

## **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WORLD TRADE CENTER RECENT DELEGATIONS - WINTER 2011**

**ARMENIA:** The Armenian delegation examined the work of U.S. print, online, and broadcast news media, the effects of new media on journalism, current international, U.S., and U.S. regional economic and political issues, media independence and press freedom issues, and education of journalists. During their stay, the delegates met with Jack Haley of the CA State Senate Human Services Committee, visited the Sacramento Bee Newsroom with Steven Magagnini, and met with economic strategists and reporters, Jock O'Connell, A.G. Block and Marc Lifsher to analyze causes, effects, and outcomes of the global economic crisis as well as how Sacramento has covered this issue. In Sacramento, they visited the State Capitol and met with Keith Simmons, former Mission Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Armenia.

**HUNGARY:** During her visit Ms. Katalin Csobor, a member of the Hungarian Parliament, focused on issues affecting U.S.–Hungarian bilateral relations and organization promoting trade between the two countries as well as organizations supporting human rights. She also focused on federal, state and local government relations, women's leadership in politics and business, initiatives to assist immigrants, economic development strategies for smaller communities and structures that support entrepreneurship and successful strategies adopted by entrepreneurs in the U.S., meeting with Ginger Elizabeth to discuss Ms. Elizabeth's work as a successful entrepreneur in Sacramento and the steps she has taken to accomplish that success. She met with Legislative Leaders, the Honorable Assemblywomen Mariko Yamada and Amina Carter and member of the Women's caucus Brynan Sullivan. During her stay, she also met with Mr. Chet Newland, professor at USC and World Affairs Council members.

**JAPAN:** Mr. Hiroyuki Sakurai, from the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications came to Sacramento to research on recent trends and development of the Internet policy issues and their effects for education, community and social system, and the possibility of policy coordination on Internet governance issues among developed and developing countries in the future. To discuss the California State government's evolving position on the question of who should regulate the Internet and/or how the Internet should be regulated, he met with Gina Adams, Chief Consultant for Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce and discussed regulation of internet media with Dana Mitchell, Chief Consultant for Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media (AESTIM). During a meeting with Tara Thronson of Valley Vision, he was exposed to the regional vision broadband study.

**EUROPEAN UNION (UK):** Mr. Ball is in charge of food policy and food safety issues within the Agricultural Section of the U.K. Permanent Representation to the European Union. His visit was aimed at gaining an understanding of the U.S. system for policy making regarding food safety at the executive and legislative levels. He met with a member of the Senate Agricultural Committee, John Chandler to discuss CA state agricultural policies and with Chuck Britton, to learn about programs for inspection of Grains and Commodities of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) and with Sean Sullivan, general manager and CEO of Sullivan Vineyards in Napa Valley.

**JAPAN:** Mr. Koichi Nozawa came from Japan to learn about electoral strategies and tactics, opinion polls and their impact in the U.S. In Sacramento he met with Andrew Acosta, cofounder of Acosta/Salazar to learn about his work on presidential, gubernatorial, congressional,

statewide and local, candidate, initiative and issue campaigns and Ms. Jana Lean, Elections Division Chief in the Secretary of States office to discuss polling administration and oversight during elections. He also had a meeting with Sam Oki, Principal & CFO of Meta Research. This meeting was focused on quantitative research methods.

**FRANCE:** Mr. Encasse serves as a biotech specialist in the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development. He travelled to the California to examine agricultural, medical and industrial biotechnology laws and regulations, U.S. agricultural policy, major trends in biotechnology research and development and its impact on environment. During his visit, he met with Denneal Jamison-McClung, Associate Director, UC Davis Biotechnology Program to discuss the UC Davis biotechnology program, a member of the California State Senate Environmental Quality Committee, James King and Rio DeGrassi at the California Farm Bureau Federation learning about Biotechnology and the use of GMO's as well as the growing trend of sustainable farming in the U.S. He also discussed developments in agriculture through advanced screening, breeding and biotechnology with Eric Rey, President and CEO of Arcadia Biosciences and met Pam Chueh, representative of Assembly Committee on Agriculture to examine California policy on agricultural regulations and food safety.

**PAKISTAN:** A delegation from Pakistan visited Sacramento as part of a project on Energy Pricing and Trading Mechanism. Since the current energy crisis in Pakistan, the purpose of their visit was mainly to examine strategies and methodologies for sustainable and steady power supplies, regulatory issues related to pricing, distribution and taxing, technological concerns regarding upgrading the electricity grid and the implementation of renewable sources of energy. During their visit they met with a University of San Francisco Assistant Professor, Catherine Horiuchi to discuss her research on efficiency benchmarks, portfolio diversification and hydropower, Carl Linvill of Western Grid and discussed his past and current experience working on energy infrastructure project, Kreg McCollum of Navigant Consulting, Kellie Smith, Chief Consultant for Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee to discuss California's electricity deregulation policies over the last decade and several members of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

**MACEDONIA:** A Macedonian delegations interested in water management issues in the U.S. visited California. After meeting with Graham Fogg, Professor of Hydrogeology and Hydrogeologist from the UC Davis Department of Land Air Water Resources to discuss the effects of climate change on groundwater quantity and quality, in Sacramento they met with *Shahid Chaudhry*, officer of the California Energy Commission (CEC) focused on topics such as policies to discourage freshwater use for power plant cooling, the use of water by fossil-energy plants and its coordination with state water planning. She also met with officers of Department of Water Resources (DWR), Alf W. Brandt, and James Kassel to discuss the California Water System and Perspectives on California Water Allocation.

**UNITED NATIONS:** Dr. Ghosh, the Team Leader of the Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Group, AGPMG, in the Agriculture Department of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been invited to the U.S. to be offered an enhanced perspective on the policy, academic and industry linkages that support the U.S. agricultural sector. In the Sacramento area, she visited the facilities of Monsanto Calgene and Monsanto Seminis-Vegetables, meeting with George Gough, Director of- Local & Government Affairs at Calgene Inc. and Mark Oppenhuizen, Vegetable R & D Strategy & Operations Lead. As part of her program, she also visited the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis and in particular the Plant and Biology Department. There she met with Larry Teuber, director

of the Foundation Seed Service at the Parsons Seed Certification Center and Susan DiTomaso Analyst for the SEED BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER. In addition, she met with Hasan Bolkan General Manager of Campbell's Soup in Davis. In Sacramento, she had an appointment at the Assembly Committee on agriculture where she met Chief Consultant Jim Collin and Victor Francovich, Senior Consultant Assembly Committee on Agriculture, to discuss Agricultural policy and regulation in CA. advances in biotechnology and GMO laws.

**CANADA:** Sacramento has just hosted a collection of four public and private sector representatives from Canada that work on policy and research related to global warming. The attendants met with: California Air Resources Board, California Natural Resources Agency, the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technology, Senator Pavley's Environmental Policy Director, the California Department of Water Resources and at the UC Davis Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicle Research Center. The main themes of their visit in Sacramento focused on how California is approaching the development of adaptation strategies for climate change from different points of view and take a look at methods used to reduce transportation sector emissions and learn more about battery electric vehicles, how research and development of this technology is being funded and what strategies are being researched for consumers to ensure the sale and success of alternative fuel vehicles.

**BELGIUM:** Mr. Jean-Francois Brakeland came through this program in efforts to learn more about Environmental Protection as well as Environmental law. In the Sacramento area Jean visited a Superfund site, which is an area closed off by the EPA for having hazardous waste that could affect the ecosystem or people around, Jean was accompanied by the Environmental Protection Agency. Jean also met with Duane O'Donnell, a Technical Consultant for the Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC) they went over how to promote economic development along with environmental quality; BERC helps Sacramento Businesses how to comply with federal, state and local environmental regulations. After Jean's meeting, he met with Corey Brown, an Environmental Attorney to discuss the resources law groups currently work in regarding environmental law.