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Palm Beach County Welcomes International Trade Commissioners to October 10th Confab

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Contact: Sherry Howard, Deputy Director Dept. of Economic Sustainability 561-233-3653

Public Affairs Department

P.O. Box 1989
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-1989
(561) 355-2754
FAX: (561) 355-3819
<http://www.pbcgov.com>



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Release

The Board of County Commissioners and its Department of Economic Sustainability (DES) will join Orbis Strategy Group to welcome foreign trade commissioners at *Link Up 2012®*, an international business event to be held Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at the West Palm Beach Marriott.

This event has been organized to provide a forum for Florida companies to exchange information on products and industry opportunities with representatives from nations all over the world. Consuls general and trade commissioners from 72 countries having consulate offices located in Miami have been invited to participate.

The trade commissioners will hear from representatives of state and local government, economic development agencies, businesses, the Port of Palm Beach, and from experts in international taxation and export compliance.

The county is situated in the Miami Customs District and has continuously supported efforts to establish new channels of commerce and strengthen existing relationships with trade delegations in order to solidify Palm Beach County as an international business destination.

Studies conducted by DES and Orbis Strategy Group indicate that this year, more than \$15 billion in international trade revenue has been generated in the county, largely through manufacturing and wholesale trade. With the anticipated completion of the Panama Canal expansion in 2014, increased international shipments are expected to access the U.S. from the eastern seaboard, resulting in an overflow of all cargo into secondary ports.

Officials are hopeful that as Palm Beach County experiences continued growth in emerging industry clusters including bioscience, financial services and transportation/logistics and is established as a center of international trade, it will become a model for sustainable economic growth.

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