



Strengthen America's Global Leadership Leverage the Asia-Pacific Growth Engine for U.S. Jobs!

APCAC PRIORITIES FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTION

Conclude and Pass TPP – U.S. trade policy can best strengthen the American economy by opening our access to markets in Asia - the engine of world growth. APCAC thus encourages the U.S. government to quickly conclude a high-standard Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement and to continue to seek effective engagement with regional fora including APEC and ASEAN. Competing agreements that exclude the U.S., like the RCEP, as well as bilateral trade agreements between Asian countries and the EU, are not waiting. Without the TPP, the United States will be stuck on the outside looking in.

Pass Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) – Congress has given Presidents from Franklin Roosevelt to George W. Bush the authority to negotiate trade agreements. TPA is essential to concluding trade agreements that boost U.S. exports and create American jobs. TPA will assist the goal of passing TPP as well as other trade agreements. APCAC calls on Congress to quickly pass the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014.

Deepen Engagement in Regional Fora such as APEC – In parallel with pushing passage of the TPP, the U.S. Government can continue to leverage APEC to promote capacity building in trade and investment, market opening initiatives, transparency and rule of law, and by supporting specific sectoral work streams in APEC such as the Asia Pacific Financial Forum and the Healthcare and Life Sciences Innovation Forum.

Fund U.S. Embassy and USCS Resources – Increased support for the U.S. Commercial Service and staffing at our key embassies in the region will more than pay for itself in the vital facilitation it offers to U.S. exports which in turn will bring more jobs to the U.S.

Help Citizens Overseas Obtain the ABTC More Easily – APCAC applauded passage of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards (ABTC) Act in 2011, and it appreciates that the Department of Homeland Security incorporated much of our previous feedback into the final procedure. However, applicants still must provide their signature at an enrollment center, all of which are located in the United States. Providing an option for Global Entry interviews and ABTC signature collection at U.S. Embassies and Consulates would greatly increase the ease with which U.S. citizens living in Asia can benefit from the ABTC.

Protect Section 911 – Several studies have shown a direct correlation between U.S. citizens working overseas and U.S. exports. However, current U.S. tax law puts U.S. citizens working abroad at a disadvantage by taxing them on worldwide income while our competitors are not. Section 911 of the tax code recognizes this negative impact upon U.S. citizens working abroad. Any revisions of tax, insurance and employment schemes must support Americans living and working abroad or risk undermining U.S. competitiveness.

Adopt a Territorial Tax System – The U.S. is alone among developed economies is having a world-wide tax system. Adopting a territorial tax system in line with the rest of the world will level the playing field, promote exports and create more investment and jobs for U.S. companies and U.S. citizens.

APCAC PRIORITIES FOR THE USG TO RAISE WITH ASIA-PACIFIC GOVERNMENTS

Open Financial Services Markets – Many economies restrict foreign financial firm entry by measures such as foreign ownership caps, cross-border data and capital flow restrictions, and non-transparent regulation. Addressing these will benefit U.S. services export as well as Asian consumers of those services.

Promote Healthcare – Asia-Pacific economies have critical needs for technologies to deal with issues from aging populations to communicable diseases, most of which can benefit from solutions offered by U.S. healthcare and pharmaceutical companies. Promote this trade through APEC and other fora.

Expand Energy and Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) Exports – Given the shale gas revolution in the U.S., there is a great opportunity for U.S. companies to find downstream opportunities in Asian markets, in power generation of all types, grid systems and IT. Press for procurement opportunities for U.S. firms.

Logistics, Delivery, Travel and Tourism – Asia will see huge increases in regional connectivity and tourism over the next decade. In addition, the U.S. is committed to attracting 100 million additional international visitors annually by 2021. The United States Government should ensure equal access for U.S. logistics and delivery companies as well as airlines and tourism industries throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Internet and Information Technology – Cloud computing, the internet and e-commerce represent huge opportunities for U.S. companies in bringing new products and services to Asian consumers. However, we increasingly see attempts by governments in the Asia-Pacific region to restrict cross-border data flows, require on-shore data centers, and implement other measures that will undercut a regionally integrated marketplace. The U.S. should urge other governments to advance cross-border data flows for commercial purposes.

Protection of Intellectual Property – In the TPP as well as through bilateral discussions, urge more fulsome protections of intellectual property rights - a critical requirement to allow U.S. companies to confidently market their technologies and services in the region.

Transparency in Regulation and Procurement – Urge other nations to ensure a fair and transparent regulatory process including advance notice and comment rulemaking and an opportunity for foreign company voices to be heard together with domestic players. Ensure government procurement is governed by high standards of transparency and anti-corruption.



APCAC comprises 26 member AmChams representing the growing interests of over 14,000 businesses throughout the Asia-Pacific region. These businesses employ over 10 million people in the region including over 50,000 overseas American workers. APCAC members manage annual trade volumes in excess of \$400 billion and direct investments of over \$600 billion.