade offices of a number of U.S. states and work with a number of US Foundations. EDI's other services include development of feasibility studies

and customized research reports, as well as identification of potential joint ventures for commercial clients. For more information on how we may better assist you, please visit our Web site at: www.atid-edi.com or send us an email to info@atid-edi.com.

In addition, if you know of any relevant Israeli or regional development of interest, please notify me at: seth.vogelman@atid-edi.com

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Seth J. Vogelmann
Editor
Atid, E.D.I.'s FORTNIGHTLY

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Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office POB 45005, 91450 Jerusalem, Israel Tel. +972-2-571-0199, Fax. +972-2-571-0713 U.S. Fax (Direct to Israel) 425-732-1379 Email: seth.vogelman@atid-edi.com Website: www.atid-edi.com/pennsylvania.htm

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Access to Opportunity in the Middle East

OPIC



An International Investment Conference
Organized by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation

May 5-7, 2008

Kempinski Hotel Ishtar • Dead Sea, Jordan

As the primary U.S. government agency focused on supporting private sector investment in emerging markets, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is pleased to organize "Access to Opportunity in the Middle East," an international investment conference that will be held May 5-7, 2008 at the Kempinski Hotel Ishtar, Dead Sea, Jordan. The purpose of the conference is to highlight investment opportunities in the region, encourage the formation of joint ventures and partnerships between U.S. and local businesses, and facilitate support for new investments.

The conference will offer a unique opportunity to hear presentations by leading investment experts, U.S. businesses currently investing in the broader Middle East, financial institutions operating in the region, and U.S. government officials. Sessions will focus on access to credit, private equity, housing and infrastructure. Speakers will also discuss investment opportunities in sectors such as tourism, information technology, franchising and energy.

Featured countries are **Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen.**

Speaker Update:

His Excellency Eng. Nader Dahabi, Prime Minister of Jordan (Invited)

Mr. Robert Mosbacher, President and CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation

His Excellency Akel Biltaji, House of Senate, Jordan

Mr. David Jackson, CEO, Istithmar World Capital

Mr. Alexander Boehmer, Executive Manager, MENA-OECD Investment Programme, Private Sector Development Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Mr. Mark E. Woodruff, Executive Vice President and President, Asia and Middle East, AES Corporation

Mr. Jan Plantagie, Regional Manager Middle East, Standard & Poors

Mr. Rodney J. Eichler, Executive Vice President, General Manager, Apache Corporation

Mr. Bassam Aburdene, Chairman of Capital Trust S.A. and CEO and a Director of Capital Trust Limited

Mr. Ennis Rimawi, Managing Partner, Catalyst Private Equity

Mr. Ashraf Arafah, General Manager Jordan & Palestine, Cisco Systems

Mr. Charles O. Engelken, CEO, Wall -Ties and Forms Inc.

Mr. William Johnson, President & CEO, VIAP, Inc.

Mr. Jim Hollatz, Sr. Vice President International, Stanley Consultants

Mr. Mohammad Mustafa, CEO Palestine Investment Fund

Mr. Ali Armoush, Vice Chairman, McDonald's Jordan

Mr. Syed Farhan Fasihuddin, Housing Finance Program Manager, IFC PEP - Middle East & North Africa

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The U.S. Section of the
North American Competitiveness Council (NACC)

invites you to a

**Public Briefing and Discussion on the
Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP)**

with

Walter Bastian, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere,
U.S. Department of Commerce

Thomas J. Donohue, President and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Alfonso Martinez-Fonts, Assistant Secretary for the Private Sector Office,

U.S. Department of Homeland Security **Thomas A. Shannon**, Assistant Secretary for
Western Hemisphere Affairs,

U.S. Department of State

April 18, 2008

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

1615 H Street, NW

Washington, DC 20062

During this public briefing and discussion Walter Bastian, Thomas J. Donohue, Alfonso Martinez- Fonts, and Thomas A. Shannon plan to discuss the upcoming North American Leaders' Summit set to take place in New Orleans, Louisiana. This meeting will also include members of the U.S. Section of the North American Competitiveness Council Executive Committee, Advisory Committee, and private sector representatives with a stake in the process.

OPEN TO THE PRESS

**There is no charge to participate, but you must register in advance,
no later than 11:00 a.m. Thursday, April 17, 2008.**

If you need further information on the event please contact Maria Medrano at mmedrano@uschamber.com.

To register please fax the form below to 202-463-3126.

SPP of North America Press Conference and Discussion

April 18, 2008, 2:00p.m.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce (1615 H Street, NW)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email: _____



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**Structuring Letters of Credit That Won't
Leave
You Stranded in a Customer Bankruptcy**

Monday, April 21, 2008 • 3:00–4:00pm eastern

Presented by Robert Mercer, Esq.

\$59.95 per line

Given the downturn in the economy, credit professionals are justifiably becoming more and more concerned about customer bankruptcies. Although letters of credit can help ensure payment for your company if a customer files bankruptcy, a letter of credit is only as good as it is drafted. This engaging seminar will give you practical information to help you ensure that your company's letters of credit are properly drafted, including the following pointers:

1. Placing the bankruptcy **default provision** in the correct place.
2. **Structuring the relationship** with the issuing bank to help reduce preference exposure.
3. **Removing provisions** that will hurt the effectiveness of the letter of credit.
4. Ensuring the appropriate **length of the term** of the letter of credit.
5. Obtaining the letter of credit at the best time to **reduce preference exposure**.

To register now, [click here](#).

Just Around the Corner

Make your [Credit Congress](#) hotel reservation soon... the NACM rate at the [Galt House](#), the conference's headquarters hotel, ends on Thursday, April 24.

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Columbia, MD 21045-2158
Phone 410.740.5560
Fax 410.740.5574
www.nacm.org

To unsubscribe from future teleconference announcements, [click here](#).

To unsubscribe from all future NACM announcements, [click here](#).

If you do not wish to receive any further notices about the Access to Opportunity in the Middle East Conference at this e-mail address from OPIC, MFM Group Inc, or other MFM entities, please select "Remove Me" button below.

MFM Trade Meetings Attn: Email Compliance

4856 SW 72 Avenue, Miami, FL 33155 US

Save the date!

**Sovereign Investment: An Update on Global Best Practices
Briefing featuring Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert Kimmitt**

Thursday, May 8, 2008, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

New York, NY

(venue information forthcoming)

The United States is working with major multilateral institutions, including the IMF and the OECD, to develop best practices for sovereign wealth funds, promote strong international standards of transparency and corporate governance, and maintain open, transparent, and non-discriminatory investment policies among all countries.

Please join us for a timely and informative update on this important topic. Additional information, including confirmation of the venue, will be sent to you shortly. Please contact Stephen Canner, Vice President for Investment and Financial Services, at 202-681-1221 or scanner@uscib-dc.org for additional information.

Other Upcoming USCIB and Related Events:

Roundtable With World Health Organization

Monday, April 21, 2008

USCIB Headquarters

New York City

**** For USCIB members and invited guests only ****

A unique opportunity to engage with a senior World Health Organization official on an issue with direct consequences for employers: the WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health, 2008-2017. This plan has been approved for implementation by governments, and this roundtable provides an early opportunity for business to learn more about it, provide input and update WHO on business initiatives relating to employee health. Contact Debbie Siu (1 212 703-5062, dsiu@uscib.org) for more information or to RSVP.

ICC Arbitration Workshop, Montreal

April 30 - May 2, 2008

Under the auspices of the International Court of Arbitration®

McGill University

Montreal

The ICC International Court of Arbitration, with support from USCIB and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to announce that, for the first time in Canada, it will host a two-day arbitration workshop. The workshop seeks to provide the participants with strategies and tactics in drafting arbitration documents under the ICC Rules. The workshop will include drafting sessions and interactive discussions with renowned arbitrators and practitioners of ICC arbitration aimed at providing a greater understanding of ICC arbitration practice. For program details and registration information, please [click here](#), or contact Lea Fellus (1 212 703-5044, lea.fellus@iccwbo.org).

22nd Conference on International Audiovisual Law:

Rights Clearance in 2008: Towards Clearer Rights?

Held under the auspices of the ICC Institute of World Business Law

Friday, May 16, 2008

Cannes, France

The rise of the Internet and video on demand has made rights clearance an expensive and complex process for the film industry. When the price of non-compliance may prove to be non-distribution, all stakeholders, insurers, programmers, distributors, film-makers and co-producers agree that rights clearance must be a priority. Held in concert with the Cannes film festival, this conference is a must for anyone involved in the film industry who wishes to keep up to date with the latest business, legal and technical knowledge regarding right clearances. Details and registration information available at www.iccwbo.org/events.

Save the dates!

World Trade Week NYC

May 19-22, 2008

Various venues

New York City

World trade drives the New York economy. Every year, the New York trade community comes together in May to celebrate World Trade Week with a full agenda of educational seminars, global business networking events and an awards breakfast that recognizes exemplary contributions in the field. Today's global economy provides unprecedented opportunities for business growth through international expansion. Learn more about these opportunities, and how to take advantage of them, by visiting the World Trade Week 2008 calendar of events. Do not miss this unique opportunity to access key resources and to network with New York's international business community. Stay tuned for more information on an exciting week's worth of activities, including special USCIB events.

Herb Ouida's conference:

<http://library.fdu.edu/GEN/EUConference.html>

ICC Conference:

A Global Perspective on Data Protection and Processing"

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

ICC Headquarters

Paris

This unique ICC data protection conference will emphasize the global nature of data processing and data transfers. It will include an update on recent developments around the world, as well as two panels that will examine case studies in the areas of international data transfers and global sourcing, and current EU issues. The conference will focus on real-world data processing situations, with interaction from the audience. Speakers will include leading data protection experts from companies and supervisory authorities around the world. For more information or to register, please visit www.iccwbo.org/events.

View this page on our website at <http://www.uscib.org/index.asp?documentID=3276>. Messages on upcoming USCIB and related events are sent periodically to USCIB members and friends. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please click [here](#) or use the links provided with the e-mailed version of this page. Up-to-the-minute information can be accessed at <http://www.uscib.org/calendar.asp>. More information, including our privacy policy, is available at www.uscib.org.

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