



## AAP Washington, DC, Door Knock Delegation Statement – July 2024

As *de facto* U.S. Ambassadors in the region, American Chambers of Commerce and their members partner with governments and domestic stakeholders to complement the U.S. government's efforts to advance our economic and national security interests.

Our first-hand knowledge and understanding of the value of U.S. engagement in the region's trade and economic architecture gives us a unique perspective to add to ongoing discussions.

Trade and investment dynamics in the region are evolving significantly and quickly in response to changing geopolitical realities, fluctuating economic opportunities, and growing global competition. Businesses from across the region now invest and innovate equal to those from the U.S.

American businesses need to be on the ground across the region on a level playing field to continue to lead globally.

With both trade and investment core to our national interests, the U.S. must work constructively with our partners and lead efforts to develop and enforce new rules which ensure competition on a fair playing field with robust and rigorous labor and environmental standards while addressing the climate crisis.

The representatives on the AmChams of the Asia Pacific ("AAP") door knock stand ready to continue partnering with the government on these and other initiatives to obtain benefits for U.S. businesses, workers, farmers, and the environment.

AAP advances U.S. efforts to meet governments in the region on shared interests, such as addressing the climate crisis, growing healthcare needs, pandemic and disaster preparedness, maritime domain awareness, technology innovations, and investment in cleaner energy sources like renewables and LNG. We want to contribute to the development of solutions relating to these complex issues.

We encourage the U.S. government to think broadly about ways to achieve key economic and security goals in the region, to resolve market access barriers, and enhance bilateral and regional cooperation in areas of strategic importance.

IPEF, while not replacing membership in the CPTPP, provides an opportunity for the U.S. to restore its economic leadership in the region, and great strides have been achieved since last year's door knock to do just that.

The initiative's focus on supply chain resilience, green economy investments, and tackling obstacles to doing business in the region are proving the initiative's prescience while reaffirming U.S. regional leadership. The progress on these IPEF pillars is commended.

IPEF's trade pillar should be concluded as well, with its focus on digital trade.

Businesses and investors are critical partners in building high standards and sustainable infrastructure and priority areas of climate, health, digital and gender equality. AmChams are important partners to support these initiatives. We look forward to learning about the new Economic Diplomacy Action Group announced by President Biden and how we can contribute.

Ultimately, commercially meaningful, binding agreements including market access will bring the greatest benefits to the U.S. Moreover, such agreements will advance our strategic interests in the region.

The U.S. should look to increase its free trade agreements to expand market opportunities in the region, building on the successful ones with Australia, South Korea, and Singapore, and strengthened provisions in the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

We should also seek to negotiate bilateral tax agreements so that U.S. companies and citizens are not disadvantaged when operating or working overseas.

The delegation supports U.S. government efforts that further promote U.S. economic leadership and advance shared prosperity and technological innovation in the Asia-Pacific which enables U.S. businesses to better compete, thereby benefiting American workers and their families. Leaders and members of AmChams across the region have hands-on experience and stand ready to work as partners on all U.S. government initiatives.

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