

William Brekke
Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs
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William Brekke, is the Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Before taking up his current position, he served as the Commercial Counselor in Beijing and was responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the U.S. Department of Commerce's largest overseas operation. He was awarded the Department's Bronze Medal for his revitalization of the Service's trade promotion and marketing programs throughout China.

Prior to arriving in Beijing, Mr. Brekke was the Commercial Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in London (1999 – 2004) as well as head of the Embassy's Emerging Technologies team, responsible for forging links between the U.S. and U.K. biotechnology and ICT industries.

Previously, Mr. Brekke spent 18 years in the Orient. From 1995-1999, he was assigned as Senior Commercial Officer to Taiwan where during his tour the Commercial Section recorded over \$16 billion in export sales. Mr. Brekke's efforts in opening the Taiwan telecommunications market to over \$1 billion of U.S. investment were singled out by the Secretary of State as a model of successful trade diplomacy.

Prior to assuming his position in Taiwan, Mr. Brekke was Deputy Senior Commercial Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong. There he was instrumental in developing U.S. Government and private sector support for financing infrastructure projects in China and Southeast Asia. Mr. Brekke served in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing from 1987 to 1991. Earlier, while stationed in Singapore, he was the Regional Director for the USDOC's Asian marketing program.

Mr. Brekke is a 30 year veteran with the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce. He is a Commissioned Foreign Service Officer with the personal rank of Minister-Counselor.

Mr. Brekke holds a BA from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota and an international MBA from the University of South Carolina. Mr. Brekke worked for a private firm in Germany prior to joining the USDOC.