GLOBAL GUIDE 1º

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

The international business source book

Need information on international business? Whatever it is, the GLOBAL GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS tells you where to find it:

- Names and addresses of organizations and publications
- Hard-to-find documents and films
- Special services
- Names and phone numbers

David Hoopes

Global Guide to International Business

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Global Guide to International Business

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My advisory board took the job willingly and served as a very valuable and effective sounding board, providing guidance in a field that was not then as familiar as it is now. Robert Moran and John Fayerweather were particularly helpful in identifying resources.

Special thanks goes to Lorna Wheeler, librarian at the American Graduate School of International Management for helping sort through and identify the best published resources on the major areas of international business operations. Special thanks also to my editors at Facts On File for their patience in a longer-than-expected process—and my secretary-typist, Janet Field, who was dauntless in the face of complicated assignments and what a former secretary once dubbed "Hooperglyphics."

Most important was the help of my wife and assistant editor, Kathleen Hoopes. Without her support, endless work, intelligent critiques and perceptive advice there would have been no GLOBAL GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS.

INTRODUCTION

It is the intent of this volume to serve as a first stop reference point for persons with any question about the practical aspects of any phase of international business operations. Consistently used, it can short-circuit the frequently long and too often frustrating process of obtaining the exact information needed. Think of the GLOBAL GUIDE as a good reference librarian sitting on the shelf beside your desk—a resource you can turn to with any question, no matter how vague or seemingly simple-minded, and be quickly and efficiently put on the track to getting the answer.

The book should be of value to those just beginning to enter the international business arena and to those already well established. Even for the corporate library that already has a large percentage of the materials described herein, the GLOBAL GUIDE can save time by helping to locate the precise sourcebook, database or organization where the sought after information can be found. Researchers, government officials, business service organizations and others who study or deal with international businesses will also find the book indispensable for many purposes.

The GLOBAL GUIDE is not intended to be exhaustive. It would take a publication several times larger to accomplish that. It is intended to be comprehensive, however—in the sense that it covers all aspects of international business operations and opens the door to finding virtually any kind of information needed by those engaged in such operations. If it saves the busy executive or his/her staff only a few phone calls, letters or fruitless searches through directories, printouts or indexes, then it will have paid amply for itself.

The GLOBAL GUIDE was put together over a period of several years. The search for resources was dogged—though undoubtedly some which should be included did not surface in the process. Careful decisions were made about the criteria for inclusion or exclusion. In general these criteria involved accessibility and the degree to which the sources were dependable, international in scope and of practical value.

Important too were the procedures by which the data was gathered and verified.

In the case of organizations several steps were involved. First, as much information as possible was obtained about the organization, office or agency. From that a written description was prepared. This description was then sent back to the organization with a request that it be checked for accuracy. We wanted our information to be as exact as possible in identifying resources and services offered. This was done even in the case of certain categories of organizations—the commercial offices of foreign embassies, for instance—all of which one might assume provide the same kind of information (and which was not the case). Finally, just before publication, organizations were asked once again to check addresses, phone numbers and the names of contacts in order to pick up recent changes.

A warning, however. You will encounter additional changes. Americans and the organizations in which they are involved move with relentless frequency. Also remember that there are often several people in an office who can answer your question as well as and sometimes better than the listed contact—though we have tried always to include the most knowledgeable person.

In the case of publications, as much information as possible was obtained about them, including sample copies where feasible. Also, recommendations of basic books on the various phases of international business operations were solicited from an editor and a librarian both of whom are familiar with the literature in the field and sensitive to the practical needs of the business executive.

Another word of caution. There may be organizations missing from the book which seem

to belong in it. This is particularly true of embassies and chambers of commerce. One of the criteria we used for inclusion, however, was responsiveness. If we could obtain no response after repeated inquiries, we made the assumption that others would have a similar experience. In doing so we adhered to one of our basic editorial principles: that when a person consults a resource listed in the GLOBAL GUIDE they will obtain a response which makes accessible precisely the information, services and/or resources that are described in it.

That principle is important. The GLOBAL GUIDE is a *sourcebook* not, at least in the conventional sense, a directory. This means that it does not attempt to list every organization or publication in its chosen domain. It is designed instead to enable the user to identify the resources needed in *every area of his or her concern*.

In the case of publications, addresses of publishers and distributors are provided for ease of ordering. Price changes are inevitable, so that prices should be checked. In listings of periodicals the number of pages is stated without the use of "approximately" before it, though in most cases it is in fact an approximate number. Further, we have not listed the major American business periodicals (Business Week, Fortune, Forbes, the Wall Street Journal) because it is impossible to conceive of Americans (to whom this volume is principally addressed) being unfamiliar with them or with the fact that they give significant attention to international business affairs.

We have tried to avoid listing organizations the major purpose of which appears to be to grind some political axe or which give evidence of being fly-by-night.

The inclusion of language learning and travel resources has been quite selective. Those that appear are intended to provide the hurried executive with the ability to identify and/or acquire quickly materials for those countries to which they are most likely to travel or for those languages with which they are most likely to need some familiarity. More extensive coverage in these areas is provided in the GLOBAL GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION and the GLOBAL GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.

The resource listings for foreign languages has been divided. Those for languages which are the principal language for only one country are listed within the section devoted to that country. Those for languages which are the principal language of two or more countries are listed in a general chapter entitled "International Languages."

Every effort has been made to provide for ease and simplicity of use. The table of contents is divided according to major international business functions, principal world areas or regions, and individual countries. Entries within each section are grouped, for the most part, under "organizations" and "publications."

There are three indexes, one listing all organizations described in the book, one listing all publications identified (databases and on-line computer services are listed under publications) and a subject index. The subject index is the most important. When you start with a specific question—"where can I get such-and-such information" or "how can I solve such-and-such problem"—it is to the subject index that you should turn. A great deal of information only broadly accessible through the table of contents can be pinpointed through the subject index.

Some organizations which constitute major resources and/or fit several different major categories have been included in two or more places. Don't be surprised to encounter them thus.

Here in summary are the basic guidelines for using the GLOBAL GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS: when you are interested in a general subject, area or country, consult the table of contents. When you have the name of an organization or publication you want to pursue, use the Index of Organizations or Index of Publications. When you have a question to which you need the answer turn to the Topical Index.

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GENERAL INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

INFORMATION FOR MANAGERS

1

General Information Sources

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