



## **Private Sector Welcomes United States Hosting APEC in 2011**

The U.S. National Center for APEC (NCAPEC) enthusiastically welcomed President Bush's announcement that the United States will host APEC in 2011.

Nick Reilly, Chairman of the U.S. National Center for APEC and President of General Motors Asia Pacific stressed that NCAPEC plans to work closely with the U.S. Government on a range of activities that will take place under APEC's auspices in 2011. "The U.S. business community has found APEC to be a very effective forum for advancing business issues in the Asia-Pacific region. We are confident that hosting APEC in 2011 will create opportunities to continue to liberalize and facilitate trade in this dynamic region," said Reilly. "The economic and strategic relationships with the economies of APEC are among our most important. APEC is the framework for strengthening these relationships by creating stability and ensuring continued growth in this vitally important part of the world," he added.

"When the U.S. last hosted APEC in 1993, the private sector became an integral part of the APEC process. For the first time there was significant private sector participation within APEC, both in hosting the meetings and in developing the substantive work program," said Monica Whaley, Executive Director of the National Center. "Hosting in 2011 creates a special opportunity for the US private sector to demonstrate its continued commitment to APEC and to on-going business engagement in all of APEC's activities."

"Partnership with the US private sector is going to be absolutely critical to the success of the US APEC hosting in 2011," said Ambassador Patricia Haslach, U.S. Senior Official for APEC. "I welcome the National Center's work over the years in supporting the APEC process, and I look forward to working with my private sector colleagues in laying the groundwork for a successful U.S. APEC."

A number of Ministerial meetings, the APEC Leaders Meeting and numerous other major related business events are expected to take place in a number of U.S. cities over the course of 2011.

The U.S. National Center for APEC is a U.S. private, non-profit organization, supported by member companies represented by a Board of Governors from some of America's leading

companies. It is the nation's only business organization focused exclusively on APEC, home to approximately 60% of world GDP and more than half of global trade. The National Center's mission is to facilitate business participation in APEC by supporting the efforts of the private sector in the region.