



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2020-21



Miami-Dade County
Board of County Commissioners
International Trade Consortium



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the ITC Interim Director	3
About Us	4
Outreach, Marketing, and Protocol Events	5
Trade Missions	11
Sister Cities Program	17
ITC Board Members	20
ITC Committees	22
ITC Meetings	25
Account Balances	27
Miami-Dade County Elected Officials	28

MESSAGE FROM THE ITC INTERIM DIRECTOR



On behalf of the International Trade Consortium, I am pleased to submit our Annual Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021.

Our ITC Board and staff have worked together to adapt to new strategies and ensure maximum participation in an effort to continue advancing Miami-Dade County's post pandemic recovery. I was privileged to be appointed as the Interim Director to the International Trade Consortium staff on July 26, 2021.

ITC was proud to host a total of 19 inbound delegations and continued the revitalization of Sister Cities relationships by holding six in-person and online programs and activities. Also, ITC continued to reconnect with the foreign diplomatic and trade community to strengthen our global trade relations and support our local small business community. In addition, we provided two recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners: (1) Sister Cities agreement between Miami-Dade County and San Pedro de Macoris Province, Dominican Republic, and (2) submit a bid for Miami-Dade County to host the Ninth Summit of the Americas. Due the global pandemic and executive orders declaring a State of Emergency, no outbound missions were planned for FY 2020-21. All events are highlighted in more detail in this report.

I want to thank Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz, and every member of the Board of County Commission, and the ITC Board for their continued support, especially during this unprecedented time. I also extend a thank you to the Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MIA) and Miami-Dade Seaport Department (PortMiami) for their support in continuing to help promote the County as a "Global Gateway." In addition, I extend a special thanks to the ITC team for their professionalism and commitment during these challenging times. All of you have made our success possible and we look forward to continuing working together to solidify Miami-Dade's position as an international trade hub.

Maria Dreyfus-Ulvert

Maria Dreyfus-Ulvert
Interim Director

ABOUT US

Established in November of 2002, the office of the International Trade Consortium (ITC) serves as Miami-Dade County's primary liaison to foreign governments and as a one-stop information and referral resource on international trade and investment for local businesses and organizations that require assistance. The ITC office reports to the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners and provides staff support to the consortium – an advisory board of 14 member organizations from public and private sectors of economic development agencies in the community and 17 members appointed by the Mayor and County Commission.

Together with the consortium, the ITC office advises the County's elected officials on international trade issues and help promote Miami-Dade as a global trade hub. The ITC office works closely with Miami-International Airport and PortMiami, as well as other strategic trade partners including foreign diplomatic and trade offices, bi-national chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and local, state, and federal government agencies.

As primary liaison to the diplomatic community, the ITC office plans the County's official outbound trade and business development missions, supports inbound trade missions, and manages the Sister Cities program of Miami-Dade County.

By County Ordinance, the ITC office is authorized to act on the following:

- Advocate and support the development of Miami-Dade County as a premier hemispheric platform for two-way trade
- Promote Miami-Dade County as a Global Gateway both locally and abroad by developing and expanding trade opportunities with Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Western Hemisphere
- Establish and maintain a database of local businesses involved in international trade to foster import and export opportunities
- Recommend trade policies to the Board of County Commissioners
- Administer and cultivate relations with Miami-Dade County's Sister Cities
- Represent and advocate Miami-Dade County's economic development and international trade interests at the local, state, and federal level
- Coordinate and act as a proactive liaison between the County and the Consular Corps of Miami, Trade Offices, and Chambers of Commerce
- Submit an annual report to the County Commission detailing the ITC office activities, goals, outcomes, and statement in all its accounts
- Perform any other such functions reasonably related to ITC Office responsibilities

OUTREACH, MARKETING, & PROTOCOL EVENTS

The ITC aims to solidify the County's position as a "Global Gateway" for international trade by working closely with foreign governments and other offices to enhance international relations, cultural understanding and trade and ensure protocol procedures are being met. In addition, the ITC team coordinates courtesy protocol meetings and attends National Day or trade-related events to build and strengthen relations with the diplomatic community.

During FY 2020-21, ITC participated and supported the following [17](#) events:



ITC MEETS WITH CONSUL GENERAL OF TURKEY IN MIAMI

December 2020 – ITC met with Consul General Burç Ceylan, Consulate General of Turkey in Miami to discuss increasing trade and investment links between Turkey and Miami-Dade County.



BCC CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN INSTALLATION CEREMONY

January 6, 2021 – ITC welcomed diplomats from over a dozen foreign countries at the installation ceremony of newly elected Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz and Vice Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III at the Hard Rock Stadium.



ITC CELEBRATES AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL DAY

January 26, 2021 – ITC joined the Australian Honorary Consul, Don Slesnick, and Mark Trowbridge, President & CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, in celebration of Australia's National Day.



ITC AND SIERRA LEONE DISCUSS BILATERAL TRADE & INVESTMENT

February 17, 2021 – ITC met with the Consul General George Hamilton, Consulate General of Sierra Leone in Miami, to discuss opportunities of collaboration in improving bilateral trade and

investment between Sierra Leone and Miami-Dade County. The Consulate General of Sierra Leone in Miami is the first permanent African diplomatic mission in Florida.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FEATURED IN TURKISH NEWSPAPER

February 20, 2021 – Miami-Dade County was featured in EKOMETRE, a Turkish newspaper, on their Feb. 20 publication. ITC along with Emir Pineda of MIA and Eric Olafson of PortMiami were interviewed by Turkish journalist Kenan Sertalp on Jan. 7 in Miami. The article detailed Miami being a global gateway to the Americas and the growing import and export relations between both regions.

20. YIL EKOMETRE

Miami; 500 milyon nüfusluk pazara açılan kapı

EKOMETRE Gazetesi ve ekometre.com kurucusu ve Genel Yayın Yönetmeni Kenan Sertalp, Amerika'nın ve dünyanın en gelişmiş ülkelerinde bulunan Miami'nin ticaret ilişkileriyle bir dünya mülkiyetine dönüşme gerçekleştirdi.

Sertalp Miami'de turizm olarak bilinen yazının yanı sıra çok önemli bir ticaret merkezi olduğunu vurgulayarak "Miami 350 milyonluk Amerikan nüfusa ve ticaretin yanı sıra 500 milyona yakın nüfusa sahip bir pazarı kaplıyor. Bu pazarın önemi, Amerika ülkelerinin 150 milyonluk nüfusunun ticaret başkentidir."

Ward ve ekibiyle Miami'de ticaret üzerine

SEKEM Genel Müdürü Kenan Sertalp, Miami'de ticaret üzerine bir toplantı düzenledi. Toplantıda Sertalp, Miami'nin ticaret ilişkileriyle bir dünya mülkiyetine dönüşme gerçekleştirdi.

MIAMI AIRPORT, ABD'NİN GİRİŞ KAPISI

ABD'NİN en büyük havalimanı Miami International Airport, ABD'nin giriş kapısı olarak kabul ediliyor. Havalimanı, ABD'nin en büyük havalimanı ve dünya genelinde en büyük havalimanı olarak kabul ediliyor.

TÜRKİYE, MIAMI LİMANI'NDA KONTYNER SİRALAMASINDA İLK 10'DA

GENELİ olarak Türkiye'nin Miami Limanı'nda konteyner sıralamasında ilk 10'da yer aldığı bildirildi. Türkiye'nin Miami Limanı'nda konteyner sıralamasında ilk 10'da yer aldığı bildirildi.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HONORS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE (TECO) IN MIAMI

March 12, 2021 – Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz was joined by colleagues from the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, the Asian American Advisory Board, and the ITC to honor the Director General of TECO in Miami, David K.C. Chien. The Chairman presented Director Chien a key to the County and a Certificate of Appreciation for his contribution

towards strengthening ties between Taiwan and Miami-Dade County, including during the COVID pandemic.



CONSULAR CORPS MIAMI VIRTUAL MEETING

March 12, 2021 – ITC participated in an online Consular Corps meeting hosted by the Consular Corps of Miami. ITC Director Jon Ward promoted the role of the ITC and extended support to the international community. The meeting was held virtually due to COVID restrictions.



CHAIRMAN MEETS WITH CONSUL GENERAL OF MEXICO

April 28, 2021 – Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz meets with Consul General Jonathan Chait, Consulate General of Mexico in Miami. They discussed several priorities and areas of collaboration to support bilateral trade between both regions.



ITC WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TECO MIAMI

May 12, 2021 – ITC welcomed the new Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Miami, Amino Chi. ITC looks forward to working together to promote trade and investment between Miami-Dade County and Taiwan.



CHAIRMAN PARTICIPATES IN TRADE USA-DR 2021 VIRTUAL EVENT

June 8, 2021 – Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz welcomed participants at the Trade USA-DR 2021 virtual event, hosted by Florida Foreign Trade Association, ProDominicana, AMCHAMDR, PortMiami and other partner organizations. This 3-day event provided current statistics, opportunities, trends, and challenges aiming to increase bilateral trade between the Dominican Republic and the U.S.

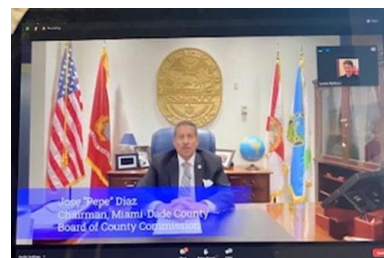
CHAIRMAN MEETS WITH CONSUL GENERAL OF THE NETHERLANDS IN MIAMI

June 8, 2021 – Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz met with the Consul General of the Netherlands in Miami, Ruth Emmerink, and discussed initiatives in sports diplomacy, resilience, and other opportunities to strengthen ties between Miami-Dade County and the Kingdom of Netherlands.



BRITISH CONSULATE IN MIAMI & BRITISH AMERICAN BUSINESS CHAMBER RECOGNIZE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORTS FOR STRANDED TOURISTS

June 10, 2021 – The British-American Business Council Miami and the British Consulate General in Miami honored the County for helping to facilitate in the speedy and safe return of British tourists who were stuck on cruise ships in PortMiami during the pandemic. On behalf of Miami-Dade County, Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz, accepted Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's "Birthday Honors", recognizing the work done.





ITC SUPPORTS THAI TRADE CENTER INVESTMENT PROMOTION EVENT

June 24, 2021 – Thai Trade Center Miami along with strategic trade partners in L.A. held a virtual investment promotion event for Thai companies interested in investing in the United States. ITC identified speakers for the event and coordinated with the Thai Trade Center. Senior Vice President of International Trade Economic Development, Mario Sacasa, and Creative Design Liason, Diana Londono, from the Beacon Council provided a presentation about investment opportunities in Miami.

EASTERN AIRLINES ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECT AIR ROUTE SERVICE FROM MIA TO MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

July 29, 2021 – ITC joined Senator Javier D. Souto and MIA Director Ralph Cutie at Miami International Airport's press conference announcing the launch of Eastern Airlines new direct air service route from Miami, Florida to Montevideo, Uruguay.



VICE CHAIRMAN WELCOMES CONSULAR CORPS MEMBERS TO DISTRICT 1

August 31, 2021 – ITC joined Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz along with the Consul Generals of: Canada, Susan Harper; Japan, Hiroshi Funakoshi; Romania, Catalin Ghenea; Turkey, Burç Ceylan; Deputy Consul of Colombia, Camilo Rubiano, for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the District Office of the Honorable Oliver G. Gilbert, III in Miami Gardens.

ITC PRESENTS PROCLAMATION TO BRAZILIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (BACC)

September 11, 2021 – On behalf of Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz, ITC Interim Director Maria Dreyfus presented a proclamation to the BACC in recognition of their 40th anniversary celebration.



ITC ATTENDS OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (MBDA)

September 14, 2021 – ITC presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Marie R. Gill, CEO/Founder of M. Gill & Associates, Inc., at the official launch of the MBDA Miami Business Center and Florida Export Center. Attendees included ITC Board members Joe Chi, President of CAMACOL, and Ivan Barrios, President/CEO of World Trade Center Miami, along with Consul General Oliver Mair, Consulate General of Jamaica in Miami. A pre-recorded congratulatory video message by Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz was presented during the event.



TRADE MISSIONS

Inbound trade missions consist of reciprocal visits made by cities visited by Miami-Dade County and come as a result of an invitation made or of missions organized by consulates, trade offices and local or foreign partner organizations. The ITC office greets inbound trade missions, provides agenda coordination with local government and economic development organizations, and offers logistical support. **Outbound missions** consist of meetings with high-level government officials and economic development agencies to promote Miami-Dade County's role abroad as a "Global Gateway" and the "Gateway to the Americas" for international trade.

ITC hosted and supported the following [19](#) inbound trade missions in FY 2020-21:

ITC MEETS WITH OFFICIALS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA

February 26, 2021 – ITC staff welcomed a delegation from Panama and Costa Rica, led by La Fundacion de Lideres Globales. The delegation included Mayor of David, Chiriquí, Panama, Antonio Arauz, and Councilmembers of la Junta Comunal de David, Panama, Jorge Eduardo Montenegro Vallarino and Arsenio Alberto Tikas.



OFFICIAL DELEGATION FROM EL SALVADOR VISITS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



March 29, 2021 – ITC provided support in hosting "Business Opportunities in El Salvador," a trade and investment event, for Milena Mayorga, Ambassador of El Salvador to the United States, at the World Trade Center Miami. Consul General of El Salvador, Eduardo Umaña, also attended the event. More than 50 business leaders participated in the event, in-person and virtually, including ITC board members Joe Chi and Alejandra Collarte. ITC also promoted the event. Frontier Airlines also announced plans to inaugurate a new flight between El Salvador and Miami in the end of the month.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WELCOMES VISIT OF AMBASSADOR OF URUGUAY

March 29, 2021 – ITC together with Dr. Eduardo Bouzout Vignoil, Consul General of Uruguay in Miami, welcomed a delegation from Uruguay, led by Ambassador Andrés Duran, Embassy of Uruguay to the U.S. Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and



Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz met with the delegation and Ambassador Duran expressed interest in strengthening bilateral trade ties, including the revitalization of our Sister City relationship with Maldonado, Uruguay. Ambassador Duran extended an invitation to Miami-Dade County officials to take a trade delegation to Uruguay.



BANGLADESH ANNOUNCES PLANS TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

April 3, 2021 – Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam, Embassy of Bangladesh to the U.S announced plans of Bangladesh opening a Consulate General in Miami-Dade County. ITC had the opportunity to meet with the Ambassador and his team to discuss areas of collaboration including climate change an resilience, education, and healthcare. A U.S.-Bangladesh Business Council was established in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to support closer bilateral economic cooperation on April 6, 2021.



ITC CHAIRMAN WELCOMES INBOUND DELEGATION FROM COLOMBIA

April 30, 2021 – Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz welcomed President Juan David Vélez, Comision Segunda de la Camara de Representantes de Colombia, and Vice President Astrid Sánchez Montes De Oca, Cámara de Representantes Colombia, along with other delegates to Miami-Dade County and discussed economic plans to strengthen ties between both regions.



ONTARIO AGENT-GENERAL VISITS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

May 7, 2021 – ITC met with Ontario Agent-General Jag Badwal to discuss how to increase commercial and cultural connections between Miami-Dade County and Canada.



CHAIRMAN WELCOMES NEIVA, COLOMBIA

May 26, 2021 – Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz met with Chief of the Office of Internationalization and Projects, Rafael Sanchez Diaz, from the Office of the Mayor of Neiva, Colombia, Mayor Gorky Muñoz Calderón.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CELEBRATES PORTUGAL DAY

June 10, 2021 – Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities, Dr. Berta Nunes, Ambassador of Portugal to the United States, Domingos Fezas Vital, and Honorary Consul of Portugal in Miami, Carolina Rendeiro, visited County Hall to raise the Portuguese flag ahead of Portugal Day (observed on June 11). Miami-Dade County Commission and ITC Vice Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III greeted the delegation and discussed increasing trade relations with Portugal.

ITC WELCOMES AMBASSADOR OF BAHRAIN TO THE U.S.

June 21, 2021 – ITC had the honor to meet H.E. Shaikh Abdullah R. Al Khalifa, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States, who expressed interest in signing a Sister Seaports agreement with Miami-Dade County.

ITC board member, Joe Chi, attended the meeting along with other members from CAMACOL, Miami-Dade Beacon Council, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. This event was hosted by the World Trade Center Miami and Enterprise Florida, and supported by the ITC.





ITC MEETS WITH VICE MAYOR OF SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

July 22, 2021 – ITC met with Vice Mayor Maria Yolanda Jacobo, from the province of San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, to identify priorities and bilateral collaborations to develop a Sister Cities agreement between San Pedro de Macoris Province and Miami-Dade County. This initiative was spearheaded by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, with the support of the Consulate General of the Dominican Republic in Miami, and Rosa Kasse, CEO & Founder of the Hispanic Coalition. As a result, ITC provided a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve a Sister Cities agreement between both regions.

ITC WELCOMES INBOUND DELEGATION FROM BOLIVIA

August 5, 2021 – ITC hosted an inbound delegation from Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, led by Richard Gonzales, Secretary of the Economic Development and Employment Municipality. ITC also invited Miami International Airport, PortMiami, and CAMACOL to brief the visiting delegation. Secretary Gonzales expressed interest in revitalizing the Sister Cities agreement between Departamento Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and Miami-Dade County.



ITC COORDINATES VISIT OF GUATEMALAN DELEGATION TO MIAMI-DADE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

August 20, 2021 – ITC welcomed an inbound delegation from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala and coordinated a meeting with the Miami-Dade County Elections Department. In preparation for their 2023 election, Guatemala was seeking to learn about the County's election process. Suzy Trutie, Deputy Director of Miami-Dade County Elections Department, provided a presentation about the County's electoral process followed by a tour of the Elections Department facility. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala delegation was led by Blanca Odilia Alfaro Guerra, Magistracy, Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala (mission leader); Gloria Lopez, Electoral Director, Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala; Ricardo Millian, Head of International Affairs, Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala; Director, National Registry of Persons; Andrea Durini Golon, Vice Consul, Consulate of Guatemala in Miami.

ITC CHAIRMAN WELCOMES OFFICIAL DELEGATION FROM MOZAMBIQUE

August 25, 2021 – ITC hosted a delegation from Mozambique, led by Salimo Abdula, President of the Confederação Empresarial de Portugal, and accompanied by Maria da Assunção Abdula, President of the Federação das Mulheres Empresárias e Empreendedoras of Mozambique. The meeting included Ernesto de la Fe, Honorary Consul of Mozambique in Miami, along with ITC Board Members and Organizations: Joe Chi, President, CAMACOL; Jimmy Nares, Chief Marketing, and Desmond Alufohai, Protocol Director, Miami International Airport; Marcos Kerbel, Education Committee Chairman, Florida International Business Association (FIBA); Andy Hecker, CFO/Assistant Port Director, PortMiami.



ITC CHAIRMAN WELCOMES INBOUND DELEGATION LED BY MAYOR OF NEIVA, COLOMBIA

August 30, 2021 – Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz welcomed an inbound delegation from the Alcaldía de Neiva, Colombia. The inbound delegation was led by Gorky Muñoz Calderón, Mayor of Neiva; Dr. Luz Marina Trujillo de Munoz, First Lady of Neiva & Manager of Community Outreach & Public Affairs; Rafael Sanchez Diaz, Chief of Office of Internalization & Projects of Neiva. The objective of this



inbound mission was to promote trade between Neiva, Colombia and Miami-Dade County, with focus on identifying and supporting Neiva's export sectors and establishing a buyer's network in Florida. As a result, an inbound delegation from Neiva is planned for 2022.



ITC MEETS WITH MALAYSIAN RUBBER COUNCIL (MRC) INDUSTRY LEADERS

August 31, 2021 – ITC met with members of Malaysian Rubber Council to discuss opportunities of collaboration. Franz Dominic and Noah A. Hastie, represent the Malaysian Rubber Council in the United States. Their mission is to facilitate fruitful trade between the Malaysian Rubber Industry and U.S businesses of all sizes.



ITC MEETS WITH INBOUND DELEGATION FROM MEXICO

September 20, 2021 – At the request of the Consulate of Mexico in Miami, ITC attended a meeting with an inbound delegation from Mexico to provide an informational presentation about Miami-Dade's role as a trade hub.



ITC WELCOMES US-BULGARIAN CHAMBER

September 24, 2021 – ITC met with a visiting delegation from Bulgaria to discuss bilateral trade opportunities. The Bulgarian delegation included Consul General Svetoslav Stankov, Republic of Bulgaria in Chicago, and representatives from the US-Bulgarian Chamber in America, Eliz Nestorov and Boyan Mintchev.



ITC MEETS WITH CRUISE SAUDI

September 24, 2021 – ITC met with a visiting delegation from Saudi Arabia to discuss bilateral trade opportunities. The Saudi delegation included Cruise Saudi Chief Assets Development Officer and Cruise Saudi Corporate Communications Manager, Miguel Reyna and Ragda N. Bakjorji.

ITC HOSTS DELEGATION FROM BRAZIL

September 30, 2021 – ITC introduced Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz and Senator Javier D. Souto to a delegation from Brazil exploring business opportunities in Miami-Dade, specifically within the sectors of pharma, medical supply, food processing innovation, and supply chain logistics. The delegation expressed interest in opening a Confederação Nacional da Indústria office in Miami. The visiting delegation included: Robson de Andrade, President of CNI Brazil; Ana Maria Curado, SVP of CNI Brazil; Rodrigo Fonseca, Deputy Consul of Consulate General of Brazil in Miami. Brazil is Miami Customs District #1 top trading partner.



***Please note:** Due to the global pandemic and executive orders declaring a State of Emergency, no outbound missions were planned for FY 2020-21.

SISTER CITIES PROGRAM

Founded in 1981 by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, the Sister Cities program of Miami-Dade County is administered by the office of International Trade Consortium. The program serves to promote international cultural understanding by developing programs that enhance citizen diplomacy, create international goodwill, and support the County's global trade agenda.

Miami-Dade County has established Sister Cities relationships with [29](#) cities in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Throughout these years, the program has developed innovative projects which have furthered international cooperation and understanding between the County and its respective Sister Cities.

Sister Cities International was created at President Eisenhower's 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for peace and prosperity by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world. The goal of the Sister Cities program is to create and strengthen partnerships between the U.S. and communities around the world through local government cooperation, cultural understanding, and economic development activities.

Miami-Dade County's Sister Cities relationships in FY 2020-21:

- Asti Province, Italy
- Asuncion, Paraguay
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Cabildo of Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain
- Cayman Islands, United Kingdom*
- City of Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos Islands*
- Commonwealth of the Bahamas
- County Cork, Ireland
- Dakar, Senegal
- Departamento Santa Cruz, Bolivia
- Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis Islands*
- Iquique, Chile*
- Kingston, Jamaica
- Lamentin, Guadeloupe
- Maldonado, Uruguay
- Metropolis of Aix-Marseille-Provence, France
- New Taipei City, Taiwan
- Paramaribo, Suriname
- Pereira, Colombia
- Petit Goave, Haiti
- Prague, Czech Republic
- Province of Mendoza, Argentina
- Pucallpa, Peru
- San Jose, Costa Rica
- Santo Domingo Distrito Nacional, Dominican Republic
- Sao Paulo, Brazil
- State of Monagas, Venezuela
- Stockholm County, Sweden
- Veracruz, Mexico

*Emiratus Status

During FY 2020-21, ITC participated in the following [six](#) events to continue strengthening ties with our Sister Cities during the pandemic:

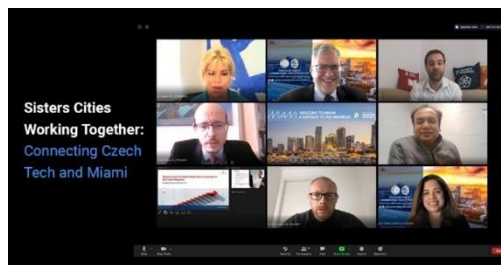


ITC CONNECTS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO CAPE TOWN ENTREPRENEURS

January 12, 2021 – ITC supported Sister Cities International's African region by promoting a virtual B2B event inviting local economic development organizations to connect with Cape Town entrepreneurs to identify similar trade synergies.

SISTER CITIES WORKING TOGETHER: CONNECTING CZECH TECH AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

February 23, 2021 – ITC revived its Sister Cities relationship with Prague, holding a virtual bilateral investment event on emerging tech with the city of Prague. Tech companies from both Prague and Miami participated in the event and interacted with the Beacon Council and Czech Invest to explore investment and expansion opportunities in both regions. Government officials from Prague and Miami-Dade extended their support to the companies looking to invest in these regions.



ITC HOSTS VIRTUAL SISTER CITIES EVENT WITH CAPE TOWN

May 21, 2021 – Miami-Dade County and the city of Cape Town held a virtual Sister Cities event to exchange best practices on city water resilience. Cape Town Office of the Executive Mayor, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department, Miami-Dade Office of Resilience, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, and the County's Chief Bay Officer were part of the discussion.



COMMISSIONER COHEN HIGGINS WELCOMES MAYOR OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA

June 7, 2021 – At the request of the Consulate General of Jamaica in Miami, ITC coordinated a meeting between Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins and Mayor Delroy Williams, Kingston, Jamaica. Commissioner Cohen Higgins honored Mayor Williams with a Key to the County and discussed ways to develop economic opportunities between both regions.

SISTER CITIES: AFRICA CONFERENCE PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

June 22, 2021 – ITC participated in the Sister Cities Initiative (SCI) Africa Roundtable virtual event to provide information about Miami-Dade County's multi-sectoral initiatives with Cape Town. The Roundtable laid the foundation for SCI's first U.S.-Africa Conference planned for 2023.



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

July 15-16, 2021 – ITC coordinated with Sister Cities International to identify speakers for their annual conference. ITC board member Richard de Villiers, Chief of Staff, Office of the Port Director, PortMiami, spoke as a panelist on logistics and movement of goods segment.

ITC BOARD MEMBERS

The ITC Board advises on issues affecting the Miami-Dade County's international trade agenda. The Miami-Dade County Mayor and Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners appoint **17** citizen volunteers, from the public and private sectors to the ITC Board. Key economic development agencies in the community appoint **14** representatives to the ITC Board.

ITC board members of FY 2020-21:

Jose “Pepe” Diaz
Chairperson

Oliver G. Gilbert, III
Vice-Chairperson

Gerald Zadikoff
Appointee of the Mayor

Olga Ramudo
Appointee of the Mayor

Jacqueline Del Cristo, Esq.
Appointee of the ITC Chair

Kirk Wagar, Ambassador
Appointee of Board of County Commissioners
District 1

Jeff Lozama
Appointee of Board of County Commissioners
District 2

Brenda Betancourt (replaced Craig Smith)
Appointee of Board of County Commissioners
District 3

Michele Burger
Appointee of Board of County Commissioners
District 4

Lynare Robbins
Appointee Board of County Commissioners
District 5

Eric Diaz-Padron, Esq.
Appointee of Board of County Commissioners
District 6

Julian Linares
Appointee of Board of County Commissioners
District 7

Alexander Heckler, Esq.
Appointee of Board of County Commissioners
District 8

Vacant
Appointee of Board of County Commissioners
District 9

Ernest Thomas
Appointee of Board of County Commissioners
District 10

Vacant
Appointee of Board of County Commissioners
District 11

Manuel Huerta
Appointee Board of County Commissioners
District 13

Lenny P. Feldman, Esq.
Appointee of Florida Custom Brokers &
Forwarders Association

Alice E. Ancona
Appointee of World Trade Center Miami

Jose “Joe” L. Chi
Appointee of CAMACOL

Daniel Jacobson, Esq.
Appointee of District Export Council of Florida

Drew McKinney
Appointee of The Foundation for Democracy in Africa

Carlos Guerra
Appointee of Enterprise Florida, Inc.

Richard de Villiers
Appointee of PORTMIAMI

Jimmy Nares
Appointee of Miami International Airport

Andrew J. Markus, Esq.
Appointee of The Beacon Council

Christopher Rollins (replaced Gisela Marti)
Appointee of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau

Alejandra Collarte
Appointee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

Wayne Shah
Appointee of Florida International Bankers Association

Preeya Disyanan
Appointee of the Miami-Dade County Asian American Advisory Board

Gloria Fonseca
Appointee of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce

ITC COMMITTEES

ITC committees support ITC's mission of promoting Miami-Dade County as a global gateway. The committees work with the Consular Corps, bi-national chambers of commerce, and other strategic trade partner organizations.

ITC Committees and ad hoc committees of FY 2020-21:

Executive Committee

To maintain operational continuity, the ITC Board has an Executive Committee that acts on behalf of the ITC board when the full board cannot meet. This committee is responsible for implementing ITC policies and certifying incoming and outgoing trade missions.

- Jose "Pepe" Diaz, ITC Board Chair
- VACANT, ITC Board Secretary (Elected)
- Manuel Huerta, ITC Board Treasurer (Elected)

Missions Ad Hoc Committee

This committee identifies and recommends countries for trade promotion activities including regions for inbound or outbound business development to strengthen ties with Miami-Dade County leading trade partners.

2020:

- Craig Smith, Chair
- Alejandra Collarte
- Carlos Guerra
- Daniel Jacobson
- Gisela Marti
- Preeya Disyanan

2021:

- Jacqueline del Cristo, Vice Chair
- Alejandra Collarte
- Alexander Heckler
- Carlos Guerra
- Christopher Rollins
- Daniel Jacobson
- Jeff Lozama

Sister Cities, Consular Corps, and Protocol Ad Hoc Committee

This committee provides direction to the Miami-Dade County Sister Cities program and guides our relations with foreign governments. It is the official county liaison to the Consulates General and Honorary Consuls in our County.

- Jacqueline del Cristo, Chair
- Alejandra Collarte, Vice Chair
- Gerald Zadikoff
- Jose "Joe" L. Chi

Summit of the Americas Ad Hoc Committee

The Summits of the Americas are institutionalized gatherings of heads of state and government of the member states of the Western Hemisphere. They discuss common concerns, seek solutions, and develop a shared vision for their future development of the region, be it economic, social, or political in nature.

On June 9, 2021, during the ITC Board Meeting, the ITC discussed the possibility of Miami-Dade County hosting the Ninth Summit of the Americas and an Ad Hoc Committee was formed. The Ninth Summit of the Americas is coming back to the U.S. after 27 years. It was scheduled to be held in 2021 but was rescheduled to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This committee was created for ITC Board members to share information about the Summit of the Americas and further explore the possibility of hosting the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Miami-Dade County. The following ITC Board Members volunteered to be a part of this Ad Hoc Committee:

- Jose “Joe” L. Chi
- Ambassador Kirk Wagar
- Alejandra Collarte
- Alice Ancona
- Julian Linares
- Manuel Huerta

On June 18, 2021, the Summit of the Americas Ad Hoc Committee met and recommended that Miami-Dade County submit a bid to host the Summit of the Americas.

On August 20, 2021, The U.S. Department of State published Federal Register number 2021-17852 announcing the requirements to submit the bid for the Ninth Summit of the Americas with a deadline of September 3, 2021.

Under the leadership of Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz, the ITC staff worked diligently with the support of the Office of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and its administration to prepare the bid. The ITC staff secured letters of support from elected officials and from the following local civic and business groups:

- 1) Miami-Dade County Mayor
- 2) Chairman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners
- 3) Mayor of Miami Beach
- 4) Mayor of City of Miami-Dade County Asociacion Iberoamericana de Camaras de Comercio, Industria y Servicios, A.C. (AICO)
- 5) Brazil American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (BACCF)
- 6) Latin American Chamber of Commerce of USA (CAMACOL)
- 7) The Coalition of Miami-Dade County Chambers of Commerce
 - Aventura Marketing Council/Aventura Chamber of Commerce Chamber

- South Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce
- Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Greater Miami Hotel & Beaches Association
- Hialeah Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce
- Miami-Dade Beacon Council
- Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce
- Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Miami Springs/Airport Area Chamber of Commerce
- South Dade Chamber

On September 3, 2021, Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz submitted the bid to host the Ninth Summit of the Americas. The same day, Chairman Diaz received an email from Kevin Michael O’Reilly, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemispheres Affairs, United States Department of State, acknowledging receipt of Miami-Dade County’s bid. The ITC staff along with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Office in Washington DC kept in communication with the U.S. Department of State throughout the reviewing and bid approval process.

ITC MEETINGS

ITC staff coordinates Board of Directors meetings and Committee meetings where ITC Board Members meet to discuss opportunities in global trade and investment and other objectives that focus on advancing economic development initiatives in Miami-Dade County.

The following five meetings were held during FY 2020-21:

ITC Board of Directors Meeting:

- April 28, 2021 (hybrid)
- June 9, 2021
- July 29, 2021

Summit of the Americas Ad Hoc Committee Meeting:

- June 18, 2020

Missions Committee Meeting:

- October 13, 2020 (virtual)



VIRTUAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

October 13, 2020 – ITC Director met with the Missions Committee to exchange updates on the trade and travel industry while Miami-Dade County remained under COVID restrictions.



FIRST IN-PERSON ITC BOARD MEETING SINCE PANDEMIC

April 28, 2021 - ITC staff hosted the first in-person Board Meeting post-pandemic. Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz and Vice Chairman G. Gilbert, III met with ITC Board members to discuss areas of trade and business development to re-energize the local economy and reconnect Miami-Dade County with the rest of the world. This meeting was also streamed via Zoom.



SECOND IN-PERSON ITC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 9, 2021 - ITC staff coordinated the second ITC Board Meeting where Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz met with board members to continue to work towards growing relations with nations overseas to stimulate economic growth and future developments in Miami-Dade County. Members also discussed the possibility of Miami-Dade County hosting the

Ninth Summit of the Americas and an Ad Hoc Committee was formed.

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

June 18, 2021 – ITC Board members and guests discussed their feedback and priorities to bring the Summit of the Americas to Miami-Dade County. As a result, the Committee recommended that Miami-Dade County submit a bid to host the Summit of the Americas with the following steps:



- Direct the ITC staff to work with the County's Intergovernmental Affairs Office in Washington DC to monitor the publication of the federal register notice to identify requirements and costs.
- If interested, pass a Miami-Dade County resolution expressing interest in hosting the Summit.
- Establish a Miami-Dade Summit of the Americas Host Committee to work on a budget and raise funds among the private sector to cover costs and coordinate efforts.
- Identify a senior County Official to lead the effort.



THIRD IN-PERSON ITC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 29, 2021 - ITC staff coordinated the third ITC Board Meeting where Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz met with board members to discuss trade and business development opportunities at the local, national, and international level that can promote Miami-Dade County as a global trade hub. In addition, the Summit of the Americas Ad Hoc Committee provided a recommendation to the ITC Chairman to submit a

bid to host the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Miami in 2023. The bid was submitted on September 3, 2021.

ACCOUNT BALANCES FY 2020 – 2021

Fund Description	Ending Balance
Jay Malina International Trade Consortium	\$ 127,952.58
Sister Cities 42 nd Annual International Conference	\$ 1,213.34
Miami-Dade Sister Cities Scholarship	\$ 6,025.92
Miami-Dade Sister Cities Program	\$ 6,109.20

Trade Mission Center of the Americas Bank Account Balances	Ending Balance
City National Bank Unrestricted	\$ 10,328.83
City National Bank Restricted	\$ 19,040.23



Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor



José "Pepe" Díaz
*Chairman
District 12*



Oliver G. Gilbert, III
*Vice Chairman
District 1*

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



Jean Monestime
District 2



Keon Hardemon
District 3



Sally A. Heyman
District 4



Eileen Higgins
District 5



Rebeca Sosa
District 6



Raquel A. Regalado
District 7



Danielle Cohen Higgins
District 8



Kionne L. McGhee
District 9



Sen. Javier D. Souto
District 10



Joe A. Martínez
District 11



Sen. René García
District 13



Harvey Ruvin
Clerk of Courts



Pedro J. García
Property Appraiser