

ILLINOIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMISSION

GLOBAL MARKETS SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: November 30, 2009

TIME: 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm

LOCATION: 70 W Madison Street, Chicago, IL, Room 3400

Attendees

C. Bernadini, J. Reynolds, G. Webb, D. Cradit, A. Rorke, G. Wass, J. Weisensee, S. Joshi, M. Sorgman, I. Dumea, J. Brodson

On-phone: W. Miquelon

Invited Guests/ Presentors:

F. Calcinardi, S. Pohl, J. Chevalier, J. Jackson, T. Thorelli

1. Charles Bernadini opened the meeting by informing the attendees that at the first meeting of the Global Markets subcommittee, presentation was made by the State of Illinois personnel on their role in attracting International Trade/ Tourism/ Foreign Direct investment to Illinois. This was followed by a presentation by World Business Chicago.
2. Charles Bernadini indicated that the agenda for today's meeting was to hear presentations from four European Chamber of Commerce executives on their role and activities in Chicago.
3. Jeanette Jackson, Asst-Director, French – American Chamber of Commerce gave the presentation on the role, objectives and activities of their organization in Chicago. During the question/ answer period, she emphasized the opportunity to show case Chicago's key strength... hub of the U.S. Transportation network. J. Chevarlier also highlighted the need to support local businesses with financial capital to expand their global exports. Specific example given by J. Chevalier was of a small scale rechargeable battery manufacturer on south side of Chicago. Their batteries do not heat and could have huge potential in electric cars.
4. Simone Pohl, President & CEO of the German-American Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation on their role, mission and activities. She highlighted Chicago/ Illinois' potential in the areas of energy efficiency and wind energy which could be exploited. She also identified North Carolina as a State that aggressively goes after German companies to base their U.S. operations in N. Carolina.
5. Fulvio Calconardi, Executive Director, Italian American Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation on their activities in Chicago. To attract Italian business to Chicago/ Illinois, Fulvio emphasized the need to visit Italy often and promote this area. He also suggested that State of Illinois could leverage the "\$" to promote Illinois by partially funding operations like his and of other countries. He also suggested Illinois provide printed material promoting Illinois to Chambers like his for distribution throughout Europe.

6. T. Thorelli from Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation on their activities. He highlighted Chicago's key strength: distribution.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.25 pm. These minutes were recorded by Satish Joshi.