

SINGAPORE UPDATE

NOVEMBER 12, 2009

SECRETARIAT FOR U.S. REPRESENTATION TO THE APEC BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (ABAC)
U.S. APEC 2011 PRIVATE SECTOR COORDINATOR

ON LOCATION:

November 11, 2009

- **Secretary Clinton addressed reporters at the Suntec Conference Center in Singapore:**

“I have stressed the Obama Administration’s commitment to substantive cooperation. That is a commitment that I have felt very strongly about and made clear on my first trip as Secretary of State to Asia earlier this year. And when President Obama arrives here later this week, he will underscore our view that APEC is an essential forum for engagement and for common action.”
Read the full address [here](#).

November 12, 2009:

- **U.S. business delegates Meet with Korean Trade Minister Kim Jong-hoon**

Minister Kim focused heavily on the importance of President Obama’s trip to Seoul next week. He emphasized that the most challenging hurdle to passage through the Korean Congress of the KORUS agreement was overcome last April when the standing committee – despite great difficulty – passed the agreement. The subsequent plenary passage should be pro forma – but the Korean legislators need to see some kind of “green light” from senior levels in the U.S. Administration indicating their commitment in order to grant plenary approval. It is anticipated that this “green light” – or some indication of U.S.’ firm intention to move ahead on KORUS – will come during President Obama’s visit to Seoul. The Minister noted that he viewed a “window of opportunity” between now and May or early June of 2010 for passage before the press of politics, primaries and elections would likely delay the vote until at least 18 months from now, rendering the original signed agreement nearly 4 years old.
- **U.S. business delegates Meet with U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Ron Kirk**

Ambassador Kirk in his meeting stressed the U.S.’ continuing commitment to promoting trade in Asia, and to APEC as a forum for pursuing equitable trading relationships with the economies of the region. He also emphasized the important role business can play in helping government make the case for trade, particularly in communicating with the small and medium business owners as well as the American public at large the advantages to be gained by trading relationships, especially in terms of jobs generated or sustained in the U.S.
- **NCAPEC 15th Anniversary Luncheon**

The National Center’s Annual Luncheon took place today, with more than 250 guests celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Center’s establishment. Undersecretary for Energy, Agriculture and Economic Affairs Robert Hormats provided the keynote remarks, and Japan’s Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, The Honorable Masayuki Naoshima, joined NCAPEC Chairman Karan Bhatia, Undersecretary Hormats, and incoming ABAC Chairman Gempachiro Aihara for a traditional “Kagami-biraki” or sake-barrel breaking ceremony to celebrate Japan’s year in the chair of APEC and ABAC for 2010. We would once again like to thank our sponsors of the luncheon event for their generous support.

ON LOCATION CONTINUED:

- **NCAPEC Sponsored Energy Workshop: *“Diversification and Future Fuels: A Response to the Energy Security Challenge in APEC”***
The National Center in conjunction with the ABAC today hosted a workshop on the subject of energy diversification as an element of a comprehensive strategic approach to energy security in APEC. The workshop was the first to follow from last year’s publication of the “Strategic Framework for Energy Security in APEC”, authored by the East-West Center and published jointly by the Center and the ABAC. This year’s workshop featured a keynote address by Mr. George Kirkland, Chevron Executive Vice President for Global Upstream, and included remarks by NCAPEC Chair Karan Bhatia and House APEC Caucus co-chair Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX). The workshop also featured two panels of international experts on traditional and alternative fuel sources. A full report of the panel and its outcomes will be available from the Center in the coming weeks.
- **THE 21st APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING Joint Statement has been released.**
“Our confidence in the medium and long-term growth prospects for the Asia-Pacific region remains unwavering.”
Read the full Statement [here](#).

WHAT’S BEING SAID AROUND THE WORLD:

November 9, 2009

- **White House Press Briefing**
“[APEC] is a very important opportunity – this is the President's first trip to Asia. This is the fastest growing economic region in the world. It supports an extraordinary amount of U.S. trade and jobs. It's also home to very critical political relationships to the United States in our efforts to combat a series of global challenges.”
View the Complete text [here](#).

November 10, 2009

- **We Must Trade or Fade.**
Senator Baucus, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, spoke to the Washington International Trade Association on the importance of trade liberalization. He urged President Obama to revitalize relationships with APEC economies and pointed out that, “The United States is poised to take a leadership role in this organization when we host APEC in 2011. We must lay the groundwork for that leadership now.”
View the complete text [here](#).

IN THE NEWS:

- **For the first time in our memory CNN has launched a dedicated APEC web site. Check out CNN’s APEC 2009 page [here](#).**
- **Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner plots a course for long term APEC growth [here](#).**
- **APEC ministers make plans to sustain recovery. Read the article [here](#).**

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