On behalf of the Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA) of the United States, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the International Labour and Employment Relations Association (ILERA) 16th World Congress being held in Philadelphia, PA (USA) during July 2-5, 2012. This Congress promises to be stimulating, informative and relevant to scholars, practitioners, policy makers and others interested in employment relations issues of global concern.

Among these issues are macro-level (national government) and micro-level (labor and management) responses to the Global Financial Crisis; changing labor standards in the offshore operations of multinational companies; new initiatives regarding employee voice and representation in non-union firms; and country variation in the external settlement of employment relationship disputes through litigation and related arrangements.

I’m sure that you’ll enjoy and learn much from the ILERA World Congress. The fact that the World Congress is being held in Philadelphia, the cradle of liberty in the USA, is a symbolic and substantive bonus.

In 1966, the American association (then called the Industrial Relations Research Association) was one of the founding members of ILERA (then called IIRA -- the International Industrial Relations Association). It is a great pleasure to welcome the members of ILERA to the United States. I look forward to seeing you at the World Congress in Philadelphia in early July. All the very best.

David Lewin
President, Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA)