

Contact: Linda Kundell  
Kundell Communications  
(212) 877-2798  
LRKPR@aol.com

**For Immediate Release  
January 31, 2008**

**US Travel Insurance Association Conference to  
Examine Global Trends and Issues Affecting Travel and Travel Insurance**

**February 24-26, 2008 at Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa, Fort Myers, Florida**

***Jean-Claude Baumgarten, President, World Travel & Tourism Council  
To Be Keynote Speaker***

“The Wide World of UStiA: Global Trends & Issues Affecting our Business & Our Lives” will be the theme for the fourth annual US Travel Insurance Association Conference, to be held February 24-26, 2008 at Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa, Fort Myers, Florida. The conference will examine global trends and their impact on travel and the travel insurance business, featuring presentations by experts from the tourism, airline and cruise industries.

Highlighting the conference will be Jean-Claude Baumgarten, President of the World Travel & Tourism Council, who will present the keynote address, “Global Trends in Travel and Tourism.” Mark Bergsrud, Vice President, Marketing Programs & Distribution, Continental Airlines and Bob Sharak, Executive Vice President, Marketing and Distribution, Cruise Lines International Association will review trends in their respective industry segments, while Charlie LeBlanc, President, ASI Group, will address global security risks.

“Today we live in an environment where an incident in one locale can have significant repercussions worldwide. This conference will seek to examine the major issues and challenges affecting the travel industry, and the impact that they have from a travel insurance perspective,” says Brad Finkle, UStiA President.

Other topics to be explored through panel discussions and breakout sessions with UStiA members and guest panelists include:

- “UStiA—A Travel Industry Perspective,” with panelists including Sanjay Surana, Ombudsman Editor, *Condé-Nast Traveler*; John H. Lovell, Vice President of Industry Relations, Vacation.com Inc.; and Brian Robb, Senior Vice President, The Mark Travel Group.
- Global Products & Distribution, featuring travel insurance representatives from Mondial Assistance Thailand; ELVIA Switzerland; and Avalon Actuarial.
- Going Green—What Does It Mean?

Lastly, a breakout session examining “Harrowing Air Ambulance Rescues” will provide firsthand accounts of the challenges faced by a panel of key air ambulance specialists.

To learn more about the conference, and to register, visit the US Travel Insurance Association’s website at <http://www.ustia.org/membership/conferences.htm>.

## About UStiA

UStiA promotes fairness, integrity and a commitment to excellence in the travel insurance industry. With a mission to educate the public on travel insurance while maintaining high industry standards, the UStiA is a non-profit association of insurance carriers and allied businesses involved in the development, administration and marketing of travel insurance and assistance. Today UStiA member companies provide travel insurance policies to more than 67 million people. For more information on UStiA visit [www.ustia.com](http://www.ustia.com) or [www.ustia.org](http://www.ustia.org).