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## Pacific Rim and Chinese business leaders in Seattle next week for APEC meetings

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Top business leaders from around the Pacific Rim will gather in Seattle next week for two major sets of meetings to help shape the economic agenda for many countries facing the Pacific Ocean.

Business leaders from the 21 member economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group, called APEC, will meet at the Grand Hyatt in Seattle from July 7 through 10. Many will also will participate in the APEC China CEO Forum July 8 through 11 in Seattle.

Both meetings will result in recommendations for the APEC summit meeting in Beijing, China, in November. President Barack Obama and other Pacific Rim leaders are expected to attend that gathering.



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National Center for APEC photo  
Monica Whaley, president of the National Center for APEC, is heading up U.S. planning for the business leaders' meeting in Seattle next week.

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Next week's meetings will expose the Seattle area to very senior government and leaders from around the Pacific, with a focus on China. Together, the two meetings will bring about 300 leaders to Seattle.



15 photos

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"It's really important that we maintain these relationships around the Asia Pacific," said [Monica Whaley](#), president of the Seattle-based National Center for APEC. "This is the lifeblood of the community, and trade is the lifeblood of our state. Continuing to build these relationships through business meetings and events, furthers our state and region and furthers our interests."

This was the case in 1993 when global leaders, including President Bill Clinton, converged on Seattle for the APEC summit that year. Many consider this the gathering that gave Seattle an international reputation, and led to the far-less-successful World Trade Organization Ministerial meeting in Seattle in 1999.

That meeting was the focus of massive protests by groups concerned, among other things, that the WTO had too much power over environmental and labor issues.

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