

A TRIBUTE

An Ex-Im Bank director's term is limited but the impact of his or her work is long-lasting. Three outstanding members of Ex-Im Bank's board of directors stepped down in fiscal year 1999 — Dr. Rita M. Rodriguez, Julie Belaga, and Maria Luisa M. Haley. Each one left a legacy of accomplishment.



DR. RITA M. RODRIGUEZ, an international trade economist who served on the board for 17 years, worked to establish fair trading practices and open developing markets. She headed Ex-Im Bank's Policy Group, and led negotiations with the OECD, the Berne Union, and the Paris Club, as well as interagency efforts within the U.S. government.



JULIE BELAGA, a long-time state and federal official whose four-year term ended this year, helped establish Ex-Im Bank's Environmental Exports Program and its Internet Web site. As Ex-Im Bank's chief operating officer, she provided strong organizational management and promoted ongoing quality improvement.



MARIA LUISA M. HALEY, an international business specialist who served four-and-a-half years, led efforts to help more U.S. small businesses gain access to global markets through Ex-Im Bank financing. She also was instrumental in developing the Bank's Africa initiatives.