The Corporate Program invites its members to participate in over 80 programs each year in New York, Washington, and across the country.

This year, the Corporate Program sponsored meetings with such leaders as Andres Pastrana, president of Colombia; Vance D. Coffman, chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin Corporation; Stanley Fischer, first deputy managing director, International Monetary Fund; Lawrence H. Summers, deputy secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury; Charlene Barshefsky, U.S. trade representative; Lee Kuan Yew, senior minister, Singapore; Pedro Sampaio Malan, minister of finance, Brazil; and Romano Prodi, president-designate, European Commission.

This past year saw the inauguration of a popular new quarterly series, “World Economic Update,” in which top economists from major financial institutions assess the state of the global economy. Executives with expertise on a particular country or issue participated in smaller study groups and roundtable discussions with other experts from business, government, and academia. The Corporate Program continued its popular series of interactive conference calls with Council Fellows on topics of particular concern to member companies. These timely and focused exchanges encourage discussion and involve Corporate members who may otherwise find it difficult to take part in Council programs.

This year’s Corporate Conference, hosted in cooperation with the Council’s U.S./Middle East Project, addressed “Investing in the Middle East: New Opportunities in a Changing Global Economy.” The June 1999 conference convened such world leaders as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn, U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, and U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley to address international business leaders, government officials, and regional experts involved in the Middle East. The discussions centered on investment opportunities and the major economic obstacles facing the private and public sectors in the region. Topics included investing in Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf countries; the outlook for the energy and high-technology sectors; creating the water, power, and transportation infrastructure; investing in Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority; doing business in Iran; accessing capital markets; and commercial law. The Council is especially grateful for the support of conference sponsors ENI, Pfizer, Arab Banking Corporation, BP Amoco, and Schlumberger, with additional support from the Mobil Corporation.

Highlights of the 1998–99 schedule follow. A comprehensive listing is available on the Council’s website.

David Kellogg
Vice President, Corporate Affairs
Corporate Program


Speaker Rosario Green, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexico, Leslie H. Gelb, and Enzo Viscusi at the September 25, 1998, Meeting, "Mexico: Whither Its Global Role?"

Presider Henry Siegman and Speaker Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt (videoconferenced from Cairo), at the June 17, 1999, Corporate Program, U.S./Middle East Project Conference, "Investing in the Middle East: New Opportunities in a Changing Global Economy."

John Hess and David Kellogg at the June 9, 1999, Meeting, "Venezuela’s New Agenda."
Corporate Program

Program Highlights

ELIZABETH J. ALLAN
Senior Vice President, Scudder Kemper Investments, Inc.

GERRY CURTIS
Burgess Professor of Political Science, Columbia University

HIDEHIKO NISHIYAMA
Executive Director, JETRO New York
“Can Japan Turn the Corner?”
PRESIDER: ROBERT D. HORMATS

CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY
U.S. Trade Representative
“Future World Trade Agenda Series: The View from Washington”
PRESIDER: RICHARD N. GARDNER

LEON BRITTAN
Vice President, European Commission
“Building the Transatlantic Economic Partnership”
PRESIDER: STEVEN L. RATTNER

JOYCE CHANG

STEPHEN FIDLER
U.S. Diplomatic Editor, former Latin America Editor, Financial Times

FRANCISCO R.A. GROS
Managing Director, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter; Chairman, Morgan Stanley do Brasil

ROBERT D. HORMATS
Vice Chairman, Goldman Sachs International

ARTURO C. PORZECANSKI
Managing Director and Americas Chief Economist, ING Barings
“The Next Dominoes? Global Economic Crisis and Latin America”
PRESIDER: KENNETH R. MAXWELL

HUGO CHÁVEZ FRÍAS
President, Venezuela
“Venezuela’s New Agenda”
PRESIDER: GEORGE W. LANDAU

ANATOLY CHUBAIS
Chairman of the Board, Unified Energy Systems; former Russian Finance Minister and First Deputy Prime Minister
“Russia’s Economic Future”
PRESIDER: JACK F. MATLOCK JR.

VANCE D. COFFMAN
Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin Corporation
“The Future of the U.S. Defense Industry”
PRESIDER: LESLIE H. GELB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ABBY JOSEPH COHEN
Managing Director and Chair, Investment Policy Committee, Goldman, Sachs & Co.

BRUCE STEINBERG
Chief Economist, Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
“U.S. Economic Performance in a Sputtering Global Economy”
PRESIDER: DANIEL K. TARULLO
WORLD ECONOMIC UPDATE SERIES

STANLEY FISCHER
First Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund
“World Economic Prospects”
PRESIDER: WILLIAM R. RHODES

ROBERT L. HEILBRONER
Norman Thomas Professor of Economics Emeritus and Senior Lecturer in Economics, New School for Social Research
“The Problem with Economics”
PRESIDER: ALBERT FISHLOW

LARRY IRVING
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications & Information; Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
“Global Telecommunications: The Roles of Industry and Government”
PRESIDER: JAMIE F. METZL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

PAUL R. KRUGMAN
Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
“The Return of Depression Economics”
PRESIDERS: STEVEN L. RATTNER (New York); GREGORY F. TREVERTON (Los Angeles)
VIDEOCONFERENCED GENERAL MEETING BETWEEN NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES

LUIZ FELIPE LAMPREIA
Minister of Foreign Relations, Brazil
“Can Brazil Emerge as an International Leader?”
PRESIDER: ARMINIO FRAGA
LEE KUAN YEW
Senior Minister, Republic of Singapore
“The Asian Financial Crisis”
Presider: Maurice R. Greenberg

JOHN P. LIPSKY
Chief Economist, Chase Manhattan Bank; Director of Research, Chase Global Bank

ARTURO C. PORZECANSKI
Managing Director and Americas Chief Economist, ING Barings

BRUCE STEINBERG
Chief Economist, Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
“World Economic Update”
Presider: Daniel K. Tarullo
World Economic Update Series

PEDRO SAMPÃO MALAN
Minister of Finance, Brazil
“Brazil: Edging Toward Recovery?”
Presider: Carla A. Hills

IGOR Y. MALASHENKO
First Deputy and Chairman, Board of Directors, MEDIA-MOST
“Russia’s Crisis: Where Do We Go from Here?”
Presider: Hedrick L. Smith
Washington, D.C.

CHRISTOPHER PATTEN
Former Governor of Hong Kong; Head of the Independent Commission of Policing in Northern Ireland
“The Future of Asia: From Mao to McDonald’s—Is the Asian Miracle Sustainable?”
Presider: Karen Elliott House

GUILLERMO PERRY
Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Bank
“Recent Policy Challenges in Latin America”
Presider: Kenneth R. Maxwell
The C. Peter McColough Series on International Economics

ROMANO PRODI
President-Designate, European Commission
“A Conversation with Romano Prodi”
Presider: Richard N. Gardner

RENATO RUGGIERO
Director-General, World Trade Organization
“Future World Trade Agenda Series: The View from Geneva”
Presider: Daniel K. Tarullo

JAMES SASSER
U.S. Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China
“On the Front Lines of Constructive Engagement”
Presider: Jerome A. Cohen

ANDREW SHENG
Chairman of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission
“Hong Kong and Global Markets: Into the 21st Century”
Presider: Robert P. McDonald

EDWARD F. STAiano
Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Iridium LLC
“Beyond Multinational: The New Global Company”
Presider: Jessica P. Einhorn
Washington, D.C.

LAWRENCE H. SUMMERS
Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury
“The Trials and Tribulations of a World Economy”
Presider: Kenneth D. Brody
Washington, D.C.

NORBERT WALTER
Chief Economist, Deutsche Bank

MINEKO SASAKI-SMITH
Visiting Fellow, Harvard University
“The Aging of the World’s Population: The Public Pension Crisis as Seen from Europe and Asia”
Presider: Jeffrey R. Shafer

JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN
President, World Bank
“Human Development: The Other Crisis”
Presider: Peter G. Peterson

KAORU YOSANO
Minister of International Trade and Industry, Japan
“A Japanese Economy for the Future and the Japan-U.S. Partnership”
Presider: Merit E. Janow
The C. Peter McColough Series on International Economics
CORPORATE MEMBERS

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Estée Lauder Companies
Exxon Corporation
Federal Express
Fiat USA, Inc.
IBM
Lazard Frères & Co. LLC
Lockheed Martin
McKinsey & Company, Inc.
Mine Safety Appliances Company
Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co.
PepsiCo, Inc.
Pfizer
Schlumberger Limited
Standard & Poor’s Ratings Group
Standard Chartered Bank
Time Warner, Inc.
Xerox Corporation

Atlantic Richfield Company
The Baldwin-Gottschalk Group
Banca di Roma
Banco Mercantil
Banco Santander Central Hispano
Bank Audi (USA)
Bank of America
The Bank of New York
BankBoston
Barclays Capital
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CIBC World Markets Corp.
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Dyno-Kissner-Moran Corporation
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Ehrenkranz & Ehrenkranz LLP
Enron Corporation
Ernst & Young
The Export-Import Bank of Japan
Fedders Corporation
Fischer Francis Trees & Watts
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General Electric Company
General Reinsurance Corporation
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Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.
KPMG LLP
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Marubeni America Corporation
Marvin & Palmer Associates, Inc.
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MBIA-AMBAC International
Mercedes-Benz of North America
Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation, Inc.
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy
MONY Life Insurance Company
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Multilateral Funding International
NatWest Group
New York Life International, Inc.
HBO and Time Warner are involved in communications all over the world, and while a fair amount of what you see on HBO you would clearly classify as pure entertainment, there’s also a fair amount on HBO that addresses larger issues involving world affairs, whether it is a documentary on Bosnia or a film adaptation of the book A Bright Shining Lie. So, there is often a connection between some of the topics HBO addresses and work at the Council. It’s important for Americans to be aware of the rest of the world and we occasionally like to think we make a small contribution to that effort.

HBO sponsors the “Great Debate” series at the Council. The purpose of the program is to bring together prominent thinkers on international politics to discuss timely and important issues. Some of the debates we have been involved with were between Les Gelb and Charles Krauthammer on the importance of “teacup” wars, and Paul Krugman and George Soros on the global economy, and a discussion between Charlie Rose and Richard Butler on UNSCOM. While the debates are the formal part of our sponsorship, they also afford us an opportunity to talk with experts in different subjects that are directly on point to some of our programming. We have screened several movies at the Council, to get feedback from people with direct involvement in the topics we are addressing. It is a wonderful way to elevate a discussion about foreign policy at the same time that it cross-pollinates with an “entertainment” project. We couldn’t do that without a relationship like the one we have with the Council.

Being a corporate member of the Council is important for us, given the scope of what we do in the world. There are great challenges in the telecommunications business. The means of disseminating entertainment and news are changing all the time. The extent to which western Europe alone has changed in the last 15 years is staggering. While ostensibly a political issue, it actually immediately affects business as well, because if we’re trying to consider what the fortunes of HBO, as a business, might be in Hungary versus France it is very relevant to know what all the political situations and industrial policies are. And, interestingly, the opportunities in western Europe, which are “more advanced,” are more limited for all new entrants than in eastern Europe. HBO has been very successful in South America because, with respect to our business, the continent hadn’t really been developed and, therefore, you weren’t facing state-financed, state-protected, entrenched competitors, which you do have in western Europe. The opportunity to be a part of the Council helps us to hear many perspectives from around the world and helps us to be informed in terms of business internationally—that has real value for us.