



## NETWORKING

By Gordon Wong

# Philadelphia's gateway

**M**aking connections from all over the world in Philadelphia Part One:

Philadelphia is a cosmopolitan city with residents and visitors from many different countries. Some may be studying at one of our many colleges and universities, while others come for business reasons. Visitors come to Philadelphia to make the world a smaller place by strengthening diplomatic relations. If you are interested in meeting people from various cultures to represent Philadelphia and the United States, or just to learn, the International Visitor's Council is one of the best ways to do so. In addition to programming, they sponsor regular monthly events that let you network in a leisurely setting with visitors from other constantly changing countries, as well as leaders from our local community. Opportunities are available to host foreign visitors for dinners and overnight stays at your residence so that they might fully see how our citizens live.

**Organization Name:**

International Visitors Council of Philadelphia (IVC)

**History/Mission:** IVC of Philadelphia is a private, nonprofit organization that works in partnership with the State Department and the City of Philadelphia to promote democracy and free markets, and to strengthen Philadelphia's international network. IVC is the "door" to the greater Philadelphia community. In recent years, IVC has hosted parliamentarians from five continents, mayors from more than 90 cities around the globe, heads of businesses, universities, hospitals and government agencies from 140 countries. They are a volunteer-based "citizen diplomacy" organization whose network of volunteers was nominated for the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize.

**Membership:** Individual and family memberships range from \$50 to \$250; Professional memberships range from \$150 to \$1000.

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