

**Michael Riedel**  
**Director of the U.S. Embassy's Office of Agricultural Affairs**

Michael Riedel joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in 1999, and was accepted into their Foreign Service in 2002. Michael has served in New Delhi (2002-06), Baghdad (2006-07), Ho Chi Minh City (2008-11), and began his tour as the Director of the U.S. Embassy's Office of Agricultural Affairs in 2012.

In this role, he assists the FAS ([www.fas.usda.gov/about-fas](http://www.fas.usda.gov/about-fas)) to link U.S. agriculture to the world in order to enhance export opportunities for U.S. agricultural products as well as global food security. In 2013, the United States exported almost \$30 billion worth of U.S. agricultural and related products to China. In addition to its Washington, D.C. staff, FAS has a global network of 96 offices covering 167 countries. These offices are staffed by Agricultural Attachés and locally hired agricultural experts who are the eyes, ears, and voice for U.S. agriculture around the world. FAS staff identify problems, provide practical solutions, and work to advance opportunities for U.S. agriculture and support U.S. foreign policy around the globe.

Michael speaks fluent German, some French, a little Vietnamese, and not nearly enough Mandarin. He received his B.A. in International & Comparative Politics from Western Michigan University and his M.A. in International Affairs (specializing in international trade and China) from The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. During his graduate studies, he worked full-time as an international trade analyst in a Washington D.C. law firm. Michael is married with one daughter and comes home to Maine as often as he can.