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The National Center for APEC Applauds Decision to Welcome Mexico as the Newest Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiating Partner

The National Center for APEC today applauded President Obama's announcement that the United States and the eight other economies negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement have extended an invitation to Mexico to join the TPP negotiations, pending successful conclusion of their domestic procedures. In addition to the United States, the current TPP countries are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

"The TPP seeks to go beyond traditional trade agreements to make it easier for people and businesses to engage across borders. The agreement will address 21st Century trade issues that are important to business operating in today's world -- such as "behind the border" regulatory barriers, and laws governing data flows, services, and investment. Implemented properly, the TPP will go beyond traditional WTO arrangements and help create the seamless commercial environment we are working toward in APEC," noted Karan Bhatia, National Center for APEC Chairman.

"The TPP is politically dynamic and a microcosm of APEC. It includes both mature and emerging economies that agreed to APEC's Bogor Goals for trade and investment liberalization. We are encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment to high standards that Mexico has shown in its bid to join the negotiations, and we support the inclusion of additional economies such as Canada and Japan that can continue to broaden TPP participation while maintaining the high level nature of the negotiations," stated Monica Whaley, National Center for APEC President.

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 Mexico in the TPP negotiations. The National Center for APEC also urges U.S. negotiators to 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.