



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

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U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTS THE 91st ANNUAL WORLD TRADE WEEK IN LOS ANGELES

“Despite all the difficulties of the world, I remain optimistic about our future. Cities like Los Angeles and London have become great by creating communities that are open-minded to the world.”

– Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair

“The NUSACC office in Los Angeles has been a great partner of the Chamber and World Trade Week.” – Carlos Valderrama, President of the Center for Global Trade & Foreign Investment at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Los Angeles, CA – This past week, the National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC) and other local organizations in Los Angeles supported the 91st Annual World Trade Week, organized by the [Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce](#). [Huda Salman](#), head of NUSACC’s West Coast office, represented the U.S. – Arab Chamber and participated in the breakfast launching World Trade Week at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites Los Angeles.

More than 900 business leaders, including NUSACC members, attended the program, which promoted international trade as integral to a prosperous economy. Among the speakers at the event were former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, and ESRI Co-founder and CEO Jack Dangermond. Participants also included trade representatives from more than 35 countries, including dignitaries from the Arab World, such as H.E. Khalid Al-Sada, the Consul General of the State of Qatar in Los Angeles and H.E. Lamia Mekhemar, the Consul General of Egypt in Los Angeles.



Former British Prime Minister
Tony Blair

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NUSACC President & CEO [David Hamod](#) said, “This is an event to which our Chamber looks forward every year. It strengthens our partnership with the L.A. Chamber of Commerce, and it highlights the important role that American exports play in growing the U.S. economy. NUSACC has maintained an office in California for decades, and we are proud to promote trade and investment between the Arab world and the West Coast of the United States.”

California’s exports to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) exceeded \$5 billion in 2016, the third highest volume in the United States. (For NUSACC’s analysis of 2016 U.S.-MENA trade, please click [HERE](#).)

NUSACC’s headquarters are located in Washington DC, but the Chamber has offices across the country, including Los Angeles. The Chamber supports events nationwide to promote trade and commerce between the United States and the MENA region.

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Former Prime Minister Tony Blair told the audience that “one of the advantages of leaving office is you get to see much more of the world. And in my view, the single biggest characteristic of the world today is the scope and speed of change. Technology and migration are changing our lives.” Continuing, he said, “Despite all the difficulties of the world, I remain optimistic about our future. Cities like Los Angeles and London have become great . . . by creating communities that are open-minded to the world.”

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Ambassador Vilma Martinez (right), President of the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Chamber Board Chair Steve Nissen (left).

World Trade Week supports college and high school scholarships, high school student and career counselor workshops, and briefings for civic and business leaders interested in benefiting from the global economy. The Kickoff Breakfast included an award ceremony honoring 16 local college and high school students who received scholarships worth nearly \$10,000. Organizations and companies that have had a major impact on international trade in the Los Angeles area were also recognized. Ambassador Vilma Martinez, President of the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners, received the Stanley T. Olafson Bronze Plaque Award in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments and dedication to the advancement of the world trade.



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Additional awards included:

- **Export Achievement Award:** This award recognizes companies in the five-county area that have demonstrated success in exporting or have provided significant export services to others over the past two years.
 - ◊ Borla Performance Industries, Inc.
 - ◊ Cosmobeauti Labs
 - ◊ UltraGlas, Inc.

- **Bob Kleist Leadership Award:** This award honors the organization or company that demonstrates inspirational and visionary leadership in the development of world trade in southern California.
 - ◊ Port of Los Angeles Trade Connect

NUSACC’s long-standing partnership with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce has been mutually beneficial for the Chambers and their members. Carlos Valderrama, President of the Center for Global Trade & Foreign Investment at the L.A. Chamber, noted, “The NUSACC office in Los Angeles has been a great partner of the Chamber and World Trade Week.”

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To learn more about the benefits of membership in NUSACC, please click [HERE](#).

The National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, widely regarded as the voice of American business in the Arab world, is in touch with business communities across the United States and serves as the U.S. point of contact for the national chambers of commerce in the 22 Arab nations. On a daily basis, NUSACC works closely with leaders throughout the Arab world, as well as high-level decision makers in the U.S. business community, public policy research centers, multilateral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, media, and the U.S. Government.

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