

The logo for El Paseo Bank features the words "EL PASEO BANK" in a serif font, centered between two horizontal gold-colored bars with a stepped, architectural appearance.

EL PASEO BANK

El Paseo Bank

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sheila Kiner
760-862-0099 - skiner@elpaseobank.com

Local Business Leaders Travel to 7th annual World Investment Conference in France as “Entrepreneurial Ambassadors” for the Coachella Valley.

(Palm Desert—May 28, 2009)

A diverse group of local business leaders are attending the 7th annual World Investment Conference in LaBaule, France from June 3-5 as entrepreneurial ambassadors for the Coachella Valley. The group includes; Andy Montgomery, Jim Ferguson, Mitch Blumberg, and Dick Shalhoub. The four will participate as key speakers, equity investors, panel discussion members, and expert jury members reviewing two dozen presentations by entrepreneurs in the technology and energy sectors seeking funding and or distribution. Additionally, Shellie Karabell, host of TV’s Desert Cities Business Report will be the moderator for the main sessions of the overall conference dinner debate.

The goal of the group is to generate interest in the Coachella Valley as a unique and attractive location for businesses by educating those attending on what the Valley offers in lifestyle and business opportunities. “The Coachella Valley has a special story to tell as a unique environment for both new businesses and existing ones considering expansion,” explains Montgomery, Chairman and CEO of El Paseo Bank. “We hope to attract several companies into considering locating in the Coachella Valley. That would ultimately result in job creation stimulating the local economy.”

As part of the “Economic Development in Cities: Concrete Projects to Create New Sources of Growth” portion of the conference, Montgomery will be speaking on the panel, “Global Cities: Can Second or Midsized Cities be Tomorrow’s Leaders?” In addition, Montgomery will be a joint Guest of Honor along with His Excellency the Ambassador of Bahrain Dr. Naser Al Belooshi at The KitSon Dinner Debate, “Are There Any Bankers Out there?”

Jim Ferguson, Palm Desert City Councilman, and author of California Assembly Bill 811 will speak on the Transatlantic Green Platform explaining, Palm Desert’s “Set to Save” Energy Program. He will also participate on the U.S. team against European business

leaders in the Debate: “Can the Transatlantic Business Dialogue Contribute to Make the Copenhagen Conference Successful?”

Local businessmen, Mitch Blumberg, Co-Founder and President of IAudioCampus.com and Dick Shalhoub, McDonald’s franchisee owner are part of an expert panel of judges appraising two dozen entrepreneurial technology and energy presentations. They will present the top awards in the closing ceremony.

This conference presents a unique opportunity to promote the Coachella Valley to an international group of businesspeople looking at the United States for opportunities. This team of local leaders will send a strong message about the Coachella Valley as a group of communities where green programs for both businesses and residents are at the forefront of economic stimulus. And how both government and private enterprise can work together to build a successful model to support their community.

74175 El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92260 • Phone 760.862.0099 Fax 760.862.1866