

TRAVEL with Bates

By Sandi Bate



Discover a new world South America, some of the most fascinating destinations on earth. Explore places where nature is still largely untouched by modern development, where pristine beaches, spectacular cascades, majestic glaciers, towering volcanoes, and tropical rain forest act as back drops to colonial missions, baroque churches, Indian Market, Alpine Villages, and sparkling cities. Explore a continent of breath-taking diversity. From the snow capped volcanoes to the elegant avenues of Buenos.

Visit the Paris of South America Buenos Aires. A city of contradictions: Large yet manageable, modern but nostalgic, elegant and earthy. A city that boast of the grandest avenue in the world (a whole city block wide), countless parks, 19th century palaces, open air markets, tango cafes, and the finest steak and babecus houses in the world. By day or night, a vibrant, energetic city where visitors feel at home.

Enjoy the Galapagos Islands. Have you ever wondered what the garden of Eden looked like before Adam and Eve? 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador a group of volcanic islands emerged over a period of 1 million years during which life evolved untouched by man. Uncharted and far from the major maritime routes, the islands remained largely uninhabited, except for occasional visits by pirates and whalers. In 1835 Charles Darwin's historical voyage of exploration on the beagle, brought news to the world of the fantastic, natural biological laboratory at work in these islands. The Galapagos are now a national park accessible by a variety of yachts and ships and unique hotel 1 day cruise tour each island is unique the 17 isles and 47 reefs of the Galapagos are spread over 17,000 square feet of ocean.

The Headwater of the Mighty Amazon are in Peru, more than 4,000 miles from its mouth. Here is your opportunity to experience the jungle first hand, walking on shady paths, visiting native Indians, cruising on the river, and fishing.

Cuzco at almost 11,500 feet is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the Americas and was the center of the Inca World. Tour The Chilean Wine Country around Santiago.

Silver and the quest for it, once made Bolivia one of the most important countries in the world. Fly to sucre, Bolivia's constitutional capital, to begin your overland trip to postosi, once the richest city in the world. Tour this amazing city, the goal of Francisco Pizarro more than 400 years ago. Visit Casa De La Moneda where the Spanish kings minted the coins that fueled Spains rise to power.

BUSINESS

SAIKI CALLS FOR INCREASED SUPPORT FOR THE MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Financial investments in American businesses backed by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in FY 1992 amounted to nearly \$8.3 billion and could create at least 390,000 new jobs over the next four years, SBA Administrator Patricia Saiki said recently.

More than 33,500 businesses were able to get credit and other financial assistance through SBA in FY 1992, almost 94 percent of it leveraged from the private sector through SBA loan guarantees, surety bond guarantees and investments from SBA-backed venture capital companies.

"SBA is small business' best friend; it's their ladder of opportunity," Saiki said. "When America's entrepreneurs need help in securing credit to finance growth, job creation, international trade ventures and new product ideas, they know they can get a 'jump start' from SBA. And these new jobs will mean added tax revenues for federal, state and local governments.

"America especially needs to take advantage of the vitality and entrepreneurial spirit of women and minorities," Saiki said. "These budding and would-

be small business owners can produce much of the growth for our economic future."

Saiki said SBA has a current commercial loan portfolio of more than 163,400 direct and guaranteed loans worth more than \$22.5 billion, making SBA the nation's largest single financial backer of small businesses. Citibank, with \$11.8 billion, has the next largest portfolio of commercial and industrial loans, followed by Wells Fargo Bank at \$9.13 billion and Chase Manhattan at \$9.02 billion, according to the American Bankers Association.

The job creation calculations are based on estimates of the jobs to be created over the next few years by financing delivered by SBA during FY 1992. But

SBA's loan programs also played an important role in preserving existing jobs.

For example, SBA's disaster loan program extended loans amounting to \$445.3 million to 7,861 businesses suffering damage as a result of natural and man-made disasters during the year. Those businesses employed approximately 79,600 people. SBA disaster team approved 4,053 disaster loans worth \$242.8 million to businesses damaged in the Los Angeles riots and in hurricanes in Florida, Louisiana and Hawaii during FY 1992.

Also, SBA's New England Lending and Recovery Project teamed SBA with federal banking regulators to preserve exist-

ing credits to businesses whose loans were in danger of being cancelled as a result of bank failures. Roughly 4,450 jobs in New England were saved through the program during FY 1992.

During the year, SBA:

- Made 22,459 loans and loan guarantees under the 7 (a) General Business Loan program. Loan guarantees of \$5.62 billion and direct loans of \$50 million amounted to an increase of nearly 35 percent over FY 1991. SBA estimates that these loans will finance the creation of almost 260,300 jobs over the next four years.

- Made \$655.3 million in loans under 502/204 Certified Development Company program to more than 2,000 businesses, which used the funds for capital expenditures such as land, building construction and machinery and equipment. Based on commitments by borrowers, SBA estimates that these loans will create more than 55,723 jobs through the end of FY 1993.

- Provided surety bond guarantees to 7,262 contractors with construction contracts valued at more than \$1 billion. SBA estimates that 46,916 construction, supplier and service industry jobs will be created over the life of these contracts.

- Helped finance 1,805 investments amounting to \$480.8 million in small businesses by SBA-licensed Small Business Investment Companies. SBA estimates that these investments will create 28,282 new jobs over the next few years.

"These and other programs — such as our special assistance for exporters, our management, training and federal procurement assistance, and specialized outreach to women, minorities and veterans — confirm every day the SBA's role as the most flexible, responsible and innovative economic development agency in the federal government," Saiki said.

"We are doing this the old fashioned way — helping one small business at a time," Saiki said, "and our programs are having a profound impact on local economies and the lives of individual citizens across the nation."

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Mr. Roosevelt Dean, Financial Aid Administrator (left), was recently named "Employee of the Year" by American Computer Institute, Inc. ACI is located in Alaska, Arizona and Nevada. Mr. Dean was selected for this title over nominees from all of the above locations. He has maintained his current position with the Las Vegas branch for over 3 years. He assists students in assessing their monetary needs and enforces all federal and state regulations that govern Student Financial Aid. ACI's President/Owner, Ed Neal (right), made the announcement regarding Mr. Dean's selection in early November.

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