



Dr. Lais Forti Thomaz Joins Advanced Biofuels USA Board of Directors Bringing International Perspective to the Organization's Leadership.

For more information: Joanne Ivancic, Executive Director 301-644-1395 (cell: 301-524-6841)

For Immediate Release August 14, 2017—Frederick, MD Dr. Lais Forti Thomaz, a researcher at Sao Paulo State University (Unesp) specializing in International Relations and Foreign Trade, is joining the Advanced Biofuels USA board of directors. Advanced Biofuels USA, an educational nonprofit dedicated to the understanding, development and use of advanced biofuels, welcomes Thomaz, a long-time correspondent for the organization, contributing [articles](#) about biofuels conferences in her native Brazil, as well as thought-pieces about, for example, analyzing the multiple causes of the 2007 Mexican tortilla crisis, dispelling allegations of that event as an example of a food vs. fuel conflict.



"I am so happy to welcome Lais Thomaz to the Advanced Biofuels USA board. Her addition to this organization enables us to benefit from her international activities and perspective," noted executive director, Joanne Ivancic. "Although the name of the organization has "USA" in it, our online visitors and volunteers come from around the world. Broadening our board membership beyond US borders recognizes that development of advanced biofuels is not limited by political borders, with important developments occurring worldwide."

Fluent in Portuguese, English and Spanish, Thomaz has also spent time in China, earning a diploma in Chinese culture and Mandarin; and attended the American University's Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute in Washington and in Brussels. She teaches and conducts research in international economy at Sao Paulo State University, Unesp, Brazil, in the National Institute of Science and Technology for Studies on the United States. She also serves as Foreign Trade Advisor.

Thomaz has engaged with Advanced Biofuels USA since 2014/2015 when she was a visiting scholar at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, working on her thesis which focused on the role of advocacy groups in shaping trade and energy policies. She brings a wealth of experiences writing weekly articles and monthly analyses on international trade and energy policies, assessing trade documents, assessing trade barriers, trends and reports, that will benefit Advanced Biofuels USA as it enters its tenth year and plans for the future.

The board elected Thomaz to fill a position vacated by Phil Matthews due to health problems.

For more information about Advanced Biofuels USA, see www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org For the online post of this

press release, see:

Photo: Dr. Lais Forti Thomaz

Advanced Biofuels USA, a nonprofit educational organization advocates for the adoption of advanced biofuels as an energy security, military flexibility, economic development and climate change mitigation/pollution control solution. Our key tool for accomplishing this is our web site, www.AdvancedBiofuelsUSA.org, a resource for everyone from opinion-leaders, decision-makers and legislators to industry professionals, investors, feedstock growers and researchers; as well as journalists, teachers and students.

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