



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
APEC



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The U.S. Private Sector Applauds APEC's Work on Trade Facilitation as WTO TFA Pact Stalls

Washington, DC – The U.S. private sector applauds APEC's efforts to forge ahead on initiatives to accelerate trade and economic growth through the APEC Alliance for Supply Chain Connectivity (A2C2), amidst challenges surrounding the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

In 2010, APEC Leaders committed to achieve a 10 percent improvement by 2015 in the performance of the regional supply chain, as measured by reductions in cost, time, and uncertainty. In 2014, APEC established the A2C2 to leverage outside expertise in helping developing economies improve supply chain performance through targeted, focused capacity building and technical assistance.

"The A2C2 is a strong example of the kind of substantive work APEC is doing to improve supply chain performance and help economies implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement," noted National Center for APEC President (NCAPEC), Monica Hardy Whaley.

The group recently held its inaugural meeting in Beijing, China on August 15, 2014, where participants agreed to help APEC economies achieve trade and supply chain goals such as: identifying readily available, low cost tools and methodologies; identifying available experts to deliver country-specific assistance; and identifying practical ways for APEC economies to address chokepoints in supply chains in the region. The A2C2, to which NCAPEC is co-convenor, will continue to coordinate with other groups within APEC to further facilitate trade in the region. Such groups will include the APEC Sub Committee on Customs Procedures Customs Virtual Working Group, to which USCIB is the private sector co-chair.

"U.S. companies and associations trading in the Asia-Pacific have valuable experience moving goods and services seamlessly, quickly, and inexpensively through the region. The A2C2 is an excellent opportunity for the U.S. private sector to lend its expertise to APEC's supply chain initiative on an ongoing and substantive basis," said Peter Robinson, President and CEO, United States Council for International Business.

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About the National Center for APEC

Established in Seattle, Washington in 1994, the National Center for APEC (NCAPEC) is the only U.S. business association focused exclusively on facilitating private sector engagement in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) organization. Led by a board of more than 50 major U.S. companies with a strong interest in the growth and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific, NCAPEC works to advance U.S. private sector policy priorities in APEC's discussions on trade and economic issues. NCAPEC also serves as the Secretariat to the U.S. members of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), the official mechanism for private sector input in APEC.

For more information on NCAPEC, visit www.ncapec.org

About United States Council for International Business

Founded in 1945, USCIB promotes an open world trading system, now among the premier pro-trade, pro-market liberalization organizations. It has an active membership comprised of over 300 multinational companies, law firms and business associations. It provides unparalleled access to international policy makers and regulatory authorities, with over 50 specialized committees and working groups. USCIB is also the U.S. affiliate of the International Chamber of Commerce, the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD and the International Organization of Employers. The organization provides numerous business services to facilitate international trade issuing and guaranteeing ATA Carnets, which allow temporary, duty-free imports overseas for trade shows, commercial samples and professional equipment and serves as the exclusive U.S. representative for ICC's multifaceted dispute resolution services.

For more information on USCIB, visit <http://www.uscib.org/>.