WORLD TRADE CENTERS ASSOCIATION
MERIDIAN™
THE OFFICIAL E-PUBLICATION OF WORLD TRADE CENTERS ASSOCIATION™

OCTOBER 2025
FTZs ISSUE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the October 2025 Issue of the WTCA Meridian™ e-newsletter.

This month's issue focuses on Free Trade Zones (FTZs), with a feature article on the diverse types of FTZs across the globe; a press release from Araújo Ibarra International Business Consultants on WTCA's recent participation at the World Free Zones Organization (WFZO) World Congress in Haikou, China; and a blog post from the Ibarra team on how FTZs benefit local communities.

This month's issue also includes a Q&A with some of our newest WTCA Members; upcoming events; and news from our Membership. Lastly, please join us in congratulating the newly elected and re-elected directors (listed alphabetically by region here) and thank the departing Directors for their many years of thoughtful service.

P.S. For this issue's CALL TO ACTION, share your predictions for the state of global trade and investment in your region in 2026. Respond by **Friday, November 14** and you could be featured in our next issue! Email newsletter@wtca.org.

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UPCOMING WTCA EVENTS

Check out the full WTCA Events calendar for network-wide conferences, trade shows, networking and more.

2025 WTCA Member Forum (100% VIRTUAL)

📅 **Dates:** October 27-29, 2025

📍 **Location:** Virtual

🔗 View Agenda and Register Here

📢 *All sessions are powered by Wordly so you can enjoy live interpretation in multiple languages throughout the Member Forum!*

2025 WTCA China International Import Expo (CIIE) Program

📅 **Dates:**

November 05-10, 2025 (CIIE held)

📍 **Location:**

Shanghai, China Mainland & Virtual

🔗 More Information

Sector Salon: Agri-Business

📅 **Date:**

November 13, 2025

📍 **Location:**

Virtual

🔗 More Information

North America Best Practices Roundtable: Cultivating Larger Corporate Investments for Your WTC Business

📅 **Date:**

November 19, 2025

📍 **Location:**

Virtual

🔗 More Information

2025 WTCA Asia Pacific Conference

📅 **Dates:** November 20-22, 2025

📍 **Location:** WTC Mumbai | Mumbai, India

🔗 Register Here

🎟️ *Note for all WTCA Regional Conferences: At least one free ticket is available for every WTC business located in the region, with heavily discounted tickets available for additional attendees. Limited quantities, so register early.*

FTZs: MAGNETS FOR FDI & BUILDERS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE HUBS

(7-minute read)

According to the World Free Zones Organization (WFZO), more than 7,000 Free Zones now operate across 140 economies, collectively supporting over 90 million jobs worldwide. In many ways, the mission of FTZs mirrors that of WTCA: to foster prosperity through trade, investment, and connectivity. This article explores the diverse types of FTZs across WTCA membership regions and examines how their alignment with the WTC model enhances their impact as builders for trade worldwide…

Read more >

WTCA PARTICIPATES IN HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON WTC ECOSYSTEM AND FREE ZONES AS CATALYSTS FOR GLOBAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT

(4-minute read)

WTCA participated in a high-profile panel discussion titled "WTC Ecosystem and Free Zones: Catalysts for Global Trade and Investment," during the 11th annual World FZO World Congress hosted by the World Free Zones Organization (World FZO) from October 10–12, 2025 in Hainan, Mainland China…

Read more >

FREE TRADE ZONES AS CATALYSTS OF SHARED PROSPERITY: COLOMBIAN STORIES INSPIRING GLOBAL CHANGE

(4-minute read)

Check out this article from the team at Araújo Ibarra International Business Consultants on how FTZs benefit local communities and the new "Free Zones Go Global" initiative with WTCA...

Read more >

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Q&A WITH WTCA's
NEWEST MEMBERS
(5-minute read)

Check out this Q&A featuring a few of our newest Members to learn more about their plans for their new WTC businesses. Read on for our conversations with **WTC Kozhikode and WTC Nhava Sheva.**

Read more >

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AROUND THE WTCA NETWORK

Discover how WTCA Members are driving innovation, trade and growth across the globe.

From sharing how a **FTZ is connected with a WTC business in Italy,** to recapping a recent **business matching program in the Philippines,** to highlighting **a WTC trade mission between Ireland and the Netherlands**... Read what's happening around the WTCA network.

Read WTCA Member News

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CELEBRATING OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Join us in recognizing these milestone anniversaries across the network.

World Trade Center Curaçao — 40 years

World Trade Center Macau — 40 years

World Trade Center Miami — 40 years

World Trade Center Kansas City — 35 years

World Trade Center Orlando — 35 years

World Trade Center Pittsburgh — 35 years

World Trade Center Taichung — 35 years

World Trade Center Delhi-Gurgaon — 30 years

World Trade Center Northern California — 30 years

World Trade Center Penang — 30 years

World Trade Center Buffalo Niagara — 25 years

World Trade Center Nansha — 25 years

World Trade Center Ramallah — 25 years

World Trade Center Amaravati — 10 years

World Trade Center Sarajevo — 1 year

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NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, November 14

WTCA Members, submit your news, conferences, networking events, trade shows, trade missions and more to be included in the WTCA Global News & Events Calendar via the WTCA Digital Platform. This is a **free resource** for all WTCA Members to expand your digital footprint across the globe.

NOTE: Submitters are responsible for ensuring they have the appropriate rights for any/all media used within the submitted article(s) and will be liable for any fees associated with such use.

Questions? Email newsletter@wtca.org.

November/
December 2025
Issue Theme

"Looking Forward
to 2026"

- Before submitting an article/event to the newsletter, kindly review the guidelines here.
- Click here for written instructions to submit member stories.
- Click here for written instructions to submit member events.
- Click here for video instructions to submit member stories.

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