

NEWSLETTER

GLOBAL NETWORK OF WTCS CAN HELP COMMUNITIES COMBAT THE PANDEMIC, SAYS MR. WANG

In this period of unprecedented crisis, the global network of 324 World Trade Centers rediscovers its role as a valuable resource for local communities to fight COVID-19. From exchanging the COVID-19 medical supplier list to the setting up of the [WTCA Resource Center](#), this prestigious global network is supporting the war against the pandemic. In an interview to MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, **Mr. Scott Wang, Vice President, Asia Pacific, World Trade Centers Association** raises hope that the WTC network can help communities combat the pandemic.

Excerpts of the interview

- 1) In this circumstance, the WTCA has created a [COVID-19 Resources and Updates](#) webpage to serve as a single point access of information for all World Trade Centers. What is your future plan to assist WTCA Members in navigating through this crisis?**

On March 18 and 19, WTCA Headquarters hosted two global town hall meetings via teleconference to bring together Members from around the world to discuss the current COVID-19 pandemic, exchange strategies for business continuity, and share perspectives and major concerns. During these virtual roundtables, there was a common, overarching theme: the value and strength of the WTCA network as a resource for local businesses to overcome this crisis. With more than 70 WTC colleagues participating around the world, the global town halls provided a platform for Members to share updates from their local communities and learn from each other. WTCA Headquarters is planning two upcoming global town halls on April 21 and 22 for Members to come together again to discuss further business during the pandemic, and we will be hosting regional APAC town halls over the next few months, as necessary.

Additionally, the [WTCA COVID-19 Resources and Updates page](#) was created and launched based on recommendation from these town hall meetings. The webpage provides local updates from WTCs around the world, and virtual programming offered by WTCA Members. There are also a number of resources available for Members on the [WTCA Resource Center](#) which are updated on a daily basis, including a list of medical suppliers around the world, a list of business continuity resources, a list of helpful weblinks (medical information and travel advisories), and key messaging for WTCA Members to utilize for media inquiries surrounding COVID-19. The WTCA will continue to develop programs, add resources and provide critical assistance to our Membership base and the business communities they serve.

- 2) What are the measures World Trade Centers across the world should take to ensure that their business continues with the least possible disruption?**

During this challenging time, WTCs around the globe are taking necessary actions to sustain operations while prioritizing the safety of their staff, tenants, customers and members; and

complying with regulations and mandates enforced by their respective national and local governments. At the same time, WTCs are bolstering their services and efforts to help their local business communities maintain business as normal as possible. By delivering critical information, maintaining communication and establishing connections, they provide support during a time when companies are dealing with disruptions to their supply chains, as well as changing rules and regulations for cross-border shipments and travel. For example, WTC Beijing recently tapped its [e-show global platform](#) to display its members' products and promote trade, while WTC Mumbai accelerated the digital distribution of trade information and consultation services. Both WTCs identified the importance of technology to continue with their services and programs.

3) How can the global network of WTCs collaborate in this time of crisis to help their members connect globally?

Since the beginning of the outbreak, WTCA Members have provided feedback echoing that this is a critical time for the WTCA to come together, demonstrate the power of our network, and leverage our vast connections with business communities around the globe. Together, we will be able to play a significant role to help communities combat the pandemic, restore services, and rebuild local economies. This spirit was perfectly demonstrated with the creation of the WTCA COVID-19 medical supplier list. In response to urgent requests from WTCs throughout the APAC region, the WTCA took swift action at the end of January to create the COVID-19 resource section in the [WTCA Resource Center](#) to exchange information and establish matchmaking efforts to deal with shortages of medical supplies. WTCs from around the world reached out to help by sharing contact information from their business members. As the outbreak spread to Europe and North America, WTCs in the APAC region, including WTC Mumbai, have reciprocated the assistance by uploading a great amount of medical supplier information to fellow WTCs.

4) Exporters across the world are distressed because of cancellation of orders, disruption in logistics, delay in issuance of export certification, etc. What is your message to exporters and importers in efficiently navigating through this crisis?

It is a difficult time for many regions and industries, and we understand how disruptive it has been to the global supply chain and international trade. The core of the situation is a public health crisis and governments around the world have had to pause economic activities in response to the outbreak. However, the foundation of the global economic and financial infrastructure remains largely solid. We hope the business community can stay in close contact with their WTCs, get timely updates and assistance from the WTCA global network, and pursue some of the emerging opportunities such as the global need for PPEs and other medical supplies. I believe many exporters will emerge from the pandemic stronger and more competitive than ever.

5) What is your estimate of the impact of COVID-19 on global trade and economic growth?

The world is currently still in an unknown territory and we know that it is difficult for experts to predict the potential time and cost it will take to emerge from this pandemic. While the WTCA cannot make a prediction, our mission is to "connect the business world," and we stand for the power of globalization and an integrated global economy. The Association is committed to continue to promote free and fair-trade policies and use our network to stimulate trade and investment on a global scale.

NOTIFICATIONS

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

- [Relief measures to exporters](#)
- [Daily Bulletin on COVID-19](#)
- [Updates on COVID-19](#)

DGFT

- [Amendment in Export Policy of APIs and formulations made from these APIs](#)
- [Extension of export obligation period under EPCG scheme](#)
- [Online issuance of preferential certificate of origin](#)

CBIC

- [Exemption of customs duty on import of medical devices](#)
- [Amendment in customs notification](#)

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