



U.S. Trade and Development Agency

USTDA-Sponsored Events
and Conferences Report

Fiscal Year 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR, USTDA

Pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) *Memorandum on Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations (M-12-12)*, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) is pleased to provide this report on USTDA-sponsored conferences and events for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.



Vinai K. Thummalapally

Acting Director

U.S. Trade and Development Agency

U.S. Trade and Development Agency-Sponsored Events and Conferences in Fiscal Year 2021

Introduction

USTDA's mission is to help companies create U.S. jobs through the export of U.S. goods and services for priority infrastructure projects in emerging economies. USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project preparation and partnership building activities that develop sustainable infrastructure and foster economic growth in partner countries.

USTDA uses two approaches to fulfill its mission. The first is project preparation through the funding of U.S.-led feasibility studies, pilot projects, and technical assistance to link foreign project sponsors with U.S. businesses at the critical early stage of a project when technology options and project requirements are being defined. The second approach, and the subject of this report, is through partnership building activities that are designed to connect buyers from developing and middle-income countries with U.S. manufacturers and service providers in order to open new export markets and commercial opportunities around the world for American companies.

In FY 2021, USTDA supported two events. These include a conference and a workshop that were above the \$100,000 threshold, disbursing a total of \$647,717.52 in event expenses. Detailed descriptions of these events may be found in this report. USTDA hosted no events with expenses surpassing \$500,000.

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Key Details of FY 2021 Events & Conferences

Access Africa Workshop

Dates: July 26, 2021

Location: Virtual

Event expenses paid through FY 2021: \$189,663

Number of participants who were completely self-funded: 323

The Access Africa Workshop promoted collaboration between U.S. and Africa industry experts in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector and provided a forum for U.S. companies to share their expertise with key African ICT decision-makers in an educational and interactive environment. ICT priorities that were covered include internet connectivity, cybersecurity, financial technology services, e-governance, and smart cities. The one-day Workshop was held virtually alongside the Corporate Council on Africa Summit.

2020 Indo-Pacific Business Forum

Dates: October 28-29, 2020

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam; Virtual

Event expenses paid through FY 2021: \$458,054.52

Number of participants who were completely self-funded: 2655

The 2020 Indo-Pacific Business Forum was jointly hosted by the governments of the United States and Vietnam, in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council, and the American Chamber of Commerce of Vietnam. The 2020 Indo-Pacific Business Forum brought together senior U.S. and regional government officials with business representatives to deepen economic ties between the United States and the Indo-Pacific region. Discussions focused on challenges and opportunities that will determine the future of the region's fast-growing digital economy, its energy sector, and the landscape for broader infrastructure development throughout South and Southeast Asia. The two-day event, held on October 28-29, 2020, featured a unique hybrid of a live, in-person regional program held in Hanoi, alongside a global livestream of virtual speakers and a series of online breakout panel sessions.