



In this issue we continue our new section dedicated to AmCham's active, engaging Task Forces and the hard-working members who keep them alive and thriving. Here, we are pleased to highlight...



### ...The Finance & Economy Task Force (and its new CFO Roundtable)

**THE FINANCE AND ECONOMY TASK FORCE** addresses important macro-economic and financial issues. Its membership base is comprised of CEOs, COOs, CFOs,

representatives of private-equity firms, attorneys, investors, journalists and other business professionals interested in a variety of international-business, economic and management subjects and events. The group aims to inform members and event participants in an engaging, enjoyable manner.

Due to the extensive nature of the Task Force's core focus, a cross-section of AmCham members attend the group's major speaker-events. Recent events included:

- ▶ "No Automotive Future?" which featured Jean-Philippe Collin, former member of the PSA Peugeot Citroën Managing Board and EVP of Peugeot, and Berry Van Gestel, Former Managing Director of Cadillac & Corvette France, and touched on sub-topics ranging from the future of the global auto industry to environmental trends and investment opportunities in this volatile sector.
- ▶ "Investment-Financing Opportunities in Emerging Markets," where a panel of experts discussed the ways in which the World Bank Group can help finance the investments in the developing world made by medium and large companies based in the U.S. or Europe.

Short- and long-term plans revolve around continued attention to top-level events, with hopes for increasing their frequency (ideally, to every month) and variety (to include seminars, formal debates and related formats). The Task Force is also exploring the possibility of creating joint events with other business organizations and with the *grandes écoles*.

The co-chairs welcome contact from business leaders who would like to participate in the Finance and Economy Task Force, as well as suggestions for event topics and speakers.



Byron Rader



Jacques Sciammas

**THE CFO ROUNDTABLE** was launched in 2010 as a major initiative of the Finance and Economy Task Force. Inspired by a U.S. model, it provides senior financial executives with the rare opportunity, previously unavailable in France, to openly discuss a variety of important challenges, best practices and other business topics in an informal, interactive and informative setting of their peers. The CFO Roundtable is co-chaired by Byron Rader, CFO of Microsoft France and AmCham Board member, and Jacques Sciammas, former CFO of The Charles Schwab Corporation, Retail Division.

#### MEMBERS

Membership represents senior financial executives from a broad range of industries including technology, retail, professional services, life sciences, financial services, manufacturing and others. Most members are CFOs of companies with over 100€ million in sales or Controllers, Treasurers, VPs of Finance of (or hold similar senior positions in) companies with at least 500€ million in sales. Senior experts, CFOs of not-for-profit organizations, educators and other professionals will also be invited to the roundtable.

#### DISCUSSION TOPICS

CFO Roundtable members enjoy relevant panel discussions, centered on a variety of themes, led by a diverse group of speakers, including CEOs, economists and other professionals. During an exciting and provocative first meeting, on March 16, a panel of four CFOs, moderated by the CFO Roundtable Co-Chairs, discussed priorities and challenges, such as Revenue Growth/Market Share, Cost Reduction, People Resources and Working Capital. Future Roundtables will explore, among other topics: the qualities that distinguish the great CFOs from the merely competent, CEO insights about their working relationships with their CFOs, executive recruitment and best practices.

**For more information, topic suggestions, or to apply for membership, please contact the CFO Roundtable Co-Chairs:**

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