

THE WORLD TRADE CENTERS ASSOCIATION

The World Trade Centers Association (WTCA; WWW.WTCA.ORG) was created in 1970 in connection with the development of New York's Twin Towers by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. It was established as a not-for-profit, apolitical organization to promote the concept of World Trade Centers (WTCs) worldwide and to encourage reciprocal programs between all its members. Its apolitical nature is characterized by a singular important fact; **it is the only international organization in which the Peoples Republic of China and Taiwan are concurrent members**. One of the most important ways that the WTCA promotes economic opportunity is through the mutual interdependence that trade, and its respective services, creates between the parties. There are approximately 330 interconnected WTCs in nearly 90 countries. World Trade Centers are located on six continents and 73 nation capitals worldwide. In fact, 45% of member countries in the United Nations have WTCs. Together they have over 15,000 full-time employees and serve more than an estimated 1 million international businesses and/or tenants of individual WTCs. Regionally, the United States, Canada and the countries in the Caribbean have 17% (55) of all WTCs. Moreover, Latin America is presently the fastest growing region for the Association, followed by Asia Pacific as a close second, particularly India. In fact, the Asia Pacific region including India, and the Central and South America region now have 136 WTCs, or 41% of all WTCs in the Association. More specifically, China and India have 40 and 13 operating WTCs, respectively. These, and the remaining WTCs around the world integrate to create the Association's vast global business network. Thanks to these additions, the WTCA is now the largest private trading organization in the world. The WTCA has an independent board of approximately 25 members where the rules of election ensure representatives from each of the six major continents.

The WTCA became completely autonomous in 1987. Today, it is comprised of 21 full-time staff and receives annual revenues from member dues, license fees and other sources of approximately \$6.5 million. As of year-end 2016, the Association had cash-equivalent investments of approximately \$13 million, with total assets totaling around \$17 million. A copy of the Annual Report of the Association is available for review.

The WTCA owes its success to being a Business-to-Business (B-to-B) organization. It is dominated by private sector entities who are experts in well-established international trade tools and use these tools on a daily basis. These tools include the connectivity amongst parties, knowledge of trade rules, efficient use of logistics, and knowledge of foreign currency exchange to name a few.

The WTC brand is a registered trademark around the world. To protect against the misuse of the WTC brand, the Association maintains relationships and retainers with approximately 100 law firms worldwide. Currently, the WTCA is engaged in over 50 enforcement actions. Furthermore, the brand is trademarked in approximately 100 countries. In addition to trademarking, 120 "top line" domain names have been registered and protected through the Association.

The WTCA has achieved important recognition for its role in bringing the world closer together through its enhancement of international commerce. Every month, the Association publishes an online newsletter with a circulation to several million recipients, further connecting the world of global commerce. Most notably, **the WTCA has been nominated seven times, since 1997, for the Nobel Peace Prize for its role in bringing people together.**