



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 1, 2007

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## **L.A. AREA CHAMBER, MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA HIGHLIGHT IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION AT 81<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL WORLD TRADE WEEK KICK-OFF BREAKFAST**

***Breakfast Commences month of festivities focused on “Globalization and Beyond” Including Trade Mission to Mexico to Promote Business and Foreign Investment***

**LOS ANGELES** – The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and a coalition of businesses and community organizations today kicked off the 81st annual World Trade Week at an awards breakfast in downtown L.A. The breakfast commences a month of seminars, conferences and other international trade-related events in Southern California held under the World Trade Week banner.

This year’s theme, “Globalization and Beyond,” focuses on globalization and its impact in the L.A. region and throughout the world. With 500,000 jobs created by international trade last year alone, world trade is a key driver of Southern California’s economy. World trade is also essential in addressing L.A.’s goods movement and infrastructure needs, with more than 40 percent of all goods entering the ports of L.A. and Long Beach each year.

“World trade is the economic engine of Los Angeles and it is vital that we develop relationships with other countries,” said L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. “I am proud to be visiting Mexico City with the L.A. Chamber later this week to promote business and foreign investment in Los Angeles.”

In conjunction with World Trade Week, a select number of L.A. businesses will join Mayor Villaraigosa and the L.A. Area Chamber on a two-day trade mission to Mexico City. The matchmaking trip will allow business owners to meet with Mexican distributors, wholesalers, buyers and counterparts to further business opportunities in Los Angeles.

Trade with Mexico is critical to the Los Angeles economy. Total trade between Los Angeles and Mexico this year is valued at \$2.7 billion, a 9.5 percent increase from 2005 to 2006. Mexico is also Los Angeles’ 16<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner.

“We must do all we can to strengthen trade relations with our neighboring countries, including Mexico,” said L.A. Area Chamber President & CEO Gary Toebben. “Southern California is a leader in international trade. If we want to remain at the forefront of trade, we must continue to foster relations with our trading partners.”

More information on World Trade Week and the month’s activities is available at:  
[www.worldtradeweek.com](http://www.worldtradeweek.com).

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*The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit [www.lachamber.org](http://www.lachamber.org).*