
News Release



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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World Trade Center Association, LAEDC and City of Long Beach to Lead Joint Trade Mission to India

Los Angeles County is poised to capture unprecedented business development opportunities in one of the largest economies in the world

LOS ANGELES – The World Trade Center Association Los Angeles-Long Beach together with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, the City of Long Beach, and the Long Beach International Trade Office will lead a delegation of business and civic leaders from Southern California to India with an important objective of forging meaningful and beneficial ties between India, and the County of Los Angeles in public and private sector industries such as logistics, health care, tourism, technology and transportation.

The delegation, traveling to India on March 2 – 9, 2008, aims to introduce local and regional engineering, technology and transportation-related companies doing business with the Port of Long Beach and Los Angeles to their Indian counterparts to foster long-term commercial relationships. This trade mission is being supported by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, the U.S. consulates in Mumbai and Kolkata, and the West Bengal Chamber of Commerce. The delegation will also include representatives of the City of Los Angeles International Trade office and the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners.

In addition to being the most populous democracy in the world, India has the 12th largest economy, with significant levels of exports to and imports from the United States. The country's economy is expected to grow exponentially over the next couple of decades to keep up with demand in Europe, Asia and the United States.

New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata are also modernizing their air and sea ports in anticipation of future growth. They will require companies with expertise in designing, planning and developing infrastructure capable of keeping pace with ever-increasing demand for goods movement.

“That expertise exists in Los Angeles County, which is home to the Port of Long Beach and neighboring Port of Los Angeles, together making up the largest port complex in the Americas and fifth largest in the world. In addition to being the primary international trade hub of the U.S., Los Angeles County is also its largest manufacturing hub. The visiting delegates will therefore seek collaborative opportunities between New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Los Angeles County in the manufacturing sector as well,” said Bill Allen, President and CEO, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

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“Kolkata is part of my pledge to Mayor Shri Bikash Bhattacharya during his last visit to Long Beach to help strengthen the existing relationship between these two Sister Cities. The timing could not be better for both cities with their businesses and governments focused on expanding opportunities and improving relations,” said Long Beach City Councilmember, Dr. Suja Lowenthal.

“This is an unprecedented opportunity to promote business between India and Los Angeles County,” said Vance Baugham, President of the World Trade Center Association Los Angeles-Long Beach. “This mission is designed to harness a key portion of the extraordinary growth that is happening in India now.”

About the WTCA

The World Trade Center Association Los Angeles – Long Beach works to support the development of international trade and business opportunities for Southern California companies as the leading international trade association, trade service organization and trade resource in Los Angeles County. It also promotes the Los Angeles region as a destination for foreign investment. The WTCA LA-LB is a subsidiary of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. For more information, please visit www.wtca-lalb.org or call (213) 680-1888.

About the LAEDC

The LAEDC, the region’s premier business leadership organization, is a private, non-profit organization established in 1981 under section 501(C) (3). Our mission is to attract, retain, and grow business and jobs in Los Angeles County. Since 1996, the LAEDC has helped retain or create more than 132,300 jobs, providing \$5.6 billion in direct economic impact from salaries and \$95 million in annual tax revenue benefit to Los Angeles County. For more information, please visit www.laedc.org or call (888) 4-LAEDC-1.

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