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The National Center for APEC Applauds the Inclusion of Canada in Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations

The National Center for APEC applauds today's announcement by the United States and the eight other economies negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement to include Canada in future TPP negotiations. In addition to the United States, the current TPP countries are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

"The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a critical step in achieving a seamless commercial environment in the Asia-Pacific and is the most viable path to achieving a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). It will facilitate open and deeper economic ties, defend against threats of global protectionism, and lead to long-term prosperity across the region," noted Karan Bhatia, National Center for APEC Chairman.

"With Canada's inclusion, the TPP now represents a market of 58 million people and a GDP of \$20.5 trillion, encompassing both mature and emerging economies. Throughout the global economic recession, Canada has been a stalwart supporter of open trade and investment as well as a defender against protectionism. Canada's commitment to high trade standards and enthusiasm for the TPP process will provide additional momentum going in to the next round of negotiations in San Diego this July," noted Monica Whaley, National Center for APEC President. "We support the inclusion of additional economies such as Japan that can continue to broaden TPP participation while maintaining the high level nature of the negotiations."

The National Center for APEC is committed to seeing the successful conclusion of TPP and urges the Administration and Congressional leadership to work together during the upcoming consultation period to ensure the expeditious inclusion of Canada in the TPP negotiations. The National Center for APEC commends the efforts of U.S. negotiators thus far in the negotiation process, and urges them to work constructively with new negotiating partners and continue to advance TPP negotiations in order to build momentum and support for the Agreement.

About the National Center for APEC

The National Center for APEC is dedicated to the proposition that business must have a voice in the development of policies that impact the economies of the Asia-Pacific region. The Center is the only U.S. business association focused exclusively on facilitating American private sector input into Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) process and provides input to U.S. government agencies on the wide range of issues addressed under APEC's auspices. As the Secretariat for the three U.S. representatives to the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), and through its network of partnerships with business organizations in other APEC economies, the National Center advances the business community's interests with regard to trade, economics, regulatory issues, and other matters in the Asia-Pacific region.