USPAACC Returns from Triumphant 3-City Asia Trade Mission

As Harbingers of Economic Growth, USPAACC Creates New Avenues for Business Opportunities for its Delegates and their China-based Partners

USPAACC strengthened the “global Guanxi” by concluding yet another successful Asia Trade Mission (ATM) to the cities of Tianjin, Chengdu, and Shanghai in China on September 4 – 14, 2013. *(Pronounced gwahn-shee, Guanxi is a common Asian business term meaning “connections” or “relationship”)*

Held annually by USPAACC since 2005, this year’s ATM continued to pave the way for new business opportunities for its delegates and their China-based partners.

“Our trade mission to the world’s second-largest economy is auspicious as it lays a strong foundation toward business growth for our delegates and their partners in China,” said USPAACC National President & CEO Susan Au Allen. “It goes beyond exploring opportunities for investment, joint ventures, and sourcing potential suppliers. We also extend friendship, establish strategic connections, and promote American products and services – while we create the bridge that effectively connects American businesses to the fast-growing and vibrant markets in the Asia-Pacific region.”

This year’s ATM delegation represented a broad spectrum of corporate and Asian American-owned businesses, including: advertising & marketing; cosmetics; food & beverage/manufacturing; healthcare; international education services; IT; legal services; and logistics/shipping, etc.

In Tianjin, the first leg of the Trade Mission, the delegates stayed at the historic St. Regis hotel and were treated to elegant dinners hosted by China Communications Construction Company (CCCCC) and Chinese Association of International Friendly Contact (CAIFC).

The delegation toured manufacturing plants in the Binhai New Area, including Flextronics, Tingshin International Group, and Topline Products Hi-Run Hongtai.

Close to 60 participated in the CEO Forum and Matchmaking Rounds, with featured speakers including John Jiang, China Government Affairs, Flextronics and Shelley Jiang, Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Motorola Mobility, as well as representatives from AmCham Tianjin, CCPIT, Binhai New Area Government, Tianjin Investment Promotion Office, and local corporations and businesses. For sightseeing, the delegates went on a boat ride along the Hai River, and visited the Tianjin Museum, food street, and the Ancient Cultural street.

(Continued on Page 5)
**USPAACC An Advocate for Economic Growth**

The US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation (USPAACC) was formed in 1984 as a national, non-profit organization representing all Asian Americans and Asian American-related groups in business. USPAACC promotes, nurtures and propels economic growth by opening doors to contract, educational and professional opportunities for Asian Americans and their business partners in corporate America, the federal, state and local government, and the small and minority business community in the U.S. and Asia.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**USPAACC Western Chapter**

**Procurement Connections**

**& Holiday Networking Reception**

San Jose Marriott
San Jose, California

December 12, 2013

29th Annual CelebrAsian 2014

**Procurement Opportunity Conference**

Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner
Vienna, Virginia

June 2 - 4, 2014

Visit www.uspaacc.com for details

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**President’s Message**

Dear Friends,

As USPAACC prepares to welcome 2014 with optimism and excitement, we thank you, our stalwart supporters, for another milestone year, as we proudly herald the value we continue to bring to our members.

Here are select highlights of USPAACC events in the past 12 months:

Topping the list is our flagship 28th Anniversary CelebrAsian Procurement Opportunity Conference, held June 3-5 in Garden Grove, California. We delivered on our promise as the largest national Pan Asian American business and procurement conference in the United States.

In all, more than 689 Conference participants — representing more than 150 Asian American businesses, 70 Fortune corporations, 20 government agencies and 8 media partners — came in full force from all over the country to celebrate remarkable achievements, learn from top-notch speakers, connect with procurement folks and other high-caliber small and minority business owners.

We held special Regional Events coast-to-coast. Our Regional Chapters held summits, workshops, expos, Top 10 Asian American Business Awards, and networking events in Texas, Virginia, California, Georgia, New Jersey and New York. On November 3-5, we held our 3rd Annual Business Express: ReadySetGrow®, a fast-track executive coaching program, in Houston, Texas.

On the advocacy front, at the request of U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu (Chairman, Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship), we recommended USPAACC members to participate in discussions on issues and challenges in the small/minority business community, held on Capitol Hill in May and September.

On request from The White House, we assisted in identifying a success story from the USPAACC community, whose narrative of triumph over adversity made its way to President Obama’s speech.

2013 has been one for the record books for USPAACC. The overwhelmingly positive response we have received from participants and corporate sponsors all year long, speaks volumes on the quality of our programs. It is a validation that we are on the right track.

We are committed to delivering on our mission — to create parity and a road map of opportunities for B2B Asian American-owned enterprises nationwide and their business partners in Corporate America, government agencies, large non-profits, and other small and minority businesses. The goal is to achieve growth here in the U.S. and in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific market.

We will hit the ground running in 2014. We have planned bigger and better things for you, including new and exciting programs, plus our signature CelebrAsian Procurement Opportunity Conference, to be held on June 2-4, 2014 at the Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner in Vienna, Virginia.

Of course, we will continue to help make supplier diversity a vibrant place filled with innovative, reliable and cost-effective Asian American suppliers, open new doors to myriad business opportunities, and reach out to top-caliber B2B enterprises across the country. So, bring your friends, associates and clients on board with us – opportunities abound and it’s a lot of fun!

On behalf of the entire USPAACC team, I thank you for another successful and productive year. I wish you all continued success and prosperity in 2014!

In friendship,

Susan Au Allen
National President & CEO

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*eastwest REPORT* is published by the US PAN ASIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EDUCATION FOUNDATION (USPAACC)

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USPAACC in Action

Business Express Program an Unprecedented Success in Texas!
USPAACC’s Executive Coaching Program Puts Small- and Minority-Owned Businesses on Accelerated Track to Robust Growth

A total of 25 small and minority business owners — a 150% increase from 3 years ago when the program was launched — from California, Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Texas (Dallas) gathered in Houston for the workshop Business Express: ReadySetGrow on November 3-5.

Specifically created to help small- and medium-sized businesses to get on the express track to robust growth, Business Express is a limited attendance business executive coaching program that offers proven solutions, frank and thought-provoking assessments on strategic planning, branding, marketing, pricing, people and exit strategy. Participants explored and refined their core values, competitive advantage, and shared best practices that will take their business to the next level. They came from diverse backgrounds representing Asian Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, Vietnamese and White; and left with exclamations such as:

“Amazing! I have learned so much that is so important to growing my business that I didn’t know.” “We need to come back again for a refresher on what we have learned and more.”

“The value-added program that USPAACC provides is so essential to being the best we aspire to be.”
- Business Express participant

USPAACC and Wells Fargo Host Full-House Networking Event in the Northeast

USPAACC and Wells Fargo jointly hosted a packed-house networking event for Asian American and other small/minority businesses at The Mirage Banquet Hall in Edison, New Jersey on November 7. Up to 180 guests registered for the event, representing 33 successful Asian American and minority-owned businesses from diverse industries, as well as several corporations in the region.

The event’s keynote speaker was Lisa Hutter, Wells Fargo Regional Wealth Planning Manager and Senior Wealth Planner, Northeast Region.

Opening and closing remarks were made by John Cole, Wells Fargo Executive Vice President & Northeast Business Banking Division Manager, and Susan Au Allen, USPAACC National President & CEO. Wells Fargo Senior Vice President and Asian Segment Manager Nancy Wong, who helped in planning the event, was also in attendance.

In her remarks, Allen traced the strong and sustained partnership of USPAACC and Wells Fargo, which began in 2005 with the inauguration of the Asian American Business Leadership Awards. In 2010, Wells Fargo became the Legacy Founder of USPAACC’s Business Express: ReadySetGrow, an annual business executive coaching program for small/minority businesses, which has seen a 150% increase in participation from its inception three years ago.

At the event, Allen also officially announced the appointment of Anisa Balwani, President of New Jersey-based RCI Technologies, as the new USPAACC Northeast Regional Chapter President.

Mars Chocolate’s Supplier Diversity Manager Itu Otu, who holds a seat on the USPAACC Northeast Chapter’s board, also gave brief remarks.

Among those who came to the event was Ashis Bhisey, Vice President of DATA Inc., who wrote: “Thank you for an impeccably organized event that provided an opportunity to meet other members of USPAACC and the sponsors. I look forward to attending future events.”

Christian Estrellado, Chief Digital Officer, and Steve Estrellado, Digital Marketing Strategist of Estro Communications in New Jersey, echoed the sentiment: “What a fantastic event. Thank you for including us.”

Other attendees included: Albert Wei, President of Vizion Logistics from New York, who brought along two of his Client Relations Managers; Ted Hsu, USPAACC New England Chapter President and President of Horizon Services Company; Arvin Chaudhary, USPAACC New England Chapter Board Member and President & CEO of Nadicent Technologies in Connecticut; and Aziz Ahmad, USPAACC Northeast Chapter Board Member and President of UTC Associates.
USPAACC Advocacy Takes Center Stage as Member Testifies Before U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To ensure that small and minority business issues remain at the forefront of discussions among the nation’s lawmakers on Capitol Hill, USPAACC recently referred its Asian American member to join a roundtable discussion presided by the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship on September 18 at the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

RCI Technologies President Anisa Balwani, a New Jersey-based Information Technology professional services firm and USPAACC-Certified member, shared her thoughts on issues and challenges faced by other Asian American-owned businesses at the hearing entitled “Closing the Wealth Gap: Empowering Minority-Owned Businesses to Reach Their Full Potential for Growth and Job Creation.” Balwani was recently appointed the new USPAACC Northeast Chapter President (See related story on the right column).

United States Senator Mary L. Landrieu (D-Louisiana), Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, held the roundtable focused on finding solutions and best practices for closing the racial wealth gap. Senator Landrieu was joined at the discussion by Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-Louisiana) and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas).

“We are honored to have been given a voice in this dialogue that seeks to level the playing field for our constituents,” said Susan Au Allen, USPAACC National President & CEO. “We are steadfastly committed in our advocacy efforts to help small and minority businesses pursue opportunities that would strengthen our national economy and enable them to compete effectively in the global marketplace.”

“Thank you for entrusting me with such a wonderful opportunity,” wrote Balwani, following her testimony in an email to USPAACC’s Allen. “I had a great experience at the U.S. Senate and met knowledgeable and interesting members. I was able to give your message and they were very happy to have representation from USPAACC.”

The panel of witnesses also included representatives from Georgia Tech University, Office of Business Development of the U.S. Small Business Administration, Pew Research Center, U.S. Black Chambers, and the Maryland Governor’s Office, among others.

This is the second time this year that USPAACC has brought its members to the U.S. Capitol to share their expertise and experiences as minority business owners. In May, also at the request of Senator Landrieu, USPAACC National referred another member, DSFederal and its CEO Sophia Parker to testify and participate in the Senate’s hearing on “Strengthening the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for Minority Women.”

In its continuing effort to bolster its presence and activities that ensure the growth of small- and minority-owned businesses in the New York-New Jersey-Pennsylvania region, USPAACC announced the appointment of Anisa Balwani as its new Northeast Regional Chapter President, at a networking reception held November 7 in Edison, New Jersey.

Co-hosted by USPAACC and Wells Fargo, 180 guests registered for the event at The Mirage Banquet Hall. They included Asian American and other small/minority business owners and several Corporate members, including Mars Chocolate who holds a seat on the Chapter’s board.

Balwani is the Owner and President of RCI Technologies, an Information Technology professional services firm and USPAACC-certified member. RCI is headquartered in Iselin, New Jersey with branch offices in Olney, Maryland and Houston, Texas. The company is the recipient of USPAACC’s Fast 50 Asian American Businesses Award in 2009.

As USPAACC NE Chapter President, Balwani succeeds Savio Chan, who will now assume the role of Ex Officio President.

“We are delighted to welcome Anisa to the USPAACC team, and we thank Savio for his dedication and service,” said USPAACC National President & CEO Susan Au Allen, who made the official announcement at the event. “As we look to a new horizon in this region, we anticipate with excitement the programs the Northeast Chapter leadership will create as they establish their platform to increase business access, growth, and prosperity for their constituents in the region.”

“I welcome the challenge to further strengthen USPAACC’s role and presence in the Northeast as we endeavor to create more opportunities for robust growth among the small and minority businesses to thrive in the mainstream,” said newly-appointed USPAACC Northeast Chapter President Balwani.

“Thank you for the opportunity and honor of representing USPAACC in the region. I welcome the challenge of making this Chapter a big success story!” she added.

A graduate of the Executive Management Programs at the Amos Tuck School of Business and the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Balwani resides in Edison, New Jersey with her husband and two children.
USPAACC Participates in Sustainability Summit in New York City

USPAACC National President & CEO Susan Au Allen was a speaker at the Sustainability Summit Plenary Panel: Expanding Global Green Supply Chains, on October 9 at the BNY Mellon auditorium in New York City.

USPAACC is a strategic partner of The New York & New Jersey Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc., the organizers of the Summit.

Allen spoke on sustainability from the global supply chain perspective for large, medium and small businesses, opportunities in the federal sector for small businesses, and the mandates from the Executive Order signed by President Obama on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance that could lead to an array of business opportunities for the small and minority business community.

USPAACC National President Participates in International Economic Forum in Beijing

Fresh from leading a successful 3-city Asia Trade Mission to China (Tianjin, Chengdu and Shanghai), USPAACC National President & CEO Susan Au Allen flew to China’s capital, Beijing, to speak at “The China International Economic and Technical Cooperation Forum” and “Outstanding Domestic & Foreign Companies CEO Roundtable” on September 21 - 23.

“I am honored to speak at an international conference of this magnitude and to share the mission and vision of USPAACC,” said Allen.

“As the harbingers of economic growth, USPAACC continues to work hard to build the bridge that connects Chinese and American businesses, as they share and take advantage of the opportunities in the ever-evolving global marketplace.”

Hosted by The Organizing Committee of China International Economic and Technical Cooperation Forum, the conference was held at the Diaoyutai State Guest House, Great Hall of the People’s Republic of China, and the China Technology Hall.

The theme was “Sharing Opportunities in China with the World.”

Top Chinese officials participated in the Forum, including 3 of the 12 Vice Chairmen of the State Standing Committee (equivalent to the rank of Governors in the United States and are ranked immediately under the President).

More than 250 CEOs and entrepreneurs of Chinese heritage from Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Spain, Taiwan and the United States also participated in the event. Their businesses cover a wide range, including electronics, IT, medical equipment, herbal medicine, tea, wine and liquor, garment, transportation, real estate development, mining, education, executive coaching, arts and culture, legal services, etc.

Panelists in other sessions included the Deputy Director of Green Trade Project Office of the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Taiwan, and speakers from Yahoo!, Hewlett-Packard Company, Consolidated Edison, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Green Team), Major League Baseball (MLB), NASCAR Green, National Football League (NFL), etc.

Allen also attended a reception held at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Affairs Office in New York City, where she spoke briefly and shared USPAACC’s 2011 Asia Trade Mission to Taipei, when Taiwan’s Vice President Vincent Siew received the trade delegation at the Presidential Palace.

USPAACC News Brief

- USPAACC Southeast Chapter held its Annual Business Summit & Top 10 Asian American Businesses Awards at the UPS HQ in Atlanta, Georgia on October 8.

- USPAACC Western Region, with title sponsors PG&E and Wells Fargo, will hold Procurement Connections & Holiday Networking Reception at the San Jose Marriott in San Jose, California on December 12.

- USPAACC and JPMorgan Chase partner to support Mission Main Street Grants to help fuel the growth of small businesses nationwide. USPAACC will help select the winners of 12 grants each worth $250,000 to be given to small businesses across America in January.

In Chengdu, the delegation toured Coca-Cola’s manufacturing plant and IBM’s procurement office.

Over 30 participated in the CEO Forum and Matchmaking Rounds, with featured speakers that included: The Honorable Peter Haymond, U.S. Consul General, Chengdu Consulate General; Joseph Ma, Vice President of GE China, General Manager of GE China Innovation Center, General Manager of GE SW China Region; Huang (Susan) Wei, Manager of IBM China Procurement Center and Business Control Manager of IBM Global Procurement Centers; Eli Sweet, Vice Chairman, American Chamber of Commerce SW China; Carrie Zhou, Manager of Public Affairs and Communication, SC operation unit, Coca-Cola; and the Project Manager, Panalpina World Transport. The ATM delegates also connected with SkyTouch Technology and other local businesses.

For sightseeing, the delegates visited the base of Giant Panda Breeding, Wuhou Temple, and Jinli Old Street. Ingersoll Rand sponsored and hosted the delegation in Shanghai.

The delegates were received by the company’s China President and Global VP Jeff Song at the company’s HQ office, and toured the plant in Wujiang.

Also on the itinerary was a plant tour of Rockwell Collins-China Eastern Airlines Joint Venture and a visit to AmCham Shanghai and its SME Center.

Featured speakers at the CEO Forum and Matchmaking Rounds included: Katty Lam, Chairman of PepsiCo Greater China Region, PepsiCo; Cathy Tai, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, PepsiCo;
Hee-Chang Kang, General Manager, Hyundai; Lily Ng, President, Caesars Global Living Asia, Caesars Entertainment; and Evonne Bennett, Director, Diversity and Inclusion, Ingersoll Rand.

The Forum also included: Lei Fang, Procurement Manager, ConAgra Foods; Tian Bing Zhang, Partner, Deloitte Consulting; Denny Zhang, Senior Government Relations Manager, Honeywell; Helen Zhao, Senior Manager of Enterprise Sales, Ingersoll Rand; Denis Yu, APAC Regional Market Cluster Lead, Pfizer; and representatives from AmCham Shanghai and the U.S. Commercial Service in Shanghai.

Close to 50 participated in the Matchmaking Rounds, which included representatives from Caesars Entertainment, ConAgra Foods, Deloitte Consulting, Honeywell, Ingersoll Rand, PepsiCo, Pfizer, AmCham Shanghai, the U.S. Commercial Service in Shanghai, and other local businesses.

For sightseeing, the delegation went to the Shanghai Museum, Yuyuan Garden, and The Bund on the Huangpu River.

MSL Express, a long-time USPAACC Member, was the transportation sponsor to all the cities visited by the delegation.

For more information, visit www.uspaacc.com
Asia Trade Mission 2013

(Clockwise, from above): The ATM delegates met with Ingersoll Rand’s China President and Global VP Jeff Song at the company’s HQ in Shanghai, then toured the plant in Wujiang; Joseph Ma, Vice President, GE China, General Manager, GE China Innovation Center, General Manager, GE SW China Region; Business matchmaking session in Chengdu; The ATM delegates in Tianjin; A sightseeing trip to the Old Jinli Street in Chengdu; and ATM delegates visit the procurement office of IBM in Chengdu.
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☐ Enclosed is $15,000 for annual Corporate Platinum membership
☐ Enclosed is $10,000 for annual Corporate Gold membership
☐ Enclosed is $5,000 for annual Corporate membership
☐ Enclosed is $2,500 for Government/Non-profit membership
☐ Enclosed is $300 for annual Individual membership and application for certification
☐ Enclosed is $250 for annual Individual membership

☐ Yes, I/We will contribute $__________ to the Asian American Scholarship Fund.
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☐ Yes, send me/us more information on Asian American Certification.

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