



International Newsletter



Volume 8, Issue 6

June 2012

World Energy Cities Partnership



May 1—Mayor Annise Parker attended the annual World Energy Cities Partnership (WECP) Networking Reception during the Offshore Technology Conference. WECP, which is a collaboration of nineteen of the world's leading 'energy cities,' encourages exchanges of industry know-how as well as economic and infrastructure development strategies. Mayor Parker was joined by the Mayors of Calgary and St. John's (Canada), Doha (Qatar), Malabo (Equatorial Guinea), Perth (Australia), and Stavanger (Norway), as well as delegate-representatives from all WECP member Cities.

Sino-U.S. Petroleum Industry Forum



May 1—Council Member Oliver Pennington attended the second annual Sino-U.S. Petroleum Industry Forum. Council Member Pennington addressed over 80 high-ranking Chinese energy company executives and government officials, highlighting the strong relationship between China and Houston and opportunities for mutually beneficial business investment between by sides. The Forum was organized by the Greenspoint District in partnership with the Global Chinese Petroleum Entrepreneur Association and coincided with the Offshore Technology Conference.

Republic of Serbia



May 1—Mayor Annise Parker presented Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander II and Crown Princess Katherine of Serbia with honorary citizenship proclamations on behalf of the City of Houston. Their Royal Highnesses visited Houston to as part of a fundraising effort for charity organizations in Serbia, and received the Achievement Award from the Virtuosi of Houston society in recognition of their outstanding humanitarian and educational efforts. Proceeds from the Virtuosi gala supported youth programs in Houston and the Lifeline Humanitarian Foundation.

Department of Vienne, Republic of France



May 14—Mayor Pro-tem Ed Gonzalez met with the Honorable Claude Bertaud, Chairman of the General Council of the Department of Vienne, France, and a delegation of government and business officials. Mayor Pro-tem Gonzalez and Chairman Bertaud signed an agreement by which Vienne and Houston agree to foster informational and technical exchanges and to support bilateral economic activity. Chairman Bertaud and his delegation's visit was supported by the French-American Chamber of Commerce.

Canary Islands, Kingdom of Spain



May 14—Council Member Jack Christie met with Mr. Pablo Martín-Carbajal, Director General of Relations with Africa of the Government of the Canary Islands, and business officials. Council Member Christie and Mr. Carbajal discussed opportunities available for Houston companies doing business in Western Africa to base their operations from the Canary Islands, which serve as an important economic and logistical gateway to growing markets there. The Canary Islands, while part of the European Union, they are not subject to EU customs duties or value-added taxes.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry



May 15—Council Member Al Hoang met with Mr. Mian Abrar Ahmad, President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), who led a delegation of six officials. At a meeting hosted by the Mayor's International Trade and Development Council for South Asia, Council Member Hoang welcomed the delegation and discussed business opportunities in Pakistan's market and how Houston companies can take advantage of these trends. Mr. Ahmad noted that Pakistan is an 'energy hungry nation,' and that demand for energy products and services is expected to increase substantially in the next decade. KCCI represents over 17,000 businesses in Pakistan and ranks among the 10 largest chambers of commerce in the world.

Ambassador, Gabonese Republic



May 25—Mayor Annise Parker met with His Excellency Michael Moussa-Adamo, Ambassador of Gabon to the U.S., Mexico, and Haiti. Mayor Parker and Ambassador Moussa-Adamo discussed the needs of Gabon's growing economy and potential for exchanges of knowledge and expertise that would address these needs, such as establishing workforce training programs with Houston. Gabon is one of the most prosperous countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the highest Human Development Index score and the 3rd highest GDP per capita in the region.

City of Busan, Republic of Korea



May 31—Mayor Pro-tem Gonzalez met with Mr. Baek Un-hyeon, Vice Mayor of Busan, and a delegation of government and business representatives. Mayor Pro-tem Gonzalez and Vice Mayor Baek signed a bilateral partnership agreement to promote exchanges between both cities and discussed areas of mutual synergy between the two cities. Busan is home to much of Korea's offshore energy industry and will host the first Korean Offshore Energy Industry Conference later this Fall. Also accompanying Vice Mayor Baek was the Busan Metropolitan Traditional Orchestra, which performed later the same night at the Asia Society Texas Center.

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The contents of this publication are for informational purposes only.

Houston-Karachi Sister City Association

Each month the Mayor's International Newsletter brings you the latest updates on Houston's ties to its 17 international sister cities, each of which is maintained by a corresponding sister city association in Houston. In this installment, we sat down with the President of the Houston-Karachi Sister City Association (HKSCA), Mr. Muhammad Sheikh.

Q: Could you share with us some of the projects you are working on at present?

A: *As you know, Karachi is Houston's youngest sister city relationship, established just three years ago in 2009, and I am proud to say that although young we have been highly productive! Recently we assisted the US State Department's Youth Exchange Student (YES) program, which resulted in the formation of a partnership between Habib Public School of Karachi and the Houston Academy of International Studies. We would like to expand this model to give students a valuable opportunity to engage in dialogue and an authentic learning experience with the use of web 2.0 technologies. We are also establishing a health care initiative between Houston physicians and Karachi's primary public hospital whereby doctors in Karachi are able to get secondary opinions from Houston physicians. This program will initially focus on oncology, where Karachi faces a great shortage of medical experts.*

Q: One of your most recent projects was coordinating the visit of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI). How do you plan to build off this recent visit?

A: *I strongly believe that both cities should encourage exchanges of delegation for development of trade, economic, scientific and cultural relationships. The KCCI visit concluded an agreement for mutual cooperation between the Greater Houston Partnership and KCCI, which promotes business opportunities (including airports, seaports, and air and maritime cargo in both of our regions). The agreement also promotes trade and industrial missions between both of our regions to establish joint-venture projects. In the spirit of promoting exchange, HKSCA plans to organize meetings and seminars in both cities to inform our business people about investment, joint-venture, and other advantageous trade opportunities. HKSCA and GHP will be exploring the possibility of bringing a trade mission to Karachi under City leadership as well!*

Q: What do you have planned for HKSCA in the foreseeable future?

A: *HKSCA would like to encourage both City governments to exchange information and best practices, particularly in the fields of city governance, urban planning, and inter-governmental relations. We would also like to promote an exchange between ports, in fact Karachi is home to Pakistan's two largest ports, which together account for over 95% of Pakistan's total sea trade. Although we live in very different environments, I know that there is much that could be learned by contrasting our cities' respective experiences and how we approach solving challenges.*

Q: What has been some of HKSCA's most successful work in the past?

A: *When floods devastated Pakistan's Sindh Province, which is home of Karachi, HKSCA brought together 45 community organizations in Houston in an alliance to organize relief efforts for flood victims. The alliance raised over \$80,000 in funds for relief and donated over \$100,000 worth of goods to more than 1,200 families. Beyond offering an incredible amount of humanitarian relief, HKSCA was recognized by Sister Cities International for this effort and will be presented with the 2011 Innovative Humanitarian Assistance Award!*

If you would like to learn more about HKSCA, please contact Mr. Muhammad Sheikh at sluyfss@yahoo.com.

—By Tyler Smith



Mayor's International Trade and Development Council (MITDC) Chairs

Africa—Mr. Haddis Tewolde



Mr. Tewolde, P.E. is President of All-Terra Engineering, a Geotechnical Engineering and Construction Materials Engineering/Testing firm based in Houston. He is a member of several professional and trade groups, and serves on the Board of Directors of Have Heaven, Inc., a non-profit organization that works with abused and/or neglected children. Mr. Tewolde holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Houston.

Americas—Mr. Pete Garcia



Mr. Garcia is the Principal of his consulting firms, Pete Garcia International, AMD Consultants, and Blue-Green Aviation and Hospitality and Executive Director of the US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Woodlands-Gulf Cost Chapter. Mr. Garcia served as Vice President of Latin America for Continental Airline for 10 years and retired after spending more than 28 years with the company. He is credited with creating the gateway to Latin America from Houston for Continental.

Asia / Australia—Mr. Charles Foster



Mr. Foster is Co-Chairman of FosterQuan. He has over thirty years of experience representing and advising on U.S. immigration law, frequently lectures to legal, academic, and professional organizations, and has served as a senior immigration policy advisor to Presidents Bush and Obama. He is the Honorary Consul General for the Kingdom of Thailand and Chairman of the Asia Society Texas Center. Mr. Foster received his undergraduate and Law degrees from the University of Texas.

Canada—Mr. Rafael Carsalade



Mr. Carsalade is a Director of International Tax at PKF Texas, and is responsible for providing tax assistance services to clients throughout the Americas and Europe. He is an active participant in Houston international professional/cultural organizations, including the International Tax Forum of Houston and the Houston Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Carsalade received his degree in Economics from Queen's University in Ontario, Canada.

Europe—Mr. Sergei Lomako



Mr. Lomako specializes in petroleum industries of the former U.S.S.R. and their investment in the U.S. and is a Certified Arbitrator, Moscow CCT Arbitration Court. He served as the Representative of Russia in the U.S.S.R. delegation to the European Energy Charter Conference (1991) and as a legal expert in the Russian government's Expert Group for drafting subsoil and petroleum resources laws (1990-1998). He was awarded a state decoration under decree by President Boris Yeltsin.

Middle East and North Africa—Ms. Ellen Goldberg



Ms. Goldberg is President of Sister Cities of Houston, the umbrella group for 17 associations involved in citizen diplomacy, educational and cultural exchanges, and business development around the world. She was the founding president of the Houston-Abu Dhabi Sister City Association. Her diverse background in business, healthcare, education and photojournalism has been fundamental in launching various international projects.

South Asia—Mr. Jagdip Ahluwalia



The Founding Secretary of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston Mr. Ahluwalia currently serves as its Executive Director. Recognized for his role in creating the Alliance of Indo-American Chambers by the Greater Dallas IACC, he has received their Outstanding Leadership Award. A graduate of Leadership Houston and the American Leadership Forum, he has over 30 years of teaching, manufacturing, business management and consulting experience. He holds a degree in Production Engineering from the Birla Institute of Technology in Mesra, India.

Event Spotlights

Small Business Tour 2012

June 7—The Small Business Tour, organized by the business advising firm Corelytics, will stop at the Hotel Derek for panel discussions and one-to-one advising sessions. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from businesses and local experts on topics related to financing, marketing with new technologies, and the latest market and business trends. For more information, please visit www.thesmallbusinesstour.com.

U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement

June 13—The Colombia-Texas Chamber of Commerce will host a seminar on the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement at the offices of Mayer Brown, LLP. Attendees will learn about how they can benefit from the agreement, financial assistance that is available to exporters, and the latest trends in the Colombian markets from a panel of experts from the U.S. and Colombia. For more information, please visit www.colombiatexaschamber.com.

Utilizing Census Data

June 19—The U.S. Census Bureau and Greater Houston Partnership will hold a joint workshop to educate participants on the surveys and products that are available from the Census Bureau and how to best make use of these in developing business strategies. Attendees will learn how to access data, use Census Bureau tools, and about resources that are publically available and free to use. The workshop will be held at Two Allen Center. For more information, please contact Ms. Deanna Morrow at dmorrow@houston.org.

Business Outreach Reception

June 21—The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce will hold a networking reception and lecture focused particularly on the needs and concerns of small businesses at Narin's Bombay Brasserie. Mr. Dan Parsons, President of The Better Business Bureau of the Metropolitan Houston region, will deliver a talk on 'Ethics and Excellence in Business.' For more information, please visit www.iaccgh.com.

Business Mission to Mexico

June 24—The U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce will lead a business mission to Mexico City to create linkages for Houston businesses with potential clients and providers of goods and services based in Mexico. The Chamber will arrange one-on-one meetings tailored to meet clients' needs and will also organize lectures on Mexico's economic and market trends. For more information, please contact Mr. Pete Garcia at pete@chambergc.org.

Business Mission to Russia

June 25—The U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce will lead a business development mission to participate in the 14th annual International Oil and Gas Exhibition taking place in Moscow. The Chamber offers to assist member participants with business meetings and product exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.usrussiacc.org.

International Event Calendar - June 2012

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
6/1	7:15 AM	Houston Technology Center: Tech Champs Forum	Houston Technology Center	www.houstontech.org
6/4	11:30 AM	Houston World Affairs Council: The Future of Oil and Gas—Norway's Perspective	Petroleum Club of Houston	www.wachouston.org
6/6	7:30 AM	Houston Minority Supplier Development Council: MBE to MBE Breakfast	Café Express	affiliate.nmsdc.org/hmsdc
	11:30 AM	Houston Minority Supplier Development Council: Texas Sale and Use Tax—Audits, Nexus and Common Pitfalls	Houston Minority Supplier Development Council	affiliate.nmsdc.org/hmsdc
	12:00 PM	French-American Chamber of Commerce: Keynote Speaker Series Luncheon	JW Marriott Hotel	www.facchouston.com
	6:00 PM	Houston World Affairs Council: U.S.-Pakistan Relations: A Status Report	The Junior League	www.wachouston.org
	6:30 PM	British-American Business Council: Hands Across the Channel—A British-Franco Networking Evening	Saks Fifth Avenue	info@babchouston.org
6/7	7:30 AM	Corelytics, Inc.: The Small Business Tour 2012	Hotel Derek	kris@coreconnex.com
	8:00 AM	Houston Minority Supplier Development Council: The Talking Stick—Networking Seminar	Power Center Pharmacy	affiliate.nmsdc.org/hmsdc
	6:00 PM	Asian Chamber of Commerce: 22nd Annual Awards Gala	Kim Son Restaurant	kristina@asianchamber-hou.org
6/8	—	Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce: Teachers Educating Across Cultures in Harmony 2012	Various Cities, Bahrain and Qatar	hala@bilateralchamber.org
6/13	8:00 AM	Colombia-Texas Chamber of Commerce: US—Colombia Free Trade Agreement	Offices of Mayer Brown, LLP	claudia@colombiatexaschamber.com
	11:30 AM	American Marketing Association Houston Chapter: The Offshore Technology Conference—Why Such a Great and Lasting Brand?	Junior League	www.amahouston.net
	5:15 PM	MIT Enterprise Forum: Innovations in Medical Robotics	Texas Medical Center	dale@amchouston.com
	6:00 PM	Houston Business Journal: Shakers and Stirrers Houston—NFP Business Networking Mixer	BlackFinn Grille	www.networkingforprofessionals.com
6/14	7:30 AM	BioHouston: Breakfast Forum	BioScience Research Collaborative	elizabeth.hicks@biohouston.org

6/14	11:15 AM	Asian Chamber of Commerce: Scholarship Luncheon	HESS Club	kristina@asianchamber-hou.org
	3:30 PM	Houston Business Journal: Meet the Newsroom	Gigi's Restaurant	subhelp@bizjournals.com
	5:30 PM	Australian-American Chamber of Commerce: June Sundowner	Hughes Hangar	www.aacc-houston.org
	7:00 PM	Houston World Affairs Council: The Shale Revolution in China	BlackFinn Grille	www.wachouston.org
	TBA	U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce: Mixer in the Galleria Area	TBA	www.usmcocgc.org
6/15	5:30 PM	Italy-America Chamber of Commerce: Monthly Happy Hour	Piatto Ristorante	www.iacctexas.com
6/19	7:30 AM	Houston Business Journal: Powerful Women—A Strategic Forum for Women Business Owners	The Houstonian Hotel	lasemmel@bizjournals.com
	11:30 AM	Asia Society: China's Rise—Energy Implications, Environmental Challenges	Asia Society Texas	www.asiasociety.org
	1:00 PM	U.S. Census Bureau and Greater Houston Partnership: The Keys to Your Community's Future—Accessing Demographic and Economic Data Effectively	Two Allen Center	denver.pdsp@census.gov
6/20	1:30 PM	Houston Technology Center: Tech Champs—Energy Technology Investor Forum	Houston Technology Center	msmith@houstontech.org
6/21	7:30 AM	District Export Council: Export University—Understanding Export Documentary Letters of Credit and Five Elements to Discrepancy Free Presentations	University of Houston	info@houstonexportu.org
	3:30 PM	Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston: Small Business Outreach—Networking Reception and Lecture	Narin's Bombay Brasserie	www.iaccgh.com
6/24	—	U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce: Trade Mission to Mexico (through 6/26)	Mexico City, Mexico	www.usmcocgc.org
6/25	—	U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce: Business Development Mission to Russia (through 6/29)	Moscow, Russia	a.parsons@usrussiacc.org
6/26	8:00 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Honoring Richard Wainerdi—Texas Medical Center Tour and Luncheon	Two Allen Center	www.houston.org
	8:00 AM	Houston Minority Supplier Development Council: Greater Houston Business Procurement Breakfast	Houston Minority Supplier Development Council	affiliate.nmsdc.org/hmsdc
6/27	11:30 AM	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Energy Summit and Business Expo	Conrad Hilton Hotel	www.houstonhispanicchamber.com
	4:30 PM	Greater Houston Partnership: World Discovery Tour—China Information Session	Greater Houston Partnership	ksmith@houston.org

7/12	—	Houston International Trade and Development Council: Trade Mission to Ghana (through 7/19)	Accra, Ghana	vthompson@houstontrade.org
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International Cultural Events in Houston:

6/1	7:30 PM	Russian Cultural Center: "Our Texas": Comic show by famous KVN Team RUDN	Country Playhouse	www.ourtx.org
6/2	2:00 PM	The Caribbean-American Heritage Foundation of Texas: 2012 Caribbean-American Heritage Festival	Jones Plaza	prene@caribbeanheritagetx.org
	2:00 PM	Museum of Fine Arts Houston: Gallery Talk—All that Glitters	Museum of Fine Arts Houston	www.mfah.org
6/3	2:00 PM	Museum of Fine Arts Houston: Gallery Talk—Masterworks of Latin American Art	Museum of Fine Arts Houston	www.mfah.org
6/4	8:30 AM	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Piola Meet Up	Mix at Midtown	www.iccchouston.com
	9:00 AM	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Italian Language and Culture Camp (Session 1 through 6/8, Session 2 from 6/25 to 6/29)	Italian Cultural and Community Center	www.iccchouston.com
	11:00 AM	Rodeo Houston: Golf Tournament	Houston National Golf Club	(713) 562-3363
6/5	12:00 PM	Museum of Fine Arts Houston: Gallery Talk—The Age of Empire	Museum of Fine Arts Houston	www.mfah.org
	8:00 PM	Society for the Performing Arts: "FELA!" Broadway Musical (through 6/10)	Jones Hall	www.spahouston.org
6/7	2:00 PM	Czech Center Museum Houston: Czechoslovakian Collectors Association Annual Convention (through 5/9)	Czech Center Museum Houston	www.czechcenter.org
6/8	7:30 PM	Russian Cultural Center "Our Texas": Art Exhibition By Olga Porter "Point Of View"	Russian Cultural Center "Our Texas"	OurTexasInc@gmail.com
6/9	10:00 AM	Museum of Fine Arts Houston: Members Daytime Preview—Unrivalled Splendor: The Kimiko and John Powers Collection of Japanese Art	Museum of Fine Arts Houston	www.mfah.org
	11:00 AM	German-American Chamber of Commerce: Houston Beer Festival	Hermann Square Park and Tranquility Park	www.gaccsouth.com
	5:30 PM	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Wine Tasting	Italian Cultural and Community Center	(713) 524-4222 ext. 4
	8:00 PM	The Institute of Hispanic Culture of Houston & South American Production: Concert with SUR	University of St. Thomas	www.ihch.org
6/10	10:30 AM	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Italian Mass	Italian Cultural and Community Center	www.iccchouston.com
	6:05 PM	Asian Chamber of Commerce: Baseball Team Sugarland Skeeters Asian Night—Sugarland Skeeters vs. Somerset Patriots	Constellation Field Stadium	kristina@asianchamber-hou.org

6/15	7:30 PM	Institute of Hispanic Culture: Movie—All About My Mother	Keith Jackson Hall	www.ihch.org
6/16	7:00 PM	Danish-American Chamber of Commerce Southwest: An Evening with the Nordic Tenors	Danish Inspiration	www.dacccsw.org
6/20	5:00 PM	Canadian Club of Houston: Toronto FC vs. Houston Dynamo	Little Woodrows Bar—Downtown	(713) 222-2224
6/22	11:00 AM	British-American Business Council: "Lost Afternoon" Rugby Luncheon IV	TBA	www.babchouston.org
6/23	2:00 PM	British-American Business Council: Houston Grampian Queen's Tea	Hotel ZaZa	www.babchouston.org
	2:00 PM	Asia Society: Architecture Tour	Asia Society Texas Center	ppass@asiasociety.org
	7:00 PM	Rodeo Houston: Casino Night and Dinner	Houston Distributing Company	(281) 541-5541
	7:30 PM	British-American Business Council: International Rugby Match - USA Eagles vs. Italy	BBVA Compass Stadium	www.babchouston.org
6/29	8:00 PM	La Périchole—A Frolicking Musical Romp in Colonial Peru	Miller Outdoor Theater	(512) 285-6604
6/30	5:45 PM	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Dine Around	Mandola's Deli	events@icccchouston.com
7/1	TBA	Canadian Club of Houston: Canada Day In Houston	Village Place Community	(713) 498-7956
7/7	2:00 PM	Museum of Fine Arts Houston: Gallery Talk—Unrivalled Splendor: The Kimiko and John Powers Collection of Japanese Art	Museum of Fine Arts Houston	www.mfah.org
7/11	12:00 PM	Museum of Fine Arts Houston: Gallery Talk—Buddhism in Art	Museum of Fine Arts Houston	www.mfah.org

Events hosted by International Partners of Houston:

6/14 - 6/15	German American Chamber of Commerce: Food Forum USA	Hanover, Germany	www.gaccsouth.com
6/18 - 6/22	ACHEMA 2012	Frankfurt, Germany	www.achema.de
7/1 - 7/6	31st International Conference on Ocean, Offshore and Arctic Engineering	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	www.asmeconferences.org
10/26 - 10/28	China International Auto Parts Expo	Beijing, China	www.iapechina.com