



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. National Center for APEC Applauds Ambassador Kirk's Remarks on Strengthening Asia-Pacific Trade

SEATTLE (December 15, 2009) – The U.S. National Center for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (NCAPEC) welcomed comments by United States Trade Ambassador Ron Kirk today at an event jointly sponsored by NCAPEC and the Washington International Trade Association (WITA) which focused on the Administration's trade priorities within the Asia-Pacific community.

“We were encouraged by Ambassador Kirk's forward looking remarks regarding the strengthening of U.S. trade and exports to this vibrant and growing region,” said Monica Whaley, President of the National Center. “In addition, the Administration's official notification to Congress yesterday regarding entry into Trans Pacific Partnership negotiations further highlights the U.S. commitment to advance opportunities for U.S. companies when our economy needs it most.”

NCAPEC supports a trade agenda enhancing and strengthening U.S. trade relations in APEC. Recent commitments by the Obama Administration, combined with Ambassador Kirk's remarks are encouraging signs for the U.S. private sector. NCAPEC looks forward to working with the Administration on increasing opportunities for U.S. companies within the Asia-Pacific region.

“The Asia-Pacific region represents enormous opportunity for future economic growth and prosperity for the United States,” Whaley said. “Opening doors and strengthening trade relationships is even more critical now as the region will continue to help drive the global economic recovery.”

About the U.S. National Center for APEC

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 APEC process. When the U.S. hosts APEC in 2011, NCAPEC will serve as secretariat to the U.S. private sector host committee.

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