
U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Thomas R. Hardy
(703) 875-4357

LEOCADIA I. ZAK ASSUMES DUTIES AS ACTING USTDA DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Deputy Director Leocadia I. Zak assumes the duties of Acting Director of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency. In assuming the position of Acting Director, Ms. Zak follows the successful tenure of Thelma J. Askey, who retired from the Federal Government on April 27, 2007 after 33 years of service.

Ms. Zak has served as Deputy Director at USTDA since January 2006. Previously, she was the agency's General Counsel. Before her arrival at USTDA in 2000, she was in private practice as a partner with Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, PC. In that capacity, she served as counsel to underwriters, developers, lenders and investors in connection with a variety of project finance transactions for energy, transportation, tourism, health care and telecommunications projects. Her work focused on innovative financing programs involving U.S. government agencies such as the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Ms. Zak received her Bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College and her Juris Doctor from Northeastern University. She teaches international project finance courses as an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center.

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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