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Secretariat for U.S. Representation to the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

Trade Leaders Urge Administration to Strengthen Economic Engagement with Asia Pacific

APEC2011USA and Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Negotiations

Cited as Critical to United States Future

(SEATTLE) October, 28, 2010 – The National Center for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (NCAPEC) advisory council released a paper today urging President Obama’s administration to “seize the moment” and reassert U.S. leadership in Asia’s economic architecture and trade environment. The paper calls for the United States to “act quickly and decisively or run the risk of being marginalized or even excluded from emerging regional architectures.” The paper was signed by the National Center for APEC Advisory Group, a bi-partisan group of trade leaders representing major private sector U.S. companies and former U.S. trade officials.

In the paper the group notes that “the United States’ future economic well-being will be shaped by the strength of its economic relationships with Asia, above all other regions. To that end, President Obama and his Administration must act decisively to strengthen the United States’ economic position in Asia. The President has before him two opportunities to do just that: the ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations and the U.S. hosting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) in 2011. His Administration should seize both.”

The paper also highlights the importance that the APEC region will play in the United States’ economic recovery as well as the dangers of inaction and potential effect on US companies and trade-related job creation.

The authors note that APEC’s 21 members together represent approximately 2.5 billion consumers and nearly 60% of global income and that opening these markets to U.S. producers will help to restore growth at home, solidify our economic recovery, and most importantly, serve as an engine for domestic job creation for years to come.

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.apec2011usa.org

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The **National Center for APEC 2011 Advisory Council** is comprised of ten members representing diverse backgrounds in business, government and academia with a tremendous depth of experience and accomplishments in international trade. They include: **Grant Aldonas**, Principal Managing Director of Split Rock International and the former U.S. Under Secretary for the Commerce Department for International Trade; **Charlene Barshevsky**, Partner, Wilmer Hale LLP and former U.S. Trade Representative; **C. Fred Bergsten**, Director of the Peterson Institute for International Economics and former chairman of the Eminent Persons Group of the APEC forum; **Michael L. Ducker**, Chief Operating Officer, President, International, FedEx Express, former US ABAC Member; **Stuart Eizenstat**, Partner, Covington & Burling LLP and former Deputy Secretary of the Treasury; **Deborah Henretta**, Group President, Asia, Proctor & Gamble, US ABAC Member; **Carla Hills**, Chair and CEO, Hills & Company and former U.S. Trade Representative; **Peter Scher**, Executive Vice President for Global Government Relations and Public Policy, JP Morgan Chase and former U.S. Special Trade Negotiator, US ABAC Member; **Susan Schwab**, Professor, School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland and former U.S. Trade Representative; and **Karan Bhatia**, Vice President and Senior Counsel, International Law & Policy, General Electric, National Center for APEC Chairman and former Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

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