

SISTER CITIES MISSION TO ASTI, ITALY A SUCCESS



Message from the ITC Chair, Commissioner Natacha Seijas:

On behalf of the Mayor, the Chairperson and the Board of County Commissioners, residents, and members of the International trade community, welcome to the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium's (ITC) newsletter, the Miami-Dade Global Trader.

In this issue, you will find that we have focused our attention on the Miami-Dade Sister Cities Program and the Africa Trade Initiative. There has been much activity surrounding both programs in the last few weeks and the ITC is confident that driven efforts in both these areas will bring positive results for Miami-Dade County as well as for the mentioned communities.

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Left: Rolando Doglione, Sister Cities Coordinator for the Province of Asti, Hon. Natacha Seijas, Chair of the ITC, and Emma Tibaldeo, Miami-Dade Sister Cities Coordinating Council Member **Center:** Hon. Roberto Marmo, President of the Province of Asti, and Hon. Natacha Seijas **Right:** The President of the Municipal Council of the City of Asti, Hon. Natacha Seijas, ITC Chair, Hon. Maurizio Rasero, Council Member from the Province of Asti, Dott. Pietro DiMartino, Fire Chief of the Asti Province, and Emma Tibaldeo of the Coordinating Council.

A diverse delegation from Miami-Dade County gathered at Miami International Airport on September 8, 2006 and headed to our Sister City, the Province of Asti, Italy for a weeklong Sister Cities Mission in celebration of over 20 years of friendship with the kind people of this welcoming and enchanting province. Led by the Honorable Natacha Seijas, Chair of the ITC, mission participants were welcomed by a prestigious and equally diverse group of locals in Asti.

Emma Tibaldeo of Miami-Dade's Sister Cities Coordinating Council, and ITC Staff worked tirelessly with the

office of the Honorable Roberto Marmo, President of the Administration of the Province of Asti to plan the various activities and meetings that took place during this mission. Miami-Dade's delegates met with government officials, business owners, and heads of organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Asti's Economic Development Agency.

Dr. Eduardo Padron, President of Miami Dade College met in Torino with the Vice President of the very famous and ancient University of Torino. Dr. Padron explored ways in which Miami Dade College and the University could work together.

In addition to indulging in the rich cultural and historical activities that Asti has to offer, our delegates had the opportunity to meet with their respective counterparts to discuss ways in which both communities can benefit from mutual cultural exchanges.

Among those who shared their hospitality with our delegates were individuals who visited Miami-Dade as participants of an incoming Sister Cities Mission from Asti in June, 2005. All were happy to reunite with old friends and build new relationships. Our delegates were witnesses to the true value of the bonds that tie Miami-Dade County and the Province of Asti.

IL PALIO DI ASTI



Each year hundreds of thousands of visitors gather in Asti, Italy to participate in the Festivale delle Sagre, a farmers' parade celebrating the successful conclusion of the food and wine harvest. The weeklong event concludes with the Palio di Asti, a bareback horserace dating back to medieval times. This year, a group of 19 Miami-Dade County delegates were fortunate to arrive just in time to experience all the energy and excitement, not to mention the culinary delights, that go along with this annual parade and festival.

Fine chocolates, delicious cheeses, and the world famous food and wines of Asti were exhibited during the festivities. Tony Ojeda, Executive Director of the ITC, admitted that the delegates were truly impressed by the overwhelming hospitality of the people of Asti. Visit www.palio.asti.it to learn more about the Palio.

THANK YOU!

The ITC would once again like to thank the Honorable Gianfranco Colognato, Consul General of Italy in Miami, and his staff for their invaluable contributions in making this Sister Cities Mission such a success.



THE MIAMI-DADE GLOBAL TRADER

VOLUME 3- ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2006

Miami-Dade County's Sister Cities

Asti, Italy

Asuncion, Paraguay

Commonwealth of the
Bahamas

Cayman Islands, B.W.I.

Iquique, Chile

Kingston, Jamaica

Lamentin, Guadeloupe

Maldonado, Uruguay

Mendoza, Argentina

Monagas, Venezuela

Pereira, Colombia

Petit Guave, Haiti

Pucallpa, Peru

St. Kitts & Nevis Island

San Jose, Costa Rica

Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic

Sao Paulo, Brazil

Stockholm, Sweden

Tenerife, Canary Islands,
Spain

Taipei, Taiwan

Turks & Caicos Islands

Veracruz, Mexico

MIAMI-DADE CELEBRATES THE ART OF ITS SISTER CITIES

With 40 participating artists, the Fourth Annual Art Exhibit, sponsored by the Miami-Dade Sister Cities Program and Miami Dade College and promises to be the most successful yet. The theme for 2006 is, "Uniting Global Citizens through Art." And each Artist has donated truly inspired pieces on which visitors can place bids through a silent auction.

The participating artists come from diverse backgrounds, representing various countries and in some cases, mixed cultures. They are united in using their talent to bring people together through love of art for this worthy cause. Many of these artists were at the Opening Reception at the Miami Dade College Tower Theatre on September 15, 2006.

Mr. Jimmy Nares, Assistant Director of the Jay Malina International Trade Consortium (ITC) made welcoming remarks and presented a check in the amount of \$1000 to Miami Dade College for this year's scholarship recipient, Lislle Tascon. Several other special events are planned for the coming weeks.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 27 - The Business of Art Seminar sponsored by Chem Art.

September 29 - Cultural Friday. Music & Café in the lobby. We will be projecting the images of the exhibit onto the outside facade of the Tower Theatre. Book sale & signing of "Herejias Anonimas" by Josevelio, artist & poet. Sale will benefit Sister Cities Scholarship Program.

October 4 - *African Diaspora Night: A Celebration of Arts, Culture, & Commerce* hosted by The Jay Malina International Trade Consortium of Miami-Dade County. 7:00PM - 9:00PM.

October 14 - Youth Educational Seminar - A workshop by participating artists sponsored by Chem Art.

October 15 - Closing Concert and Silent Auction of all art pieces on exhibit. Drawing of winning tickets. Wine & Cheese. Concert : *Music & Art Uniting the World* sponsored by Piano & Art Galeria 6:00PM - 9:00PM.

2006 Scholarship Recipient at the Opening Ceremony with Officials from Miami Dade College and ITC.

From Left to Right: Dr. Jose Vicente, Dr. Nora Hernandez-Hendrix, Ms. Lislle Tascon, Dr. Malou Harrison, and Mr. Jimmy Nares.



Above: Ms. Norma Amaro (center) of Miami-Dade County's Sister Cities Coordinating Council is pictured with participating artists.



Gallo Con Vitral
Artist: Luis Molina

SILENT AUCTION

Stop by the Tower Theatre and place a bid on your favorite piece through the Silent Auction. Proceeds will benefit the Miami-Dade Sister Cities Scholarship Program.

We strongly encourage everyone who has an appreciation of the arts to visit this fabulous exhibit as soon as possible. The artwork is unique and showcases the diversity that exists in Miami-Dade County.

There is also an opportunity to win one of several beautiful pieces, including the one pictured above.

MIAMI DADE COLLEGE
TOWER THEATER
1508 SW 8TH ST.





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STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN THE GATEWAY TO THE AMERICAS AND THE GATEWAY TO WEST AFRICA



Mr. Tony Ojeda officially welcomed the Gambian Secretary of State, the Honorable Neneh MacDouall-Gaye, and her entourage, to Miami-Dade County on August 22, 2006. Mr. Ojeda, Executive Director of the ITC, briefed the delegation about the programs and activities of the ITC, in particular the newly established African Trade Initiative.

Mr. Ojeda also enumerated the economic advantages of Miami-Dade County as an international gateway community. He emphasized the economic roles of the Port of Miami and the Miami International Airport, as well as the Chambers of Commerce, as the key levers of growth in Miami-

Dade County.

The Gambia established an international trade office and the Gambian Industrial Promotion Free Zone to promote international trade and to take advantage of Gambia's geographic position as the natural gateway to West Africa.

This visit marks the second high level delegation from The Gambia to officially visit Miami-Dade County within the last 6 months. The Gambian Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Doudou Bammy Jagne, visited Miami-Dade County in February 2006.

The Gambian Association of Florida, Inc., a Florida Not-for-Profit

organization was established in January 2006. The Gambia has a population of 1.59 million.



Above: Mr. Tony Ojeda, and the Secretary of State. The Secretary was accompanied by Mr. Rony Desvarenes, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of The Gambia in Miami-Dade County; Mr. Tijan Ceesay, Chief of Staff of the Embassy of The Gambia in Washington D.C.; and Mr. Hugo Damas.

ITC BOARD MEMBER HONORED AT PILLAR AWARDS

On September 22, 2006 at the Biscayne Bay-Downtown Marriott Hotel & Conference Center The Honorable Dennis C. Moss, Vice Chair of the Board of County Commissioners received the award for public service at the Pillar Awards Gala Dinner. We are proud to announce that ITC Executive Board Member, Dwayne Wynn, was also among the select list of those honored at the ceremony.

The Black Heritage Planning Committee is a subcommittee of the Black Affairs Advisory Board. It is comprised of volunteer Miami-Dade County employees whose primary purpose is to plan and implement activities that highlight the rich cultural contributions of the African Diaspora.

SISTER CITIES COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Mayor Carlos Alvarez has appointed Ms. Jeanne Westphal to the Sister Cities Coordinating Council. She is representing the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and will serve a two year term.

Ms. Westphal served as Director of the U.S. Department of Commerce Tourism Program and also served as Director of the first Miami-Dade County Tourism Department. She has been an advisor to many international organizations, and was the founder of the Academy of Tourism. The ITC and Coordinating Council will benefit greatly from her vast experience in tourism, hospitality management, citizen diplomacy, international issues, fundraising, and knowledge of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

SAVE THE DATE!

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the ITC will hold the **U.S.-India Business Forum** on November 17, 2006 at the Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami-Dade. For more information, please contact Annette Molina at (305) 375-1660 or amoli@miamidade.gov.



CONSULAR CORNER

The ITC expresses its sincere condolences to the family of the Honorable Gui Govaert. He served as Consul General Emeritus of Belgium in Miami and Treasurer of the Consular Corps. His countless contributions to our community will not be forgotten.

Miami-Dade County is fortunate to have 69 Consulates and foreign trade offices located within its jurisdiction. The ITC will be dedicating a section of *The Miami-Dade Global Trader*, to highlighting the activities and initiatives of our local Consular Corps. Please contact Cleopatra Contreras at (305) 375-4750 or cleo@miamidade.gov to submit information.

ITC UPDATES

Please join us in welcoming the following new Staff Members:



Ms. Vivian Romero was appointed to the position of Secretary to the Sister Cities Division by the Executive Director of the ITC. Ms. Romero, started at the ITC on September 21, 2006, and comes to our office from the Planning and Zoning Department, has also worked as a Secretary in the private sector.

Mr. Javier Suarez joined the ITC as Driver Messenger on August 21, 2006. Mr. Suarez is a retired County employee who previously was the Building Manager for the Stephen P. Clark Center. He is quite knowledgeable of the County and its operations.

EVENTS

October 1-8, 2006: In-Bound Trade Mission from South Africa

Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Contact: Bryant Salter
Tel: (305) 569-2650
bjsalter@eflorida.com

111 NW 1st St., 18th Fl., Conference Room 18-3

Time: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Contact: Desmond Alufohai
Tel: (305) 375-3526
alufoha@miamidade.gov

November 8 - 10: Americas Food and Beverage Trade Show and Conference

Miami Beach Convention Center
1901 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, FL
JC

Tel: (305) 871-7910
afb@worldtrade.org

October 5 - 10: Italian Film Festival

Miami Beach Regal Cinema
Corner of Lincoln Road and Alton Road
Miami Beach, FL
Tel: (305) 447-0233
info@cinemaitaly.com

November 2-3, 2006: South African Ambassador to the U.S. visits Miami, FL

South African Business Club (SABC)
Contact: Mandy Ellison
Tel: (305) 628-4338
mandy.ellison@sabusinessclub.org

October 11th, 2006: ITC Board of Director's Meeting

111 NW 1st St., Miami, FL
18th Floor, Room 18-2
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

October 18, 2006: African Trade Initiative Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting

Location: Government Center

November 6 - 10 Incoming Trade Mission from Argentina

A Trade Mission from Argentina will be visiting Miami-Dade County. The Consulate General of Argentina in Miami is making the preparations.
Cleopatra Contreras
Tel: (305) 375-4750
cleo@miamidade.gov

November 12 - 16 Export Mission to San Pedro Sula, Honduras & San Salvador, El Salvador

by Enterprise Florida
Julie Bazano
jbalzano@eflorida.com

Please note that dates are subject to change.

To announce upcoming events please call (305) 375-4750.



Tony Ojeda
Executive Director

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