



United States Council for International Business (USCIB) and APEC in 2013

USCIB participates in APEC by:

- Providing functional expertise to already established work streams
- Executing strategic guidance by establishing new work streams
- Securing speaking engagements for members
- Closely coordinating with partners (ICC, OECD and US Government) and business groups
- Introducing new perspectives and influencing agendas
- Providing high level US business representation

Overview of specific areas of involvement and focus for 2013:

APEC Chemical Dialogue

The Chemical Dialogue (CD) is a forum for regulatory officials and industry representatives to find solutions to challenges facing the chemical industry and users of chemicals in the Asia-Pacific region. USCIB has been actively involved in the CD and staff regularly attends the annual meetings held on the sidelines of the Senior Official Meetings with participation from our members.

- USCIB will continue work on CBI and transparency in chemical management within the Chemical Dialogue process and will work with USTR on these initiatives.
- USCIB will continue to contribute to the work of the CD from the downstream users perspective. In particular, as chemical management regimes in the APEC region continue to evolve, USCIB is interested in engaging with policymakers to provide input from an article manufacturers perspective.
- USCIB will seek collaboration between APEC's Chemical Dialogue and other forums such as the OECD Clearinghouse on New Chemicals.
- USCIB believes that metals should be included in APEC chemicals management discussions and more informed scientific guidelines are needed to ensure sustainability and growth in the region.

Customs and Trade Facilitation

In 2012, USCIB worked closely with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to launch the **APEC Virtual Customs Business Working Group** within the Subcommittee on Customs Procedures (SCCP). The purpose of this group is to enhance public-private coordination within the SCCP to jointly develop and progress SCCP priorities, including through the APEC Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan. USCIB promoted the necessity of this group to the SCCP with CBP in Kazan, Russia in May 2012. The 2012 Ministers' and Leaders' Statements out of Vladivostok supported the creation of the group and its future endeavors. USCIB is looking forward to the final steps of implementation for the working group, which will take place early in 2013 upon endorsement of the Terms of Reference by the SCCP.

- USCIB will continue support for the Virtual Customs Business Dialogue, which USCIB helped launch over the Russia year with CBP.
- USCIB will work with USTR on their systematic approach to addressing the eight chokepoints of the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework (SCCF) with a goal of developing capacity building programs for each chokepoint. The US leads work on the first chokepoint with other economies responsible for the other seven. The SCCF seeks to build progress towards a 10% improvement by 2015 in supply-chain performance in the region.
- USCIB applauds efforts taken to establish a baseline *de minimis* threshold in APEC and support for USTR's continued efforts in 2013.
- USCIB encourages Indonesia to enter into the ATA Carnet system during their host year.
- USCIB will continue to advocate for the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) and APEC Next Generation Interactive Tariff Database.

Health

- USCIB will continue support for Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) and the Healthcare Working Group and work on cooperating with the Indonesians to ensure sustainable deliverables to come out of the 2013 year.
- USCIB encourages Indonesia to include a third-annual High-level meeting on Health and the Economy in the 2013 agenda.
- USCIB will address capacity building needed in the area of Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) through the recently created APEC HAI Policy Action Plan.

ICT

- USCIB will continue monitoring Policy Partnership on Science Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) as it will play a big role in APEC and all stakeholders should participate.
- USCIB looks forward to expanding participation in Cross-border Privacy Rules and the APEC Privacy Framework that need more economies to sign on and support.
- USCIB will monitor work on duty free treatment of digital products in APEC.
- USCIB will assist USTR by contributing private sector ideas and expertise on the Innovation agenda and will work on developing innovation in trade implementation practices and providing guidance to economies.
- USCIB continues work with APEC's Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) and data protection subgroup. Key outcomes of the data protection subgroup included the completion of the Cross-Border Privacy Rules System (CBPR) Pathfinder.

Women in the Economy

USCIB supports APEC's focus on the relationship between women's economic empowerment and economic growth, development, and social progress with the establishment of the Women in the Economy Forum in 2011. We have been working with the National Center for APEC (NCAPEC) and the State Department's Office of Global Women's Issues to explore how to best work within APEC on addressing the barriers confronting women across the region. During the Indonesia year, USCIB urges APEC to partner with and engage the business community through workshops and dialogues throughout the year, with a view to developing actionable recommendations and deliverables.

- USCIB and NCAPEC encourage the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) to support the creation of a report by the business community on the business case for women's economic empowerment in the APEC region.
- USCIB recommends that APEC should explore and pursue opportunities to collaborate with and leverage complementary initiatives in other international fora such as the OECD.
- USCIB strongly supports creating a formal mechanism for private sector input into the Forum and its workstreams that will bring business ideas, expertise and energy to a wide range of issues.
- USCIB will remain engaged in the WEF work into the Indonesia year and will support overarching, common policy intergovernmental and public/private frameworks that promote entrepreneurship and consider the issues that business women in developing economies face that are embedded in the culture (gender biases, bank & property discrimination etc).

Additional areas USCIB intends to participate in 2013:

- Business ethics programs
- APEC's Regulatory Convergence Advancement Mechanism (ARCAM) dialogue on self-regulation in advertising and initiating programs to enable the development of self-regulatory systems in APEC economies that are in line with international best practices such as the ICC Code of Marketing and Advertising for setting up a Self-Regulatory Organization.
- Support USTR to combat local content requirements
- APEC CEO Summit