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## NCAPEC ABAC I 2011 Report



Dear Robert Fiddick,

We hope that you find this ABAC I 2011 post meeting report useful and informative. This year, ABAC meetings have been scheduled to take place immediately prior to the Senior Officials' meetings to maximize ABAC's ability to contribute to the SOMs. Specifically, it enables the ABAC to prepare for the many public-private sector dialogues that take place.

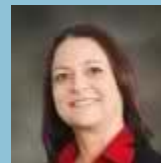
This report incorporates outcomes from both the ABAC meeting as well as the industry specific public-private dialogues that were held during SOM I in Washington, DC. As always we welcome your thoughts and comments.

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### US ABAC Members



**Ms. Deborah Henretta**  
ABAC 2011 Chair  
Group President - Asia  
The Procter & Gamble  
Company



**Mr. Peter L. Scher**  
Executive Vice President  
Global Government Relations  
& Public Policy  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.



**Mr. Richard Lavin**  
Group President  
Caterpillar Inc.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the ABAC USA Delegation

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### ABAC I Overview



held in Guangzhou, China from February 14-17, 2011.

This was the first meeting under the Chairmanship of ABAC USA Member Deb Henretta, of Procter & Gamble. ABAC USA Member Rich Lavin, of Caterpillar, and Alternate Member Kevin Thieneman, of Caterpillar also participated in the meeting. Alex Parle, Lynn Turk, Rob Fiddick, and John Johnson attended on behalf of the National Center and the APEC 2011 USA Host Committee.

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### ABAC 2011 Themes and Priorities

For 2011, ABAC has created four working groups that reflect the Council's priority areas: Regional Economic Integration; Small, Medium, and Micro Sized Enterprises and Entrepreneurship; Sustainable Growth; and Finance and Economics. ABAC also created a group to specifically focus on outreach and advocacy. At ABAC I the Council succeeded in finalizing the overall 2011 work plan, including identifying key outcomes from each ABAC working group, identifying owners for each issue, as well as developing advocacy strategies for each key issue.

The Regional Economic Integration Working Group will work towards the ultimate goal of establishing a Free Trade Area in Asia Pacific (FTAAP). Focus will be given to supporting APEC's trade & investment agenda, identifying and defining building blocks for 21st century trade agreements such as the Trans Pacific Partnership, and making recommendations on regulatory convergence as well as value chain and supply chain choke points

The Small, Medium & Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and Entrepreneurship Working Group will work to create an

ABAC I February 14 -17 Guangzhou, China

ABAC II April 27-29 Seoul, Korea

ABAC III August 22-24 Lima, Peru

ABAC IV November 7-9 Hawaii USA

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### ABAC News

[NCAPEC and APEC 2011 USA Host Committee Express Condolences to Victims of the Earthquake in Japan](#)  
March 15, 2011

[US Seeks Concrete Progress On Regional Integration As APEC Host](#)  
March 9, 2011

[Press Release - ABAC Seeks to Boost Commerce in the Asia-Pacific](#)  
February 18, 2011

[ABAC Calls on APEC to Speed up Trade Liberalization](#)  
February 17, 2011

[APEC Business Elites Call for Focus on Fundamentals](#)  
February 16, 2011

### ABAC Reports

[ABAC 2010 Report to APEC Leaders](#)

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environment that facilitates creation, growth and sustainability of SMMEs, as well as work towards economic inclusion particularly among women.

The Sustainable Growth Working Group will work towards achieving food, energy, and water security, as well as promote wider use of Environmental Goods and Services (EGS)

The Finance & Economics Working Group will support regulatory financial convergence and financial inclusion, and the Action Planning & Advocacy working group will liaise with APEC and supporting organizations/Ministerials to galvanize the ABAC working group recommendations.

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## ABAC Dialogue with Senior APEC Officials

On February 15, ABAC Members met with APEC Senior Officials for their annual face-to-face dialogue. The event afforded Senior Officials an opportunity to provide input on ABAC's initiatives for 2011. U.S. Senior Official for APEC Kurt Tong and Wendy Cutler, Assistant USTR for Japan, Korea and APEC Affairs both participated and briefed ABAC members on the US government APEC priorities for 2011.



*Ms. Wendy Cutler, Assistant USTR for Japan, Korea and APEC Affairs attended the dialogue along with Mr. Kurt Tong, U.S. Senior Official for APEC*

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*ABAC USA Member Richard Lavin is seen here briefing the Council with an update on the TPP negotiations.*



*ABAC USA Alternate Member Kevin Thieneman briefed the Council on regulatory coherence as well as coherence on emissions regulations in APEC*



*NCAPEC Senior Advisor Lynn Turk briefed the Council on updates to the 2008 Strategic Framework for Energy Security in APEC*

## U.S. Private Sector Industry Issues

These issues will be discussed in more detail during ABAC II in Seoul this April.

**Intellectual Property Rights** - NCAPEC collaborated with the US Chamber of Commerce to organize the second annual Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (IPEG) Dialogue with the Private Sector on March 3. The event provided an opportunity for the private sector to update government IP experts on the latest developments in online counterfeiting and piracy. In a second panel, private sector representatives provided recommendations on policies that facilitate the development of cutting edge technologies in pharmaceutical, ag-biotech, and green technology industries.

**Energy Security** - Building on progress from 2010, ABAC will work towards a long term goal of developing a plan for enhancing energy security in APEC that could lead into an "APEC Energy Declaration." This would include suitable energy strategies and the political measures to promote those strategies. ABAC USA briefed the Council on the update to the 2008 Energy Security Framework being authored by the East-West Center.

In addition to the framework, on an ongoing basis, the ABAC's Sustainable Growth Working Group

will use the following objectives to guide its work on energy security:

- Recommend policies and initiatives to facilitate greater investment in renewable energy and the deployment of low carbon energy sources in the region
- Recommend collaboration on standard setting for energy efficiency of which smart grid as one of the enabler, and low carbon technologies and equipment

**Investment** - ABAC agreed to continue to place a priority on investment as an ongoing initiative within the REIWG Action Plan. As part of ABAC's work, a Public-Private Dialogue on Investment was held on 4 March under the theme of "Investing for Growth." The program covered general investment environment issues and featured panels focused on considerations specific to infrastructure investment and investor-state dispute. In the subsequent Investment Experts Group meeting, APEC members agreed to review and respond to ABAC's proposed updates to the 1994 Non-binding Investment Principles.

**Trade facilitation** - ABAC agreed to continue to advocate for the establishment of an APEC wide AEO scheme, which offers clear benefits to AEO-certified private sector entities. The objective of the effort is to encourage APEC economies to take a holistic and standardized approach to avoid a noodle bowl and redundancies with other Security programs.

**Financial Services** - For 2011, ABAC will focus on four priorities: promoting policy cooperation and convergence, enhancing capacity building, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of regional financial systems, as well as promoting inclusiveness and sustainable growth. At ABAC I the Council drafted a letter to the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) supporting the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) but highlighting potential negative impacts on SMME financing.

**Food Security** - ABAC will research major roadblocks in the food supply chain to the market. ABAC agreed to use the high-level food security meeting in Big Sky, Montana as the platform to convene a dialogue with APEC.

**Competition Policy** - ABAC held the second Competition Policy and Law Group Dialogue with the Private Sector on March 7. Five private sector representatives shared perspectives on the importance of procedural fairness in the implementation of competition policy laws. Many of the key private sector themes are included in the International Chamber of Commerce's Recommended Framework for International Best Practices in Competition Law Enforcement Proceeding.

**Anti-Corruption** - In response to ABAC's recommendations related to promoting the implementation of commitments on anti-corruption efforts, APEC's Anti-Corruption and Transparency (ACT) Task Force took the first step towards establishing a formal reporting mechanism by agreeing to develop a reporting template. An initial draft of the template was circulated to ACT members in D.C. and will be developed intersessionally. ABAC will also assist in the organization of a small dialogue on the margins of the next ACT meeting in San Francisco that will focus on the importance of anti-corruption efforts to the business community.

*If you would like additional details on any of the industry issues, please contact the National Center.*

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## Next Meeting: ABAC II - Seoul, South Korea, April 27 - 29, 2011



ABAC will look to build on the momentum generated in the first meeting when it convenes in Seoul this April. ABAC's key deliverables for ABAC II will include reporting on progress against key outcomes from the first meeting, finalizing a letter to trade ministers, finalizing a letter to SME ministers, and assessing its advocacy strategies with APEC.

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## About the National Center for APEC

The U.S. National Center for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (NCAPEC) is the only U.S. business association focused exclusively on facilitating American private sector input to the APEC process. NCAPEC serves as the official coordinator of business activities for the 2011 APEC Meetings. National Center membership is limited to U.S. corporations. The National Center also functions as a conduit for U.S. businesses into APEC by serving as the Secretariat for the three U.S. executives who are appointed members of the APEC Business Advisory Council.

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## About the APEC Business Advisory Council

ABAC was established in 1996. It is comprised of up to three businesspersons from each APEC member economy who are appointed to serve on the Council by the Leaders of their respective economies. ABAC Members represent a range of business sectors, including small and medium enterprises. The council meets on a quarterly basis to assess the regional business climate and develop specific input to APEC officials at the ministerial and working group levels on how "doing business" can be made easier. The Council also meets face-to-face with APEC Leaders during the annual APEC summit to discuss issues of concern to the private sector. ABAC compiles these recommendations in an annual Report to Leaders which is presented to APEC Leaders prior to their annual summit in the fall of each year.

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