

Invest in Spain Business Conference



October 6—Council Member Ed Gonzalez greeted an assembly of investors and businessmen from Houston and Spain at the first “Invest in Spain Business Conference” held in Houston. The Conference was organized by the Trade Commission of Spain and considered the advantages of business with Spain, which has experienced one of the highest rates of economic growth in Western Europe since 2000, and been one of the major job creation engines in the Euro Zone.

Mission to Leipzig, Germany



October 5-12—Council Member Ann Clutterbuck visited Leipzig, Houston’s Sister City in Germany, as part of a reciprocal visit organized by the Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association to celebrate shared ties of friendship. Council Member Clutterbuck witnessed the celebration of the 20th anniversary of reunification and democratization of East and West Germany. She also participated in the dedication and installation of a peace window at St. Thomas Church and attended the dedication of a trolley car, which was named “Houston” in honor of the relationship between the two sister cities.

Delegation to Beijing and Dongying, China

October 11-20—Council Member Edward Gonzalez traveled to China to attend two major international conferences and promote Houston to government and business leaders from all over the world.

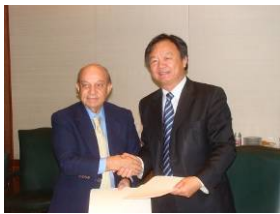
Council Member Gonzalez attended and was a featured panelist at the 2009 Central Business District Forum, organized by the Beijing Central Business District (October 11-14). While there, he met with the Vice Mayor of Beijing and shared with attendees the development experience of Houston’s downtown district. Council Member Gonzalez also initiated a potential partnership opportunity for fire fighting-organizations in Beijing to learn from Houston fire fighters on blaze control in high-rise buildings.

The Council Member was later joined by a 10-member business delegation comprised of various Houston-based companies to participate in the 2009 China International Petroleum Equipment and Technology Exhibition in Dongying, China (October 15-20). Dongying is regarded as China’s second most prominent “Energy City” due to its location proximate to the renowned Shengli Oilfield. The Exhibition is one of China’s largest conferences for energy-related firms and is attended by thousands of visitors from over 40 different countries.

After giving VIP remarks at the Exhibitions Opening Ceremony, Council Member Gonzalez met with a coalition of leading petroleum equipment manufacturers from Shandong Province and encouraged them to seek out business opportunities with Houston companies.



Promoting International Business Cooperation with Dongying, China



October 12—A delegation led by Chairman Ma Houquan from Shandong Shengli Freet Petroleum Corporation, a leading manufacturer of petroleum equipment in China, visited Houston to meet with business counterparts. The Mayor's Office of International Affairs & Development helped arrange a meeting between Freet and Houston's Stewart & Stevenson Services Company, which resulted in a signed memorandum of understanding pledging to explore opportunities for business cooperation between the two companies.

Visit of the Mayor of Dalian, China

October 27-28—The Honorable Li Wancai, the newly-appointed Mayor of Dalian, China visited Houston to renew the partnership which has existed for almost a quarter of a century. Mayor Li was accompanied by a 23-member delegation comprised of high-ranking city officials in the areas of Foreign Trade, Foreign Affairs, Economic Development and Finance.

Council Member Peter Brown hosted a courtesy visit at City Hall for Mayor Li and discussed how to move the Houston-Dalian partnership forward. At the close of the visit, Council Member Brown presented Mayor Li with an honorary Houstonian Certificate.

Following the courtesy visit, the Houston Mayor's Office, Port of Houston and Houston Airport System hosted a welcome luncheon for Mayor Li in the Founder's Club of the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. In attendance were **Council Member Edward Gonzalez**, the Honorable Adrian Garcia (Harris County Sheriff), Mr. Eric Potts (the Acting-Director of the Houston Airport System), as well as representatives from the Port of Houston, Parks & Recreation Department, BMC Software Company and others.



Delegation from Ecuador



October 27—Mr. Al Amado, Chairman of the Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council for the Americas and Director of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative in Ecuador, hosted a 19-member, high-ranking delegation of judges from Ecuador to Houston for study tour and relationship-building visit. During their stay, the delegation attended meetings and conferences at South Texas College of Law and the University of Houston Law Center and visited local federal and state trial courts, as well as the state courts of appeal. The delegation was led by the Honorable Benjamin Cevallos Solórzano, the president of Ecuador's National Council of the Judicature.

Mayor's International Affairs & Development Councils (MIADCs)

This month we update you on the recent activities of the MIADCs, representing Canada and Africa, respectively.

Canada

October 6—The Council met to discuss ongoing projects for the last quarter of 2009, including the possibility of hosting another Canada Night with the Houston Aeros.

Africa

October 15—The Council met to express support for two proposals: a Houston trade mission to Africa and an African Trade Fair in Houston. The Council has elected to contact various African embassies in Washington, D.C. to see what potential business opportunities can be explored in the proposed Fair.

International Frontier

Houston is home to many distinguished individuals who are dedicated to the promotion of Houston on the Global Stage. The featured Houstonian this month is Mr. Duaine A. Priestley, Director of the U.S. Commercial Service—Houston Office.



Where do companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, turn when they need help entering the international marketplace? For many companies that question remains a mystery and the source of immense frustration for Houstonian Duaine Priestley. As the

Director of the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Service, Houston Office, Mr. Priestley is charged with exactly that job. Even after five years of being in this position, Mr. Priestley is challenged to reach out to many of Houston's vibrant small businesses in order to convince them that there are tremendous rewards in doing business internationally.

“For a variety of reasons, the U.S. Commercial Service is not very known in Houston,” Mr. Priestley stated. “I am sure that companies in Texas find it simply unbelievable that a government agency knows anything about the international marketplace.” But it isn't for a lack of effort; Mr. Priestley has been very active in the Houston business community since being appointed to his position in 2004. Ask anyone involved in international trade and investment in Houston and they will tell you that the U.S. Commercial Service is one of the best resources for help. His office has worked well with a variety of local stakeholders including the Mayor's Office, to promote Houston to markets around the globe.

As the Director, Mr. Priestley oversees a five-person team charged with growing jobs through exports utilizing the agency's extensive network of trade specialists located around the world. With offices in 105 cities throughout the U.S. and in more than 150 cities in 83 countries, the Commercial Service is strategically placed to help U.S. firms realize their export potential.

Mr. Priestley's route to this position was circuitous, at best. When asked how he choose to work in the field of International Trade and Investment, he responded, “By accident. This is actually my fourth career. I started out of college as a cartographer - I love maps - but quickly grew bored with doing it for a living. I

was originally an art major in college, then I drifted to geography and cartography, so I was able to segue into an eight-year career as a corporate graphic artist in a number of industries including the energy and IT industries. However, I concluded one day that I had reached the pinnacle of my artistic career and decided it was time to grow up, so I returned to Houston from Boston to complete my degree at the UH. I finished with a BA in Political Science with a focus on Soviet Foreign Policy. With my freshly minted BA, I moved to Washington, DC, where I was able to land a job with NASA working on the US-Soviet Bilateral Space Agreement. After watching the Soviet Union implode and witnessing the Russians and Ukrainians argue over who owned which asset, I decided I needed to change careers, again. So I applied for and was admitted to American University's School of International Service where I earned an MA in International Political Economy. I've spent the past fifteen years in the international trade and investment industry, whether it be in public policy (US Chamber of Commerce), the government (the U.S. Department of Commerce – twice) or the private sector (a major telecommunications company.)”

Mr. Priestley is bullish on Houston. Mr. Priestley first migrated to Houston in 1978 from his native New York. Following his graduation from UH, he spent time in Washington, D.C. After twelve years, he and his wife, a native Houstonian and finance executive with a major energy company, returned to Houston. Mr. Priestley finds Houston an under-rated jewel when compared to other cities. “I wouldn't live anywhere else, except for perhaps China” he said, where has a personal connection. He will be the first to tell you that although he has called Houston home for many years, his heart belongs to China. Almost a decade ago, he and his wife made a fateful journey to China to meet the first of their two little girls-now young ladies, ages 12 and 7, respectively.

—Submitted by the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Service—Houston Branch

International Event Calendar -- November 2009

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
11/1	9:30 AM	Houston Airport System: Wings Over Houston	Ellington Airport	www.wingsoverhouston.com
	5:00 PM	Homecoming for Heroes Tribute Dinner: 65th Anniversary of the Rescue of the Lost Battalion	Hyatt Regency Hotel	meredithiler@aol.com
11/2	8:00 AM	Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce: Brazil Energy and Power VII	Westin Oaks Hotel	www.braziltexas.org
	—	City of Houston: Delegation from Shanghai, China (through 11/5)	City of Houston	(832) 393-0851
11/3	—	Human Capital Institute: Managing Talent in the Oil and Gas Industry (through 11/4)	St. Regis Hotel	HE@replycentral.com
	—	Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce: Energy Solutions Conference 2009—Energy Solutions for a Carbon-Restricted World	Omni Riverway Hotel	www.bilateralchamber.org
	8:00 AM	Gulf Publishing Company: 6th Women's Global Leadership Conference (through 11/4)	Hilton Americas Hotel	events@gulfpub.com
	8:30 AM	Rice University and Greater Houston Partnership: Cyberspace in America	Rice University	www.bakerinstitute.org
11/4	6:00 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: The Fall of the Berlin Wall	Junior League	www.wachouston.net
	6:00 PM	Asian American Bar Association: 5th Annual Corporate Counsel Dinner	Pappas Brothers Steakhouse	www.aabahouston.com
11/5	7:30 AM	U.S. Commercial Service, Houston District Export Council and PEMEX: PEMEX Procurement Seminar	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas—Houston Branch	www.buyusa.gov/Houston
	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: State of METRO—Reshaping the Face of Houston	Hilton Post Oak Hotel	jreese@houston.org
	6:00 PM	Awty International School and French-American Chamber of Commerce: Carrefours Metiers	Awty School	www.facchouston.com
11/6	6:00 PM	James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy: India and the United States—A Partnership for Prosperity	Rice University	bipprsvp@rice.edu
11/7	6:00 PM	Houston Peace and Justice Center: 2009 Annual Awards Dinner	Marriot West Loop Hotel	emailinfo@HPJC.org
11/9	5:45 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: WorldQuest 2009	Westin Galleria Hotel	www.wachouston.net
	—	City of Houston: Delegation from the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade	City of Houston	(832) 393-0851

11/9	—	City of Houston: Delegation from Hong Kong	City of Houston	(832) 393-0851
11/11	—	Houston Minority Supplier Development Council: Emerging Ten (E-10) Awards	Hilton Americas Hotel	www.hmbc.org
	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: State of the Port	Westin Galleria Hotel	jreese@houston.org
	6:00 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Greater Middle East	Westin Oaks Hotel	www.wachouston.net
11/12	—	City of Houston: Delegation from Nanjing, China (through 11/15)	City of Houston	(832) 393-0851
	7:30 AM	2009 Texas Conference for Women	George R. Brown Convention Center	www.txconferenceforwomen.org
	11:30 AM	French-American Chamber of Commerce, Greater Houston Partnership, Houston Technology Center and TiE Houston: Houston Planning and Strategic Forum	Hilton Post Oak Hotel	www.facchouston.com
	9:00 PM	Rendez-Vous with People of the World: Celebrate Greece (Networking Mixer)	TBC	www.the-rendez-vous.com
11/17	8:00 AM	U.S. Commercial Service: Business Opportunities At The Inter-American Development (IDB) Group	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas—Houston Branch	www.buyusa.gov/Houston
	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: State of the Airports—IAH's 40th Anniversary Celebration	Hilton Americas Hotel	jreese@houston.org
	6:00 PM	World Affairs Council of Houston: Entrepreneurs in Africa	Junior League	www.wachouston.net
11/19	11:30 AM	World Affairs Council of Houston: Understanding Iran's Power Struggle	Westin Oaks Hotel	www.wachouston.net
	3:00 PM	Greater Houston Builders Association: Design, Construction, Testing and Forensic Evaluation of Residential Foundations Workshop	Greater Houston Builders Association Education Center	(281) 970-8970
11/21	—	Arab American Cultural and Community Center: 2009 Gala—Arabian Night with Texan Dreams	Hilton Americas Hotel	accgala2009@hotmail.com

International Cultural Events in Houston:

11/5	6:30 PM	Asia Society Texas Center: Viet Nam—From River Plan to Open Sea (art exhibition)	Museum of Fine Arts	AliyaS@asiasoc.org
11/14	—	Sister Cities of Houston: Soccer Tournament	Cullen Park	www.sistercitiesofhouston.org

Events hosted by International Partner Cities of Houston:

11/1-5	U.S. Commercial Service: Annual Energy Sector Trade Mission to Washington, D.C.		Washington, D.C.	duaine.priestley@mail.doc.gov
11/6-12	World Ocean Week		Xiamen, China	oceanweekxiamen@gmail.com
11/16-20	Energy Efficiency Trade Mission to India		India	www.buyusa.gov

11/17-18	Green Energy Canada	Toronto, Canada	www.buyusa.gov
12/1-4	Colombia Petroleum Show	Bogota, Colombia	www.colombiapetroleumshow.com
12/12-13	Bright Green	Copenhagen, Denmark	www.buyusa.gov
2/1-4	U.S. Department of Commerce: Aerospace Executive Service Trade Mission	Singapore	www.buyusa.gov
2/14-19	U.S. Department of Commerce: Solar Trade Mission II to India	New Dehli, Chennai, and Mumbai, India	www.buyusa.gov/pacificsouth/642.html
2/17-22	U.S. Department of Commerce: Executive Trade Mission to Algeria and Libya	Algeria and Libya	northafricanmission@mail.doc.gov
3/7-12	U.S. Department of Commerce: Trade Mission to Senegal and South Africa	Senegal and South Africa	karen.dublin@mail.doc.gov
3/8-13	U.S. Department of Commerce: Medical Trade Mission to India	India	Jetta.dened@mail.doc.gov
4/25-28	U.S. Department of Commerce: Trade Winds—The Americas Business Forum	Sao Paolo, Brazil	www.buyusa.gov/northcarolina/tradewindsbrazil.html

Opportunities and Resources

Employment Opportunities

- Senior Drilling Surveillance Specialist, Staff Drilling Surveillance Engineers and Associate Drilling Surveillance Engineers (in Saudi Arabia)
Contact: mustafat@ssbs.com.sa

Continuing Education

- U.S. Department of Commerce: Trade Winds 2010—The Americas Webinar Series
Contact: diego.gattesco@mail.doc.gov

Award Nominations

- American Marketing Association: Marketer of the Year Award
Contact: gcarson@equamark.com

*The International Newsletter is published monthly by the
Mayor's Office of International Affairs & Development, City of Houston, Texas*

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Please submit event information to: moiad@cityofhouston.net or by fax to: (832) 393-0859
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