TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS
2013 REVIEW AND 2014 PLANS

Vice President, Turkey and Middle East Affairs

As we begin 2014, I write to both reflect back on what has been a productive year for the U.S. Chamber's Turkey and Middle East department, and look forward to plans for 2014.

Review of 2013

Over the past year, our existing programs have grown and we have significantly increased our presence in the region, building our efforts to provide input on substantive policy initiatives that drive U.S. trade and investment within the region.

Some of the Chamber's most notable achievements include:

- Launching the Middle East Commercial Center (MECC)
- Forming the U.S.-Turkey Business Council
- Leading business missions to, and conducting events in Bahrain, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, and the UAE
- Hosting heads of state and senior government officials from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Turkey, and the UAE
- Establishing 501(c)3 entities to further educate key decision makers in the public and private sectors on the MECC and the U.S.-Israel business partnership

Our Plans for 2014

In 2014, we will continue to lead the business community's efforts to shape policies that advance U.S. trade and investment within the region. Our programs and activities will both help expand U.S. companies' access to the growing markets in Turkey and the Middle East, and attract inward investment into the U.S.

Some of our upcoming work includes:

- MECC conferences in the region, including meeting in Jordan in February
- A comprehensive study on the benefits of a U.S.-Turkey Free Trade Agreement
- Investment conferences in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, and Turkey
- Business missions to Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UAE, and Qatar
- Expansion of our Israel Initiative and nationwide programs
- Strengthening bilateral ties in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries with a focus on attracting inward investment to the U.S.
- Opening a regional U.S. Chamber office and MECC office in Istanbul, Turkey

We are continually working to develop our programs in the region, strengthen bilateral relations, advance policy, and look for new areas of investment and cooperation. We want to thank you for your support in 2013 and look forward to continued engagement with you on the many opportunities that 2014 will bring.

TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS
2013 REVIEW

Middle East Commercial Center (MECC) Highlights

- **U.S. Chamber of Commerce Launches a Major New Initiative, the Middle East Commercial Center (MECC),** to facilitate greater intra-regional trade, investment, and economic cooperation throughout the Middle East and provide a broader platform for U.S. engagement in the region.
- **The MECC Holds Initial Conversations in Amman, Jordan with 50 Business Leaders from Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Turkey, Israel, and the United States.** The focus of these talks centered on ways the private sector can work together to encourage greater regional economic activity.
- **Over 100 Regional Business Leaders, Government Officials, and U.S. Companies Attend the Second Meeting of the MECC,** which took place in Istanbul and consisted of two days of substantive talks.
- **The MECC Establishes Task Forces in: Entrepreneurship Development, Special Economic Zones, Movement of Goods and Market Access, and Natural Resources (energy and water).** In Istanbul, the MECC established task forces to focus on each of these themes, which are being managed and driven by regional business leaders.

Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs at the U.S. Chamber, speaks at a MECC conference in Istanbul.

> "We want to inspire people, we want to create connectivity, we want to encourage commercial activity, we want to find a way to improve the livelihoods of the people of this region, and together we have enormous assets that we can bring to bear."
>
> —Myron Brilliant, U.S. Chamber Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs

TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS
2013 REVIEW

U.S.-Bahrain Business Council Highlights

- **U.S.-Bahrain Business Council Hosts Islamic Finance Forum in Washington, D.C.** with leading industry experts discussing opportunities in Bahrain and the future of Islamic Finance.
- **U.S.-Bahrain Business Council Organizes Ramadan Iftar Program at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain** for the U.S. business and policy community.
- **U.S.-Bahrain Business Council Disseminates Business Intelligence Briefings** to member companies.
- **U.S.-Bahrain Business Council Promotes Business Opportunities in Bahrain.**
- **U.S.-Bahrain Business Council Participates in Discussion with Vice Admiral Mark I. Fox,** U.S. Navy Deputy Chief of Naval Operations and former Commander of the 5th Fleet in Bahrain.
- **U.S-Bahrain Business Council Welcomes Incoming Ambassador Shaikh Abdulla Al-Khalifa** at Bahrain's 42nd National Day celebrating Manama as the 2014 Asian Capital of Tourism.

David Chavern, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Chamber (left), speaks with HRH the Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa of Bahrain, on bilateral economic relations between the two countries.

Jennifer Miel, Manager of Turkey and Middle East Affairs at the U.S. Chamber (second from right), speaks with guests at an event held at the Bahraini Embassy.

TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS
2013 REVIEW

U.S.-Egypt Business Council Highlights

- **U.S. Chamber Hosts Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt, Dr. Ziad Bahaa-Eldin, and U.S. Business Leaders** for a luncheon to discuss the importance of the bilateral economic relationship.
- **U.S. Chamber Hosts a Meeting for Members with a Board Delegation from the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Egypt.** The AmCham delegation shared their insights on developments in Egypt as well as the importance of maintaining strong economic ties with the United States.
- **The U.S.-Egypt Business Council Organizes Regular Calls with Egypt Experts and Business Leaders** in Cairo to offer real-time updates on developments impacting business operations.
- **Steve Lutes, Director of Turkey and Middle East Affairs, Co-leads an Auto Standards Workshop** in Cairo in partnership with the Department of Commerce.
- **The U.S.-Egypt Business Council and AmCham Egypt Hosts** the Governor of the Egypt Central Bank in Washington, D.C.
- **The U.S.-Egypt Business Council Issues a Joint Statement with the AmCham Egypt** affirming the American business community's commitment to continuing operations in Egypt and supporting efforts to strengthen the commercial relationship through greater trade and investment between our nations.

Left: Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt, Dr. Ziad Bahaa-Eldin discusses the U.S.-Egypt bilateral relationship at the Council's luncheon.

Right: Greg Lebedev, Senior Advisor to the President at the U.S. Chamber (left), and Ambassador Dennis Ross, of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, discuss economic developments in Egypt at a forum with a delegation from AmCham in Egypt.

TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS
2013 REVIEW

U.S.-Iraq Business Council Highlights

- **U.S.-Iraq Business Initiative Leads a Delegation of Agriculture and Food Companies on a Business Mission to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq** where the group met with the Ministers of Agriculture, Finance, Foreign Relations, Coordination & Follow-Up, and Trade.

- **U.S. Chamber Leads a Delegation of Companies to a Conference in Amman, Jordan** where the participants discussed tapping into the wealth of infrastructure and energy projects being planned for Iraq; including the proposed oil pipeline running from Basra in southern Iraq to Aqaba, Jordan.

- **U.S.-Iraq Business Initiative Hosts Delegation of Iraqi Provincial Officials in Partnership with the National Defense University.** The Governor of Salahuddin, among other Iraqi officials, held discussions on how to promote greater U.S. investment and commercial activity.

- **U.S.-Iraq Business Initiative Hosts His Excellency Hoshyar Zebari, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, in Collaboration with the U.S. Business Council in Iraq,** for a reception with U.S. business leaders and U.S. government officials, including U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Stephen Beecroft and Iraqi Ambassador Lukman Faily.

- **U.S. Chamber Hosts Iraqi Ambassador Faily,** who delivered a positive message about his vision for a robust commercial and economic relationship between the United States and Iraq.

- **U.S. Chamber Holds Roundtable with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister of Transportation H.E. Bangen Abdullah Rekani** and a visiting delegation of ministry officials to discuss how to achieve greater involvement by American companies in this sector.

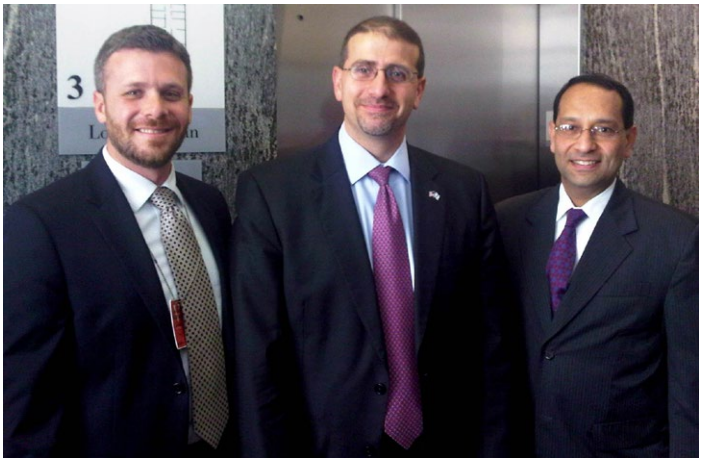
Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshyar Zebari (center) Iraqi Ambassador to the U.S. Lukeman Faily, and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Stephen Beecroft at a meeting with U.S. business leaders.

Steve Lutes, Director of Turkey and Middle East Affairs (bottom, third from left), leads members from the U.S.-Iraq Business Initiative on tour of the Coca-Cola facility during their business mission to the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS
2013 REVIEW

U.S.-Israel Business Initiative Highlights

- **U.S. Chamber Hosts Israeli Minister of Finance Yair Lapid** for a roundtable discussion with leading American businesses.
- **Myron Brilliant and a U.S. Chamber Delegation Travel to Israel** to meet with leading government officials, including Finance Minister Yair Lapid and Minister of Economy and Trade Naftali Bennett.
- **U.S.-Israel Business Initiative Delegation Meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,** and pushes for U.S.-Israel energy cooperation by sharing recommendations on ways the American private sector can support the development of Israel's hydrocarbon sector.
- **Myron Brilliant and Khush Choksy Address the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations,** on the work of the U.S.-Israel Business Initiative and the U.S. Chamber.
- **U.S. Chamber Hosts a Roundtable Discussion** on U.S.-Israel Cooperation on cyber security with Rami Efrati, Deputy Head of the Israeli Cyber Bureau in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, and Christopher Painter, Senior Director for Cyber Security Policy at the U.S. Department of State.
- **U.S. Chamber Hosts New Executive Director of AmCham Israel Ronit Benbasat Rom** in Washington, D.C., to meet with a range of government and private sector partners.



U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro (center) with Josh Kram, Senior Advisor of Turkey and Middle East Affairs at the U.S. Chamber (left), and Khush Choksy, Vice President of Turkey and Middle East Affairs.

Israeli Minister of Finance, Yair Lapid, addresses a roundtable discussion at the U.S. Chamber.

Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs at the U.S. Chamber (center), addresses the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS
2013 REVIEW

U.S.-Turkey Business Council Highlights

- **U.S. Chamber Launches U.S.-Turkey Business Council with Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and Vice President of the United States Joseph Biden** delivering keynote remarks at the Council's opening event.

- **Myron Brilliant Leads Inaugural Business Mission to Istanbul and Ankara** to advance U.S.-Turkey trade and investment through consultations with Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, and high-level officials in critical sectors for U.S. trade and investment.

- **U.S.-Turkey Business Council Hosts President Abdullah Gül** for a private luncheon with executive-level Council members in New York during the United Nations General Assembly meetings.

- **U.S. Chamber Organizes Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan's Two U.S.-Turkey Investment Week Tours** through seven cities across the United States. DPM Babacan together with U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vice President for Turkey & Middle East Affairs Khush Choksy, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu and accompanying delegation of 60 Turkish business leaders visited Atlanta, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Silicon Valley, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.

- **Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan Addresses U.S.-Turkey Business Council** in Washington, D.C. prior to the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Fall Meetings.

- **U.S.-Turkey Business Council Commissions U.S.-Turkey Free Trade Agreement Study** to examine the effects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations on Turkey and chart an alternative path forward for U.S.-Turkey commercial ties.

Chamber President and CEO Tom Donohue (left) speaks with Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan about bilateral relations between the U.S. and Turkey.

Above, left: Associate Director of the U.S.-Turkey Business Council Duygu Erdemgil (center) speaks with Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Myron Brilliant and Deputy Undersecretary of Finance Isa Coşkun during the Council's Business Mission to Turkey.

Above, right: U.S. Chamber Senior Advisor to the President Greg Lebedev (first from left), Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan and President of TOBB Rifat Hisarcıklıoğlu ring the closing bell at the NASDAQ stock exchange in New York (center right).

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden (third from right) and Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (center) attend the U.S.-Turkey Business Council's opening event.

TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS
2013 REVIEW

Middle East Policy Highlights

- **U.S. Chamber Plays Lead Role at the International Chamber of Commerce World Chambers Congress in Qatar.** David Chavern, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Chamber, made a keynote address on the importance of the GCC region as a market for U.S. goods and a source of inward investment into the United States.

- **U.S. Chamber Leads Advocacy Mission to the Gulf** focusing on Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. A series of meetings were held to explore ways to improve trade and commercial activity.

- **A Delegation of Companies from AmCham Abu Dhabi, Visits Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce** in April to underscore the importance of our relationship with the UAE and encourage both business and political leaders to strengthen the already solid economic bond between our nations.

- **U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hosts an Executive Delegation from the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)** for a meeting led by His Excellency Abdullah Saleh, Governor of the DIFC, and Mr. Jeffrey Singer, Chief Executive Officer of the DIFC.

- **The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Co-hosts the MENA Investment and Entrepreneurship Conference with the Aspen Institute's Partners for a New Beginning (PNB).** Attendees included H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Saif, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan; H.E. Mohammad Safadi, Minister of Finance, Lebanon; H.E. Dr. Ziad Fariz, Governor of the Central Bank, Jordan; H.E. Jaloul Ayed, former Minister of Finance, Tunisia; H.E. Lukman Faily, Ambassador of Iraq to the United States; and H.E. Mohamed Tawfik, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States.

- **U.S. Chamber Meets with a Delegation from the Sharjah Roadshow USA,** and participated in a discussion led by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The session concluded with Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qassimi, Chairman of Sharjah Media Centre and Head of the Sharjah Delegation, witnessing the signing of a MoU between the two organizations.

- **U.S. Chamber Hosts the Ambassador of the State of Qatar for a Luncheon with AmCham Qatar.** The Ambassador spoke of the importance of the economic ties between our nations and his desire to strengthen the commercial relationship.

David Chavern, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Chamber (first from left), speaks at the World Chamber Commerce in Doha, Qatar.