

Deborah M. Kiely
President & Executive Director
World Trade Center Institute

It was my pleasure to meet and speak with attendees at the 2010 MEDA Spring Conference focused on international trade and foreign direct investment. At the conference, we shared the importance of Maryland firms capitalizing on the large global marketplace to both expand international business and help strengthen domestic business in the face of new global competition. Established 20 years ago to help educate and connect Maryland firms to global opportunities, the World Trade Center Institute is now the largest and most dynamic international business network in Maryland, serving over 2,500 client firms. To learn more about our international business programs and services, check out our web site at www.wtci.org

At the conference I referenced many ways for economic development offices and individual firms to get involved with the World Trade Center Institute network. To sign up to receive our e-news at no cost, contact Eddie Resende (eddie@wtci.org) or click/paste <https://www.wtci.org/eventnews/> There was a lot of interest in the upcoming June 3, 2010 *Maryland Women Spanning the Globe* event, with additional info available here -- <https://www.wtci.org/events/womens10/index.php>. For all interested in getting involved in Maryland's largest international business showcase with embassy diplomats (either to showcase your county or a globally active firm) don't forget to save the date for Sept 23, 3010 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Bethesda and sign up to receive our e-news.

Thanks again for the opportunity to participate in the spring conference, and for your timely focus on international trade and FDI. I look forward to working with many of you in the years ahead.