

Council Highlights



NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL
ADVANCING GLOBAL COMMERCE FOR OVER 90 YEARS

Council Highlights is a bi-monthly summary of news and events of the National Foreign Trade Council exclusively for its members.

June/July 2007 Issue

Word From the President

Last month, I delivered a speech to the Annual Conference of the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems, the largest national, nonprofit association for public pensions. Attendees heard me talk about the negative consequences of using public pension funds to influence the behavior of foreign governments.

Such attempts continue to gain steam in state legislatures, and have received support from some quarters of the U.S. Congress. Approximately a dozen state laws advocating divestment from companies doing business in Sudan have been passed and signed since last year, and dozens of new resolutions involving Sudan, Iran, North Korea and Syria have been introduced this year in state legislatures around the country.

NFTC has been at the forefront of advocating for a unified, federal foreign policy, succeeding in a case before the Supreme Court in 2000 which struck down a Massachusetts law prohibiting procurement contracts to companies doing business in Burma.

As I suggested in my speech to NCPERS, "The essence of their ruling was that the President makes foreign policy, not the legislature and governor of Massachusetts.

And, he does not need fifty states,

or lots of cities and counties, coming along with sticks and carrots which conflict with his and which pose enormous compliance burdens on the primary victims of sanctions –U.S. companies, banks, and asset managers."
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Iraq Study Group Calls for Increased International Engagement

USA*Engage hosted a luncheon on April 24th to honor former Members of Congress Lee Hamilton and Cal Dooley for their advocacy of global engagement during and after their tenures on Capitol Hill. Hamilton delivered a keynote address, on "A Balanced View of American Power in a Post-Iraq World," in which he discussed the importance of engagement and dialogue in balancing the view of American power abroad as the United States confronts threats of terrorism and tyranny.

Hamilton said, "Our friends around the world are willing to work with us often times, but they are not willing to be dominated by us. The world's a very complex place and are going to

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Congress Approves Small Business Tax Package

On May 24th, the House and Senate approved the Iraq war supplemental appropriations legislation that included the \$4.8 billion small business tax package. The small business tax package was included on the first Iraq war supplemental package vetoed by President Bush. The new supplemental package was signed by the President on May 25th. The final small business tax package does not include the more controversial revenue raisers that were part of the original Senate Finance Committee bill. Dropped from the package were provisions on the tax treatment of SILO's, deferred compensation, punitive damage and settlement payments, and expatriated employees.

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International Trade and Export Finance

Bipartisan Trade Deal Paves Way for FTAs

After several weeks of quiet negotiations between the USTR and Congressional Democratic and Republican leadership and trade committee chairmen, an agreement was reached on May 11 to further address Democratic concerns over labor practices in pending free trade agreements with Peru, Panama, Colombia and Korea. The agreement would further enhance provisions in these FTAs by requiring adherence to the core internationally recognized labor principles in the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. These provisions would be enforceable if they affect trade and investment between the FTA parties and are of a persistent pattern. The agreement also addresses environmental issues relating to certain multilateral environmental agreements.

Additionally, the agreement would address provisions on intellectual property and patents affecting pharmaceuticals. A detailed outline of the agreement can be found on the USTR website at www.ustr.gov.

The NFTC expressed conditional support for the bipartisan agreement, pending a review of the actual language once it is finalized. One area of continuing concern is the weakening of the intellectual property provisions relating to pharmaceuticals.

Overall, the trade deal will enable a bipartisan path forward on a positive trade agenda for the United States. In its press release on the agreement, the NFTC urged Congress to act swiftly to approve the pending FTAs with Colombia, Peru, Panama and Korea. It further called for positive action by Congress to approve new Trade Promotion Authority, particularly to enable the vitally important Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations to conclude successfully.

NFTC Participates in Conference Organized by Brazilian Industry

At a recent conference organized by the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, NFTC Vice President Mary Itrace spoke on the US trade policy agenda and US business strategies for influencing trade negotiations. The conference involved Brazilian industry leaders, as well as private sector representatives from the EU and Mexico.

The seminar, which was held in Brasilia, provided a useful exchange of viewpoints on various trade policies in each of the key countries. Brazilian industry representatives, for their part, are gearing up to engage more actively with their government on business interests in trade negotiations. They were very interested in learning more about the various consultative and advisory mechanisms in the US, Mexico and EU for ensuring effective private sector engagement in setting trade policy agendas and trade negotiating priorities. As part of her presentation, the NFTC urged Brazilian industry to urge its government to bring the Doha Round to a timely and ambitious conclusion.



**Panama Minister of Tourism Ruben Blades (center)
NFTC Anne Alonzo and business Representatives**

News for Our Members

NFTC Issues State Guide on Trade

The National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC) issued a new report to provide a detailed guide to state legislators on how international trade benefits every state economy. The report – “The United States and Global Trade: A State Legislator’s Guide to Maximizing Economic Opportunity through Trade,” also provides an outline for legislators on the role states can play in developing U.S. trade policy and how state governments can maximize the benefits of trade for individual state economies.

The state guide is designed to serve as a trade educational tool on the importance of U.S. trade agreements in generating state economic growth. It was also prepared as a resource for state legislators who want to better understand the basis and substance of U.S. international trade policy, and in part, to dispel many of the negative myths about the impact of trade on the US economy. Several state legislators have become more active in opposing trade negotiating authority and trade agreements, and the NFTC hopes the guide will help set the record straight and serve as a valuable resource for legislators.

The guide offers a comprehensive look at the issues surrounding the current trade debate, including the importance of assisting American workers, protecting American investments, and expanding opportunities for trade in services – the most significant and fast growing sector of the U.S. economy.

USA*Engage and NFTC Participate in Fact-Finding Mission to Cuba

Representatives from USA*Engage and NFTC joined colleagues from other prominent U.S. trade associations to participate in a fact-finding mission to Cuba, which took place February 19-22. Members of the mission met with trade and international economic officials from the Cuban government to learn more about the Cuban economy and the role of the private sector. The panelists were in Cuba as consultants to gather information on a trip sponsored by, and on behalf of, the Center for International Policy

After the trip, participants hosted a press conference at the National Press Club to provide their firsthand perspective on the state of the Cuban economy.

Besides USA*Engage and the NFTC, other associations on the trip included the U.S. Council for International Business, the Food Products Association, the National Retail Federation and the Center for International Policy.

The group visited officials in ministries with responsibility for trade, foreign investment, basic industries, tourism and food imports, and met with Ricardo Alarcon, President of the National Assembly. Members also toured oil exploration facilities east of Havana.

The trip made clear that the severe economic troubles Cuba faced following the Soviet collapse are receding. The country is looking to the outside world – particularly in Latin America and Asia – to provide new resources. The group identified opportunities for trade, but the trip also made clear that investment opportunities at this point are more limited and subject to very specific conditions. Overall, the group concluded, the economy is in better shape than it has been in years and Cuba is charging forward with plans for oil exploration and expanded tourism facilities with some degree of foreign participation – without the U.S.



Havana, Cuba

International Trade and Export Finance

NFTC Briefed by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative on Strategic Economic Dialogue With China; NFTC Signs Letter to Congress on China's Non-Market Economy Status

On May 16 the NFTC was briefed along with other major trade associations by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Karan Bhatia on the May 22-23 meeting in Washington of the U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) at which a dozen Chinese ministers meet with their U.S. counterparts to discuss bilateral issues. Bhatia emphasized the utility of regular high-level meetings for a wide range of issues, including China's exchange rate policy, intellectual property rights protection, trade in services, the environment and China's lack of a social safety net. Bhatia warned that the upcoming Communist Party Congress would constrain the flexibility of the Chinese interlocutors. Bhatia also stressed that pending WTO cases brought by the U.S. against China have no impact on the SED. The NFTC has signed a trade association letter to House Members opposing legislation sponsored by Congressmen Artur Davis and Phil English (H.R.1229) requiring the application of the countervailing duty law to China to offset what are seen to be illegal subsidies of Chinese exports. More information on this is available by contacting Dan O'Flaherty at doflaherty@nftc.org or Mary Irace at mirace@nftc.org.

Word From the President

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While the Massachusetts sanctions prohibited the state government from procurement from companies that did business with Burma, the Sudan and Iran sanctions target public pension funds, requiring them to sell shares of companies that have direct or indirect commercial ties to Sudan or Iran. The laws differ from state to state, so not only is there conflict with Federal policy, but there is no consistency among the various state laws. In response to these new actions, the NFTC filed a second lawsuit – against Illinois. A federal judge declared the Illinois law to be unconstitutional, whose decision is currently being appealed by the State.

Beyond the foreign policy concerns, there are real costs of divestment. Florida's law requiring divestment from Iran and Sudan-related companies is estimated to affect about \$1 billion worth of investments. A report prepared for the Florida Senate estimates the administrative cost of divestment from Sudan and Iran-related assets would be as much as \$65 million and the asset value loss at over \$12 billion. Estimated costs of divestment in Wisconsin, from the Wisconsin Legislative Council, are "up to 0.5% of the total value of all assets under management before the investment would cease," which would mean losses of over \$440 million. Divestment is "pain without gain."

Finally, as I noted in my speech, "there are policy problems with state sanctions. In Sudan, U.S. government policy is to encourage commerce with southern Sudan to strengthen it vis-à-vis the government in Khartoum.

Indeed, the U.S. Treasury Department issues licenses to companies to do business there. Some state laws make no such distinction and, therefore, target companies that are legally providing goods and services to a region where they are desperately needed."

My message to NCPERS and to you is that Illinois is only the tip of the iceberg, and multinational businesses are in serious risk of being the Titanic.

International Tax Policy

NFTC Tax Treaty Survey Results

The NFTC conducts an annual tax treaty survey of the Tax Committee members to determine the countries and issues of greatest concern to members. The *NFTC Tax Treaty Survey* continues to be an important tool for NFTC members to communicate their tax treaty wish list and issues to the U.S. Treasury and the IRS. An overview of the survey responses follows.

Country Priorities

While there was little change in the ranking of the most significant countries to NFTC member companies who responded to the survey (“respondents”), the number of countries in the top tier was expanded. As has happened in the past, the countries that rank in the top two tiers (those that were selected by the most respondents) were clustered in groups of four or five; thereafter, a significant drop in votes per country occurs.

The countries that were identified as the most important to respondents with 70-87% of the votes (these countries were also most frequently listed as the first or second most important country by respondents) are: Brazil, Canada, China and India (all results will be listed in order, with those receiving the most votes listed first). The negotiation items that were listed as most significant in each country are—

- Brazil: interest, royalty, and dividend withholding were all significant, followed closely by permanent establishment;
- Canada: reducing withholding rates on interest and dividends were all significant, followed by royalties;
- China: reducing withholding rates on interest, royalties, and dividends were uniformly important; and
- India (elevated to the top tier this year): permanent establishment was the most important, followed by reducing withholding rates on interest, dividends and royalties.

The countries that were included in the second tier (with 45-58% of the votes) were Singapore, Taiwan, Argentina, South Korea and Mexico. The priority of the countries in the second tier shifted this year, with Singapore and Taiwan gaining in significance. The items that were selected as most important for these countries are—

- Singapore: interest, dividends and royalty withholding were uniformly important;
- Taiwan: again, interest, royalties and dividend withholding were uniformly important;
- Argentina: reducing withholding rates on interest and dividends were all significant, followed closely by permanent establishment;
- South Korea: reducing withholding rates on interest, dividends and royalties were uniformly important, followed by permanent establishment and gains;
- Mexico (elevated to the second tier this year): gains, interest withholding and royalties were important, followed by permanent establishment.

The countries that comprise the third tier garnered significantly fewer votes. Receiving between 20-33% of the votes were: Italy, Spain, Chile, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Columbia and Germany. The items that were selected as the most important for these countries are:

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The National Foreign Trade Council is a leading business organization advocating an open, rules-based global trading system. Founded in 1914 by a broad-based group of American companies, the NFTC now serves hundreds of member companies through its offices in Washington and New York.

International Tax Policy

NFTC Co-Hosts OECD Meeting in June

The NFTC will join the U.S. Council for International Business/Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD, the Organization for International Investment, and the International Fiscal Association-USA Branch, in hosting a meeting for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The meeting will be held in Washington, DC, June 4-5, 2007. The two-day event will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center and will include domestic and international tax experts and governmental officials.

The meeting will focus on the most recent OECD initiatives: permanent establishment, transfer pricing issues and dispute settlement procedures. OECD officials, Jeffrey Owens, Head of the OECD's Center for Tax Policy and Administration, Caroline Silberztein, Head of Transfer Pricing Unit, Jacques Sasseville, Head of Tax Treaty Unit, and Mary Bennett, Head of Tax Treaty/Transfer Pricing and Financial Transactions Division, will participate on panels joined by representatives from business, the IRS, and the U.S. Treasury.

Eric Solomon, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, U.S. Treasury, will provide the keynote lunch address on the topic of the U.S. participation with the OECD. Panelists will also discuss international tax administration, cross-border services, and business restructuring. Ambassador Constance Morella, U.S. Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD, and Thelma Askey, Deputy Secretary General of the OECD will also participate in the meeting. The draft agenda and registration form can be obtained from Catherine Schultz, Vice President for Tax Policy at cschultz@nftc.org.

NFTC May Lunch Forum Focuses on Tax Legislation

The NFTC Tax Committee was honored to hear remarks by Melissa Mueller, Chief Tax Counsel to the House Ways and Means Committee Select Revenues Subcommittee at the May 16th Tax Lunch Forum. As Congress moves forward on various tax legislative proposals, the Select Revenue Subcommittee will play a key role in helping to shape that legislation.

Ms. Mueller gave an overview of the tax legislation sponsored by Mr. Neal, Chairman of the Select Revenue Subcommittee. Mr. Neal is focused on helping U.S. companies compete internationally, while trying to curb tax abuses. He is the co-sponsor of legislation to extend the Subpart F active financing provision, extend a new market tax credit provision, limit the dividend tax break for hybrid entities which are operating in tax havens, and create automatic IRA's. The House Ways and Means Committee Democrats have recently drafted a proposal to repeal the alternative minimum tax for most middle income taxpayers. Ms. Mueller expects that a short-term AMT patch will be adopted in 2007 as the Ways and Means Committee continues to work on a longer term repeal of the provision. The House Ways and Means Committee is also working on trade, energy and health care legislation.

The NFTC Tax Committee holds six tax lunch forums each year. Topics range from technical tax issues to political tax matters. The next Tax Lunch Forum will be held on June 20th.

Next NFTC Lunch Forum Set for June 20th

The next NFTC Tax Luncheon Forum to discuss current international tax issues will be held on Wednesday, June 20th, at 12:00 p.m. ET, at the NFTC offices, 1625 K Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC. We are very pleased to announce that Barbara Felker, Chief of Branch 3, Office of Associate Chief Counsel, International, has agreed to speak to us about current foreign tax credit issues. Please join us for this informative discussion and come prepared for a lively dialogue. To attend please [register](#) by Friday, June 15, 2007.

News for Our Members

Annual International Human Resources Conference - New York City-July 18-19, 2007

The National Foreign Trade Council will hold its 13th Annual International Human Resources Conference at the New York Athletic Club on July 18-19, 2007.

Talent shortages worldwide are colliding with the continuing expansion of cross-border business into new and often-times “challenging” new markets. The central theme of this year’s conference will be focused on how multinational employers are, or are not, meeting the demands of sourcing, developing and retaining current talent. The conference will include sessions on:

- China
- India
- International Business Leadership Development
- Linking Global Mobility Management to Sound Talent Development
- Successfully Integrating Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions
- Current Issues in Global Healthcare Management
- USA Immigration Reform: What’s Ahead for Employers?
- Global Tax Transparency: Compliance and Risk Management

In addition to subject matter experts from the NFTC, Aetna Global Benefits, Cartus, Ernst & Young LLP and the law firm Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy PC the faculty will include senior corporate human resource management and tax professionals from Accenture, Bank of America, Citibank, Corning, Johnson & Johnson, and Pfizer.

The detailed agenda and registration information will be posted to the NFTC website. For further information contact Laura Morales at lmorales@nftc.org or at 212 399 7128.

Congress Approves Small Business Tax Package

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The revenue raisers included in the final package focused on: 1) expanding the “kiddie tax” to prevent high income parents from shifting income to their children, 2) eliminating the requirement that the IRS hold a collection due process hearing before issuing a levy on delinquent employment taxes, 3) extending the IRS user fees permanently; and 4) expanding tax preparer penalties to all types of tax returns. The minimum wage package includes a series of S corporation provisions, a 3.5 year extension of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), and would increase section 179 small business expensing.

After the Memorial Day recess, the House and Senate tax-writing committees are likely to focus on energy tax legislation, the reauthorization of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), education tax issues, housing issues, FAA reauthorization, and a repeal of the AMT. Hearings on the use of offshore tax havens by corporations could be held by the Senate Finance Committee before the August recess.

USA*Engage

NFTC WTO Working Group Delegation Visits WTO

Ten members of the NFTC WTO Working Group held a series of meetings in Geneva with key WTO Ambassadors and senior WTO officials during May 29-June 1. The NFTC delegation met with WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, the Chairs of the various negotiating groups, and several other WTO ambassadors, including 31 members of the Africa Group.

The G-4 countries – the US, EU, Brazil and India – continue to meet quietly at the senior official and ministerial levels to find a clear path forward to a timely and ambitious conclusion to the Doha Round. The NFTC delegation continued to push for such an outcome during the course of its visit. The pace of the negotiations has picked up at all levels and progress is being made to narrow the differences. During the course of the meetings held in Geneva, it has become clear that a general consensus exists that a breakthrough in the trade talks is necessary by the summer if the negotiations are to conclude in the near future. Most WTO Members are optimistic that a G-4 breakthrough on agriculture and industrial goods modalities will occur during June 19-23 G-4 Ministerial meeting. At the same time, a parallel multi-lateral process is moving forward and expectations are that the Chairmen of the Agriculture and Non-Agriculture Market Access (industrial goods) will soon issue draft negotiating texts. The key question remains what will be the level of ambition for opening markets.



NFTC Delegation meets with the Director-General of the WTO Pascal Lamy

Throughout the three days of meetings, NFTC delegation members explained that a breakthrough in the trade talks is essential to make a compelling case for renewing US trade negotiating authority. Absent major progress by the summer, the chances for TPA renewal will be increasingly difficult as presidential election politics becomes a more dominant focus.

NFTC Lawsuit on Illinois Sudan Sanctions Under Appeal; Illinois Legislature Enacts New Sudan Sanctions Law

The state of Illinois appealed the February 23 decision of the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. This decision overturned the Illinois Sudan sanctions law on constitutional grounds, principally the Foreign Commerce Clause. On March 23rd the Illinois Senate passed a new version of the law which contains many of the constitutional flaws that were in the original law, in particular its inclusion of the county and municipal pension funds. On May 24th, the Illinois House passed the Senate bill which has gone to the Governor for signature. On June 1st, the state filed a motion to suspend briefing of their appeal until the bill is signed into law. The state's opening brief was to be due June 11th and the NFTC reply was to be due July 11th with oral arguments to be scheduled in September. At this point it appears likely that the state's appeal will be mooted by virtue of the new Sudan sanctions law having been enacted. NFTC members and attorneys at Winston & Strawn will review the new bill and make a determination about further legal action. For additional information on this lawsuit, contact Dan O'Flaherty at doflaherty@nftc.org.

News for Our Members

Iraq Study Group Co-Chair Lee Hamilton Calls for Increased International Engagement at USA*Engage's Annual Lunch

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pursue, as we have learned, their national interests and they define it, not as we define it.”

“American leadership is still very much needed in the world today. What Americans want, I think, is American leadership on behalf of the world where our interests are protected, where we work with likeminded nations, where the values of liberty, freedom, justice and opportunity are the norm,” he continued.

Since its inception 10 years ago, USA*Engage has maintained a commitment to advocating for U.S. diplomatic engagement and dialogue as means of addressing important political, social and economic concerns facing the global community. USA*Engage remains a strong proponent of trade and citizen diplomacy, and consistently opposes U.S. unilateral sanctions.

Previous honorees for USA*Engage's annual event include Senators Richard Lugar and Mike Enzi, former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, and Congressmen Jim Kolbe, Gregory Meeks and Jeff Flake.

Former Representative Hamilton is currently President and Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and served as Co-Chairman of the Iraq Study Group. During his tenure in Congress, he represented Indiana's ninth district, and was an original co-sponsor of sanctions reform legislation in the House of Representatives. Former Representative Dooley represented California's 20th district and is currently President and CEO of GMA/FPA.



Former Congressman Lee Hamilton addresses USA*Engage Annual Lunch



Former Congressmen Lee Hamilton and Cal Dooley at USA*Engage Annual Lunch

U.S. – Middle East Free Trade Coalition

U.S. Middle East Free Trade Coalition Some Progress on Implementation of Saudi WTO Accession Commitments

Since Saudi Arabia's Accession to the World Trade Organization in December 2005, there has been a range of issues for foreign business as the Kingdom implements its WTO commitments. The U.S. government has maintained a steady dialog with Saudi officials to resolve outstanding issues. Among the positive developments in recent months:

- Saudi Arabia has updated its "negative list" of sectors restricted from foreign investment so that it conforms to its WTO obligations. We are hopeful that this will take care of restrictions in distribution services and telecom. The new list is posted on the SAGIA website: <http://www.sagia.gov.sa/innerpage.asp?ContentID=47&Lang=en>
- The Saudis have taken the first steps in applying to join the WTO Government Procurement Agreement, requesting observer status at the GPA Committee in Geneva.
- Saudi Arabia has confirmed that regulations limiting foreign providers of express delivery services are no longer in effect.

USTR reports that it continues to negotiate with the monetary authority (SAMA) on regulations for the branching of insurance companies. While there have been several rounds of talks and SAMA has shown a willingness to negotiate, it is our understanding that draft regulations are still not acceptable and the U.S. considers Saudi Arabia to be in violation of its branching commitment until acceptable regulations are in place.

The USG continues to actively engage the Saudi government in other areas, such as IPR, where little change has been observed.

When the business community met with USTR in December 2006 to discuss the potential of initiating Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) negotiations with Saudi Arabia, the consensus was that while a high quality BIT that was fully implemented would be valuable, the immediate priority is full implementation of WTO accession commitments. There was also the recognition that a successful BIT negotiation would only occur when all impacted branches of the Saudi government were fully engaged in the process.

Despite a lot of work yet to be done, there is a sense among those engaged in the bilateral trade dialog that so far 2007 has been better than 2006 and there are signs of progress.

We encourage those of you who continue to have commercial issues in Saudi Arabia, especially related to accession commitments, to keep USTR or NFTC apprised so the issues remain on the table for resolution. Please email Chuck Dittrich at cdittrich@nftc.org with any questions or comments.

News for Our Members

NFTC Tax Treaty Survey Results

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- Italy: interest, dividends, business profits and permanent establishments were all uniformly important;
- Spain: reducing withholding on royalties and interest;
- Chile: dividend withholding; Russia: business profits and permanent establishment;
- Saudi Arabia: dividend withholding;
- Kuwait: permanent establishment followed by withholding on interest and dividends;
- Columbia: interest, royalty and dividend withholding;
- Germany: dividend, royalty and interest withholding.

The fourth tier of countries received only 12.5% of the votes. These countries in order of significance: Angola, Australia, Qatar, France, Japan, Malaysia, Switzerland, Venezuela, Thailand. The remaining countries received only one or two votes each.

New Members

The NFTC is pleased to welcome Kraft Foods as a new member. Kraft Foods is one of the world's largest food and beverage companies, with annual revenues of more than \$34 billion. For over 100 years, Kraft has offered consumers delicious and wholesome foods that fit the way they live. Kraft markets a broad portfolio of iconic brands in 155 countries, including seven brands with revenue of more than \$1 billion, such as Kraft cheeses, dinners and dressings; Oscar Mayer meats; Philadelphia cream cheese; Post cereals; Nabisco cookies and crackers; Jacobs coffees and Milka chocolates. Kraft became a fully independent company on March 30, 2007. The NFTC is looking forward to a great future with Kraft. For more information, visit the company's website at www.kraft.com.

The NFTC welcomes new International Tax member McCormick & Company. McCormick is the global leader in the manufacture, marketing and distribution of spices, herbs and flavorings for the retail, commercial, and industrial markets. The company began in 1889 in Baltimore, Maryland, but moved to Hunt Valley, Maryland in 1989. McCormick has approximately 8,000 employee owners. The NFTC is looking forward to a great working relationship with McCormick. For more information, visit their website: www.mccormickcompany.com.



NFTC delegation meets with Ambassador Sun, China's Ambassador to the WTO



Marietta Bernot, Global Trade and Customs Advisor for Mars, Inc. & Crawford Falconer, Chairman Doha Round Agriculture Negotiating Session & New Zealand WTO Ambassador.

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location
June 4, 2007	NFTC Trade and Finance Committee Meeting with Gregg Sheiowitz, Legislative Director to Congressman Joseph Crowley (D-7-NY)	Washington, DC
June 5, 2007	Global Mobility Seminar	Atlanta, GA
June 6, 2007	Global Mobility Seminar	Washington, DC
June 7, 2007	International Benefits Committee*	New York City
June 20, 2007	Tax Steering Committee Meeting and Tax Lunch Forum Speaker: Barbara Felker, Internal Revenue Service	Washington, DC
July 18, 2007	Tax Steering Committee Meeting and Tax Lunch Forum	Washington, DC
July 18-19, 2007	International Human Resources Management Conference	New York City
June 21-22, 2007	Board of Directors Dinner/Meeting	Annapolis, MD
September 18-20, 2007	Expatriate Management Committee*	Portland, OR
September 19-20, 2007	NFTC Fall Tax Meeting	Washington, DC
October 2-4, 2007	International Assignments Management Committee	TBA
October 11, 2007	International Benefits Committee*	New York City
November 13, 2007	Tax Steering Committee Meeting and Tax Lunch Forum	Washington, DC
December 11, 2007	Tax Steering Committee Meeting and Tax Lunch Forum	Washington, DC
Fall 2007	Annual World Trade Dinner & Award Ceremony	Washington, DC
Fall 2007	NFTC Annual Meeting	Washington, DC
Fall 2007	Board of Directors Meeting	Washington, DC

Note: The Tax Steering Committee Meetings, SACU FTA Chapter Briefings, Expatriate Management, Global Compensation, International Assignment Management, and International Benefits Committees are by invitation only. For information about them contact Anne Alonzo, (202) 887-0278 e-mail aalonzo@nftc.org.

**This issue of Council Highlights brought
to you
by:**



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