



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

May 4, 2012

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual World Trade Week, the most extensive and unique celebration of international trade in the country.

In 1927, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce set a national precedent with the first World Trade Week—demonstrating remarkable foresight about the importance of international trade to our region. With the continued support of the Chamber, I am proud of how globally-connected Los Angeles has become over the past 86 years.

The Los Angeles customs district is an engine of our national economy, handling more than 10% of U.S. international trade by value and 40% of all containerized imports. Our world-class educational institutions, highly skilled workforce, and exceptionally diverse population make Los Angeles attractive to global corporations and business. Our local sectors including aerospace, clean technology, film, fashion and apparel, and tourism drive global innovation.

Thanks in large part to the efforts of the Chamber, Los Angeles continues to lead the way in growing international trade. In partnership with the Chamber, the Brookings Institute, and regional global trade institutions, my office launched the Los Angeles Regional Export Council (LAREx). LAREx is already becoming the standard for plans to grow exporting in other US metropolitan areas.

The future of Los Angeles will be even more global than it is today, and it is programs like World Trade Week that ensure we stay on the leading edge. I would like to thank the 2012 World Trade Week Committee and its Chair Commissioner Valeria Velasco, whose participation and influence have made a lasting impact on the Los Angeles region.

I offer my best wishes for a successful and memorable celebration.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
Mayor