

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
APEC



Close cooperation between our government and the private sector is indispensable to ensuring our work in the APEC forum serves the needs of American businesses and workers. Since 1994, just after APEC was first hosted by the United States, the National Center for APEC has played an integral role in bringing the public and private sectors together in this vital effort.”

— **Barack Obama**

Former President of the United States of America



About the National Center for APEC

The National Center for APEC (NCAPEC) is dedicated to advancing the U.S. business community’s views and priorities in the dynamic Asia-Pacific region. Established in Seattle, Washington in 1994, NCAPEC is the only U.S. business association focused exclusively on facilitating private sector engagement in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

As a business association, NCAPEC represents approximately 50 U.S. companies that are deeply engaged in Asia-Pacific economies and that are dedicated to the region’s growth and prosperity. NCAPEC works with APEC economies to advance private sector priorities on trade, economic, and regulatory issues to promote more open trade and investment environments in the region.



About APEC

APEC was founded in 1989, with the goal of promoting free and open trade and advancing sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific. Today, APEC is comprised of 21 economies located in the region, which are dedicated to promoting greater trade and investment globally. Through APEC, officials from each economy convene throughout the year to discuss ways to remove market barriers, facilitate trade, and promote sustainable development that enables economic growth.

APEC represents one of the most valuable economic regions in the world. In 2015, APEC economies collectively represented more than half of global GDP, and trade among APEC economies accounted for nearly half of all global trade.

Intra-APEC trade also plays a significant role in the United States' economy. Approximately six million jobs are supported by U.S. exports to APEC, according to the U.S. Trade Representative, and 62 percent of all U.S. goods exports were shipped to APEC markets in 2016.

Why APEC is Important

APEC is important to American interests. It is the only head-of-state level forum in the Asia-Pacific where the world's largest and smallest economies work side-by-side to develop workable solutions to trade and investment barriers.

APEC is a consensus-driven organization and its outcomes are not binding on economies. Instead, APEC works on the basis of concerted unilateral liberalization—meaning that each APEC member voluntarily agrees to liberalize in a particular area of trade and investment. This difference makes APEC unique from other organizations, because it gives its 21 members a platform to raise emerging or sensitive issues before introducing them in a binding forum, such as the WTO or a trade agreement negotiation.

APEC is also an incubator of ideas. Only APEC brings together policy-makers, business leaders, and academics from North and South America, Oceania, and Asia to meet on a regular basis and work toward a common goal of improving economic conditions for the benefit of their societies. Through APEC's discussions, participants seek to address behind-the-border issues by proposing guidelines, best practices, and initiatives to make steady progress toward their shared economic goals.



Over the past 15 years, the National Center for APEC has played a critical role in U.S. engagement and success within the APEC process.”

— **Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky**
Former United States Trade Representative



The National Center for APEC is bipartisan. Republican and Democratic administrations alike have recognized that the *Asia-Pacific* region will be the engine of global growth and prosperity in the 21st century. The smart ones never miss a chance to meet with NCAPEC's members in conjunction with the APEC Summit. I was always particularly impressed with the caliber of its membership and the substantive quality of our discussions."

— **Ambassador Susan Schwab**

Former United States Trade Representative



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