



OWIT UPDATE

As you know, the Organization of Women in International Trade is WIT-LA's umbrella organization along with over 30 chapters around the world founded almost twenty years ago.

Lilia Navarrete, a WIT-LA board member for eight years, has been elected to serve a second term as President and CEO for OWIT in 2008 and we are very pleased to also have a long-time WIT-LA Board Member and currently Chair of WIT-LA, Kollyn Kanz, as treasurer of OWIT. Former WIT-LA Board Member Hana Hrabec-Snyder is serving a second term as assistant treasurer.

During 2007, OWIT worked on many strategic plans and enjoyed many accomplishments. The most exciting of our accomplishments was the launch of our newly revamped website <http://www.owit.org> in May of 2007.

OWIT also held its 16th annual world conference in Miami, Florida, with outstanding success. The theme of the conference was *"Emerging Markets: The Road Ahead for Finance, Business, & Trade"*. USTR, Ambassador Susan Schwab was one of the keynote speakers as well as Canada's Secretary of State-Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Helena Guergis. There were close to 300 attendees enjoying a great program. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) sponsored a delegation of executive women from developing countries around the world to attend the conference and attend a series of workshops presented by OWIT, CIDA, TFOC and WLN.

In 2008, OWIT will hold its 17th annual world conference in Monterrey, Mexico, October 22-24. The theme this year is, *"Trade and the Triple Bottom Line: Societal, Economic and Environmental Sustainability."* We expect top level speakers and a very exciting program. Plan to attend what promises to be a great conference. For more information and to register for the conference, view the conference page on the OWIT website. <http://www.owit.org/en/Annual/Index.aspx>

OWIT's overall strategy has also expanded to include a philanthropic perspective. OWIT has adopted *Room to Read* as our preferred charity. Our goal is to have each chapter adopt Room to Read just as WIT-LA has done as well as our chapter in Northern California. Read more about Room to Read here: <http://www.roomtoread.org>

As WIT-LA members, you automatically are members of OWIT. Take advantage of your membership benefits beyond WIT-LA as an OWIT member. As a member, you have the opportunity to access the OWIT job bank, the speakers bureau as well as the membership directory and resources through our website. <http://www.owit.org> You can also view events at other OWIT chapters and attend the events at member rates.