



The Association of Women in International Trade

www.wiit.org

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Letter from the President...

By Barbara P. Wanner
WIIT President

I feel privileged and deeply appreciative of your support in electing me to assume the WIIT leadership reins in 2002-2003. This will be a challenging and important year for the United States as a global leader in trade. As Americans commemorate the tragic September 11 events, we are reminded of how blessed we are to live and work in a nation that possesses both compassion for victims of terror as well as the strength and resourcefulness to bounce back from adversity.

This is also a special year for WIIT, which marks its 15th anniversary. Amazing how the years have flown by for some of us "old-timers!" The WIIT Board is planning a number of events and initiatives throughout the anniversary year, which will highlight important contributions by WIIT and its members to furthering U.S. trade interests.

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TradeExpo 2002 *Trade in a Changed World*

WIIT is co-sponsoring the second annual Trade Professionals' Day with the Washington International Trade Association. The one-day event will be held Wednesday, October 9, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

This year's theme is Trade in a Changed World. The program will include information on trade policy, career development advice, and networking opportunities.

Fees for the conference are \$75 for full-time students, \$125 for WITA/WIIT members before September 9, and \$190 for non-members and WITA/WIIT members who pay after September 9. For more information, please see the WITA website at <http://www.wita.org/content.cfm?L1=4&QA=170>

A look at the Bush agenda US Commitment to Africa's Growth and Prosperity

by Stephanie Childs

Trade with the continent of Africa continues to figure prominently on the international scene, with serious discussions having taken place at several major events this summer, including the G-8 Summit, the World Food Summit, the International Conference on HIV/AIDS, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in August. These discussions highlight the Bush Administration's philosophy that trade can be used as an effective tool to lift people out of poverty and to create sustainable development.

Since taking office, President President Bush has outlined an aggressive strategy designed to better integrate sub-Saharan Africa into the world economy. His policy agenda recognizes the enormous challenges that the region faces and takes a multi-disciplinary approach to help foster economic growth. It clearly

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But in the meantime, WIIT's Section Chairs -- the true "work horses" responsible for the organization's success -- have been busily planning a number of timely and stimulating programs that address the implications for trade of post-September 11 policy priorities. For example, during the ordinarily sleepy months of June, July, and August, Section Chairs organized WIIT-wide programs that delved into new Customs-related security imperatives and export controls. In addition, brown bag programs focused on the intersection of trade and environmental concerns, progress in concluding a hemispheric Free Trade Area of the Americas, and the U.S.-EU dispute concerning Foreign Sales Corporations (FSC), among other issues.

Moreover, the Professional Development Committee has furthered WIIT's mission to provide members with useful tools for professional growth in an admirable fashion. This committee held well-attended brown bag meetings that focused on "branding" oneself as a professional and empowering oneself in managing personal finances.

All of this -- and only three months into WIIT's "new year!" These program offerings provide ample reasons to remain a WIIT member in good standing. If you haven't already done so, please renew your WIIT membership as soon as possible. A form is available at <http://www.wiit.org/members.html>. This will enable you to continue to enjoy programs and other membership benefits without interruption.

Most important, we would hate to lose you! I greatly value your participation. One of my priorities for the 2002-2003 year is to actively engage WIIT's loyal and growing membership corps in an ongoing dialogue via email, phone, or person-to-person. It is my hope that our conversations will enable the WIIT leadership team to address members' interests and needs more effectively. My contact information is also available on the website. I would love to hear from you.

Another of my priorities is to reach out to prospective new WIIT members. One of the reasons for the organization's longevity is that it continues to attract a special kind of professional. Longtime members have told me that they originally joined WIIT because they saw in the members qualities that they themselves possess -- integrity, initiative, professional excellence, and generosity. Like attracts like. Although new to the presidency, I already feel tremendously gratified by members' selfless contributions of unique skills and capabilities to ensure that WIIT continues to grow and evolve. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve this fine organization.

Rwanda - how could we have let this happen ?

An interview with the former commander of the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda, General Romeo Dallaire

by Christine Briscoe

On June 12, 2002, I was fortunate enough to see retired Canadian General Romeo Dallaire speak at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. Interviewed by Ted Koppel, he spoke about his time as the Force Commander of the UN Assistance Mission In Rwanda (UNAMIR) and the hell he lived through during the Mission and upon his return. General Dallaire, who had originally been sent to simply oversee the "negotiated end to the year-old Rwandan civil war", was only given a 2600 troop self-defense force of Senegalese, Bangladeshis, Russians, Hungarians, Poles, Canadians and others to command, 350 of whom were unarmed observers. He had been warned to "do this on the cheap" as there were already 16 other UN Peacekeeping missions underway. However, before his arrival in Rwanda in 1993, the violence had begun to escalate between the Hutus and Tutsis.

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Rwanda *(continued from page 2)*

The day before his arrival, the democratically elected Hutu President was ousted and killed by the Tutsi-led army in neighboring Burundi so that upon his arrival in Rwanda he was dealing with 300,000 Burundi refugees. The night of his arrival, 35 people were killed in Rwanda, mostly moderate Hutus in government and Tutsi officials. General Dallaire knew that a bloodbath was on the way with reports of large arms caches attributed to Hutu extremists.

General Dallaire began a series of desperate pleas to the UN that fell on deaf ears and left him powerless to prevent the slaughter of 800,000 people in 100 days. He pleaded for a single battalion of experienced troops (his own group would have had only enough ammunition for a 30 minute firefight). He pleaded for permission to make preemptive seizures of arms caches and extremist leaders. He pleaded for assistance locating radio RPLN's mobile transmitter in order to force it off the air (he attributed much of the hysteria invoking killings to the radio station). He pleaded for satellite photos to see where the people were being herded (before being killed). None of these requests was granted, nor did "one country on Earth (come) to stop this thing. The Western world provided me with nothing". While his group attempted vainly to stop the massacre through negotiation (since they did not have the power to use force under the UN classification of their mission as Chapter 6), back home the main news story was about Tonya Harding.

Now General Dallaire takes 9 pills a day to cope with the trauma he suffers.

One fears how the young corporals who saw thousands slaughtered will fare long-term since they were told upon their return they couldn't be traumatized since it wasn't a war. The amazing thing about General Dallaire is that despite the inhumanity he not only witnessed in Rwanda but also

experienced from the UN and the international community, Dallaire continues to have faith in the human race. Throughout the interview and still now, I wonder how we could we have let this happen.

Christine Briscoe works in the International Business Development/Trade Section of the Canadian Embassy. She is co-chair of WIIT's Professional Development Committee.



OWIT International Trade Conference

OWIT's 12th Annual International Trade Conference will be held on October 24-25 in Dallas, Texas. The theme of the conference is "Global Trade & Compliance in a Changing World."

The annual conference always is a great success, and is a great way to network and get a quick refresher course on the latest trade issues. Members from several of OWIT's US and global chapters are expected to attend, and we encourage as many of our DC chapter members to attend as possible!

Please contact OWIT representative Jennifer Mulveny at 202-216-9307 or jmulveny@strtrade.com if you have any questions regarding the conference, or visit WIIT's website www.wiit.org to get additional information and download the conference brochure.

<http://www.wiit.org/OWIT-09-2002.pdf>.



Bush Agenda

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reflects the fact that you can't talk about economic growth without also addressing issues such as AIDS, education, hunger, institutional reform, and ending regional conflicts. President Bush's program attempts to tackle these problems and to provide real resources for effective implementation.

The Bush Administration understands that it is in everybody's best interest for Africa to take its place on the global economic stage. It has supported the G-8 Summit's Africa Action Plan, which builds on the President's for development, established in Monterrey, Mexico last March. In Monterrey, Bush announced the Millennium Challenge Account initiative, where the United States pledged to increase its core assistance to developing countries by fifty percent over recent years, resulting in a \$5 billion annual increase over current levels by fiscal year 2006. The MCA funds will be distributed to developing countries that demonstrate a strong commitment to institutional reform, just governance, investing in people and advancing economic freedom. Administration officials have already made it clear that a significant amount of these funds will be available to eligible sub-Saharan countries for trade capacity building efforts.

The Bush philosophy also embraces the concept that reducing trade barriers will yield new opportunities for African businesses, create jobs, and spur

investment. Most sub-Saharan countries have protectionist trade policies, with average tariff rates of 19 percent – nearly 50 percent higher than the average tariff level of developing countries. Although it represents roughly 11 percent of the world's population, the region only generates one percent of world economic activity and 1.5 percent of global trade.

Since its passage in 2000, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a primary vehicle for enhancing US-sub-Saharan trade ties, has achieved some success, with more than 92 percent of US imports from beneficiary countries now entering the US duty-free. Non-fuel imports from AGOA beneficiaries grew by more than eight percent in 2001 while total US global imports declined by nearly seven percent. To enhance these gains, President Bush recently announced the creation of three regional trade hubs in Africa to promote US-Africa trade, the first of which opened on June 19 in Botswana. The inclusion of AGOA II provisions in the just-passed Trade Promotion Authority legislation will further enhance the Administration's AGOA program.

In order to develop a truly effective policy in Africa, the United States must also invest major resources in combating the scourge of AIDS, which threatens the very fabric of some African societies. In recognition of this fact, President Bush announced a new \$500 million International Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative that seeks to prevent the transmission of

HIV/AIDS from mothers to infants and to improve health care delivery in Africa. With this initiative, the United States is raising its commitment to stop mother-to-child

transmission of HIV/AIDS, which was funded at less than \$20 million in fiscal year 2001. The fight against AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa will continue to be a major challenge.

President Bush has also committed to help provide Africa's children with the advantages of literacy and basic education. The Administration has pledged to double the funding of the African Education Initiative to \$200 million, providing teacher training, new textbooks and scholarships for African girls.

Without peace and prosperity in Africa, there can be no economic engagement. To help end regional conflicts and terror in Africa, the President has asked the Congress to provide an additional \$55 million in funds to help Africans fight terrorism, appointed former Senator Jack Danforth as a special envoy for peace in Sudan, and supported the efforts of regional peacekeepers in Sierra Leone and troop demobilization in Angola.

President Bush has made a commitment to travel to the continent early in 2003, and high-level participation in the US-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Forum scheduled for January in Port Louis, Mauritius, is expected. Already four cabinet members have been to the continent – Secretaries Powell, Thompson, and O'Neill and USTR Zoellick, with Commerce Secretary Evans expected to go before the year is out. Skeptics thought that the continent of Africa would receive little attention in a Bush administration; Africa advocates are pleasantly surprised and hopeful that the Bush program will produce results.

Stephanie Childs is Senior Advisor, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

Calendar . . .

- 3 September (Tuesday): WIIT Chinese Language Table
- 5 September (Thursday): Pacific Rim Organizational Brownbag
- 12 September (Thursday): WIIT Italian Language Table
- 13 September (Friday): Toastmasters
- 17 September (Tuesday): WIIT Chinese Language Table
- 18 September (Wednesday): WIIT Monthly Happy Hour - Western Europe
- 18 September (Wednesday): The Stock Market Explained Brownbag
- 20 September (Friday): WIIT Russian Language Table
- 23 September (Monday): Toastmasters
- 24 September (Tuesday): Spanish Language Table
- 25 September (Wednesday): WIIT Japanese Language Table
- 25 September (Wednesday): Patriot Act Brown Bag
- 30 September (Monday): WIIT German Language Table
- 9 October (Wednesday): TradePro Expo
- 24-25 October (Thursday, Friday): OWIT International Trade Conference, Dallax, Texas

Please be kind to the event organizers and give them prompt notice if you cannot attend an event for which you RSVPed. Brownbags and Language Tables may not pre-charge for an event, but they still require reserving spaces.

GALA CELEBRATION

WIIT will be sponsoring a Gala Celebration and Silent Auction this fall to commemorate its 15th Anniversary. To make this a success, we need volunteers to help organize and staff the event. If you are able to help or if you have any questions, please contact Alice Slayton-Clark at (202) 736-8741 aclark@Sidley.com or Jennifer Mulveny (202) 216-9307 jmulveny@strtrade.com

DETAILS OF EVENTS

5 September (Thursday) 12:30-2:00 PM, Pacific Rim Organizational Brownbag. For location and RSVP, please contact Jennifer Sklarew at Jennifer_Sklarew@ita.doc.gov or Caroline Cooper at cgc@keia.org

18 September (Wednesday): 6:00-8:00 PM, Happy Hour. Come join the Western Europe Section, the French Table, Italian Table and the German Table at this month's WIIT Western Europe happy hour. You can come to network, mingle or just to unwind from a long day! The location will be at Spezie Restaurant, 1736 L Street, NW. 202-467-0777. It is located near the Farragut West and Farragut North Metro Stations. Nonmembers welcome. Cash bar, no cover. We will be located in the bar area at an area reserved for WIIT! RSVP to Tonya Kemp at tkdc@aol.com

18 September (Wednesday): 12:00 - 1:30 PM. The Professional Development Committee will host a brown bag entitled: The Stock Market Explained. Always wanted to learn more about the stock market but were afraid to ask? Here is your perfect opportunity to learn about it and ask all the questions you want. The speaker will be Sean Duffy of A.G. Edwards, who led our successful financial seminar for women in January. Location: Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, 1501 K Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20005, tel (202) 736-8313, Conference Room 6G (go to the 6th floor receptionist). Metro: 2 blocks from Farragut North (K Street exit) or from McPherson Square (White House exit). Please RSVP to co-chairs Christine Briscoe (christine.briscoe@dfait-maeci.gc.ca) or Jill Pollack (jpollack@hotmail.com). Feel free to send questions you would like addressed to the speaker in advance of the seminar at: sean.duffy@agedwards.com. Note: brown bags are free for members and \$10 for non-members. Please feel free to bring your own lunch.

Please note: if a non-member becomes a WIIT member at a brown bag, that brown bag is free. Membership forms will now be available at brown bags or have non-members visit: <http://www.wiit.org/application.pdf>

Details of Events *continued*

25 September (Wednesday): Patriot Act Brownbag. The International Finance Section and Middle East Section will join together and host a brownbag lunch on the Patriot Act. For information on time and location, please contact Katherine Orr, katieorr@aol.com or Leigh Fraiser, lfraiser@Sidley.com

9 October (Wednesday): All Day! TradeProExpo 2002: the 2nd Annual Trade Professional's Day Trade in a Changed World. Co-sponsored by: The Washington International Trade Association. Location: The Atrium Ballroom, Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. EXHIBITORS NEEDED!! For more information contact Michelle DeMoor at MDeMoor@AdvaMed.org

24-25 October (Thursday, Friday) OWIT's 12th annual Trade Professional's Day. Visit WIIT's website www.wiit.org to get additional information and download the conference brochure. <http://www.wiit.org/OWIT-09-2002.pdf>

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Does your company or law firm have a conference room that WIIT would be able to use for our monthly brown bag luncheons? Please contact Tonya Kemp at tkdc@aol.com

TOASTMASTERS

13 September (Friday) 12:30 to 1:30 PM

23 September (Monday) 12:30 to 1:30 PM

Come join a friendly, supportive (and fun!) group of people as we learn to improve our public speaking skills. Newcomers are welcome and encouraged to attend (and do not have to speak feel free to just come and observe). Location: National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 6th Floor (See Receptionist for Room Assignment) Washington, DC 20004. Enter from corner of F and 13th Streets, at The Shops. For more information and to RSVP contact Sally Hastings at Sally_Hastings@ita.doc.gov. Information on Toastmasters International is available at www.toastmasters.org.

LANGUAGE TABLES

CHINESE LANGUAGE TABLE

If you are interested in practicing Mandarin, discussing issues related to China, and meeting people working on and/or with China, please come to the Chinese table. Every level welcome, from native speakers to beginners. Please RSVP in August to cobet_a@bls.gov; in September please RSVP by 5 PM of that day with Dong Mei at dlin3@yahoo.com. For more information please check out chinesetable.com.

3 September (Tuesday): 7:00 PM Eat First Restaurant, 609 H Street, NW (Metro: China Town, 289-1789).

<http://www.washingtonian.com/dining/Profiles/eatfirst.html>

17 September (Tuesday): 7:00 PM China Garden, 1100 Wilson Blvd Rosslyn VA (Metro: Roslyn, 703-525-5317)

FRENCH LANGUAGE TABLE

Calling all Francophones...If you are interested in joining others who share your passion, practicing French & savoring French cuisine, then we invite you to immerse yourself in French language and culture once a month. All levels of French speakers encouraged! For additional information contact Shannon Allen at sallen@bdlaw.com

GERMAN LANGUAGE TABLE

30 September (Monday) 6:30 PM at Café Berlin 322 Massachusetts Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002. Phone: 202-543-7656 Nearest Metro: Union Station. Please contact Sandra Mueller to RSVP at mueller_sandra@yahoo.com.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE TABLE

12 September (Thursday), 6:15 PM. Location TBA. Please RSVP to Jill Pollack at jillpollack@hotmail.com.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE TABLE

25 September (Wednesday): 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM. Location: Sushi Taro, 1503 17th Street NW (on 17th Street just north of P street); Metro: Dupont Circle (red). NOTES: 1) Table reservation will be under the name WIIT. 2) Please RSVP by September 18. For more information and to RSVP, please contact: Jennifer Sklarew, 202-482-5664 (jennifer_sklarew@ita.doc.gov) or Sylvia Rhodes, 202-508-6101 (sarhodes@bryancave.com).

Language Tables

continued

PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE TABLE (NEW!)

Looking for an opportunity to dust off your language skills and practice your Portuguese? A WIIT member is seeking participants that would be interested in creating a new WIIT Portuguese Language Table. The purpose would be to meet, mingle and discuss issues of common interest - all in Portuguese of course! The group would aim to meet about once a month and we will be taking suggestions for meeting locations. If you would be interested in joining this new group, please contact Ana Lopes at alopes@mema.org.

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TABLE

20 September (Friday): 6:30 PM at Chez Maxim, 1725 F Street, NW. 202-962-0280. It is located near the Farragut West and Farragut North Metro Stations. For more information, please contact Erin Cole at erin_cole@yahoo.com or (202) 482-4414, or Dawn Hannaham at dhannaham@lycos.com.

SPANISH LANGUAGE TABLE

24 September (Tuesday): 6:15 PM at Gabriel's, 2121 P Street, NW, Tel: 202-956-6690. Take the Metro to DuPont Circle, or please note that there is complimentary Valet Parking for those coming by car. Anyone interested in practicing her/his Spanish is most welcome to attend. Please RSVP to either Violane Konar-Leacy at (202) 326-0280 ext. 21, or vkonar-leacy@usgtn.net, or to Richard Romero at (202) 572-8728 or richard.romero@customs.treas.gov

OPINION

American Consumers Aid the Developing World

by Pam Slater

Did you know that we help the world's poor every time we shop at our local discount store, food market or clothing store? In our role as consumers we Americans assist struggling entrepreneurs and workers to improve their standard of living when we consume products they make. When we buy goods from a developing nation we support that country's economy, creating new jobs that provide opportunities for a better life.

Critics of international trade claim that by buying goods made in developing countries with labor standards lower than our own, we support the exploitation of workers. This is simply not true. People in these regions of the world live in extreme poverty where unemployment rates are exorbitant and where per capita income may be just a few dollars per year. By buying exports from those countries, we help to reduce poverty and improve standards of living, because factories making products for foreign markets pay considerably more than the local minimum wage. Jobs in these factories are coveted, because they provide a middle-class living.

Trade has boosted wages and living standards for people all over the world. When a country participates in the global economy, it also participates in an exchange of ideas and gains access to new, better technologies. Thanks to increased trade the proportion of people living below the poverty line in the developing world decreased from 28 percent to 24 percent between 1987 and 1998. Many Asian countries have come up in the world due to international trade. In 1960 South Korea was as poor as India. Today its per capita income is twenty times higher than India's. While India has also made strides and has made its own contribution to the world economy, its trading regime is considerably more closed than that of South Korea, and this has limited its growth.

Remember that old adage: "give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime?" When it comes to the issue of aiding the poorest countries, our government follows this adage through programs that are designed to promote trade instead of foreign aid. The theory is that if we provide a market for the products of a truly poor country, we do much more for that country's economy and for its people than we do by providing direct foreign aid. Why? Because we help the country to attract foreign

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New Passwords for Job Bank

The Job Bank has officially migrated to the OWIT site (to which you will be sent automatically when clicking on the Job Bank button on the WIIT homepage; or go to www.owit.org/memberServices/job/joblisting.asp to view international trade jobs around the country.

A new password is required to access the Job Bank. Contact the Professional Development Committee co-chairs, Co-Chairs: Christine Briscoe (christine.briscoe@dfait-maeci.gc.ca) and Jill Pollack (jillpollack@hotmail.com) for the new passwords.

The Job Bank is only as valuable as the jobs posted there. Please tell your employer's HR or personnel division about this FREE service which is accessed by hundreds of trade professionals around the country.

For technical/website difficulties with the OWIT page please contact: Claudia Allen, Board Member of Women in International Trade, San Diego, at email: callen@mail.sdsu.edu. For questions on accessing and posting jobs, please contact WIIT's Professional Development Committee.

Professional Development Committee Update

WIIT's Professional Development Committee held a number of brown bag seminars this past year on topics of interest to members such as: career transition, resume and cover letter writing, how to use the OWIT Job Bank, salary negotiation, and two women's financial seminars, among others. We culminated with a very successful and well-attended WIIT-wide panel luncheon in late May entitled Careers in International Trade (see our webpage at <http://www.wiit.org/jobs.html> for the list of speakers who were WIIT members from the Department of Commerce, the Senate Finance Committee, Ex-Im Bank and an independent Career Counsellor who previously worked for the Department of Commerce. Monique Roske moderated the panel in her last appearance as WIIT President).

The Professional Development Committee also had two Mentor Socials this year and looks forward to another this fall to welcome in a new round of mentoring. If you are interested in being a Mentor or Mentee, please contact the co-chairs. Current Co-Chairs are Jill Pollack (also co-chair of the Italian Language Group) (jillpollack@hotmail.com) and Christine Briscoe (WIIT's Outstanding Member of the Year) (christine.briscoe@dfait-maeci.gc.ca).

The Committee would very much like your input on seminars WIIT members would like to see organized and would also like to increase use of and jobs placed in the OWIT Job Bank.

We welcome help on our committee especially with the Mentor Program. As well as another financial seminar and a seminar on workforce re-entry and "balancing it all", we would like to do a brown bag seminar on job leads at local government agencies.

If you or someone from your agency would be willing to speak on the process of applying for a job at your agency, please let us know. Visit our webpage for an updated list of excellent job websites including several from local government agencies.

NEWSLETTER

The theme of the next (fall) issue, due out in November, is the Western Hemisphere. The theme for the winter issue is Asia.

If you are interested in submitting an article for our next issue, please contact one of the newsletter co-chairs. Also, be sure to let us know if you recently changed jobs. WIIT newsletter co-chairs are Kate Rodriguez at kate.rodriguez@verizon.net and Mara Alexander at alexander@usitc.gov.

Articles may run 500-600 words (roughly two to three typed, double-spaced pages). We also welcome news from the members and from the sections.

If you want to learn more about doing business in Africa, go to Africa Business Pages at www.africa-business.com. This site has information, news, reports and analysis on the business scene in Africa, plus a directory of suppliers, agents and distributors in African markets.

American Consumers *continued from page 7*

investment needed to build factories and employ workers. By providing access to our vast consumer market, the U.S. government enables developing countries to lift themselves out of poverty, and we American consumers are a key element.

Some of the key "trade not aid" programs that our government supports include:

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which was passed in May 2000 to encourage American trade with the nations of Sub-Saharan Africa, arguably some of the poorest nations of the world. Under AGOA, African nations can export their goods to the U.S. free of restrictions such as tariffs and quotas. As a result, imports from Africa grew more quickly in 2001 than imports from Asia, Europe or Latin America. Some of the early statistics are heartening: In the first six months after AGOA went into effect, African exports to the United States increased 15 percent. One country, Madagascar, saw their exports to the United States jump 126 percent. Shipping lines had to increase the number of ships each month just to handle the increase in cargo from southern Africa to the American east coast. Madagascar quadrupled its exports of men's and boy's cotton shorts to the U.S. in the first year. Lesotho, a tiny country consisting mostly of subsistence farmers, doubled its manufacturing employment in the first year of AGOA. Textile plants have popped up all over Africa. Mali and Niger saw their clothing exports increase from \$25 million to \$50 million in a year. Textile and apparel trade, the largest export from Sub-Saharan Africa, increased 26 percent between March 2001 and March 2002.

The Generalized System of Preferences. The granddaddy of all "trade not aid" programs is GSP. This program, which has been around for almost thirty years, provides duty-free access to our market for "non-import sensitive" products from lesser developed countries around the world. To qualify a country has to maintain certain labor rights and must have a per-capita income below a certain level. A wide range of products are imported under GSP - everything from wood products to consumer electronics.

So remember, the next time you pick up a product and see that it was made in Madagascar or Chad, it most likely entered the United States without any border taxes under one of the programs listed above. You can feel good about making that purchase. Not only did you get a break on the price because there were no duties, you gave a helping hand to support jobs in some of the poorest areas of the world.

Pam Slater is Vice President, Alliance Management Group, an association management firm which represents Consumers for World Trade (CWT). CWT's mission is to educate average Americans about the importance of international trade and represent the American consumer's interests in U.S. trade policy. To learn more about Consumers for World Trade, please visit www.cwt.org

ITC Report on Africa

The U.S. International Trade Commission is producing a series of five reports on U.S. trade and investment with Sub-Saharan Africa at the request of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The first report was released in February 2001 (USITC Publication 3371) and the second report was released in January 2002 (USITC Publication 3476). The ITC will submit the third report to the USTR by December 10, 2002.

The third report will include data for US merchandise trade and US services trade with Sub-Saharan Africa, including statistics by country, by major sectors, and by the top 25 commodities. It will also include profiles of each sub-Saharan African country; profiles for the region of five sectors: petroleum and energy, minerals and mining, chemicals and related products, agricultural products, and textiles, apparel, and footwear, and a summary of the trade, services, and investment climates in each of the countries of the region.

Statistics on US trade with major regional groupings from the area are part of the report as well, along with a description of the US tariff structure for imports from Africa, a summary of US and total foreign direct investment in sub-Saharan Africa, information on privatization efforts in the region, and a summary of multilateral and US bilateral assistance.

The ITC maintains a website in relation to this investigation, <http://reportweb.usitc.gov/africa/>. The data on the site are updated quarterly, and the most recent report can be viewed there.