

W E L C O M E

T O

H O N G K O N G

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

26 GARDEN ROAD

HONG KONG

A BOOKLET FOR VISITORS

This booklet contains information which we hope will be helpful to visitors on official business.

Read it, use it, and let us know what other subjects you would like us to include.

A BIT ABOUT HONG KONG

The British Crown Colony of Hong Kong, with an area of about 404 square miles, consists of Hong Kong Island, Stonecutter's Island, the Kowloon Peninsula, the New Territories and various surrounding islands. At present, all American government personnel reside on Hong Kong Island. The colony, which dates from 1841, has grown tremendously. It was established officially when China ceded Hong Kong Island to Great Britain in the 1842 Treaty of Nanking. The Peninsula and Stonecutter's were added in 1860 with the signing of the Treaty of Peking. Britain obtained a 99-year lease on the remainder in 1898. From the fishing villages of 100 years ago, Hong Kong has grown into one of the most important trading and industrial centers in Asia. Official representatives of most major non-Communist countries are assigned to the colony along with a host of international industrialists and business persons who participate in Hong Kong's booming trade and industry.

Hong Kong, with its approximately 6 million residents, is an exciting place to visit and to live. This multi-cultured colony offers an opportunity to learn about and to enjoy the customs and festivals of the Chinese community and to absorb and share in the cosmopolitan atmosphere created by the British, Indian, Japanese, American and other communities. Hong Kong has long been painted as a shopper's paradise, the "pearl of the Orient" and a fascinating cluster of islands.

USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT HONG KONG

GENERAL

Office hours of the American Consulate General are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Consulate is closed during the lunch hour (12:30 - 1:30 p.m.). A list of the principal officers is included in your Welcome Kit.

BANKING

While currency and traveler's checks can be exchanged at any bank or money changer, a higher rate of exchange is normally realized when you change U. S. currency or checks to Hong Kong dollars at Lark International Finance Limited, Shell House, 28 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong (hours 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). You will need to show your passport. (The current exchange rate is about US\$1.00 = HK\$7.80 (however, this fluctuates daily and even hourly).) During the hours when Lark International is closed, you can cash traveler's checks at almost all hotels. American Express, Diner's Club, Master Charge and other major credit cards are widely accepted in Hong Kong.

TRANSPORTATION

A. Air

Almost all major airlines service Hong Kong, including Pan American, Northwest, United and Continental Airlines. Office locations and phone numbers are in the Consulate General phone book and the Hong Kong telephone book.

Hong Kong's international airport, called Kai Tak, is located at Kowloon City, approximately 7 miles from the Consulate General. Taxi, airport bus, limousine service and hotel transportation are available outside the Arrival Hall.

The Departure Hall has many fine shops open seven days a week and almost all hours of the day and night; however, prices are no lower than in town. Only liquor and cigarettes are a bargain, as they are sold duty-free to departing passengers.

An airport departure tax of HK\$120 (adult), HK\$60 (2-12 years old), is levied on all passengers. Holders of official or diplomatic passports are exempted from payment of this tax, and should first proceed to the Departure Tax Counter at the Airport before checking in at the airline counter.

B. Land and Sea

There are train, hovercraft and boat services between Hong Kong (Kowloon side) and China; jetfoil and hydrofoil services between Hong Kong and Macau.

Travel agencies are too numerous to mention here but can be located in any hotel or in the telephone book.

Buses - The most common form of public transportation in both Hong Kong and Kowloon. The regular buses are double decker and have fixed routes. The "public light bus", commonly called "mini-bus", generally has shorter runs and costs a little more; however, the mini-bus will pick up and discharge passengers anywhere along the route.

Trams - Trams run the length of the harbor from Kennedy Town to Shaukiwan and, from the top deck, it's a great way to see and absorb the sights, if you are not in a hurry

Ferries - The biggest bargain in Hong Kong. Ferries operate between Hong Kong Central to Kowloon as well as to the Outlying Islands. Service is good and efficient.

Peak Tram - This tram, which originates at the Lower Peak Tram Station directly across the street from the Consulate General, slowly climbs to Victoria Peak, 1,809 feet above sea level. The Tram Terminal at the Peak has a restaurant as well as a snack bar.

Taxis - Metered taxis run on both sides of the harbor and are reasonable. You can hail a taxi almost anywhere in the Colony, but on rainy days and during rush hours, they are difficult to find. Most taxi drivers understand some English.

Fares start at HK\$5.00. When a trip involves the cross harbor tunnel, an additional HK\$20.00 is charged to cover the round trip tunnel toll. It is customary to tip approximately 10% of the fare.

Mass Transit Railway (underground railway system)
- This system runs from Kwun Tong or Tsuen Wan in Kowloon to Central District and northern part of Hong Kong Island. It is the fastest means of transportation for traveling between the Central District of Hong Kong to Tsim Sha Tsui in Central Kowloon or to more distant stops in Kowloon and the New Territories. MTR stations are indicated on recent maps of the area.

COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

Good telephone service is available. When placing a local phone call from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon, you must dial 3 before the number; if calling from Kowloon to Hong Kong, dial the area number 5, then the number. Calls to the New Territories must be preceded by the number 0. Calls within the same area need no prefix.

The country code number for incoming, direct-dial long distance calls to Hong Kong is 852.

Telegraph/cable service is good and charges are comparable to those in the US for sending international cables. The cable and wireless office located at Mercury House, Central District in Hong Kong and Hermes House, Middle Road, Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon are open 24 hours a day.

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING

Summer is hot and humid. It is also the rainy and typhoon season. Short sleeves shirt and cotton dresses are suitable. Winter is short - January to February - but it can be cold and damp and light woolen coats, suits are needed. Autumn is the best time of the year.

CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES

Detailed information and telephone numbers on times of services are given in the Saturday edition of the English language newspapers.

SHOPPING

Your Welcome Kit contains a booklet on information regarding shopping in Hong Kong. Your hotel and many department stores accept American Express, Mastercard, Visa and Diner's Club credit cards.

The following is a list of the most frequently patronized Chinese department stores together with their operating hours:

<u>Name/Address/Telephone</u>	<u>Hours of Business</u>
China Products Co. Ltd. 19-31 Yee Wo Street Lok Sing Centre Hong Kong 5-7908321	1100-2130 (except Thurs.) 1300-2130 (Thurs.)
Chinese Arts and Crafts Ltd. Star House Kowloon 3-674064	1000-1900 (Mon. - Sat.) closed Sunday
or	
Hong Kong Gallery Shell House Hong Kong 5-226745	1000-1900 (Mon. - Sat.) closed Sunday
Chinese Merchandise Emporium Ltd. 92-104 Queen's Road Central Hong Kong 5-241051	0930-1900 (daily)
Yue Hwa Chinese Products Emporium Ltd. 301 Nathan Road Kowloon 3-840084	1000-2130 (daily)

Stanley Market - Stanley which was once a fishing village is now a popular residential area. The Stanley Market is an interesting shopping area which sells brand-name designer clothings at good bargain prices and handicraft items.

The popular Ocean Terminal, adjacent to the Kowloon Star Ferry Pier, offers comfortable, airconditioned shopping in its mall. It is connected to two other complexes, the Ocean Center and the Harbour City. A similar complex is near the New World and Regent Hotels on the Kowloon side. The Landmark on the Hong Kong side, is another large shopping mall. There are also many interesting stores and small shops along Queen's Road (Hong Kong) and Nathan Road (Kowloon), in addition to their side streets and alleys, which offer a variety of goods and bargains.

CHINA FLEET CLUB (NCD)

The China Fleet Club is located at the Fleet House, Arsenal Street, Hong Kong. The Club is open 1000-1800 Monday through Saturday. Purchases made at the China Fleet Club must be paid in cash, Hong Kong currency. There are currency conversion facilities available at a branch of Lark International Finance Limited located in the Club.

American stamps are available at the Fleet Post Office (1000-1700 Monday to Friday) which is located in the Fleet Club. Regular American postage rates will apply for all letters or packages sent through the U. S. Navy Post Office (FPO). The return address on all letters sent FPO must include: Name of Sender, U. S. Consulate General, Box 30, FPO San Francisco 96659-002. All first class FPO mail goes by air, so normal weight letters should have 22 cents stamps affixed. Wrapping services are also available in the FPO at a nominal charge for any person authorized use of Club facilities. Mailing privileges are restricted to those persons holding a valid USG identification card.

SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

Visitors should take the same precautions they take wherever they travel - Beware of pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Women should carry handbags on the inside, away from the street, and should tuck the purse, when possible, in the crook of the arm and close to the body. Men should keep their wallets in a front pocket. When in a crowded area, keep a hand in your pocket over your wallet. One should be aware at all times of persons nearby, and one should stand back from the curb until ready to cross the street.

TOURISM

Please see enclosed pamphlets in the Welcome Kit.

RESTAURANTS

Restaurants are numerous and cover a wide range of ethnic cuisines. Reservations are recommended. The few suggestions listed below may be helpful:

WESTERN FOOD

Gaddi's
Peninsula Hotel
Kowloon
Tel. 3-666251

Cafe d'Amigo
79A Wongneichong Road
Happy Valley, Hong Kong
Tel. 5-772202

The Plume
Regent Hotel
Kowloon
Tel. 3-7211211

Jimmy's Kitchen
1 Wyndham Street
Central, Hong Kong
5-265293

Hugo's Restaurant
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Kowloon
Tel. 3-662321

McDonald's
5 Queen's Road Central
Hong Kong
Tel. 5-221760

Rigoletto (Italian)
14-16 Fenwick Street
Wanchai, Hong Kong
5-277144

Chico & Charlies (Mexican)
Causeway Center
Hong Kong
5-743417

California
30-32 D'Aguilar Street
Central, Hong Kong
5-211345

CHINESE FOOD

Jumbo Floating Restaurant
Wong Chuk Hang
Shum Wan, Hong Kong
Tel. 5-539111

Peking Garden
Alexandra House
Hong Kong
Tel. 5-266456

Jade Garden
Swire House
Hong Kong
Tel. 5-263031

Pep'N Chili Restaurant
Happy Valley
Hong Kong
Tel. 5-738251

Cleveland Szechuan Restaurant	Yung Kee Restaurant
Cleveland Street	32 Wellington Street
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Tel. 5-765617	5-232343

Lamma Hilton - a series of restaurants along the Lamma Island Pier.

A 10% service charge is generally added to the bill, but it is customary to add a small tip.

INCREASE IN DUTY FREE LIMIT

Effective January 27, 1983, the duty exemptions U.S. residents are entitled to claim when returning home after traveling abroad was increased as shown below:

A. Returning U. S. residents can now claim a \$400.00 exemption; this had previously been \$300.00.

B. U. S. residents coming home from a U. S. insular possession (Guam, American Samoa or the U. S. Virgin Islands) are entitled to an \$800.00 exemption; this had previously been \$600.00. U. S. residents can now claim \$800.00 if not more than \$400.00 of their purchases are acquired outside an insular possession. Previously this limit had been \$300.00.

C. Gift parcels sent home by U. S. residents are entitled to a \$50.00 exemption if sent home from abroad, or \$100.00 if sent home from a U. S. insular possession. These limits had been \$25.00 and \$40.00 respectively.

U. S. residents who exceed their exemption will be charged a 10% flat rate of duty on the next \$1,000.00 worth of goods acquired outside the U. S., or 5% duty on items acquired in a U. S. insular possession.

SOME USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

American Consulate General	5-239011
American Club	5-244013
American Chamber of Commerce	5-260165
American Women's Association	5-272961
China Fleet Club	5-8610063
Ambulance - Hong Kong side	5-282822
Kowloon side	3-683151

One of Hong Kong's main industries is tourism; therefore, the attitude towards visitors is a welcoming one.

We hope you enjoy your stay in Hong Kong. Please let us know if there is any item or subject you believe we should cover in this Welcome Kit. Your suggestions will help us in our efforts to make your stay here in Hong Kong an especially enjoyable one.

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
HONG KONG

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Principal Personnel</u>	<u>Telephone</u> 5-239011	
		<u>Office</u>	<u>Residence</u>
<u>DEPARTMENT OF STATE</u>			
Consul General	LEVIN, Burton	Ext. 332	Ext. 377
Deputy Consul General	KOBLER, Arthur L.	298	5-256529
Chief, Executive Staff	DORN, Alvin K.	336	5-251972
Chief, Political Section	SCHRAGE, Barbara June	283/284	5-245508
Chief, Economic Section	MUELLER, Richard W.	287	5-246855
Chief, Consular Section	WILLEMS, Leonard F.	219	5-258831
Chief, Administrative Section	ALSPAUGH, Clarence H.	238	5-257753
<u>U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE</u>			
Public Affairs Officer	YAKI, Michael M.	255	5-249651
Information Officer	MILLER, David E.	397	5-746954
<u>Voice of America</u>			
Chief	JENKINS, Richard A.	5-221360	5-8120522
<u>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</u>			
<u>Foreign Agricultural Service</u>			
Agricultural Officer	HUMPHREY, Michael L.	350	5-245262
<u>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</u>			
<u>Foreign Commercial Service</u>			
Chief, Foreign Commercial Service	EDINGER, Lyn W.	294 5-227013	3-380152
<u>TRADE & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</u>			
Regional Representative	Vacant	239 5-213536/7	Nil
<u>FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE</u>			
Bureau Chief	STEINER, John A.	389 or 5-210613	5-235344
Deputy Chief	KOSTAN, Sonya M.	389 or 5-210613	5-248358

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Liaison Office

Defense Liaison Officer/ Naval Liaison Officer	Capt. Joseph A. Dressler, USN	224	5-8172093
Air Liaison Officer	Col. SUNG, William K. USAF	300	5-262430
Army Liaison Officer	Col. LANE, Charles D., USA	436	5-251432

Navy Contracting Department

Officer-in-Charge	LCdr. HALLUMS Jr., Roy A.	5-8610063/4	5-8120158
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Fleet Post Office

Postal Officer	PCC WRIGHT, Chester A.	5-278763	5-592646
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug Enforcement Administration

Special Agent-in-Charge	HARRIS, James H.	214 or 5-214536	5-258711
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Immigration & Naturalization Service

Officer-in-Charge	BOGGS, Ronald D.	262 or 5-230351	5-258828
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Legal Liaison Office

Legal Liaison Officer	MARTIN, James E.	282	5-253694
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DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Customs Service

Sr. Customs Representative	MIEGER, Donald W.	244 or 5-214552	5-8121927
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Revised - January 1, 1986

ORGANIZATION OF CONSULATE GENERAL

POLITICAL SECTION

The Political Section analyzes major political and social trends and events in Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, and the three states of Indochina and Macau. Political officers prepare reports by combining and analyzing information uniquely available in Hong Kong with information known from other sources. In the course of their work, they cultivate a wide range of contacts active in building for Hong Kong's post-1997 future as well as journalists, Chinese and HKG officials, academics and members of the local China and Indochina watching community.

ECONOMIC SECTION

The Economic Section is responsible for the conduct of official bilateral economic relations with Hong Kong and Macau. The Section also analyzes and reports on economic policies and trends in China, Hong Kong and Macau to keep U.S. Government policy-makers and American business informed of key developments in these economies. Officers of the Section have wide-ranging contacts in the community, especially in business and intellectual circles.

CONSULAR SECTION

American Consular Services Unit

In addition to providing passport and citizenship services to an estimated 13,000 American citizens residing in the Colony, the Unit also extends services to the many transient visitors in Hong Kong having a claim to citizenship of the United States. The unit also accepts passport applications from Americans residing in Taiwan who use the Travel Service facilities at the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT).

Other functions of the Unit include welfare and protection services, services to vessels and seamen and assistance in cases involving the death of American citizens. Of special importance to U.S. citizens in Hong Kong are the services this unit provides in the distribution of over \$10 million in federal benefits checks, absentee voting forms, IRS forms and notarial services.

Visa Unit

The Visa unit processes nearly 90,000 nonimmigrant (tourist, business, student, etc.) visa applications each year, roughly 12,000 individual immigrant visa applications and maintains files for 77,000 other intending immigrant visa applicants who await visa numbers. The Unit also provides final adjudication and issuance for nearly 18,000 additional immigrant visa applications and 100,000 nonimmigrant visa applications from the American Institute in Taiwan. With visa fraud an endemic problem in Hong Kong, the visa unit has also organized an investigation unit which handles roughly 2,000 investigative cases each year and conducts over 600 full field investigations in addition to providing research and intelligence on illegal migration syndicates and human smuggling operations.

In all, nine Americans and over 40 Foreign Service National Employees staff the visa unit.

Refugee Unit

The Refugee Unit is responsible for the processing of Indochinese boat refugees for entry into the United States. The Refugee Unit works with international and private voluntary agencies to insure that as many qualified Indochinese refugees from Hong Kong and Macau as possible may enter the United States. This office insures that the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service priority guidelines for entry are correctly applied and responds to Congressional and public inquiries as to the status of individual refugees in Hong Kong.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

The Administrative Section operates as a service organization supporting 17 U.S. Government activities within the Consulate General. It is responsible for management, budgetary and planning functions. This includes preparation of administrative support agreements, control of funds, the general physical operation of the Consulate General and supervision of various units within the Section. Included are the Personnel, General Services, Budget and Fiscal, Communications Program Unit and the Regional Security Office.

THE FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE (FCS) - (Department of Commerce)

The Foreign Commercial Service (FCS), the overseas arm of the United States Department of Commerce, represents American commercial interests in Hong Kong and Macau. The primary mission of FCS is to promote U.S. exports of products and services not only to Hong Kong and Macau, but also to the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Southeast Asia. As part of the promotional effort, the FCS counsels American businessmen on business opportunities, locates agents and distributors for American firms, assists local businessmen in finding U.S. suppliers, conducts credit checks on local firms on behalf of American firms, assists with trade disputes between local and U.S. firms, provides regional trade opportunities to the regional offices of American companies based in Hong Kong, provides guidance for the licensing of items under export controls, and reports on commercial activities in the Hong Kong and Macau areas.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE (USIS)

American official information and cultural programs for Hong Kong and Macau are the responsibility of the U.S. Information Service. USIS operates the American Library in the United Center; runs a Chinese language book translation program which has produced 600 titles over the past 20 years; publishes a Chinese language magazine for distribution in China; and handles relations with local and foreign press and supervises cultural exchange and exhibit programs. In addition, the post provides support for USIS operations in the PRC.

DEFENSE LIAISON OFFICE (DLO) (Department of Defense)

The Army, Navy and Air Force Liaison Officers and their assistants perform the normal functions of military and naval attaches, adjusted to the special reporting and other requirements of this post. The Naval Liaison Officer is appointed as the Defense Liaison Officer.

NAVY CONTRACTING DEPARTMENT (NCD) (Department of Defense)

The Navy Contracting Department (NCD) provides acquisition and related services for U.S. Navy ships visiting Hong Kong and for all U.S. Department of Defense organizations which have requirements from Hong Kong. NCD operates the Fleet Post Office, providing postal services to all U.S. Government agencies and authorized individuals. The Department also operates a salesroom in the China Fleet Club for U.S. military personnel and other authorized individuals. NCD provides accounting, budgetary and disbursing services for its own operation and under Obligation Authorities for other services/activities. The Department is also the Military Sealife Command Representative for Hong Kong. NCD is assigned most duties associated with the Senior Officer Present Administration (SOPA ADMIN). The Department has a Military Protestant Chaplain and a contracted Roman Catholic Chaplain to provide religious services, assistance and counselling. NCD is the Hong Kong Area Coordinator for the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Republic of the Philippines.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) (Department of Justice)

In foreign areas, DEA is the accredited U.S. agency for contact with foreign law enforcement officers on narcotics, marijuana, and dangerous drug matters. DEA has, as one of its principal missions, the detection of persons in foreign countries who might transport contraband drugs to the United States. To accomplish this mission, DEA agents work closely with foreign law enforcement agencies. The DEA agents assigned to Hong Kong are responsible for the areas of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE (INS) (Department of Justice)

Processes applications for refugee status; adjudicates specified applications and petitions for immigration benefits filed by U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens who are abroad; consider cases of inadmissible aliens referred by U.S. consuls to determine whether to grant relief from inadmissibility; conduct investigations into claimed family relationship, authenticity of documents and employment experience in connection with applications for immigration benefits; and maintains liaison with local law enforcement agencies, shipping agents, steamship companies and Seaman's Recruiting Office. The Officer in Charge at Hong Kong is responsible for the management, direction and effective operation of service programs for the British Crown Colony and adjacent islands: China, Australia, New Zealand and all of Continental Asia lying to the east of the western borders of Afghanistan and Pakistan and all countries in the Pacific areas other than the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, Korea and Japan.

U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE (CUST) (TREASURY DEPARTMENT)

This Office represents the U.S. Customs Service and other Treasury enforcement agencies. The primary objectives of the office are to conduct investigations concerning violations of U.S. import/export and related laws; to prevent the international movement of illicit merchandise; to prevent transshipping of garments to avoid quotas; to identify and prevent counterfeit trademark and copyright items; and to identify and prevent illegal exports of strategic materials. A secondary objective is to advise manufacturers, exporters, tourists and other interested parties of requirements for legal shipping to the United States. This office services 26 countries from New Zealand to Iran. It performs liaison with Customs authorities in these countries on matters of mutual interest and cooperation.

LEGAL LIAISON OFFICE (LLO) (DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)

LLO works in support of the Federal Bureau of Investigation jurisdiction in the United States. In the field of criminal investigations, it acts in liaison with the Hong Kong police, both requesting and providing assistance in matters of mutual interest.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURE SERVICE (FAS) (DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)

The representative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for two main functions.

1. Analyzing and reporting on the agricultural market situation in Hong Kong and developing market opportunities for U.S. agricultural products through trade contacts and through trade and consumer promotional efforts carried out in cooperation with U.S. agricultural producer and trade associations.

2. Analyzing and reporting on significant developments in the agricultural economy and agricultural trade of the People's Republic of China and the possible influence of those developments on U.S. agricultural trade with the PRC and the rest of the world.

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE (FBIS)

Hong Kong is one of 17 FBIS field bureaus engaged in monitoring the foreign news media. The bureau is staffed with editors, Chinese-language translators, technicians and communicators. In addition to providing coverage of 14 regional PRC radio stations and Beijing television, the bureau translates from over 30 regional and central newspapers and periodicals. It also provides translations from the Hong Kong press as well as Philippines radio and central and regional newspapers. The bureau wirefiles its translations to various consumers around the world including U.S. embassies and military commands, the BBC and FBIS headquarters in Washington.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (TDP)

The Asia Regional Office located here works with U.S. Embassies and Consulates by financing pre-project planning services with the aim of promoting a greater use of U.S. goods and services at the implementation stage of development projects. TDP's pre-project services include definitional studies, feasibility studies, technology workshops in host countries and technology orientation missions to the U.S. TDP is a component organization of the International Development Cooperation Agency. It works closely with the Department of Commerce, Ex-Im Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Agency for International Development.