

Press Release

FOREMOST FREIGHT FORWARDING FORUM IN LATIN AMERICA TO BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES, ON MAY, 2010

From May 3 to 5, 2010, the “ALACAT-Assekuransa Congress,” of the Federation of National Associations of Forwarding Agents of Latin America and the Caribbean (ALACAT), will be held at the Alvear Palace Hotel, in the City of Buenos Aires, under the slogan “Safe Trade.”

The Argentine Association of International Freight Forwarding Agents (AAACI) will be the host, and the Argentine insurance company Assekuransa will be the general producer of the event.

Alongside this 27th edition of the ALACAT congress, the “7th International Exhibition of Goods and Services for Foreign Trade and International Logistics (Expo Comex)” and the “International Federation of Customs Brokers Associations (IFCBA) World Conference” will be held, during the “Foreign Trade Week.” Participants will have unlimited access to all the events.

Furthermore, experts of the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) will attend the congress in order to give training lectures for members, particularly oriented towards the professionalization of freight forwarders' activity.

Following the congress, the IATA-ALACAT regional meeting will take place, this time in Buenos Aires. There, participants will have access to the negotiations between both organizations, which is paramount for the development of the services to be rendered to regional users of freight air transport, since it is the representatives of the airlines themselves and of the freight forwarders that decide regarding the application of rules to govern air transport.

Among the sponsors of the congress, there are the Argentine Chamber of Exporters (CERA), the Argentine Chamber of Importers (CIRA) and the Argentine Carriers

Council, made up of the CIRA and the Argentine Chamber of Commerce (CAC). Therefore, freight will occupy a pre-eminent position within the congress, not only as for panels and debates, but in general, for all users of the services rendered by freight forwarders and for those having a direct interest in such services.

The provisional programme includes, among others, the following topics:

- Exports: Global commerce, current questions, forecasts.
- Approval of plans: How to push back frontiers.
- Regional commerce: Mercosur, Unasur, Central America.
- Imports: Progress of commerce following the world crisis.
- Logistics alternatives to simplify commerce.
- Safety: Safe trade. Legal issues. Types of insurance. Minimizing risks. (It should be noted that the slogan “Safe Trade” refers not only to security against risks but also to safety itself.)
- Training.
- FIATA/OMC transport documents.
- Solutions concerning differences among regional regulations.
- Customs: A reliable agent: Lectures by regional customs authorities. The World Bank standpoint.
- Transport and logistics: Various means of transport. Amendments to international agreements. The freight forwarder as a solution for global supply.

Final contents are to be set on the basis of consultations with four hundred agents, which are being jointly carried out by Assekuransa and the consultancy firm P&B y Asociados.

Guillermo González Larsen, ALACAT's president, stated that “foreign participants will get to know a side of international trade in Latin America. Argentina is a center of development enjoying the highest standards and this will serve as an example of what can be done in the region. Participants will be able to know first hand all regulations concerning safety, how different countries foresee their international trade and how they

are handling it in connection with safety, and to find their business partner in Buenos Aires.”

On the other hand, Jorge Heinermann, ALACAT's vicepresident and president of the committee in charge of organizing the congress, remarked: “We are fully aware of the fact that in this knowledge society, where access to information regarding business is plentiful, we must be creative and original so that participants can take an added value in knowledge and business opportunities.”

Lastly, Juan Ángel González, Assekuransa's president, explains that “contents will be provided, of course, by freight forwarders, who are at the core of the congress and truly 'thinking organizations.' The structure and all the organization provided by our company make it possible, in both financial and implementation regards, for all this to take place within an appropriate framework, on an international level, given by the congress.”

For further information, visit www.alacat2010.com.ar or send an e-mail to info@alacat2010.com.ar.