



April 2, 2021
Volume 2, Nr. 13

On behalf of everyone at the FTA, we wish those celebrating this weekend a Happy Easter with family and friends. As the State of California opens vaccinations to a wider audience and it gives our country a chance to return to pre-pandemic life, if you're eligible, make your vaccination appointment today.

The LA Times has put together an amazing collection of resources on how eligible recipients can find and make their appointments.

[Click here and do your part to get vaccinated.](#)

FTA's 95TH WORLD TRADE WEEK
VIRTUAL EVENT
Registration Now Open!



FTA
Foreign Trade Association

95TH WORLD TRADE WEEK

Exploring the International Trade Landscape
*Mid-Year Update: Customs, PGA's and Other Current
Issues Affecting Trade*

VIRTUAL EVENT - MAY 20, 2021-11am - 2 pm PDT

Tickets: FREE for Metal Members | \$50 Members | \$75 Non-Members

CELEBRATING WORLD TRADE IN MAY!

World trade significantly contributes to the nation's economy and has developed a vast new horizon for America's businesses. World Trade Week (WTW) celebrates the industry and dedicates itself to informing the public on the benefits and importance of global trade on the overall economy through a series of events and educational programs. Please join us for our 95th Annual World Trade Week event!

SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE



DAN SOLIS
Assistant Commissioner
FDA - Import
Operations, OEIO



ANNE HILSABECK
Founder & President
AMH CUSTOMS
CONSULTANTS



JOHN P. LEONARD
Acting Executive Assistant
Commissioner
CBP - Trade
Office of the Commissioner



www.foreigntradeassociation.com



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info@foreigntradeassociation.com

**VIEW PROGRAM AGENDA &
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Exploring the International Trade Landscape

***Mid-Year Update: Customs, PGA's and Other Current
Issues Affecting Trade***

World trade significantly contributes to the nation's economy and has developed a vast new horizon for America's businesses. World Trade Week (WTW) celebrates the industry and dedicates itself to informing the public on the benefits and importance of global trade on the overall economy through a series of events and educational programs. Please join us for our 95th Annual World Trade Week event!

**Presentation of
Marjorie M. Shostak Distinguished Service Award**

Segment 1
U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP)

Segment 2
Participating Government Agencies (PGA's)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC)

Segment 3
Private Industry Experts
Current Issues Affecting Trade – Insider Perspectives

Links and stories of interest:

[Runway dining at \\$540 a meal proving hit in Japan](#)

Government Actions and Trade

CBP Ruling Finds Auditor Report Is Insufficient to Show No Forced Labor Used

The use of North Korean labor is considered to be forced labor under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act. The ruling marks the first one directly focused on forced labor since 2002 according to CBP's rulings database.

Information Technology Industry Council Asks for Phased Rollback of Section 301

Trade policy in regard to China should prioritize technology issues and establish "benchmarks for a phased rollback of Section 301 tariffs," the Information Technology Industry Council wrote in a 17-page March 30 letter to U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai.

Britain's Trade Hits Pandemic, Paperwork Bumps in Brexit's First Month

The U.K.'s first batch of official trade data since leaving the European Union highlights the early damage done to the flow of goods by Brexit.

Boeing Urges U.S. to Separate China Trade and Human Rights

Boeing Co urged the United States on Wednesday to keep disputes over human rights and other topics separate from trade relations with Beijing, and warned that European rival Airbus would gain if the U.S. planemaker were locked out of China.

Time to Get Tough with China on Global Trade, UK tells G7 Allies

Britain will on Wednesday push G7 allies to get tough on China over “pernicious practices” that undermine the international trading system, calling for an overhaul of outdated and ineffective World Trade Organization rules.

Philippines Says Chinese ‘Militia’ Fleet Has Spread in Disputed Waters

Hundreds of Chinese vessels believed to be manned by militias in the South China Sea have spread to a wider area, the Philippines said on Wednesday, defying its demand for the flotilla to be withdrawn immediately.

Women-Owned Business Ownership in America on the Rise

Women-owned employer firms reported nearly \$1.8 trillion in sales, shipments, receipts or revenue and employed over 10.1 million workers with an annual payroll of \$388.1 billion in 2018.

First Joint Committee Meeting Under the Bilateral U.S.-UK Agreement on Prudential Measures Regarding Insurance and Reinsurance

On March 25, 2021, the United States and the United Kingdom held the first meeting of the Joint Committee established under the U.S.-UK Agreement on Prudential Measures Regarding Insurance and Reinsurance (“the Agreement” hereafter).

USTR Suspends Trade Engagement with Burma following Military Coup and Violence against Civilians

United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai today announced the suspension of all U.S. engagement with Burma under the 2013 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), effective immediately. This suspension will remain in effect until the return of a democratically elected government.

American Association of Port Authorities Praises Infrastructure Bill

The American Association of Port Authorities said that \$17 billion dedicated to ports is “a substantial down payment on the \$29 billion in federal investments necessary to modernizing our ports and ensuring that our trade infrastructure remains strong.” It said that more than a quarter of U.S. GDP is connected to imports and exports through the seaports.



TRADE AND TRANSPORT ATTORNEYS

ROBERTS & KEHAGIARAS LLP
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

[LEARN MORE](#)

FTA NEWS

Charting a Course for Trade and Digital Ledger Technology




Charting A Course for Trade and Digital Ledger Technology

Ticket Prices
 \$25 for members
 \$45 for non-members
 \$200 Sponsorships Available

Date: April 7, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m. PST/ 12 p.m. ET
Location: Zoom Webinar

[Register Here](#)

From earliest days information sent bi-laterally, frequently hampered by missing or delayed documents & certifications, leading to significant barriers, fragmented processes, alongside overlooked regulatory requirements - has anything changed?

CBP addressed knowledge gap in information sharing models and has advocated a "transformative approach for the future of trade", yet we may be left wondering: what are some actual programs we can engage near term?

Come and see!

IOTA Foundation—a non-profit developing next generation protocols for the connected world. See interactive demo: Project Atlas Supply Chain DLT

Please join us in this valuable discussion regarding IOTA projects completed to date, current endeavors, and IOTA's approaches to DLT for Trade and Supply Chain. How does this stuff work? What problem does it solve? How can we learn more about it?



CHRIS FLOERSCH
 Consultant
 TRADE CUSTOMS LOGISTICS



JENS MUNCH
 Head of Global Trade & Supply Chains
 IOTA FOUNDATION

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CBP addressed knowledge gap in information sharing models and has advocated a "transformative approach for the future of trade", yet we may be left wondering: what are some actual programs we can engage near term? Come and see!



April 7, 9:00 - 10:00 AM PT

Members: \$25.00

Non-members: \$45.00

Sponsorship Available: \$200.00

REGISTER TODAY

FIRST SALE:


It's still available to lower your duty exposure, but is the hurdle now higher from non-market economies

Ticket Prices
 FREE for Silver, Gold & Platinum Members
 \$25 for other members
 \$45 for non-members
 \$200 Sponsorships Available

Date: April 21, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. PST
Location: Zoom Webinar

[Register Here](#)

First Sale is a valuation program that has successfully mitigated millions of dollars in Customs duty. The hurdle to prove First Sale has always been high, but has the recent decision at the U.S. Court of International Trade made this hurdle a bar too high for importers? Please join us and speaker Erik Smithweiss from Grunfeld, Desiderio, Lebowitz, Silverman & Klestadt LLP for this valuable discussion!



ERIK SMITHWEISS
 Partner
 GDSK LLP

Erik Smithweiss is a partner resident in the Los Angeles office. Mr. Smithweiss represents clients on issues before U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Commerce, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Food & Drug Administration, Consumer Product Safety Commission and other agencies that regulate the international trade in goods. His practice involves import restrictions, rules of origin, preferential trade agreements, marking and labeling, valuation, tariff classification, antidumping and countervailing duty compliance, trademark and copyright protection, Fish & Wildlife restrictions, and similar matters.

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First Sale Rule - It's Still Available To Lower Your Duty Exposure

The hurdle to prove First Sale has always been high, but has the recent decision at the U.S. Court of International Trade made this hurdle a bar too high for importers?

April 21, 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 PM PT

Members: \$25.00

Non-members: \$45.00

Sponsorship Available: \$200.00

REGISTER HERE

EXP Oceans of Opportunity Sponsorship!

It is with great pleasure to announce that The FTA is proud sponsor of EXP's 21st Annual Oceans of Opportunity Event. The FTA is committed to partner with organizations within our community and EXP is certainly deserving of our

EXP Oceans of Opportunity Event Sponsorship

exp® 21st annual

Oceans of Opportunity

4.29.21
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate Today's Achievements
for a Brighter Tomorrow

JOIN US FOR AN INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL EVENT HONORING:

2021 Keeper of the Flame



Virtual Experience through lunchpool

AND...

- The Bill Stein Memorial Leadership Award
- The Carol Rowen 180 Degree Award
- EXP Student and Alumni Scholars

Contribution amounts:
\$25, \$50, \$75 and \$100

CONTRIBUTE HERE!

It is with great pleasure to announce that The FTA is proud sponsor of EXP's 21st Annual Oceans of Opportunity Event. The FTA is committed to partner with organizations within our community and EXP is certainly deserving of our support and encouragement.

EXP is a Southern California 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization who's programs help schools deliver innovative, career-based curriculum that makes classroom learning relevant and exciting. These programs and services are strategically designed to provide at-risk students exposure and experience needed to prepare them for STEM and other high-skill, high-growth career paths. During the 2019-2020 school year, EXP programs served nearly 6,350 high school students at 10 Southern California high schools across 4 school districts.

We encourage you to join us in the challenge to increase the FTA Friends of EXP Sponsorship amount with a contribution of your choice to further our commitment to EXP.

If you or your company is interested in directly supporting EXP, please use this [link](#)



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support and encouragement.

We encourage you to join us in the challenge to increase the FTA Friends of EXP Sponsorship amount with a contribution of your choice to further our commitment to EXP.

April 29, 6:00 - 9:30 AM PT

Contribution amounts:
\$25, \$50, \$75 and \$100

CONTRIBUTE HERE

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Environmental

Biden Administration Aims for U.S. Leadership in Offshore Wind

President Joe Biden's cabinet earlier this week unveiled a plan to boost the industry that promised new acreage, faster permitting, and billions of dollars in financing – part of his sweeping plan to fight climate change by decarbonizing the economy.

Key Steps Towards a High Performing Maritime Industry

Achievement of an efficient, resilient, safe, and sustainable maritime ecosystem is a multi-year, multi-stage project that requires a sequence of interlocking actions.

How Shipping Ports Can Become More Sustainable

Marine shipping drives 90% of global trade, moving over 11 billion tons of containers, solid and liquid bulk cargo across the world's seas annually.

Port Of San Diego Seeks Input On Maritime Clean Air Strategy Discussion Draft

The Port of San Diego announced Tuesday it is seeking extensive public input as it develops a Maritime Clean Air Strategy as part of continued efforts to identify projects that will improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to efficient, modern and sustainable maritime operations.

China Solar Cells: Final Results of CV Admin Review

The Commerce Department is amending the final results of its recently completed countervailing duty administrative review on crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, whether or not assembled into modules, from China



Got a story idea?

The FTA wants to hear from you! Is there a topic or industry that we're not covering that you'd like to see more of? Drop us an email by clicking the button below with your suggestions.

**EMAIL YOUR STORY
IDEA**



FTA New Member Thank You!

The FTA would like to acknowledge our new members each week in our newsletter. We sincerely appreciate their support and participation. Your FTA leadership continues to focus on delivering value during this time of social distancing and know that as we move back to in-person events that the opportunities will only continue to expand.

Maritime

After Jubilation on the Suez Canal Comes the Investigation

In the end, it took roughly six days and seven hours to undo the minutes of drama that exposed the vulnerability of global trade and captivated the world. It may take longer to figure out how to avoid it happening again.

Port of Savannah Infrastructure Projects to Boost TEU Amid Unprecedented Growth

The Georgia Ports Authority has approved projects to increase annual capacity at the Port of Savannah beyond 6 million twenty-foot equivalent container units, an increase of about 20 percent compare to its current capacity.

Newest 2M Asia-US East Coast Service Aims for Fast Transits: Maersk

Maersk said its new service to US Southeast ports will add faster transits from Asia and serves the rapidly growing Vietnam export market.

New Blume Product Offers Hybrid Visibility- TMS Functionality

Blume Global is hoping a new product emphasizing its utility as a supply chain planning tool will help it to break out of a crowded field of supply chain visibility providers.

Railcar Scarcity Now Driving LA-LB Port Congestion: Terminal Operators

A severe shortage of railcars in Los Angeles-Long Beach is causing rail container dwell times to double, which is further stressing already-congested terminals and inhibiting the ability of the terminals to ship imports to inland rail hubs.

DOT Lays Out \$230 Million in New Port Grants for 2021

The US Department of Transportation has issued a new round of 2021 port grants, with an emphasis on projects that can address efforts to remediate climate change.

Suez Canal Crisis Sends Shipping Lines Scrambling for Alternatives

Shipping companies rerouted vessels, refused to take on new customers and forecast long delays—and longer-term port congestion around the world—raising the global trade and economic stakes of the grounding of the Ever Given in the Suez Canal.



FIRMs Code: W517

Video of the Week

It's really infrastructure week.

The President this week unveiled a \$2 trillion plus infrastructure bill this week in Pittsburgh that, if passed, has the ability to reshape American manufacturing, supply chains, transit and set the stage for the likely electrification of transportation in the coming decade. Click below to hear his thirty minute speech and what the plan includes.



Logistics and Trade

Supply Chain Strains Sharpen Focus on AI

The use of AI and its various subsets, such as machine learning, is enabling these companies to forecast demand with increasing accuracy and to optimize their supply chains, executives say.

Largest US Truckload Carriers Adding Trucks, But Not Many

The JOC Truckload Capacity Index rose 2.1 percentage points in the fourth quarter, as some of the largest US truckload carriers expanded dedicated business or replaced older rigs.

Supply Chain Strains Sharpen Focus on AI

Supply chains have taken a battering this year from the coronavirus pandemic and other extreme events—and artificial intelligence has emerged as a critical tool for navigating everyday business in this environment

Suez Canal Supply Chain Snafu Likely to 'Untangle Itself' in 'Next Week or So': Ex-Shell Oil President

According to the shipping news website Lloyd's List, traffic on the canal carries about \$9.6 billion worth of goods per day, transporting about 1.9 million barrels of oil daily and 1.2 billion pounds of cargo annually.

Message in a Bottleneck

The *Ever Given* is not just one of the world's biggest container ships, it is also the emblem of a backlash that accuses globalization of going too far.

Turkey Greenlights Massive Project to Build Canal Through Istanbul

Kanal Istanbul would increase capacity for shipping to and from the Black Sea, connecting it to the Marmara Sea in the south of Istanbul. The project is estimated to cost around \$9 billion.

Upcoming Events

April 7 – WEBINAR – FTA Charting a Course for Trade and Digital Ledger Technology – 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM PT - CBP addressed knowledge gap in information sharing models and has advocated a “transformative approach for the future of trade”, yet we may be left wondering: what are some actual programs we can engage near term? Come and see! - Register [here](#)

April 13 - April 15 – ICPA 2021 ITAR CONFERENCE – Springhill Suites by Marriott, Fort Worth, TX - Join us in Fort Worth, TX for our ITAR Conference – Register [here](#)

April 15 - WEBINAR - P.A.E.I. - Customs Valuation - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM PT - Register [here](#)

April 15 – WEBINAR – LAACA - Cyber Crisis in the Logistics World – 11:50 AM – 1:30 PM PT - Who's in your computer – Register [here](#)

April 21 – WEBINAR - First Sale: It's still available to lower your duty exposure, but is the hurdle now higher from non-market economies - 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM PT – Discussion on First Sale Rule with Erik Smithweiss from Grunfeld, Desiderio, Lebowitz, Silverman & Klestadt LLP - Register [here](#)

May 2 - May 5 – 48th NCBFFA Annual Conference -Now in its 48th year, the NCBFAA Annual Conference brings together more than 600 of the international trade industry's top representatives from around the United States – Register [here](#)

May 6 – Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce 95th Annual World Trade Week – 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM PT - This years program will feature a panel on "The Future of Transportation and Supply Chains," addressing chain infrastructure, transportation challenges, and innovative solutions to increase the region's global competitiveness as we recover from the pandemic– Register [here](#)

May 11 - May 13 – Virtual Event - TIA 2021 Capital Ideas Conference - Meet virtually with top industry leaders and solutions providers and take advantage of over morning and afternoon live sessions with more than 12 hours sessions geared solely for 3PLs – Register [here](#)

May 20 – Virtual Event – FTA's 95th Annual World Trade Week Event - 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM PT - World Trade Week (WTW) celebrates the industry

and dedicates itself to informing the public on the benefits and importance of global trade on the overall economy through a series of events and educational programs. Please join us for our 95th Annual World Trade Week event! – Register [here](#)

June 9 - WIT-OC – The Bureau of Industry and Security "Complying with US Export Control_- A live event with BIS specialists on a professionally designed platform - ***Details soon to follow!***

June 28-30 – AAEI – 100th Anniversary Conference & Expo –Save the Date – ***Details soon to follow!***

July 20-22 – CBP Virtual Trade Week - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will host its second Virtual Trade Week. Join CBP Executives and industry experts as they provide updates on CBP trade priorities and policies – Register [here](#)

October 14-17 – WESCCON 2021 – 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM PT- WESCCON offers one of the best opportunity to meet people in the global logistics industry – Register [here](#)