



BIOGRAPHY



Ireas Cook
Regional Commercial Counselor for Central America

Ireas Cook is a career Foreign Commercial Service Officer with the U.S. Department of Commerce. She began her current assignment in August 2011 as Commercial Counselor for Central America. Mrs. Cook, based in El Salvador, leads her team to advance U.S. commercial interests in six countries of the region which includes El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Belize.

Ireas speaks multiple languages and is intimately familiar with international business. She previously served diplomatic assignments in China, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, and South Africa. While in China, Ireas was instrumental in promoting U.S. commercial interests in the South China region which represents 40% of China's total imports and exports. In Saudi Arabia, Ireas was recognized for her cross cultural ability to promote U.S. export in a demanding environment. In Taiwan, she managed a team that focused on many challenging issues, including U.S.-Taiwan pharmaceutical negotiations, intellectual property rights protection, technology standards, U.S. education promotion, and environmental technology trade promotion. In South Africa, Mrs. Cook oversaw post administration and led in many international market development activities. Ireas received numerous awards for her contributions in advancing U.S business interests.

Prior to joining the U.S. Commercial Service, Ireas Cook worked many years for the Transamerica Group to develop overseas markets on behalf of the Company. Ireas is married and has three children.