



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

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## **U.S. – ARAB CHAMBER SUPPORTS WORLD TRADE WEEK IN NEW YORK CITY**

***Hon. Stefan Selig, Under Secretary of Commerce for  
International Trade, Highlights New York’s Historic Role  
in International Trade***

***President of the NYC Economic Development Corporation: Trade  
Key to “Strengthening and Diversifying the Engines of Our  
Economy While Keeping New York Globally Competitive”***

**New York City, NY** – Last week, the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC) and other local organizations in New York City supported the New York District Export Council’s 11th Annual World Trade Week Awards Breakfast. Janine Colon, Associate Director of NUSACC’s New York office, attended the breakfast along with representatives from over 60 U.S. companies and 14 international trade offices. Ms. Rose Sager, Trade Representative from the Kingdom of Bahrain, joined Ms. Colon in promoting business with the Arab world. Joseph Schoonmaker, Chair of the New York Export District Council, praised the work of the partner organizations. “The success of World Trade Week in New York is made possible by the strength of our international partner organizations, such as NUSACC, which has been a partner since 2012. Such partnerships allow World Trade Week to truly be a global event, and raise the profile of New York as an international hub.”



The Honorable Stefan Selig  
Under Secretary of Commerce

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“Our Chamber looks forward to this event every year because it helps to promote New York on the international stage,” noted David Hamod, President & CEO of NUSACC. “For decades, our Chamber’s New York office has been a strong advocate for local and regional companies looking to do business with the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This is part of what makes World Trade Week so special.”

Each year, the President of the United States of America declares the third week of May as “World Trade Week” in a [proclamation](#) that explains the importance of international trade to the U.S. economy. Exports from New York State supported the U.S. economy to the tune of \$80 billion in 2015, making New York the 4th largest exporter among America’s 50 States. \$3.7 billion of those exports went to the MENA region, a growing market for New York traders. (To view the full report on New York exports to the MENA region, please click [HERE](#).)

### A New York Perspective

The World Trade Week Awards Breakfast honors companies which have excelled in export and export services. This year’s keynote address was delivered by the President of the NYC Economic Development Corporation, Maria Torres-Springer. Her remarks focused on the many NYCEDC programs that are designed to stimulate international trade in New York City. In short, she noted, “New York City is tasked with strengthening and diversifying the engines of our economy while keeping NYC globally competitive.”



Maria Torres-Springer, President of the NYC Economic Development Corporation

Programs such as IN2NYC and NYC Venture Fellows help foreign-based companies and entrepreneurs to establish a presence in New York City by providing mentoring, networking opportunities, and innovation ecosystems. Another program, NYCEDC’s Global Business Exchange, assists New York-based entities to expand into other global cities, like Paris and Milan.

Torres-Springer emphasized the importance of the attendees and partner organizations that support World Trade Week in New York City.

She noted, “To build on that very solid foundation, we know that we need the continued partnership of many of the individuals and organizations represented in this room.” World Trade Week New York City’s partner roster includes over 14 foreign trade organizations, seven local and international chambers of commerce – including the National U.S.–Arab Chamber of Commerce – and six government offices (representing the city, state, and federal levels).

## A U.S. Department of Commerce Perspective

Under Secretary Stefan Selig, another keynote speaker, offered a Federal Government perspective. He spoke of New York's long history of supporting international trade . . . from the settlement of New Amsterdam, to the World's Fair in 1939 (during which the idea of a world trade center first emerged), to the establishment of the World Trade Center in 1973.

Selig went on to highlight New York's role in America's economic recovery following the 2008 financial crisis. "It is bright and clear that there would have been no clear path to that historic recovery if it did not include the exceptional trade and investment strength of this metropolitan area," he noted. "In the same period of years that our country was producing record exports, the New York Metropolitan Area was either #1 or #2 in terms of goods export hubs in the entire country."

Selig continued, "Between 2011 and 2014, which is the latest data available, the New York City metro area produced record consecutive goods export each year. That includes 2014, when merchandise exports from this area topped \$105 billion." Selig underscored the role that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have played in the New York area's export revenues: "It is worth noting that 98 percent of the goods exported in the New York City Metropolitan Area are from SMEs representing more than 32,000 businesses."

## Award Recipients

Selig kicked off the Awards ceremony by presenting the Export Achievement Award to three companies: [M3 Technology](#), [Beauty Solutions Ltd](#), and [Bob Frank Entertainment](#). Other award recipients included:

### Global Logistics Award

- East Coast Warehouse and Distribution
- Gemini Shippers Group

### Small Business Global Trade Award

- Target Health
- Shoptiques

### Global Trade Award

- Long Island Import Export Association, Inc.



From left to right: KL Fredericks, Director, Harlem U.S. Export Assistance Center; Isaac Savitt, International Achievement Award recipient; Joe Schoonmaker, Chair, New York District Export Council

### International Achievement Award

- Isaac Savitt

### World Trade Week NYC/NY DEC Appreciation Award

- Lucy Ambrosino
- Cynthia Duncan

Selig concluded, "As we acknowledge World Trade Week, we also acknowledge that the New York City Metropolitan Area proves that trade is not a path to American decline; indeed, it is a path to American prosperity and greatness."

*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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