



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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World Trade Center of New Orleans joins forces with Mexican States in Gulf States Accord

New Orleans, LA – Today the World Trade Center of New Orleans announced its appointment to the Gulf States Accord Task Force, a working group comprised of business leaders from the United States and Mexican states of Yucatan and Campeche. The Task Force was announced during a November meeting convened by the Consul General of Mexico in New Orleans and the Committee of 100, Louisiana's Business Roundtable, and attended by over 50 interested business and government representatives from the States of Campeche, Yucatan, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The meeting, coordinated in cooperation with the Louisiana Committee of 100, was a first-step in working toward a renewal of the Gulf States Accord under a new model emphasizing support from the private-sector to sustain the Accord going forward. Support for the meeting came from C100 member companies Pan American Life Insurance, Fowler Rodriguez law firm, Ochsner Health System, Jones Walker law firm, the Port of New Orleans, and Chase Bank.

The Gulf States Accord Task Force will work to develop economic opportunities and business exchange between the states in the following areas:

- Maritime/Ports: including states sharing the Gulf of Mexico with import/export activity conducted via ports located in their respective states
- Oil/Gas: following changes authorized by the Mexican government to open the Mexican oil and gas sector to outside investment and business opportunities, identify interested parties in bringing US technology and investment to expand the oil and gas sector in Mexico
- Health Care: link US health care firms to health care operatives in Mexico to bring technology and services to Mexican health care providers
- Water Management/Coastal Erosion: engaging the government and private sector interests on coastal issues in research, technology and applications
- Wood products: promote the sale of Mexican wood products in the US and the participation of value added production
- Used construction equipment & parts: address the demand for used equipment for the construction industry in Mexico

As a member of the Gulf States Accord Task Force, The World Trade Center of New Orleans will administrate the business matchmaking process culminating in business meetings in the state of Yucatan on April 21 –24, 2015 at the invitation of Eric Rubio representing the Governor of the State of Yucatan.

The full list of Gulf States Accord Task Force members include Gonzalo Hernandez Pérez, President Consejo de Coordinador Empresarial; Esperanza Ortega Azar, President Consejo Coordinador Empresarial; Jaime Ruiz Moreno; Carlos Marrón, Trade & Investment Commissioner; Rafael Tatúa Sánchez, Coordinator, Promoción of Productivity and Competitiveness; Dominik Knoll, CEO, WTC New Orleans; Alberto Navarro, TML Cargo Liners; Jay Moon, CEO, Mississippi Manufacturers Association; Leonardo Lavallo, Mexican Consulate-New Orleans; Emelio Loret, Yucatan; Michael Olivier, CEO, Committee of 100.

For more information, contact The World Trade Center of New Orleans at (504) 529-1601 or email info@wtcno.org.

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About the World Trade Center of New Orleans

The World Trade Center of New Orleans (WTCNO) is the strongest international business organization in the Gulf Coast region, consisting of 1,000+ companies as well as high profile individual members. This membership base represents a diverse group of industry leaders, companies, professional organizations, and government institutions that include manufacturers, energy, agriculture, maritime, digital media, foreign consulates, and other interests. In 2014, member organizations were able to significantly contribute to the state's record-breaking exports, the total value of which exceeded \$65 billion. This strong international organization creates a variety of opportunities for its stakeholders with the objective to add wealth to its community as well as create jobs through international trade and related services while fostering business and economic development by engaging in allied activities. For more information, please visit www.wtcno.org.