



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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NEWS RELEASE

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DIRECTOR ZAK SPEAKS ABOUT USTDA'S UNIQUE ROLE SUPPORTING DEVELOPEMNT IN EMERGING ECONOMIES AT CSIS

USTDA's Program Demonstrates "Win-Win" Model -- Creating U.S. Jobs and Supporting Development

WASHINGTON, DC – USTDA Director Leocadia I. Zak spoke to a gathering of trade and development professionals at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Discussing USTDA's programs, Director Zak highlighted the unique role that the Agency plays in opening emerging markets for increased exports, and the important impact those projects have on sustainable economic development. By using this "win-win" approach, USTDA's programs demonstrate that foreign assistance can benefit both countries.

Following the presentation, many questions were asked about USTDA's response to the events surrounding the Arab Spring. In highlighting the importance of the Agency's Middle East and North Africa program, Director Zak discussed the upcoming *Egypt: Forward* Forum in Washington, D.C. on June 27-28 that will encourage enhanced trade and long-term private sector-led sustainable economic development in Egypt.

"At this critical time, it is even more important for us to work together to support the development of Egypt's infrastructure. This Forum will serve both as an opportunity for increased business ties between the United States and Egypt, and as a catalyst to further U.S. engagement with Egypt's public and private sectors," said Director Zak.

In response to a question from Dan Runde, Director for the Project on Prosperity and Development at CSIS, about how USTDA's programs in middle-income countries present an opportunity for the United States to reorient its relationship from one of aid donor to one based on partnership, Director Zak stated, "Some of our strongest and most dynamic programs are in middle-income countries. It is where we believe that a relationship between the U.S. private sector and the public and private sectors in our partner countries can generate enormous support for economic development long after the traditional development methods employed in low-income countries are necessary."

By encouraging U.S. business involvement in emerging economies, USTDA achieves its dual mission of supporting priority development projects in our partner countries and opening new markets for increased exports for U.S.-manufactured goods and services. Through USTDA's International Business Partnership Program and Project Development Program the Agency has a record of supporting over \$47 in U.S. exports for every \$1 it programs. As a result, the last 10-year evaluation cycle has identified over \$14.2 billion in U.S. exports, supporting an estimated American 87,000 jobs.

Podcast from CSIS Event: <http://csis.org/multimedia/audio-us-trade-and-development-agency>

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The U.S. Trade and Development Agency helps companies create U.S. jobs through the export of U.S. goods and services for priority development projects in emerging economies. USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project planning activities, pilot projects, and reverse trade missions while creating sustainable infrastructure and economic growth in partner countries.