

ABAC CANADA EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

“ENGAGING ASIA: ADVANCING CANADA’S BUSINESS AGENDA WITH APEC PARTNERS”

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015
ONE KING WEST HOTEL
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

June 2, 2015

8:00 **Registration**

8:30 **Welcome Remarks**

8:40-10:00 **Global Insights: Regional Trade Talks in the Asia Pacific**

With the aim of promoting further trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) is exploring the business case for a new regional trade agreement, the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP). What is Canada’s stake in advancing the FTAAP in the context of ongoing trade discussions such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership? What can be done to improve the climate for trade in services and global value chains in the Asia Pacific region to help Canadian business participate more effectively in the region?

Don Campbell, Senior Strategic Advisor, DLA Piper and Co-Chair, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (Moderator)

Tony Nowell, Member, ABAC New Zealand and President, Valadenz Limited and Collaborenz Limited

Alex Parle, Executive Vice President, National Centre for APEC

Matthew Kronby, Partner, Bennett Jones LLP

10:00 – 11:20 **The 21st Century Global Worker: Mobility & Management**

One of the key issues for Canadian businesses is how to attract talent to address labour shortages. According to a 2013 survey by Manpower, around 50 per cent of surveyed employers in the APEC economies experienced difficulty filling jobs with suitably qualified candidates. To address the challenges of managing the movement of workers and workforce development in the Asia Pacific region, ABAC has proposed an initiative called the “Earn, Learn and Return” framework. The framework aims to efficiently manage cross-border labour flows in the region with the view of developing a sector-wide regulatory structure around a new “APEC Worker” category. It also aims to develop APEC-wide regulatory convergence for the training and deployment of internationally skilled workers. What are the challenges and benefits of this framework and could this be a viable initiative to support the growth of Canada’s businesses and improve business mobility throughout the region?

Doris Ho, Member, ABAC Philippines and President and CEO, Magsaysay Group of Companies

Sheldon Levy, President and Vice-Chancellor, Ryerson University

Mark Newcombe, International Trade Policy Advisor, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

11:20-11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30-12:30 **Canadian SMEs: Heightened Engagement in Regional and Global Markets**

ABAC has consistently placed a strong focus on building the capacities of small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs). SMMEs make up nearly 97% of all enterprises in APEC economies, yet they continue to face uphill hurdles when it comes to participating in regional and global markets. What are the ongoing obstacles that need to be address to build innovation and value-added activities in SMMEs? What initiatives can be promoted within APEC to help Canadian SMEs make the leap to participate effectively in global value chains and capitalize on export opportunities in emerging markets in the Asia Pacific region? What are the e-commerce opportunities for Canadian SMMEs to reach emerging markets in Asia?

Suzanne Benoît, President, Aéro Montreal (Moderator)

Janet De Silva, CEO, Toronto Board of Trade

Paul Lee, Managing Partner, Vanedge Capital

Dan Kelly, Chair, Canadian Federation of Independent Business

12:30-1:30 **Networking Lunch**

1:30-2:45 **Expanding Canada's Stake in Asia's Growing Infrastructure Market**

PriceWaterhouseCoopers estimates that over the next decade, the Asia Pacific infrastructure market will grow by seven-to-eight per cent per year, approaching US\$5.3 trillion by 2025. Accelerating sustainable infrastructure development and investment is a priority with APEC leaders who endorsed an Action Agenda on Promoting Infrastructure Investment through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in 2014. What needs to be done to build long-term capital to invest in infrastructure in the region? What are the interests and challenges of Canada's institutions in infrastructure investment in the region, and what are the opportunities through PPPs? Moreover, what are prospects for multilateral investment banks such as the recently announced Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and is there a role for Canada to play in this institution?

Hiroyuki Suzuki, Member, ABAC Japan and Director, Nomura Holdings

Kim Butler, Vice President, Strategy and Organizational Development, PPP Canada

Craig Steffensen, Representative, Asian Development Bank

2:45-3:45 **Making Canadian Businesses Matter More: APEC 2015**

The Philippines will host the APEC CEO Summit from November 16-18, 2015. This session will offer an opportunity for Canadian businesses to learn about the various ways they can engage in APEC processes to capitalize on networking and business development opportunities in the Asia Pacific region. Participants will be given the opportunity to share ideas about how to enhance Canada's representation in business networks across the region.

Stewart Beck, President and CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

Doris Ho, Member, ABAC Philippines and President and CEO, Magsaysay Group of Companies

Perrin Beatty, President and CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce

3:45-4:00 **Coffee Break**

4:00-5:00 **Canada's Trade Agenda in the Asia Pacific: A Federal Update**

This session will feature Canada's International Trade Minister Ed Fast who will discuss the priorities and progress of the Global Markets Action Plan over the past year, particularly with respect to Asia. The session will provide an update of trade negotiations and commercial engagement, and highlight initiatives being pursued in the context of APEC to support Canadian businesses in emerging markets in the Asia Pacific region. This session will include a Q&A with the Minister.

5:00PM: **Meeting Concludes**