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House of Representatives introduces legislation for smoother business travel to 21 of the fastest growing economies in the world

The National Center for APEC applauds the introduction of the of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) Act in the House of Representatives. The introduction of this critical legislation is the first step in allowing U.S. businesspeople to travel more freely in the Asia Pacific region, a region that is home to four out of the top five export markets for U.S. goods and nearly half of global trade.

In a statement, the President of the National Center, Monica Whaley, said "Issuing the ABTC to American business leaders would facilitate international travel and trade for U.S. companies in one of the fastest-growing regions in the world. This would expand export opportunities and help business leaders spend more time striking deals instead of standing in lines at foreign airports."

Whaley added "The National Center thanks Representatives Kevin Brady (R-TX), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Wally Herger (R-CA), Joseph Crowley (D-NY), and Dan Lungren (R-CA) for their support of APEC in Congress and sponsorship of this legislation. It underscores the bipartisan agreement on the need to facilitate trade by removing barriers to the movement of people in the APEC region."

The ABTC card will allow qualified U.S. business travelers to use expedited immigration lanes in participating economies and will help promote cross border trade in goods and services in the future. The following APEC economies currently participate in the Travel Card program: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, and Vietnam. Russia, the U.S. and Canada are transitional members. Once signed into law, the legislation will allow U.S. travelers to join those from the 18 other APEC economies who already enjoy the benefits of the ABTC.

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. The United States will chair APEC in 2011, and the National Center is coordinating the APEC 2011 USA Host Committee, the private sector host of business activities for the 2011 APEC Meetings. 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. For more information about the APEC 2011 USA Host Committee, visit: www.aphec2011usa.org.
