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

The National Center for APEC applauds Friday's announcement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that Japan intends to formally join the eleven current economies negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). In addition to the United States, the current TPP economies are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Canada, Mexico and Vietnam.

"The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a critical mechanism for achieving a seamless commercial environment in the Asia-Pacific and an important step toward achieving the Free Trade Area in the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) called for by many APEC and TPP stakeholders. Implemented appropriately, the TPP will address 21st Century trade issues that are important to businesses operating in today's world such as behind the border regulatory barriers as well as laws governing data flows, services and investment." noted Scott Price, Chairman of the National Center for APEC, and President and CEO of Walmart Asia.

"The inclusion of Japan in the TPP is an exciting step towards the free trade environment that APEC seeks to promote and facilitate. As the world's third largest economy with extensive trade ties throughout the region, Japan's participation in this agreement will greatly increase the impact and significance of the TPP. NCAPEC is looking forward to working alongside Japan and other partners in APEC to help encourage a successful outcome from the negotiations." stated Monica Whaley, President of the National Center for APEC.

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 Japan 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.