



CAFTA-DR Public-Private Sector Dialogue on Trade Facilitation Initiative

Organized by the governments of the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the United States

With support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and in cooperation with the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACCLA)

***Miami, Florida
January 23-24, 2012
The Biltmore Hotel***

Trade facilitation is of key importance for countries seeking to take full advantage of market access, trade liberalization, and the economic development opportunities offered by international trade agreements. Despite trade openings, the Dominican Republic, the Central American countries and the United States, parties to the CAFTA-DR, continue facing significant hurdles in areas such as customs procedures, logistics frameworks, and meeting technical and quality standards in target markets.

Aiming to tackle this challenge, the first meeting of the CAFTA-DR Free Trade Commission (FTC) in El Salvador on February 22-23, 2011 launched the CAFTA-DR Trade Facilitation Initiative (Initiative). The Initiative seeks to identify priorities and best practices that CAFTA-DR countries can adopt to implement programs, policies and practices to facilitate the region's trade supply chain systems so that economic actors in these countries can take fuller advantage of the trade agreement. In so doing, the Initiative seeks "to foster greater regional integration, enhance competitiveness and expand the benefits of the trade agreement, with special attention to promoting greater participation by SMEs."

At the request of DR-CAFTA countries, the IDB has worked on the development of a trade facilitation project inventory, and together with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce they have developed a survey tool for public and private sector representatives. Taking this support further, at the request of CAFTA-DR countries and in collaboration with AACCLA, the Bank has assisted in organizing this workshop to advance trade facilitation in the CAFTA-DR region.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

DAY 1

16:00 – 17:30	Registration of Participants
17:30 – 19:30	Welcome remarks and cocktail reception Ambassador Miriam Sapiro, Deputy USTR, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Antoni Esteveordal, Manager, Integration and Trade Sector (INT), IDB Patrick Kilbride, Senior Director for the Americas, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

DAY 2

8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:15	Customs and Trade Facilitation: Reducing Barriers and Transaction Costs Speaker: Jerry Cook, Vice President of Government and Trade Relations, Hanesbrands Inc. Speaker: Pablo Durán, Vice President of the Board of Directors, Center for the Promotion of the Micro and Small Enterprise in Central America (CENPROMYPE) Speaker: William Malamud, Executive Vice President, AmCham Dominican Republic Speaker: Maritza Castro, Head of Customs and Regulatory Affairs, DHL Speaker: Jay Eizenstat, Partner, McDermott Will & Emery LLP
10:15 – 11:00	Q&A/Discussion and wrap-up
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:30	Logistics and Supply Chains: Connecting People to Markets Speaker: Frank Santeiro, Vice President, FedEx Speaker: José Acosta, Vice President of South American Operations, UPS Speaker: Bill Johnson, Director, Port of Miami Speaker: Ana Guevara, President, AVENTI Associates, LLC Speaker: Adam Salerno, Director, National Security and Emergency Preparedness Department, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
12:30 – 13:15	Q&A/Discussion and wrap-up
13:15 – 15:00	Lunch
15:00 – 16:15	Technical Standards: Enhancing Compliance and Market Access Speaker: Fanny de Estrada, Director for Competitiveness and Market Access, Guatemalan Exporters Association (AGEXPORT) Speaker: Josephine Infante, President, Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation (HPEDC) Speaker: Wal-Mart (invited) Speaker: John Kelly, Manager, International Affairs, International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) Speaker: Sylvia Alvarado, Corporate Affairs Manager, Kraft Foods Central America and the Caribbean Speaker: Jason Hafemeister, Vice President, Allen F. Johnson & Associates
16:15 – 17:00	Q&A/Discussion and wrap-up